



## **New Zealand Hemp Industries Association Inc**

### **Building capacity for a multi-billion dollar industry in New Zealand**

Low THC industrial hemp (iHemp) is a legitimate industry. At its core is the production of quality seed, fibre, roots and leaf.

A local iHemp Industry can help the New Zealand Government achieve their goal, to increase exports from 30% of GDP to 40% of GDP by 2025.

In 1998 the NZHIA predicted a multi-billion dollar crop. Our members are determined to work together to build this new industry for rural New Zealand.

iHemp is a sustainable annual crop grown with low agricultural inputs which can clean and improve soil.

iHemp produces a large amount of biomass which needs to be processed close to the farm so the value added opportunities go back to regional communities and economies.

We have a legal framework that allows us to grow iHemp. Only iHemp can make hemp products so the process is controlled as a licence is required to grow low THC iHemp.

Stage 1 is the seed industry which will flourish once we have access to the human food market in 2016-17. There is existing capacity and the farmers are ready to scale to meet the demand.

Stage 2 is the fibre industry, this will require more development, as processing equipment is required to add value to the stems, leaf and roots.

If the Government embraces the industry it will destigmatise our agricultural crop, reducing the reputational risk and encouraging support for:

- Research into the wide variety of end uses
- Development of processes and products
- On farm and local business growth
- Supply and production of iHemp products
- Distribution to local and export markets
- Investment in infrastructure to build capacity and scale
- The development and marketing of iHemp products.

This will happen once New Zealand gets behind the industry and realises that there is a growing new economy just waiting for our innovative approach to make it happen.

New Zealand has a role to play in developing the wide variety of end products that can be made from iHemp and has much to offer the worldwide industry.

A Billion \$ dollar industry will require significant capital investment. In the long term agricultural crops with established markets can provide predictable returns for investors. As a new crop iHemp can create new export markets and help diversify our rural sector.

We can help New Zealand meet the UN Sustainable Growth Goals, while creating employment and economic opportunities, which will revitalise rural New Zealand.

We just need a level playing field, free from political and reputational risk.

NZHIA – 29 February 2016

The following chart has been extract from the 1998 NZHIA Publication – The 5 Minute Guide to Industrial Hemp. Chart Source: Nova Institute 1995, since this chart was created many more uses have been identified, such as 3D printing, graphene, bioremediation and batteries

