

Preface

In current times, natural fibres are coming up as a promising material for various industrial applications. One can realize the importance of natural fibre-based products from the numerous published articles and filed patents during the last few years. A number of natural fibre-based technical products are already available in the market. Nevertheless, in spite of several attractive properties, coupled with low cost and environmental benefits, the growth of natural fibre market is restricted due to a number of technical and political issues. A great deal of efforts has been directed towards analysing these various factors and developing new approaches to overcome these problems. Moreover, research and innovations on extracting or exploring new fibres, new products and applications are being highly encouraged to improve the market growth of natural fibres. The present book discusses all these issues related to natural fibre in a single volume, providing up-to-date information and current state of research and developments in the field of natural fibres.

The present book is based on the collection of selected high-quality research papers submitted to ICNF 2015—2nd International Conference on Natural Fibers. Wide range of topics related to various aspects of natural fibres such as agriculture, extraction and processing, surface modification and functionalization, advanced structures, nanofibres, composites and nanocomposites, design and product development, applications, market potential, environmental impacts are covered in this book. Divided into different sections on these various topics, the book presents the latest and high-quality research work addressing different approaches and techniques to improve processing, performance, functionalities and cost-effectiveness of natural fibre- and natural-based products, in order to promote their applications in different advanced technical sectors. This book will be a useful reference for materials scientists, teachers and students from various disciplines as well as for R&D staff from different industries using natural fibre-based materials.

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Towards Industrial Applications

From Science to Market

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