

# Natural Fibres in Construction

- innovative applications and  
processes

**Tuesday 17 November 2009**  
**2.00 - 5.30pm**

Hughes Hall, Cambridge CB1 2EW

Natural fibres have been utilised in construction for millennia, they have particular advantages for a low carbon future. The Renewable House at BRE (delivered by the NNFC and funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change DECC), and the Suffolk Housing Society development at Haverhill, are practical examples of the application of natural fibres.

Hemcrete® is a hemp (shiv) and lime binder matrix in a monolithic form offering advantages in terms of thermal insulation, simplicity of build and breathability. With an often quoted ratio of approximately 1 hectare of hemp to 1 house constructed to Code Level 4 - this is a compelling low carbon construction technique. However these materials have yet to enter mainstream application. Why is this? What are the opportunities and challenges facing natural fibres in construction?

Other innovations include the better utilisation of timber stock through green gluing applications, the development of new composites, particularly building boards and sheet material from novel materials. **This event, with speakers from industry and academia, will focus on the technical aspects of utilising natural fibres in a modern context and provide a forum for the latest research on new natural composites.**

## Registration:

The event is free but places are limited. Please book your place by email to Julia O'Rourke, InCrops Events  
Co-ordinator - [j.orourke@uea.ac.uk](mailto:j.orourke@uea.ac.uk) or **01603 591765**.



Photo: Peter White: BRE

## Event Format:

**2.00pm Registration opens**

**2.30pm Welcome and Speakers**

**4.30pm Refreshments & Networking**

## Speakers:

**Dr Tim Yates - Technical Director, BRE**

**Dr Mizi Fan - Brunel University**

**Dr Ed Suttie - Director of Timber Division, BRE**

**Professor Peter Walker - Director BRE  
Centre for Innovative Construction  
Materials, University of Bath**

## About the InCrops Enterprise Hub:

The InCrops project promotes innovation in alternative and non-food crops. The aim of the InCrops Enterprise Hub is to introduce businesses within the East of England to the opportunities available to them from new and existing crops. Areas covered include:

- The use of plant-derived renewable and natural products in key sectors
- Stimulation of the rural economy through high value enterprise
- Promotion of low carbon economic growth

**[www.incropsproject.co.uk](http://www.incropsproject.co.uk)**

InCrops Enterprise Hub in association with:

