

WINNER OF THE INNOVATION IN NATURAL FIBRES AWARD 2023
ORGANIZED BY THE DISCOVER NATURAL FIBRES INITIATIVE

[The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative](#) has announced the [winner of the DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award 2023](#).

The winner was Amelie Pörschmann a student at Hochschule Hof, University of Applied Sciences, Hof/Kronach/Münchberg/Selb, Germany, for the development of the Regrow bag, made from a biodegradable, woven fabric.

The student has developed a biodegradable, woven fabric pot in which plants can be started. Once seedlings reach a stage suitable for transfer to soil, they can be planted intact within their biodegradable pots and do not need to be removed from plastic planting trays, which are currently in common use. The aim of her project is to eliminate the use of plastic pots and the resulting plastic waste.

The Regrow pot is made of bast fibres such as [Hemp](#), [Flax](#) and [Nettle](#) or can also be made from [Wool](#). The fibres have not been dyed or finished with synthetic materials, thus avoiding pollution in the composting process and allowing microorganisms in soil to convert the plant bag into important organic components. The process of biodegradation significantly improves the soil structure and nutrient availability. Due to the pliability of fabrics, the plant bag is foldable, easily stored and transported.

Amelie Pörschmann is an upcoming textile designer and studies at the [Engineering Department for Textile Design in Münchberg](#). Her design is a fusion of functionality and aesthetics. She has created a variety of Eco print designs, each produced with environmentally friendly dyes. The pattern pieces are customizable, so sizes can be made for specific requirements. The Regrow bag is a zero-waste product that aims to use natural plant and animal fibres from local cultivation.

The DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award aims to promote the development of new products/components and applications using natural fibres as well as new processes for manufacturing of environmentally friendly products. Universities, institutes, industry and individuals working in the area of scientific research are invited to participate. "Sustainability" should be just one important aspect of each submission considered by the judges. The DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award aims to recognize the innovations as well as the people and institutions responsible for them with the goal of raising public awareness of the achievements of the natural fibre sector as a whole.

The Innovation in Natural Fibres Award was launched for the first time in 2017. 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 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 [Press release published in the DNFI website](#) also presents the previous winners of the Innovation in Natural Fibres Award.

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 [Abaca](#), [Alpaca](#), [Angora](#), [Cashmere](#), [Coir](#), [Cotton](#), [Flax](#), [Hemp](#), [Jute](#), [Mohair](#), [Ramie](#), [Silk](#), [Sisal](#) and [Wool](#) participate in DNFI.

The Initiative was implemented to continue supporting the objectives of the [2009 International Year of Natural Fibres IYNF](#), 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. DNFI facilitates communication and collaboration through the exchange of information, including statistics on fibre production, value and employment, and updates on developments in fibre markets. DNFI raises awareness through reports, press releases and seminars, and encourages innovation through an annual award. Membership in DNFI is open to anyone with an interest in the growth of natural fibre industries. To become a member, simply register on-line at www.DNFI.org web site.

To know more

[Discover Natural Fibres Initiative Award winner 2023](#)

[Winners of the previous Award winners](#)

[Discover Natural Fibres Initiative](#)

[2009 International Year of Natural Fibres IYNF](#)

