Alliance for European
Flax-Linen & Hemp

Press release
Paris, 19th June 2023

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen and Hemp commits to growing the European textile Hemp industry

At the request of producers of European Flax and Hemp, players in the textile industry, and leading brands, the Alliance commits to growing and co-constructing a local Hemp industry with a pragmatic and ambitious mindset.

The Hemp textile industry can draw inspiration from and capitalise on the successful experience of Flax-Linen, spearheaded by the Alliance.
Today, European Flax-Linen is a pioneering fibre in terms of innovation and its environmental footprint.

©Valbiom - HEMP4CIRCULARITY

THE ALLIANCE IS PARTNERING WITH THE EUROPEAN HEMP4CIRCULARITY PROJECT

The Alliance is working in partnership with Valbiom, the Wallonia-based association for sustainable solutions in a bio-based economy, as part of the HEMP4CIRCULARITY project. Eleven multidisciplinary and five associated partners have come together to create one circular and local long fibre textile Hemp industry. Officially launched on 6 and 7 June 2023, this three-year project is supported by the European Union as part of the Interreg project (the North-West-Europe European Territorial Cooperation programme) with a total budget of €3,800,000.

The Alliance is spearheading two additional missions:

1. Environmental footprint:

- Launching a template for collecting agricultural data using the European Commission's Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method
- Ultimately producing a common dataset on Hemp long fibres and feeding into the reference datasets for robust Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) calculations

2. Communication & promotion:

- B2B: with European textile players, by adhering to the Alliance's operational actional plan (trade shows, directory, sourcing platform, exploratory showroom, etc.)
- B2C with consumers
- Identifying and training ambassadors for Hemp

EUROPEAN TEXTILE HEMP WITHIN THE ALLIANCE

Textile Hemp: a strategic commitment to diversification for the Linen industry and added value for the industrial Hemp industry

At its General Assembly in late 2022, the Alliance unveiled the work of its representatives (16 elected directors for Linen & Hemp) on a new name and three strategic pillars:

- **Nurturing and growing our virtuous common ecosystem that serves European Flax-Linen and Hemp**
- **Becoming an innovative and sustainable international reference**
- **Guaranteeing quality and embodying desirability**

In this context, the Alliance commits to supporting the Hemp textile industry in designing a collective roadmap in line with current developments in industrial European Hemp (seeds, shives and technical fibres with 21,700 ha of Hemp for all uses in France in 2022, including about 10% for textile markets, and 55,000 ha for all uses in the EU) in the context of China's leadership in textile Hemp (12,000 ha textile Hemp in 2021 for a total of 65,000 ha for all uses).

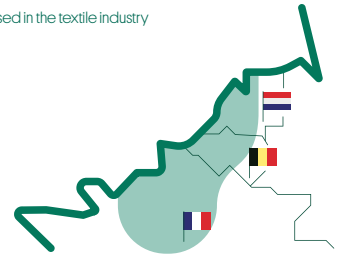
KEY PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR FLAX AND HEMP FIBRES

FLAX-LINEN

Three-quarters of long* fibres
globally are produced in France, Belgium and the Netherlands

*Long fibres: the main product of scutching, used in the textile industry

Europe, The #1 global producer of Flax fibre



+ 133% in Flax growing area **from 2010-2020**

145,000 ha in Europe of Flax in 2022 (including 80% in France: 127,000 ha)

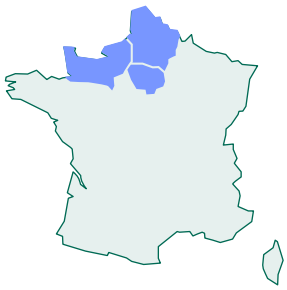
152,000 tonnes of long fibres produced in 2022 (including 125,000 tonnes in France)

Today, Flax fibres* account for
< 0,5% of global textile fibre production

*Long fibres + short fibres

FRANCE IN FOCUS

3 main Flax-producing regions in France:
Normandy
Hauts-de-France
Ile-de-France



127,000 ha of Flax in 2022,
→ 80% of European growing area

125,000 tonnes
of long fibres produced in 2022

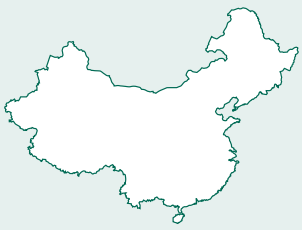
HEMP

Europe, #2 in global production
with **55,000 ha of Hemp** for all uses **in 2020**

12 countries
in the EU growing **textile Hemp in 2021**

France #1 in Europe with 21,000 ha
of Hemp for all uses, including **approx. 10% for textile Hemp in 2022**

China: The #1 global producer of Hemp



with **65,000 hectares of Hemp for all uses**

including **12,000 hectares** of **textile Hemp en 2021**

Source: 2022 Economic Observatory of the Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp, FAO, Interchanvre

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN HEMP4CIRCULARITY PROJECT:

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union
North-West Europe
Hemp4Circularity

11 multidisciplinary and complementary partners committed to a common goal: Hemp4Circularity creating a local circular textile Hemp industry.

