



## F02 - FUNtastic food Hemp: big opportunities from an ancient weed

Time: Monday January 31st, 2022, 14:00-16:00

Location: ULB Campus Plaine, Forum E or [online](#)

Organizer: Marco Zarattini  
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### Schedule:

14:00-14.10 Welcome

14:10-14.40 **Prof. Stefano Amaducci**  
Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy  
*Hemp: an ideal crop for the bio-based economy?*

14:40-15:00 **Dr. Lorenza Romanese**  
Managing Director, European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA), Belgium  
*The (re)emergence of hemp foods*

15:00-15:20 **Dr. Francesco Mirizzi**  
Senior Policy Advisor, European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA), Belgium  
*Hemp and sustainability*

15:20-15:40 **Dr. Tanguy du Monceau**  
Founder & chief plant officer of CANBE CBD FARM, Belgium  
*The real-life entrepreneurial experience of having launched Belgium's first CBD oil farm*

15:40-16:00 Discussion

**The Covid Safe Ticket (CST) is required to access that event. Wearing a mask is mandatory while seated in the theater.**

***About BrIAS** - The newly founded Brussels Institute for Advanced Studies (BrIAS), co-founded by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), aims to expand upon the mission of other IASes as an incubator of ideas and research by focusing on current and urgent themes with a great societal impact.*

*Located in the heart of Brussels, it aims to attract the very best scientists, artists or designers, coming from various fields or countries and with no philosophical or political restriction, and provide the opportunity to work in an atmosphere of complete freedom, collaboration, mutual emulation and cross-fertilisation. In this context, BrIAS aims to facilitate collaborations with countries facing critical challenges pertaining to sustainability.*

*For more information and updates about BrIAS, our upcoming events, and our current research theme **The past, present and future of food, climate and sustainability**. Follow us on our [webpage](#), on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).*

**Prof. Stefano Amaducci**

*Hemp: an ideal crop for the bio-based economy?*

Hemp is a multipurpose crop that can provide valuable raw materials for a broad range of end use applications. It can be grown in a wide variety of environments and it provides numerous environmental benefits thanks to its relatively low input requirements. For these and other positive features hemp can be rightfully considered and exemplary crop for the bio-based economy. However, hemp acreage and end products do not reflect all its positive attributes. This presentation, while presenting key features of hemp, highlights knowledge gaps and bottlenecks that hamper the expansion of hemp production chains.

**Dr. Lorenza Romanese**

*The (re)emergence of hemp foods*

Hemp has been a traditional food source in Europe for thousands of years. All parts of the plant except stems have been consumed. While seeds are particularly rich in high-quality proteins and have a unique essential fatty acid spectrum, flowers and leaves are rich in precious phytochemicals (cannabinoids, terpenes and polyphenols). The nutritional characteristics of hemp make it a great source of nutrients for humans and animals. Nonetheless, hemp operators still encounter many difficulties to place their products on the market, due to a poor understanding of the plant by public authorities, resulting in very strict, unscientific and non-harmonised national regulatory frameworks in the EU Member States. But with the structuring of the sector, a renewed interest for hemp in the academia and a greater consumers' appetite for sustainable products, things are changing fast, hopefully in the right direction.

**Dr. Francesco Mirizzi**

*Hemp and sustainability*

The more our society gets reacquainted with hemp and its many different uses (going well beyond flowers extracts), other aspects of the plant gains ground and catch the interest of the public: its positive environmental, economic and social features. In one word its sustainability.

Hemp being a multipurpose crop (i.e. yielding raw materials for non-food and food industries), it can offer a great profitability while maximising land use. Perfect for organic farming, it requires less inputs than other cultures and has a positive effect on soil quality. But most of all it is a phenomenal carbon sink capable of turning many manufacturing industries green and repatriating them on the EU territory.

However, for hemp to have a prominent role in the green transition and the decarbonisation of our economies, the sector needs to attract investments for scaling up the production (especially for the stalk processing) and to walk the talk when it comes sustainable practices.

**Dr. Tanguy du Monceau**

*The real-life entrepreneurial experience of having launched Belgium's first CBD oil farm*

An on the field case study of pioneering hemp sativa cultivation in Belgium for CBD oil (cosmetic & food) with all the agronomic and legislative complications involved will be explained. A real-life feedback direct from the ground will be presented.

