

THE DISCOVER NATURAL FIBRES INITIATIVE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

The [Discover Natural Fibres Initiative](#) is a platform for the international natural fibres stakeholder community, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among members, to advance the common interests in front of the competition with oil-based and synthetic fibres.

The Initiative was set out 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. In January 2010, at the conclusion of the IYNF the [Discover Natural Fibres DNFI Initiative](#) was established by an alliance of 15 natural fibre organizations and industries to continue this important work.

In 2020 Discover Natural Fibres Initiative DNFI involves [30 natural fibres organizations](#) and continues building on the achievements of the IYNF 2009. The DNFI highlights activities to promote greener and more efficient agricultural techniques for growing natural fibres, the efforts to improve life of people who depend on natural fibre production and processing and activities to encourage increased demand for natural fibres.

DNFI Initiative website present the world's major [plant fibres](#) and [animal fibres](#), ranging from cotton, which dominates world fibre production, to abaca, alpaca, angora, cashmere, coir, cotton, flax, industrial hemp, jute, mohair, ramie, silk, sisal and wool. An information sheet for each fibre presents its properties and various articles on its development.

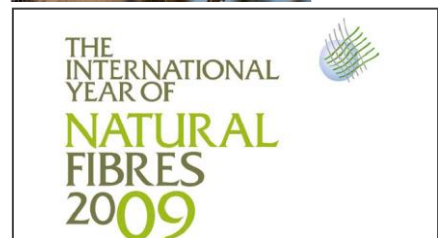
The Initiative highlights that natural fibres are sustainable, renewable, responsible, healthy, fashionable, comfortable and high-tech. In particular, DNFI highlights that:

- Natural fibres production, processing and export are vital to the economies of many developing countries and the livelihoods of [millions of small-scale farmers](#) and low-wage workers.
- Natural fibres have intrinsic properties - mechanical strength, low weight and low cost - that have made them particularly attractive to many [industries](#).

Natural Fibres are a renewable resource *par excellence*. Natural fibres are carbon neutral, as they absorb the same amount of carbon dioxide they produce.

DNFI implements the following main activities, disseminating information and data useful for all interested actors of the sustainable development perspective:

- *Sharing useful information.* DNFI promotes all natural fibres to face competition from synthetic fibres, to raise awareness of their advantages, also [exchanging statistics](#) and information on



[innovative technologies](#). The article [Wool for natural insulation in buildings](#) offers an example of the advantage of using natural fibres in the construction sector. The article [Natural Fibres and the World Economy July 2019](#) presents the statistics collected by DNFI in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO, on 14 categories of natural fibres. Another article presents data on the decline in the share of [natural fibres in total fibre production](#) in the last decade as a result of exponential growth in polyester production.

- *Spreading the word.* DNFI promotes the use of natural fibres as CO2 neutral resource, contributing to a greener planet by organizing presentations and sessions on international high level [conferences](#). The articles published in the [Environment section](#) highlight the most important dangerous environmental impacts caused by the chemical fibres currently used by the textile industry, damaging marine life and ecosystems on sea and land. These articles underline that the need for biodegradable fibres will grow immensely over the next few years.

Recognizing innovation. Since 2017, DNFI organizes every year the [Innovation in Natural Fibres Award](#) to recognize innovations created by people and institutions, with the goal of raising public awareness of the achievements of the natural fibre sector. The Award promotes the development of new sustainable products/components and applications using natural fibres as well as new processes for manufacturing of environment friendly products. Universities, institutes, industry and individuals working in the area of scientific research are invited to participate.

[The winners of the 2019 edition of the DNFI Award](#) were Dr. Debasish Das, University of Calcutta, Department of Jute and Fibre Technology, and Dr. Subhas Ghosh, Eastern Michigan University, School of Visual Built Environments, College of Engineering and Technology. The two researchers collaborated on the development of a biodegradable cotton-jute fabric, with a waterproof coating that can substitute for non-biodegradable PVC-coated polyester. The new cotton-jute fabric is suitable for use in outdoor fabrics such as tarps, awnings, canopies, or automobile hooding material.

[The winner of the 2020 edition of the DNFI Award](#) was the Dr. Nouredine Abidi, Professor and Director of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute (FBRI), Texas Tech University (Lubbock, USA) for developing a process to produce a substitution for oil-based plastic from cotton by dissolving the fibres to form a gel which can be transformed into bioproducts, including plastic films.

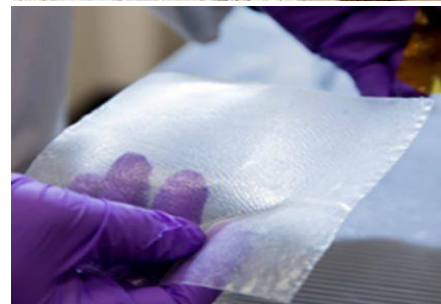
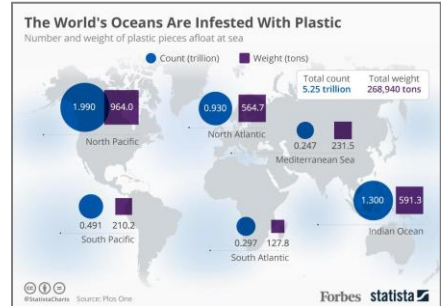
DNFI Initiative is a platform to facilitate communication and collaboration among its members to advance the common interests of all natural fibres. The information published on the website, however, represents a contribution for all producers operating in the natural fibres sector, for consumers and more generally for actors involved in the perspectives of sustainable development.

The DNFI website invites other interested organizations [to join the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative](#).

To know more

[Discover Natural Fibres Initiative DNFI website](#)

[Discover Natural Fibres Initiative presentation](#)



[DNFI member organizations](#)

[Innovation in Natural Fibres Award](#)

[International Year of Natural Fibres in FAO website](#)

[World's major plant and animal fibres in FAO website](#)

[Article in textile-network – forecast world fibre production](#)

[DNFI en baumwollboerse.de](#)

[DNFI in techtextrends.com](#)

[Wool Notes 2020 by International Wool Textile Organization](#)

[DNFI 2020 Award in iwto.org website](#)

[International Wool Textile Organization IWTO](#)

