



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Title: The Potential of Industrial Hemp as an Alternative Crop in Malaysia: Exploring the Research and Development and Obstacles in the Regulatory Landscape**

#### **Background:**

The UKM-MHIRA Industrial Hemp Conference scheduled from 10-11 July 2023 aims to delve into the immense potential of industrial hemp as an alternative crop in Malaysia. The conference will focus on exploring the research and development aspects, as well as the obstacles within the regulatory landscape. Industrial hemp, with its versatile applications, holds significant promise for Malaysia in various industries such as textiles, construction, food and beverages, cosmetics, and more. However, the regulatory framework surrounding its cultivation, processing, and commercialization needs to be understood and addressed to unlock the full potential of this crop.

#### **Session Objective:**

The specific objective of this session is to convene stakeholders and engage them in a larger discourse on the **I-PERFORM** platform (Inform, Perform & Reform). This platform aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research, development, and regulatory landscape of industrial hemp in Malaysia. By bringing together diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise, the session will foster meaningful discussions on how to overcome obstacles and create an enabling environment for the growth of the industrial hemp industry.

#### **Target Participants:**

The session aims to attract a diverse range of participants, including:

1. **Government Officials:** Representatives from relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Trade and Industry, who play a crucial role in shaping policies and regulations.
2. **Researchers and Academics:** Experts from universities and research institutions involved in industrial hemp-related studies, including agronomy, genetics, processing techniques, and product development.
3. **Industry Professionals:** Representatives from industries that have a stake in the industrial hemp value chain, such as textile manufacturers, construction companies, food and beverage producers, cosmetic companies, and renewable energy producers.



4. Agricultural Associations and Farmers: Representatives from farming communities and agricultural associations who are interested in diversifying their crop portfolios and exploring the economic potential of industrial hemp.
5. NGOs and Advocacy Groups: Organizations working towards sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and rural development, who can contribute valuable insights into the social and environmental aspects of industrial hemp cultivation.
6. Investors and Entrepreneurs: Individuals and organizations interested in investing in the industrial hemp industry or exploring entrepreneurial opportunities within the sector.
7. International Stakeholders: Representatives from international organizations, industry associations, and research institutions who can share global best practices and experiences.

#### **Type of Industries:**

The session will specifically focus on industries that can benefit from the utilization of industrial hemp, including but not limited to:

- Textiles and Fashion
- Construction and Building Materials
- Food and Beverages
- Cosmetics and Personal Care
- Pharmaceuticals and Medical Products
- Renewable Energy and Biomass
- Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture

#### **Relevant Stakeholders:**

Key stakeholders who should actively contribute to the discussions include:

- Government Agencies and Regulatory Bodies
- Research Institutions and Academia
- Industry Associations and Chambers of Commerce
- Farmers and Agricultural Communities
- NGOs and Advocacy Groups
- Investors and Financial Institutions
- International Organizations and Development Agencies
- Consumer and Public Interest Groups
- Technology and Innovation Experts



By bringing together these diverse stakeholders, the session aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, foster collaborations, and develop actionable strategies that can drive the growth of the industrial hemp industry in Malaysia.

Overall, the UKM-MHIRA Industrial Hemp Conference strives to provide a platform for comprehensive discussions on industrial hemp's potential as an alternative crop in Malaysia, emphasizing the importance of research and development, addressing regulatory obstacles, and encouraging collaborations among stakeholders. Through the I-PERFORM platform, we aim to inform, perform, and reform the industrial hemp landscape, paving the way for sustainable and innovative solutions.

### **Programme**

The Conference programme will be made available on [www.hemptech.org.my](http://www.hemptech.org.my) on 1 May 2023. The Conference will be held in person in Dewan Persidangan Fakulti Sains Dan Teknologi, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.

### **Queries**

For general queries, please reach out to the Conference Secretariat at [events@hemptech.org.my](mailto:events@hemptech.org.my). For queries related to sponsorship, sessions and speakers, please contact Ahmad Qaiyum, Ecosystem Development Lead, MHIRA ([qaiyum@hemptech.org.my](mailto:qaiyum@hemptech.org.my)).