



# Blue Sky Pro Young Professionals Innovation Awards for the Global Forest Products Sector 2024-2025

## The NEW Idea

In addition to the Blue Sky Young Researchers Innovation Awards in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition, ICFPA is pleased to announce a second category (simultaneously) of the Award to promote and incentivize innovation in the Global Forest Products Sector.

It is with a great enthusiasm that we announce The **Blue Sky PRO Young Professionals Innovation Awards**. This category welcome the talents and skills of young professionals by recognizing successful and disruptive projects implemented in the public marketplace. In addition, this provides networking opportunities with high level decisionmakers of forest-based industry.

The global competition is for young professionals who are passionate about a range of activities relevant to forest-based science, products using forest-based raw materials, process improvements, or other innovations throughout the forest sector value chain.

The **Blue Sky PRO Young Professionals Innovation Awards** is not just about research and development – they are also about showcasing the work of early-career researching professionals who are passionate about climate positive forestry, sustainable forest products, clean manufacturing, and the forest bioeconomy.

The **Blue Sky PRO Young Professionals Innovation Awards** are presented to three worthy recipients from around the world. The three winners will have the opportunity to share their projects at the ICFPA CEO Global Roundtable in May 2025 in New York City, United States (specific location and date to be confirmed by late 2024).

## Eligibility

Applicants of Young Professionals must be early-career researching professionals who are 35 years old or younger on 19th September 2024. Applicants must be carrying out research and innovation projects relevant for forestry, forest products, and/or forest products processing technologies – with links to the private research centers, and/or corporate research and innovation departments.

**Theme: Time for forest-based sector showcase its innovative solutions for forest products, wood bioindustry, and forest conservation, management, and restoration.**



[www.icfpa.org/  
blue-sky-award](http://www.icfpa.org/blue-sky-award)

To carry out research work that promotes innovation and decarbonization in the forest products sector either in the forest, at production facilities (mills, manufacturing), along the supply chain, or via product innovation.

## Regional Competitions and the International Awards

- Each ICFPA member organization<sup>1</sup> will be asked to run their own regional/national competition and will advance up to 2 candidates to compete internationally.
- Applicants advancing to the international competition will be requested to submit a short video describing their project.
- Three submissions will be shortlisted by an international judging panel to receive the international awards.
- Travel and accommodation expenses for the six international finalists of both categories will be covered to present at the ICFPA CEO Roundtable in May 2025 in New York City, United States.

## Schedule

PERIOD	Action
October 2024 By 19 December 2024 By 20 December 2024	Announcement and Call for Applications in Country Regions Regional Evaluation of Applications (Short List) and Regional Award Global Pre-Selection (2 Candidates per Country/Region Advance to International Judging Round)
20 December 2024 to 07 February 2025 By 14 February 2025 5 or 6 May 2025 (TBD)	International Judging and Global Final Selection Country Regions notified of international finalists Presentations And International Awards – CEO Roundtable: New York City, USA

## Application

Applicants are invited to submit their application containing the following documents:

- 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
  - Please disclose if and how artificial intelligence was used in the project or application
- One letter of support

<sup>1</sup> <https://icfpa.org/who-we-are/>

Applications and deadlines for national award selection will be defined by local/regional associations.

Please contact your association should you require any additional information.

For general information, please contact [insert regional email](#).

## **Evaluation**

A jury composed by industry representatives and well-respected researchers will evaluate the finalists both in regional and international level, based on evaluation form with pre-defined premises.