



September 13, 2021
For Immediate Release

DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award 2021

Finalists Chosen

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI) will announce the winner of the Innovation in Natural Fibre Research award soon. This year's award is kindly sponsored by ITMF. The aim of the award is to raise awareness of the achievements of the natural fibers sector by recognizing innovative and progressive work by people and institutions at the level of production and use of natural fibers. The closing date for applications was September 10.

Interest in the award was high again in 2021, indicating that research in fields involving natural fibres is robust. The applications that were received reveal a fascinating array of projects, new topics, and both private and public sector funding for natural fibre research.

There are seven finalists, and final judging is underway. The winner of the 2021 Award will be announced in early October.

The seven finalists for the 2021 Award fall into several broad categories, including traceability and the measurement of environmental impacts of natural fibres, the use of natural fibres in manufacturing biodegradable composites, and new or expanded uses for natural fibre materials. Researchers and institutions located in Australia, India, Republic of Korea, and Switzerland are among the finalists for the 2021 award.

Finalists for the 2021 DNFI Innovation Award:

Dr. Santanu Basak, Scientist, National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India: *"Sustainable flame retardant natural fibre textiles made using extracts of plant waste bio-macromolecules."*

Dr. Michela Puddu (CEO) and Dr. Gediminas Mikutis (CTO), Haelixa AG, Kempththal, Switzerland: *"Haelixa, Textile Traceability from Source to Retail Using DNA-based Technology."*

Dr. Dibyendu Bikash Datta, Associate Professor, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Kolkata, India: *"Eco-friendly paper making from Sabai Grass (Eulaliopsis binata)."*

Mr. Lee Kijoo, CEO & CTO, Downwool sulate co., Ltd, Seongbuk-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea: *"Utilizing the 'Knudsen Effect (ex: Aerogel)' based on wool fiber herbal drug-based wound & atopic pad and virus removal for nonwoven (or fiber) material, and other products."*

Dr Maryam Naebe, Senior Research Fellow, Deakin University, Institute for Frontier Materials, Waurn Ponds Campus, Geelong, Victoria, Australia: *"Green insulation for the automobile industry."*

Ms. Jyothi Pradhan, Chief Executive Officer, Kurlon Enterprise Limited, Bangalore, India: “*Coir Composite Moulded Furniture & Accessories.*”

Ms. Lucy Woodward, Content and Communications Coordinator, Good Earth Cotton, Surry Hills, NSW, Australia: “*Good Earth Cotton® - The Fibre Impact Module (FIM).*”

About DNFI

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative is a platform for those who believe in natural fibres. DNFI facilitates the exchange of information and experiences and works to advance the common interests of all natural fibres in the face of competition with oil-based and wood-based manmade fibres. Representatives of natural fibre industries as diverse as abaca, alpaca, angora, cashmere, coir, cotton, flax, industrial hemp, jute, mohair, ramie, silk, sisal and wool participate in DNFI.

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI) was created in January 2010 as an outgrowth of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, declared by the United Nations General Assembly. DNFI is composed of individuals and organizations working to further the interests of natural fibres by serving as a platform for information exchange, including statistics on fibre production and use, and by raising awareness of the benefits of natural fibre industries to the world economy, environment, and consumers (www.dnfi.org). DNFI is entirely volunteer supported. There are no membership dues, the organization has no budget or Secretariat, and the organization does not conduct projects. Instead, DNFI facilitates communication and collaboration through the exchange of information.

Anyone with an interest in natural fibres is welcome to join DNFI by registering on the web site.

More information about the aims of the DNFI as well as the DNFI Award and its previous winners are available at www.dnfi.org.