

Rising to the Top: The Steady Emergence of the Hemp Industry in Canada, Australia, and Europe

The hemp industry is a rapidly growing sector in many parts of the world. Australia, Canada, and Europe are all investing heavily in this promising new market. In each region, there are unique challenges facing the future of hemp production and use. However, with careful planning and investment from governments across these regions, it is likely that the future of hemp industries will be bright for all. The future of industrial hemp industries across these three regions looks promising due to their unique climates ideal for growing this resilient crop and the availability of adapted varieties (but to less extent in Australia).

Australia

Australia has been at the forefront when it comes to developing its own domestic hemp industry. The country has invested over \$20 million into research projects related to medical cannabis since 2016 alone; this includes researching potential uses for cannabidiol (CBD) derived from both cannabis plants as well as industrial-grade varieties like those grown in other countries around the world such as Canada or Europe. Additionally, Australian farmers have begun experimenting with cultivating different varieties of industrially-produced crops on their farms - something which could potentially revolutionise their agricultural output if successful.

There has been an overall increase in the number of hectares dedicated to growing industrial hemp since 2017/18 when commercial cultivation for food application was legalised. Acreages comparing the 2019-20 season to 2021-22 were forecasted to double by 2022 but that hasn't been achieved. This increase required substantial investment by the government into the development of a sustainable industry which was missing. Unsurprisingly, a potential increase in investment will create jobs throughout all stages of the supply chain from seed planting through processing and manufacturing into finished goods available for sale domestically or internationally.

Furthermore, Australia is leading the way in industrial hemp production thanks largely to its favourable climate conditions, which provide optimal growth opportunities for this hardy species. In recent years, some levels of investments have been made into research projects aimed at improving production and developing new uses such as building components from Hempcrete (hemp-based concrete).



Canada

Canada's government also sees great potential for its own domestic #cannabis industry; they recently set aside funds specifically dedicated towards furthering research into #medical applications involving #CBD products made from Canadian sources. This move by Ottawa not only shows a commitment towards helping develop an emerging #economic sector within Canada but also helps ensure that Canadians have access to safe and effective #therapeutic treatments regardless of where they live within the nation's borders.

According to #Canadian #Hemp #Trade #Alliance (#CHTA) statistics, Canada saw growth within its own domestic industry while licensed acres decreased from 44,577 ha in 2017/18 to est. 30,600 ha by 2022. The Canadian government continues supporting research projects related to improving #yields while reducing #costs associated with #harvesting and #processing methods - allowing Canadian farmers access to new markets both locally and abroad including the #Asia Pacific and #Africa regions where demand is particularly high due to environmentally friendly nature. Last year alone saw Canadian farmers planting thousands of hectares worth over \$90 million CAD according to investment reports released by government agencies - clearly indicating they're serious about becoming major players within global markets soon enough.

Europe

Europe represents another key market where demand remains high despite challenges posed by regulations. European nations have been quick to embrace opportunities presented by legalising recreational marijuana use; #Germany now boasts one the largest markets worldwide when it comes to purchasing high-quality flowers or oils derived from various types of *Cannabis sativa* L species - including some specific varieties bred specifically for #medicinal purposes such as treating #chronic #pain conditions like #fibromyalgia, #rheumatoid, #arthritis #etcetera. With more than two dozen EU member states currently allowing some form of regulated cultivation sale/distribution of certain forms of #cannabinoid-containing products (such as #CBD oil capsules, and edibles) demand growth looks set to continue increasing exponentially near future given widespread acceptance among consumers across the continent.

Europe also has seen some levels of growth within its own domestic industries where some estimates suggest total acreage could reach 50,000+ha by 2023 if current trends continue.

Countries such as #France have already established large-scale operations while others like #Poland have recently started developing their own infrastructure necessary to support local farming communities who wish to join the booming global market currently estimated to be



worth \$10 billion USD annually – making it one most lucrative agricultural sectors out there today.

Overall, while each region faces unique challenges ahead of the development and commercialisation of their respective Hemp Industries – Australia’s investment research infrastructure combined with the Canadian Government’s dedication to establishing secure supply chains domestically and Europeans increasingly embracing therapeutic properties associated with cannabinoids make clear outlook very positive indeed. All indications point towards continued expansion throughout 2023 and beyond so watch this space carefully if you want to stay ahead of curve on what’s happening next...

As Canada, Australia, and Europe continue to expand their hemp industries, it is crucial to also consider the growth and development of sustainable hemp industries in other emerging markets. This includes the United States, China, and South America. Each of these countries has unique opportunities and challenges for the growth of the hemp industry.

United States, China, and South America

The United States, China, and South America all have unique opportunities for developing their own hemp programs.

