

Hemp Fabrics and Clothes – Developments and Challenges

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Index

- Hemp International Summary
- Production Location China
- Decision for GOTS
- Challenges
- Experiences

The Company



- Hempro International is active in the field of wholesale, mail-order-service and distribution of hemp-rawmaterial (seeds, oil), hemp-garments, -accessories, -cosmetics and -food. Through the consistent application of a strategy centred around product quality, Hempro has succeeded in becoming one of the biggest players in the European hemp business.
- Hempro Int. offers both retailers and end consumers, via the high performance Internet site www.hanfhaus.com, a wide selection of the best available hemp products in the world at competitive prices.
- In its role as partner to hemp product manufacturers, Hempro Int. excels with a worldwide portfolio of excellent retailers, wholesalers and distribution partners for all types of hemp products. Managing director Daniel Kruse can look back on more than fifteen years experience in the hemp business.



Hemp As Raw-Material



Versatile Application:



Foodstuff:

- Hemp Oil
- Hulled Hemp Nut
- Hemp Tea etc

Cosmetics:

- Handcreme.
- Lotions.
- Shampoo etc.

Textiles:

- Hemp / Bio-Cotton Jersey
- 100 % Hemp fabric

Miscellaneous:

- Paper
- Building Material
- Animal Bedding

Company Divisions/Operations

Hempro International



Hanfhaus
Online Shop
Catalogue

End Customers



B2B
Main Distributor

- Specialised Trade
- Retail
- Foreign Distributors



Production
Textiles

- Own Collection "The Hemp Line"
- Contract Manufacturing/ Private Label
- Special Customer Orders



Raw Material.
Foodstuff

- Bakeries
- Medium sized processing companies
- Key account

Impressions Summer 2010



Hemp Fibre Characteristics



- Tearproof
- Absorbs more moisture than other fibres and dispense that moisture quickly
- Keeps cool in summer and gives warmth in winter
- Hemp fibres are also suitable for sensitive skins
- Give greater UV protection than other fabrics of comparable texture and density



Enviromental Advantages



- Rapid growth: up to 4 meters in 3 months
- Extremely resilient: no chemicals e.g. herbicides or pesticides required
- Supporting its own organic cultivation in itself
- Strong rootage in the soil
- Improves the soil and crop rotation productivity
- Monocultures can be avoided
- Less water consumption than e.g. cotton
- Binds CO2 (Result of previous surveys: 1 ton of hemp biomass stores approx. 500 kg of carbon which amounts to approx. 2 tons of carbon-dioxide)
- No chemical additives necessary for fibre splitting.
- Versatile usage for all parts of the plant (shives, seeds, etc).



Production Location China



- In comparison to Europe, hemp cultivation was never forbidden in China
- Thousands of years experience in hemp textile production
- Most extensive hemp-fibre producing region worldwide



Production Location China



- Excellent development regarding quality, reliability and European standards



Production Location China



- Cooperation with our textile producer since 10 years (Experience, know-how)
- Good personal relationship with the owners



Employee company outing with their families

Production Location China



- Fulfilment (textile purchase, colouration, sewing and distribution)
- Regular exchange of feedback for improvement (production processes, quality, environmental and labour protection)
- But: For customers, e.g. personal experience with fabrics, ecology and labour prerequisites alone, is not enough!

→ Certificates are requested!

Decision for GOTS



- GOTS = Global Organic Textile Standard
- The GOTS decision was made due to previous good work with IMO concerning organic-cotton and hemp-organic-cotton mixed textile certification and IVN membership.
- Due to GOTS, not only the ecological aspects but also the fair working conditions are fulfilled.
- Possibility of a continuative certification “Fair For Life” (with previous inspection)
- Publication of names and addresses of producers not necessary. Instead, the IMO could issue verification that the collections was manufactured in a GOTS certified factory.
(safeguarding industrial secrets)



Challenges



- Convincing factory management that GOTS certification is important for Hempro Int. and our customers.
- Certification always requires time and money.
- Administrative expenditure:
 - Provide status analysis
 - Compare GOTS guidelines
 - Implement changes



Experiences



- In our sewing section, the GOTS social prerequisites were already extensively fulfilled (due to pioneer work done by the owners).
- The IMO inspection is to be viewed generally as positive.
- The inspection is made in a friendly and construction atmosphere.
- First inspection = 2 days. Follow up = 1 day (annually)



Experiences



- The senior employees of the sewing section are able to acquire know-how for improving internal procedures and much more.
- For the owners and employees, attaining GOTS certification represents a source of personal satisfaction.
- From year to year, from inspection to inspection there is an increasing amount of formalities to be considered.



Experiences



- Problems:
 - Other factories are not certified e.g. spinning mills, weavings mills, dyeing mills.
 - T/C (Transaction certificates) can only be issued when all production phases (OC, OCC, GOTS and similar) are certified.
But there are many preliminary stages and companies involved in a textile production.
 - Example: A dyeing mill is GOTS certified but the dyeing quality is insufficient. A different dyeing mill is not GOTS certified but the dyeing quality is excellent. To meet our quality standards, the company that's not GOTS certified would have to be contracted.
 - Bio-Hemp is (presently) not available and most hemp processing companies are not GOTS certified.
→ Because of that, the article can not be endorsed with the GOTS emblem (GOTS guidelines: 70 % Proportion from organic farming).



**Thank you for your
kind attention!**

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