



**BLUE SKY YOUNG RESEARCHERS INNOVATION AWARD
FOR THE GLOBAL FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR
2020-2021 – Third Edition**



June 23, 2020

The Idea

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and its members from 28 countries around the world have been seized by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our countries and our people.

Our top priority at this time has been to support our respective members in keeping our people safe and our renewable and essential supply chain moving.

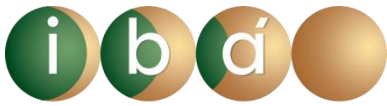
Despite this unprecedented moment in our shared history, the global forest-based industry continues to be a strong believer in innovation and the importance and power of our leaders of tomorrow. That is why we have decided to continue with the Third Edition of the *Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award*.

By using the angle of innovation, we aim to stimulate competition between students and young researchers from around the world who are carrying out projects across a wide range of activities related to forest-based science, innovative forest-based products that drive health and/or environmental benefits, and process improvements and innovation along the sector's value chain. The *Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award* takes place every two years and grants up to three awards to the most attractive submissions as judged by a global jury panel. The awards will be presented at the ICFPA's *CEO Global Roundtable* scheduled for Northern Australia in April 2021 (Dates and Location TBC by late 2020).

The *Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Award* is not only about research and development. It is about innovation and about being inspirational, interesting, and advancing the forest-based bio-economy.

The International Reward

Each national association will administer its own competition, with national winners advancing to a global selection process.



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After a transparent and objective selection process, the top submissions will have the opportunity to present their project in front of an audience of global forest products industry CEOs at the occasion of the CEO Roundtable in Northern Australia in April 2021 (Dates and Location TBC by late 2020).

- Each ICFPA member organization will be asked to nominate up to three candidates to compete internationally, after going through a national selection process.
- Three submissions will be selected to the international reward.
- Final applicants will be requested to submit a short video describing their projects.
- Travel and accommodation expenses for the three international finalists will be covered to present at the CEO Roundtable in Northern Australia (TBC).

Eligibility

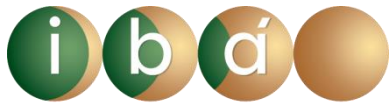
Applicants must be students or other researchers under age 30, carrying out research and innovation projects relevant for forestry, forest products, and/or forest products processing technologies – with links to academia, public or private research centers, and/or corporate research and innovation departments. The submission of abstract and presentations must be in English.

Theme

“Boosting the Forest Bio-economy: Nature-Based Solutions Towards a Lower Carbon Economy”

The theme includes three sub areas, but not limited to:

- a) Innovation Related to Health and Safety Benefits
- b) Future Generation Forestry
 - Forest tree breeding and biotechnology
 - Precision forestry
 - Measurements and inventory
- c) Innovation in the Wood-Based Industry
 - Analysis and properties of pulp and paper
 - Facilities, instrument and process control
 - Bio-products and wood chemistry
 - Recycling, de-inking, and environment
 - Timber for construction
 - Material substitution with wood



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COUNCIL OF
FOREST & PAPER
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Schedule

PERIOD	ACTION	MANAGEMENT
June - Aug 2020	National announcements and calls for applications	Ibá
Sept - Oct 2020	National evaluation of applications (short list)	Ibá
Nov - Dec 2020	Presentations + national candidates awarded (national award)	Ibá
Jan 2021	Global pre-selection	ICFPA
Feb 2021	Global Final Selection	ICFPA
Apr 2021	Presentations and international reward – CEO Roundtable	ICFPA

Application

Applicants are invited to submit their application containing the three following documents to n.granato@iba.org by August 31st 2020:

- Short CV (maximum one page)
- Summary of the project, including:
 - 550 words; double spacing; font Calibri 12
 - Objectives
 - Description of the project
 - Summary of Methodology
 - Expected results
 - Why is it relevant for the forest products industries
 - What makes it innovative
 - How is it fitting with the selected theme
 - Direct and indirect links to each of the [UN SDGs](#)
- One letter of support

Applications and deadlines for national award selection will be finalized by local/regional associations, but all national decisions must be submitted to ICFPA by December 31, 2020 so we can proceed with global selection.

Please contact your national association should you require any additional information.

For general information, please contact n.granato@iba.org.

Evaluation

National associations are expected to develop their own jury panels for judging.

These jury panels should be composed of industry representatives and respected researchers.

ICFPA will finalize details for the global jury later this fall.