In the United States, there has been an increasing demand from consumers for products made from industrial hemp such as #CBD oil or #textiles like clothing or bedding materials. To meet this demand the US Department of Agriculture (#USDA) has recently released its proposed rules on domestic hemp production which will allow farmers in states where it’s legal to grow industrial varieties of #cannabis plants under certain conditions including testing #THC levels periodically throughout the season and disposing of any non-compliant plants promptly when discovered by law enforcement authorities. This program could provide much-needed economic opportunities while ensuring public safety through strict regulations around THC levels found in crops grown within state borders.

In the United States, other USDA programs aim to provide a regulatory framework for the cultivation of hemp, as well as research and education initiatives to support the growth of the industry.

China already produces a large supply of industrial-grade fibres used primarily by manufacturers across several sectors including construction material, furniture, fabrics etc., but they have yet to develop a comprehensive domestic program focused on producing #food-grade #quality #oils and seed #proteins along with #high-value #specialty fibres suitable for use in textile applications such as apparel and home furnishings. A well thought out plan



involving both private sector companies as well government support would be necessary if China intends on becoming an international leader in this space.

Finally, South America presents another interesting opportunity due largely because many countries here produce some level of agricultural goods but lack the infrastructure required to create large-scale commercial operations capable of meeting demands outside their own markets which could potentially lead to increased foreign investment into the region creating jobs, stimulating local economies, providing better access to healthy foods, nutritional supplements derived from crop itself even medical treatments using cannabinoids found in hemp. All these factors combined make the perfect environment for establishing a robust sustainable hemp industry not only benefit citizens living region but people all over the world who rely upon them to export high-quality raw materials and finished goods alike.

Collaboration is the key to establishing a global hemp industry

Despite the competition among hemp industries in different countries, it is crucial to the establishment of a collaborative and unified voice (like Federation of International Hemp Organisations - FIHO) to bring the versatile crop of hemp to the attention of the global market.

Hemp-based products have the potential to compete with other commodities (like cotton for fibre applications, oil applications such as soybean, and source of proteins such as pulses) in established markets that have had over 50 years of investment in research and development.

To achieve this, the role of governments and industry bodies will become increasingly important in investing in niche crops like hemp and forming essential public-private partnerships across the hemp value chain. This includes research and development of new technologies and methods for the cultivation, processing, and manufacturing of hemp-based products. Furthermore, a single voice for the hemp industry will help to promote the environmental, economic, and social benefits of hemp cultivation, and increase awareness among consumers and stakeholders about the potential of hemp as a sustainable crop. Additionally, a collaboration between the different hemp industries will help to standardise regulations, certifications, and quality control procedures, which will ultimately help to increase the competitiveness of hemp-based products in the global market. In addition to these efforts, a unified voice for the hemp industry can also help to create a conducive policy environment that supports the growth and development of the industry. This includes creating favourable trade policies, providing access to capital and financial services, and promoting education and training programs for farmers, processors, and manufacturers.



A strong collaboration between the hemp industries of different countries can also help to promote #international trade of hemp-based products, by creating a harmonised #regulatory framework and facilitating the #exchange of knowledge, #best practices, and #innovations. Furthermore, a single voice for the hemp industry will help to build a strong #reputation and #image for hemp-based #products, which will increase #consumer #confidence and #trust, and ultimately drive #demand for these products in the global market.

In addition to the efforts of governments and industry bodies, #universities also play a crucial role in the expansion of the hemp industry. Universities can contribute to the growth of the industry by conducting #research and #development on various aspects of hemp #cultivation, #processing, and #manufacturing. They can also provide #education and #training programs for farmers, processors, and manufacturers, and help to build a #skilled #workforce for the industry. Universities can also contribute to the development of new #technologies and #methods for the cultivation, processing, and manufacturing of hemp-based products. This can include the identification of #traits that contributes towards the development of new #varieties of hemp with improved #yield and #quality by #private breeding companies, developing new processing and manufacturing #techniques, and researching the potential of hemp as a #bio-based material for a wide range of applications. Moreover, Universities can also play a role in #promoting the #environmental, #economic, and #social benefits of hemp cultivation, as well as increasing #awareness among #consumers and stakeholders about the potential of hemp as a sustainable crop. They can work together with governments, industry bodies, private entities, and other stakeholders to establish a sustainable future for the hemp industry.

In conclusion, establishing a single voice for the hemp industry is vital for the growth and development of this versatile crop, and will help to promote the# competitiveness of hemp-based products in the #global #market. Collaboration between different hemp industries and the #formation of essential #public-private partnerships will be critical for achieving this goal, and for creating a #sustainable future for the hemp industry.

WARNING: these are my personal opinions only.

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