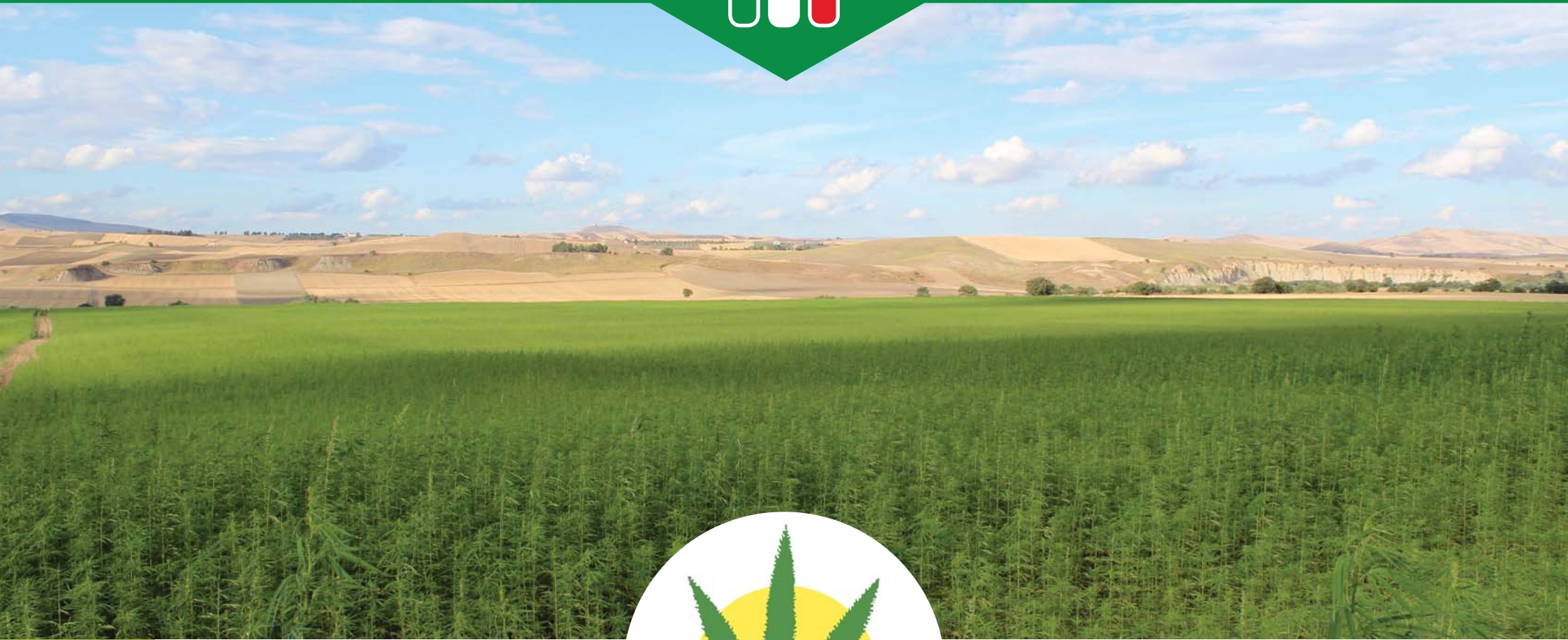


THE HISTORY OF ITALIAN HEMP



12th International Conference of the
European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA)
May 20th – 21st 2015, Rheinforum Wesseling (near Cologne, Germany)

