

First FIRA edition draws 200 participants to emerging field of agricultural robotics

November 18–19, 2016 in Toulouse, France

On November 18th and 19th, 2016, the first edition of the [FIRA International Forum of Agricultural Robots](#) drew some 200 participants to the Agronomic Engineering School of Purpan in Toulouse, France.

This unexpectedly high turnout delighted both the organizers as well as the international speakers. A quick look back at the event.



Friday November 18th – 5pm / 5:30 pm

#1: Naïo Technologies Keynote



Naïo Technologies shared their **view on agricultural robotics**, which aim to improve access to healthy food for all, while respecting the environment. *“Over the last 60 years, world population has grown from 2 to 6.5 billion people. On the time scale of humanity, this increase is simply staggering,”* stated **Gaëtan Séverac**, the Naïo Technologies COO. *“Food is widely available in large quantities, but the increase in production has entailed undesirable consequences: a decrease in quality, a heavy burden on the environment, lots of waste and tough life conditions for farmers.”* Naïo Technologies believes that the robotization of agricultural processes is inevitable to overcome

these problems. Farmers will increasingly become farm managers, who will no longer have to execute repetitive tasks with little to no added value.

Subsequently, **Aymeric Barthes**, Naïo Technologies' CEO, officially introduced **the entire range of Naïo robots**:

- The 2017 version of their -now famous- **Oz robot**, which weeds in between rows and is designed for vegetable, flower and tree farms. Today, 70 robots are already in use in France and across Europe.
- The **Dino vegetable robot**, a straddling robotic weeder for large-scale vegetable farms (75,000€),
- The **Ted vineyard robot**, a straddling robotic weeder for vineyards (80,000€),
- The **Bob vineyard robot**, a crawler robot for narrow vineyards (35,000€).

A pilot version of these robots has already been marketed, but the **Dino, Ted and Bob robots are now also available for pre-order** on Naïo Technologies' website.

[Discover Naïo Technologies' new robot videos:](#)



Friday November 18th – 5:30pm / 7:30pm

#2: International speakers on agricultural robotics

FIRA 2016 welcomed 7 international speakers, who presented new developments in the field of agricultural robotics as well as economic research and robot insurance projects.

The 200 participants unanimously lauded the quality and variety of FIRA speakers (source: satisfaction survey). The successive 20-minute question and answer sessions were met with great enthusiasm by the audience. The list of FIRA 2016 speakers:

- **Maët LE LAN**, the coordinator of the Bretagne-Sud Experimental Research Station from the French Morbihan Region's **Chamber of Agriculture**. She talked about her experiments to reduce drudgery in farm work.
- **Philippe JEANNEAUX**, the **VetAggro Sup** teacher/researcher in rural economics, had to cancel at the last minute. Gaëtan Séverac presented his work on the challenges farms have to meet in a time of digital revolution.
- **Peter HANAPPE** and **David COLLIAUX**, both of which are researchers at **Sony CSL**, presented the robotics projects of the Sony Computer Science Laboratory.
- **Thiemo BUCHNER**, R&D at **AGCO Fendt**, introduced the MARS project on Mobile Agricultural Robot Swarms.
- **Maurice GOHLKE**, a robotics software engineer at **Bosch Deepfield Robotics**, presented Bosch's projects in agricultural robotics.
- **Allard MARTINET**, the Director of Development at **Precision Makers**, talked about the applications of autonomous vehicles for agriculture and mowing.
- **Guillaume SUC**, Agricultural Machinery Offer Manager at **Groupama** insurers, gave a presentation on robot and IoT insurance.

[All FIRA 2016 presentations are available online:](#)

<http://www.slideshare.net/NaioTechnologies>



Saturday, November 19th

Bar camp: workshops on agricultural robotics



On Saturday, over 60 participants attended the FIRA workshops to exchange ideas on the development of agricultural robotics.

Four themes were selected to animate the workshops, where debates were lively:

- “Regulations, legal aspects and security in agricultural robotics”
- “Agronomics and technical evolution”
- “Developing the sector of agricultural robotics”
- “Agriculture and technology”

On Saturday morning, spirits were high in the four groups, with animated discussions to determine the problems related to each theme. The afternoon was dedicated to finding potential solutions to solve these problems. The goal of the day was to work together in order to set up a framework for the emerging sector of **agricultural robotics**.

The bar camp results are currently being summarized and will be available shortly.

All participants acknowledged the need for events like **FIRA to better structure the sector** and some even expressed their desire to help organize FIRA’s second edition!

Should you be interested, don’t hesitate to contact Naïo Technologies to **help FIRA become a must-go event**. FIRA 2017 is already in the making!



Many thanks to FIRA’s 2016 partners:



ABOUT Naïo Technologies

Naïo Technologies was founded in 2011 by Gaëtan Séverac, a robotics engineer with a PhD in embedded systems, and Aymeric Barthès, a robotics engineer with an agricultural background. The company’s main motivation is to help farmers solve their daily problems. In accordance with their corporate social responsibility engagement (RSE), they have gathered a team of 20 employees and are supported by shareholders who share their convictions and understand the challenges start-ups have to face. In December 2015, Naïo Technologies launched a 3rd round of fundraising, resulting in 3 million € of additional funds. Sales turnover is expected to reach 1 million € in 2016.

For more information: <http://naio-technologies.com/>

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