BELGIUM:

- **FTILaB+** and the **AgroFoodNature** agronomic research centre
- **HoGent University** for applied science and the arts and centre for research in textiles and clothing
- **Hyler,** harvester manufacturer
- **Inagro,** a centre for agronomy research
- **Libeco,** Flax weaver
- **Valbiom,** association of sustainable solutions in a bio-based economy

FRANCE :

- **Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp,** a European agro-industrial organisation
- The French **Organic Flax and Hemp Association**
- **Safilin,** dry and wet Flax spinner

NETHERLANDS:

- **Delphy,** agricultural research and consulting, agricultural data digitisation
- **Van de Bilt,** seed selector and producer, Flax scutching and hackling

GERMANY:

- **Natuvalis,** decortication facility

FIVE ASSOCIATED PARTNERS ROUND OUT THE INITIATIVE

- **BAFA,** a German Hemp decorticator
- **Bioeconomy for Change,** French competitiveness cluster
- **EIHA,** The European Industrial Hemp Association
- **ETP,** the European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing, Belgium
- **HEMPAGE,** German fashion brand

- Interreg North-West Europe Programme
- From 23 March 2023 to 22 March 2026
- Approved on March 23, 2023
- Budget: 3.8 million euros
- Financing:
  European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):
  60%, up to 30% co-financing from regions
  - **Normandie France** (for **Lin et Chanvre Bio**)
  - **Wallonie Belgique** (for **Valbiom**)
  - TBC: **Provinces de Flandre Occidentale et Orientale** for **Inagro, Hyler and Hogent**

ABOUT VALBIOM

As a specialist in the bio-based economy over the last 20 years, Valbiom, based in Wallonia, supports territories, municipalities, the services of Wallonia, project developers, and industry. Valbiom draws on cutting-edge scientific, technical, and economic skills to guarantee a tailored response and professional service. Thanks to its expertise in bio-based materials and bioenergy, it is propelling the economy of Wallonia towards local and sustainable renewable solutions. As part of its public mission, Valbiom acts as a regional driver of a transition to a bio-based economy.
www.valbiom.be

À PROPOS

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp is the only European agro-industrial organisation and global leader that brings together all players in the value chain for European Flax-Linen and Hemp.

A platform for reflection, market analysis, dialogue, and strategic orientation, the Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp presides over an industry of excellence in a globalised context. It encourages dialogue with national and European public authorities.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp creates an environment that fosters competition among industrial businesses as part of its three-fold mission of informing members, brands and consumers, supporting the European ecosystem and European expertise, and promoting European Flax-Linen and Hemp as the sustainable fibres of choice around the world.

It connects more than 10,000 businesses in the European Flax value chain from 16 European countries around the values of solidarity, innovation, scientific validation, and respect for people and planet.

It promotes, initiates, and organises strategic reflections and research on its fibres in order to be able to provide all of its interlocutors with evidence-based economic data, environmental information, and reliable scientific evidence.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp strives to increase the international visibility of its fibres, whose technical and environmental properties inspire global creation and open up new opportunities for industrial innovation. It guarantees the traceability of Flax fibre thanks to the EUROPEAN FLAX™ and MASTERS OF LINEN™ certifications.

The Alliance for European Flax-Linen & Hemp is the new name of the CELC, an association founded in 1951. Europe is the number one Flax-producing region in the world (France, Belgium, and the Netherlands account for three-quarters of production).

EUropean Flax™: A traceability guarantee for premium Flax fibres grown in Western Europe for all markets. A plant-based fibre, the product of ecofriendly agriculture grown without irrigation or GMOs.*
**barring exceptional circumstances.*

Masters of Linen™: Traceability guarantee for Linen processed by European businesses in Europe and Euromed 1 locations. An outstanding local textile at all stages of production: from European Flax™ plant fibres to yarn and fabric.

www.allianceflaxlinenhemp.eu

Contact Us

PRESS SERVICE

Fashion
2e BUREAU
Hugo Howlett
M : +33 (0)6 18 08 10 55
h.howlett@2e-bureau.com

ALLIANCE FOR EUROPEAN FLAX-LINEN & HEMP

Dimitri Soverini
Agricultural & Professional Media Relations
M : +33 (0) 6 07 25 15 52
dsoverini@allianceflaxlinenhemp.eu