forum synergies

RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DIVERSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

Forestry and related sector cluster, Industrial hemp growth, SRB

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- · **Scale of activity:** national
- · **Actor/s:** NGO
- · **State of the activity:** started in 2011, ongoing
- · **Keywords**. rural development, diversification of activities, hemp production

Summary

National Forestry and Related Sectors Cluster is a non profit organisation established in 2011. The area of activities is everything in and around the forests. Initially, the focus was on forest protection, especially forest fire protection.

Now there is additional focus on rural development where industrial hemp production can contribute to diversification of activities and income sources.

Description of activities

Background. There is an increasing market need for industrial hemp production related to the growing need for renewable energy, isolation material, chemical absorbents, fiber, cosmetic etc. However there are some problems related to the confusion of different species: industrial hemp (Cannabis sativa) and the psychoactive sort (Cannabis Indica)

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Activities.

Creation of scientific and educational materials, information center (legal issues, way of cultivation), experimental planting, networking between producers and processors.

Outlook

Challenges. :

- · Creation of supportive regulatory framework
- · Removing prejudices and stigma related to industrial hemp carried over from misuse of Marihuana (Cannabis Indica).

Next steps. Intensification of advocacy activities and creation of a network of organizations promoting production of industrial hemp. Increasing the area of hemp cultivation and processing capacities.

Source and contact

Information gathered at: the ERSG 2017 (European Rural Sustainability Gathering), Greece, Karditsa, 17-21 May 2017
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