
1. The Hemp Federation Ireland conference run in conjunction with the National Organic Training Skillnet 12th March 2020.

1.1. Hemp Federation Ireland Executive Director speaks of who controls the cannabis conversation in Ireland, with a focus on the regulation of Ireland's hemp industry in the context of EU and global barriers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xUfkWTrlGg>.

0:00 the cannabis conversation in ireland
0:03 okay um so
0:07 industrial hemp is really very well
0:09 suited to irish climate conditions
0:11 uh it's a crop with a really long
0:13 history of cultivation in ireland
0:16 the modern usages of the crop i i know i
0:18 don't have to repeat that
0:20 it's you know cosmetics food beverages
0:23 body care
0:24 nutritional supplements clothing fabrics
0:26 textiles industrial yarn spoon fibers
0:28 paper packaging construction and
0:30 installation materials for
0:32 support fire energy production energy
0:34 storage solutions
0:35 as well as manufacture of petrochemical
0:37 replacement products
0:39 including hemp-based plastics industrial
0:41 plastics fiberglass etc
0:44 so it can be grown as a fiber
0:48 seed or an oil crop and also as a dual
0:50 purpose crop
0:51 so in the 1990s there was a resurgence
0:54 of interest in
0:55 the hemp commercial hemp farming and
0:58 this was
0:59 encouraged by the introduction of
1:01 subsidies at eu level
1:03 so
1:06 hemp was once the most widely traded
1:08 commodity in the world
1:10 okay and then the scientifically
1:12 unsupported
1:13 classification of hemp as a controlled
1:15 substance and its prohibition
1:18 led to the growth of wood based paper
1:20 manufacturing
1:21 an explosion of petrochemical industries
1:24 and the growth of the cotton industry
1:28 all of which have had a detrimental
1:30 impact on the earth

1:32 planetary ecosystem so
1:35 although the international narcotics
1:37 conventions
1:39 okay so the international ones
1:42 okay do not
1:45 consider industrial hemp
1:50 to come within the remit of those those
1:53 conventions
1:54 okay do you understand what i mean that
1:57 you know those international conventions
2:01 are getting effect
2:02 in our local legislation right in our
2:05 domestic legislations
2:07 and the domestic legislations have
2:09 included
2:10 uh you know a hemp in misuse of that
2:14 etc but the conventions themselves
2:17 don't okay so
2:21 and that's because they they
2:22 specifically want
2:24 to encourage so if you look at the the
2:26 single conventional narcotic drugs
2:29 look at the preamble to it what they
2:30 want is to encourage
2:32 the you know use of industrial hemp
02:36 for both industrial products and for
02:39 horticultural purposes
02:40 they specifically state that okay
02:44 so they shouldn't be included in in the
02:47 misuse of drugs
02:55 prohibition also brought with it the
02:57 exclusion of hemp
02:59 from human diets
03:54 slow uh compared to the rest of Europe
03:58 okay there's been absolutely no research
04:00 on hemp in Ireland for more than 20
04:02 years
04:16 upper market value of 115 billion
04:19 euros by 2028 for this industry
04:53 in 1964 Israeli researcher called
04:57 Rafael Michelan he was studying the
06:32 is that the plant-based cannabinoids
06:36 can you feed and upregulate
06:40 the endocannabinoid system inside of the
06:42 human body
06:43 okay and that's why people feel
06:46 better when they take full spectrum CBD
06:50 it's not that they're being cured of
06:51 anything in particular
06:52 it's that the function of the
06:55 phytocannabin of the endocannabinoid
06:57 system is to upregulate your homeostasis

08:32 corporate farmer food drinks tobacco etc
08:34 and they're dictating the way in which
08:37 the market gets constructed
08:19 experiencing
08:20 exponential growth okay so
08:42 okay so they're (corporations) are determining the way in
08:44 which this industry gets developed into
08:46 the future
09:07 what did they call that the proposition
09:10 64.
09:11 so this was to kind of get their
09:13 cannabis industry
09:15 going okay so it was introduced in 2016
09:18 in conjunction with the legislative
9:20 legalisation of cannabis in California
09:23 would be the gold standard in
09:25 environmental policy
09:26 okay and it would provide encouragement
09:29 for
09:30 small-scale farmers practising
09:32 ecologically sound and sustainable
09:34 farming methods
09:36 with funding for conservation habitat
09:38 protection enforcement
09:40 uh of environmental law the whole thing
09:44 you know American dream environmental
09:47 protections
09:48 in practice what actually happened was
09:50 that before the legislation ever went
09:52 into effect
09:53 the important environmental provisions
09:55 were all overridden
09:57 by the state okay and this effectively
0:00 disabled the environmental safeguards
10:02 and it encouraged corporate growth okay
0:06 is uh from Dr Tony Saval who is
10:10 a a scholar in
10:13 Humboldt state university
10:18 cannabis lobby spent more than a million
10:20 dollars lobbying holiday
10:22 policymakers to push for legislation
10:25 limiting the profitability of
10:26 smes okay and how they they did that
10:31 is that they introduced really really
10:34 really expensive
10:35 and difficult to fulfill licensing
10:38 procedures
10:46 okay in 1997 the European union
10:49 introduced what they call a novel food
10:51 catalog
10:52 okay and anything that wasn't a
10:55 traditionally eaten food
10:57 in the European union prior to may