HEIA | 20 may 2015



SPEAKER:
Rachele Invernizzi

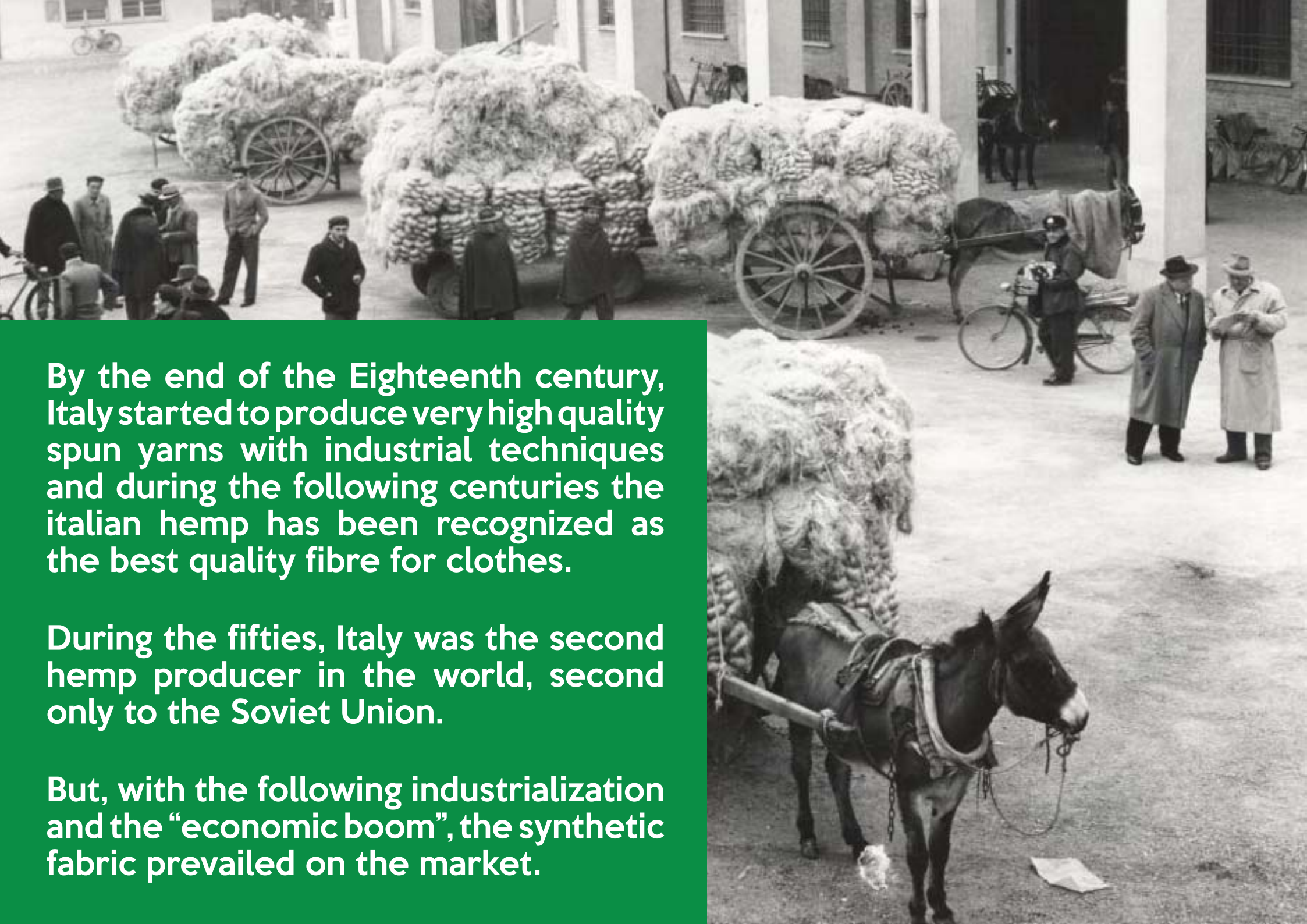


The first traces of hemp date back to prehistory and have been found in a region located at the foot of piedmontese Alps.

Since 1600 the region of Carmagnola in Piedmont became the most important centre of production of hemp seed for sowing in Europe. The most famous cultivar selected by carmagnolese farmers was named “Giant of Carmagnola”.



Two centuries later, Italy became the first hemp supplier for the British Navy which largely used italian hemp to produce sails and ropes, due to its strength and lightness.



By the end of the Eighteenth century, Italy started to produce very high quality spun yarns with industrial techniques and during the following centuries the italian hemp has been recognized as the best quality fibre for clothes.

During the fifties, Italy was the second hemp producer in the world, second only to the Soviet Union.

But, with the following industrialization and the “economic boom”, the synthetic fabric prevailed on the market.

