

DELVING DEEP INTO THE HEMP INDUSTRY

HOW OUR AGRI-FOOD TEAM WORKED WITH THE SUPPLY CHAIN NETWORK AND GROW YORKSHIRE TO EXAMINE THE REGION'S SUPPLY CHAIN, AND IDENTIFY GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Hemp is a relatively niche crop at present, but that is starting to change. There's growing demand and interest thanks to the environmental benefits hemp offers and the diverse range of uses it has commercially.

Despite this expected growth, there has previously been little research undertaken into the area and limited data to back up this perception. Grow Yorkshire recognised this and, assisted by The Supply Chain Network (supported by the European Regional Development Fund), saw it as an opportunity to delve deep into the industry. Using the support of our Agri-Food Team, the two businesses commissioned a detailed supply chain map of Yorkshire hemp.

COLLECTING QUALITY INSIGHT

In order to fulfil the set objectives, our Agri-Food Team undertook a detailed period of desk research. Initially, this looked at the hemp sector from a global basis, identifying total volumes, imports/exports and who the major producing countries were. Having this visibility of the wider market created an opportunity to identify several key countries that were offering 'best practice' in terms of their existing supply chains.

From there, the search was narrowed down to focus on the size of the UK sector and where Yorkshire fits within the wider remit. Key stakeholders were identified, and detailed interviews were carried out.

The data collected from these interviews was invaluable, helping to establish the quantifiable size of the Yorkshire hemp sector and potential future growth. It also provided quality insight into where there were potential gaps and weaknesses in the existing supply chain.

EVALUATING THE RESULTS



All the findings were combined into a [detailed report](#), alongside a clear set of future goals. Setting out clear objectives going forward has enabled The Supply Chain Network and Grow Yorkshire to utilise the findings in a positive and proactive way.



The findings were also presented back in a [live webinar](#) to interested stakeholders. This has been a key exercise for both businesses, helping to promote the industry in Yorkshire and build reputable relationships with valuable contacts.



In addition, the report used a combination of features to ensure it was visually appealing to the audience and easy to follow. We developed several [bespoke infographics](#) for future use by The Supply Chain Network and Grow Yorkshire, as well as graphs and tables.

GROWING THE SECTOR

Providing short term goals of collaborative working among hemp supply chain stakeholders has added value too. It's provided a platform to share expertise and will help to provide greater opportunity to mirror similar approaches used abroad.

The report has created a starting point towards growing the sector for the future and opening up more people's eyes to the strong potential development for hemp, both in Yorkshire and beyond.



The Supply Chain Network



THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROJECT

Map out the current supply chain, as well as all stakeholders associated with the sector. Including, growers, researchers, and processors.



Identify opportunities to make the current supply chain more effective and resilient – through identifying gaps in the chain and exploring associated opportunities.



Develop both short-term and long-term opportunities with key recommendations and 'next steps' of how to achieve to them.



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