11:00 of 1997 was going to be considered a
11:03 novel food
11:06 special regulation
11:08 in order to get it okay or to be able to
11:10 sell it
11:52 but it's novel today okay
11:55 and you need special authorization to
11:58 get it
2:29 that the FSAI recommended and
12:33 it's around three million
12:39 means
12:40 is that nobody except a corporation
12:43 could possibly afford that money nobody
13:34 uh actually they're all too old we want
13:37 you to give
13:38 us uh examples from during the time when
13:41 the plant was banned
13:43 in the 20th century okay that's
13:46 basically what they say
13:48 it's outrageous okay so
14:01 2016 the industry in Ireland
14:05 and you have to remember that we do have
14:07 a very old industry here
14:08 okay but the CBD wave that kind of
14:12 you know real interest in that and it's
14:14 really good money and uh
14:16 really good food, people getting turned
14:19 on to hell that was really driving
14:20 forward the industry okay
14:22 uh 2016 the FSAI had
14:26 two people asked them about CBD food
14:30 supplements
14:31 okay and I know both of them
14:36 but then it
14:39 trickles along nicely until around
14:42 2018. okay and then at that point
14:47 um we start seeing shops
14:50 being raided by police or products being
14:53 taken off
14:54 uh um
14:58 suppliers and and shops and etc etc etc
15:00 so a very
15:02 a criminalisation of of the industry
15:07 then you have um
15:11 following on from that you had you know
15:13 some of the raids were like you can
15:15 carry out like
15:16 drug raids those you know people's front
15:18 doors being
15:20 battered down by guards and I don't know
15:23 what else
15:24 so all this time okay
15:27 it's actually perfectly fine to grow
15:30 hemp in Ireland

15:32 the FSAI say to say to us that
15:35 you can grow hemp with a 0.2
15:39 THC and it's perfectly fine to
15:42 have that sold in Ireland as a product
15:45 including
15:46 for food okay that was that was the
15:48 instruction
15:50 now three weeks ago
15:53 we woke up one when uh Thursday morning
15:58 and that was all gone gone
16:01 the information was gone from the FSAI
16:04 website
16:05 and our businesses were completely and
16:08 utterly devalued
16:10 um and how that happened was this the
16:12 FSAI said to us
16:14 here's the regulation for your industry
16:17 that we want you to
16:18 to keep up with and we said fine
16:22 and you know the people in this
16:24 organisation this organisation itself
16:27 have been pushing pushing pushing to try
16:30 and get the state to work with us
16:31 to put in place you know a proper stable
16:34 regulatory framework to protect
16:36 our supply chains and protect our
16:37 markets okay they haven't
16:40 so far done that but so what they did
17:14 they introduced a completely new
17:16 reference value that is one microgram
17:18 per kilogram of body weight and now Kate
17:28 uh but so the FSAI did this without
17:32 once consulting anybody in the industry
17:42 was asking them about the methodologies
17:44 that we're going to be applying
17:45 to the testing of our products what kind
17:47 of equipment they would be using in
17:49 those tests
17:50 and they wrote back to me and they gave
17:52 me all of the information i needed but
17:54 they never
17:55 ever ever mentioned anything about
17:58 a new reference value that they were
18:00 going to be applying to
18:01 our products so what actually happened
18:04 was that our products are all
18:06 compliant with the only advice that this
18:09 industry has ever been given by FSAI
18:12 however FSAI uh did a high-level media
18:15 campaign campaign that withdrew our
18:17 products
18:18 from the market really high quality
18:19 products did a high-level media campaign
18:22 and never once mentioned

18:23 to people that actually our products
18:25 were all compliant
18:27 they never told people that they changed
18:30 the goal
18:31 inside of their report and so
18:34 it just had such a negative detrimental
18:38 impact
19:18 in Ireland i ask for a fully integrated
19:22 development plan for this industry so
19:24 that we can capture not just the
19:25 economic benefits and there are loads of
19:27 them
19:27 but that we assess how we can also get
19:29 the other ones
19:30 the human food nutrition potentials the
19:33 environmental potentials
19:35 the you know agricultural system
19:38 development potentials and look at
19:42 providing a new system a new economic
19:44 system
19:45 to you know account for these benefits
19:48 not just for profits
19:50 okay so so is to encourage you know
19:53 rural Ireland and farming communities
19:56 and
19:56 doing it because it all has to be
19:58 embedded at local level