

From Straw to Fiber - The BaFa Experience

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Challenges for Small Hemp Processors

- Two key factors are critical to the success of hemp processors:
 - An efficient, reliable fiber processing operation
 - Markets
- Several European hemp processors have failed due to technical problems with equipment
 - ==> high demand on capital and manpower
 - ==> insufficient throughput
 - ==> poor quality of fiber and hurds

A Brief History of BaFa

- Since its foundation in 1996, BaFa has become a successful producer of non-woven grade hemp fiber from a single-stage process.
- Current straw throughput: ~ 1.8 t/hr. Consistent quality of fiber and hurds.
- Because no commercial hemp processing line was initially available, constant modification, redesign and optimization of equipment was critical to our success.
- Without the ingenuity and commitment of BaFa's technical director Peter Muthmann, we would not have mastered this "learning by doing" challenge.

Fruits of Cooperation

- BaFa's cooperation with Temafa has provided synergisms between our operational and their equipment design and building experience.
- A mature hemp industry needs a commercial reliable, flexible processing line, which does not require constant attention, require improvement and threatens a company's production and profitability.
- For processors planning for a throughput of about 2 tons of straw hour, Temafas hemp processing equipment represents a big step in that direction -