Hemp slowly disappeared both physically and from customs. In 1961 the Italian government signed the «Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs», according to which hemp should have disappeared within 25 years in the whole world.



In the Seventies, only 70 hectares were dedicated to hemp cultivation and they disappeared quickly because of the “Cossiga law” against drugs.

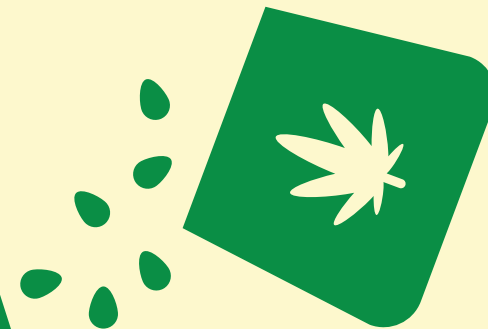
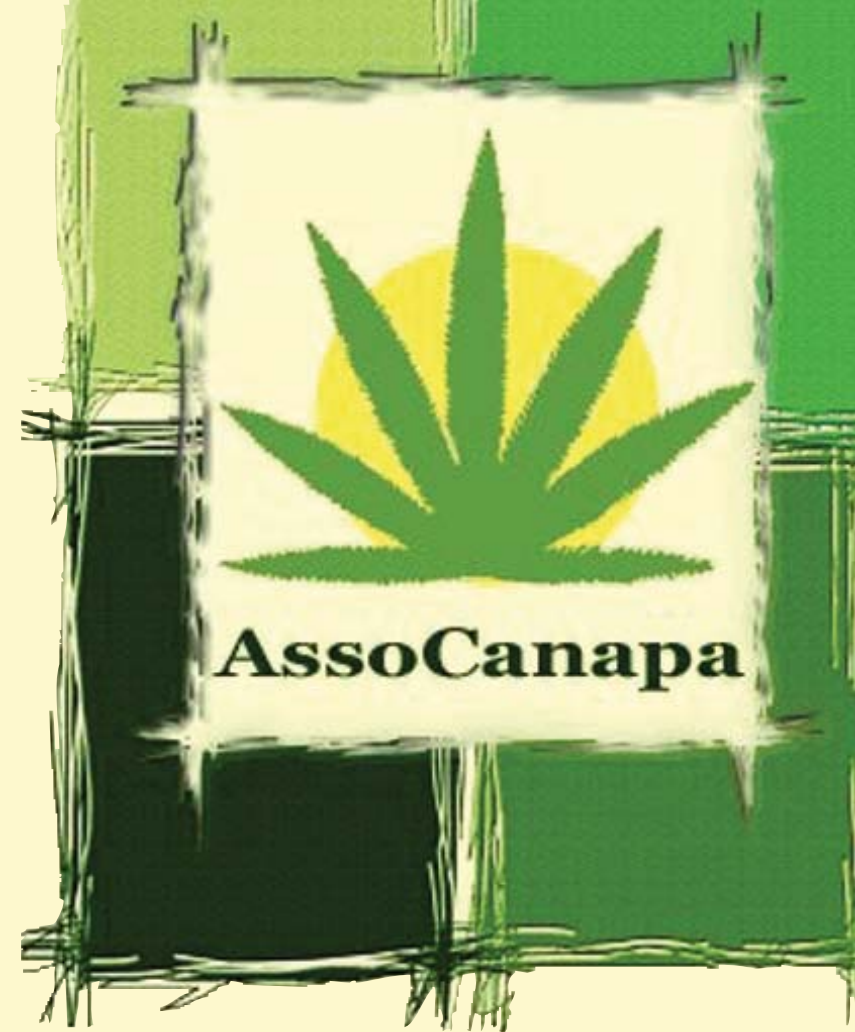
ASSOCANAPA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HEMP CULTIVATION:

Assocanapa National Association for hemp cultivation was created in Italy in 1998. It's a non-profit organization aimed at promoting, upholding and spreading the cultivation and the use of hemp in several production industries.

The headquarters are located in Carmagnola, in the province of Turin.

