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

### 1.1. Chris Allen Executive Director speaks of who controls the cannabis conversation in Ireland.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xUfkWTrlGg>

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 phytocannabinoid 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

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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

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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