## INNOVATION IN NATURAL FIBRES AWARD 2022 ORGANIZED BY THE DISCOVER NATURAL FIBRES INITIATIVE

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative announced the new edition of the <u>DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award 2022</u>. Closing date for applications is 9 September 2022.

The aim of the award is to raise public awareness of the achievements of the natural fibres sector as a whole by recognizing innovative progressive work and projects by people and institutions at the level of production and use of natural fibres.

The DNFI Award 2022 will be judged in three categories:

- innovative products/components or applications,
- innovative processes/procedures,
- research and science.

The evaluation criteria are: outstanding scientific work and technical feasibility, the extent of improvement or effectiveness of the innovation compared to existing products or processes in which the innovative product or process has been implemented, and the potential for opening up new markets or sectors for products made from natural fibres.

The Innovation in Natural Fibres Award was launched for the first time in 2017 by the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative. The organizers highlight the current increased interest in natural fibers and the opportunity to emphasize the unbeatable properties of natural made materials, as their biodegradable and renewable features. The potential of natural fibres is the future and the Award intends to help make it known.

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative is a platform implemented to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and works to put forward the common interests of all-natural fibres face of competition with oil-based and wood-based manmade fibres. Representatives of various natural fibres industries such as <u>Abaca</u>, <u>Alpaca</u>, <u>Angora</u>, <u>Cashmere</u>, <u>Coir</u>, <u>Cotton</u>, <u>Flax</u>, <u>Hemp</u>, <u>Jute</u>, <u>Mohair</u>, <u>Ramie</u>, <u>Silk</u>, <u>Sisal</u> and <u>Wool</u> participate in DNFI.

The Initiative was implemented to continue supporting the objectives of the <u>2009 International Year of Natural Fibres IYNF</u>, declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations and aimed at raising global awareness of the importance of natural fibres not only to producers and industry, but also to consumers and the environment. Anyone with an interest in natural fibres is welcome to join DNFI by registering on the web site.

In October 2021, <u>DNFI also announced the winner of the 2021 edition</u> of the Innovation Award, Dr. Maryam Naebe from Deakin University, Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM), Victoria, Australia. Together with her team at IFM she created a special light-weight nonwoven textile





fabric that can be used as an insulator in automobiles. The fabric is made from a blend of virgin and waste wool fibres. Most insulation currently used in automotive applications is made from petroleumbased polyester, polyethylene, and polystyrene molecules, but leading car manufacturers are moving towards replacing interior materials with lighter-weight and biodegradable natural fibre options. Wool insulation exhibits the same sound absorption, thermal resistance, and air permeability performance characteristics of materials currently in use. In addition, wool is naturally odour-resistant, flame retardant and antibacterial. The wool insulator material also qualifies for reuse-recycle and reuse-recover purposes at the end-of-life of vehicles.

Nominations for the 2022 DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award are now being accepted. Candidates for the Award are requested to send their application with the appropriate <u>submission form.</u>

A committee of DNFI members will choose the award winner for 2022, who will be recognized by press release, articles in the DNFI website and presentations at the plenary meetings of DNFI members. Short-listed competitors will be notified by 19 September 2022. The winners will be announced in October 2022. The date and the place for Award Ceremony will be made known before the end of the year.

## To know more

**DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award 2022** 

Submission form 2022

2022-DNFI-Innovation-Award-Announcement.pdf

Winner of the 2021 DNFI Innovation Award

**Discover Natural Fibres Initiative** 

2009 International Year of Natural Fibres IYNF