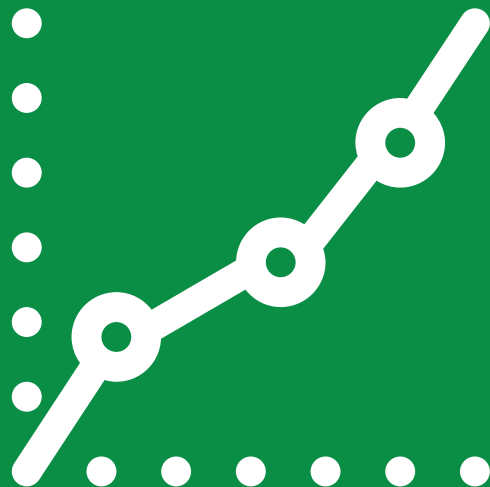
The goal of the organization is to encourage and develop the research in order to support the hemp cultivation and the use of its products.





IN ORDER TO REACH THIS GOAL, THE ORGANIZATION CARRIES OUT SEVERAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Promoting the features of hemp cultivation in relation to environmental protection and human work and life conditions.
2. Expressing the needs of farmers by the Regional, National and European Authorities.
3. Creating events and supporting initiatives to promote the activities of the members.





AssoCanapa srl



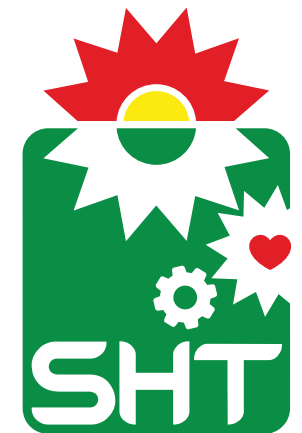
filiere italiana



In order to give a boost to the industrial production of italian hemp, in 2002 a new company called “Assocanapa Srl” was created. Our goal is to reach 100.000 hectares of hemp cultivation and sell more processing plants to let hemp become a common good.

ASSOCANAPA SRL IS COMMITTED IN TWO BIG PROJECTS:

The first project concerns the creation of the first Italian processing plant, the first bought by the company “South Hemp Tecno Srl”. The plant is located in Taranto and it's the most southern processing plant in Europe.



SouthHempTecno

THE PROCESSING PLANT

The processing plant at operating speed can process 160 quintals of straw per day, that is 4800 tons per year, which is the equivalent of 500 hectares of cultivated land.

At the moment we are working on the details of the process and on bureaucratic issues. By the end of this year we will be ready for the commercialization. For those of you who might be interested, I will be pleased to give you further information and take your contact details.





THE PROCESSING PLANT

The processing plant produces 97% clean fibre and hurd in 3 sizes: large, medium and small, plus the 500 micron powder.

The production gave us the chance to find out what changes can improve the machinery and to place the first economically considerable quantities of semifinished products (fibre and hurd) on the market.

HEMP FOOD

The second project is hemp food. Assocanapa Srl has produced and sold food products since 2011. Using the seeds of its own production chain, today Assocanapa Srl produces oil, flour, pasta, sweet and salted baked products and chocolate. These products can be ordered online on www.assocanapashop.it

We are available for international partnerships and for considerable supplies.



ASSOCANAPA SRL

PRODUCTION CHAIN

In 2013 in Italy we cultivated 400 hectares and in 2014 we cultivated 1500 hectares. Normally, the hemp variety available in Italy is Carmagnola, but, as the previous year has been a particular agricultural year, at the moment we are sowing with French varieties in the whole country. The French varieties is very adaptable to the Italian climate; in some areas we have Futura75 plants over 6 meters in height.

For the current agricultural year Assocanapa has already sold seeds for the plantation of 2000 hectares, with 310 associated companies. In Italy we have 2 processing plants for straw: one is Assocanapa Srl Carmagnola Torino, which gathers the harvest of northern plantations; the other one is South Hemp Tecno Srl in Taranto, which gathers the harvest of southern Italy. These processing plants can process 700 hectares of straw. The remaining plantations are used for seed production, for food or cosmetic preparation. In Italy there are other little productive communities and other independent associations for hemp.

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