

## Industrial Hemp processing

Hemp, or industrial hemp, is a botanical class of *Cannabis sativa* cultivars grown specifically for industrial or medicinal use. It can be used to make a wide range of products such as paper, textiles, clothing, biodegradable plastics, paint, insulation, biofuel, food, and animal feed.

Although cannabis as a drug and industrial hemp both derive from the species *Cannabis sativa* and contain the psychoactive component tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), they are distinct strains with unique phytochemical compositions and uses. Hemp has lower concentrations of THC and higher concentrations of cannabidiol (CBD), which decreases or eliminates its psychoactive effects.

Zimbabwe has recently legalised the production of industrial hemp as one of the products to enhance the local manufacturing industry as this can have a wide range of other downstream industries below it.

IDC Zimbabwe is looking at possible projects to value add industrial hemp targeting output to be sold to the local and export markets. This initiative has largely been boosted by a deliberate drive by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe to encourage organized commercial propagation of the crop.

