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Who benefits from the legalization of cannabis?

The legalization of cannabis has been a topic of intense discussion around the world over the past year, but the driving force behind it has been identified as the tobacco industry. The British American Tobacco Company has invested 126 million pounds in order to purchase shares in a Canadian cannabis production company. In addition, one of the leading tobacco companies in the world, Altria, has invested 1.8 billion US dollars in order to establish a cannabis corporation.

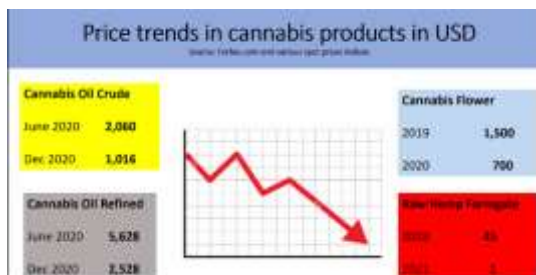
According to the secret reports issued by tobacco companies, cannabis has been touted as a viable alternative to the declining market for cigarettes. Tobacco companies state that they have large tracts of land in their possession for growing marijuana, the necessary machinery to package the product, and the ability to distribute it worldwide.

The cannabis industry has not been able to be function as considered necessary by the tobacco companies because marijuana is banned in many countries around the world. Therefore, this is a cunning attempt to affect an international expansion of the cannabis trade. One of the main tactics employed is to entice developing countries to cultivate it with promises of bringing in foreign exchange in order to attempt to legalize cannabis.

Is it profitable for a country like ours to grow and export cannabis?

Many companies that have entered the cannabis industry worldwide have suffered massive losses. The world’s largest cannabis merchants have reported losses to the tune of billions of dollars. In short, the value of their businesses has fallen by more than 10 billion US dollars in recent years. The price of hemp oil has fallen more than 75% since 2019. Despite the low demand for cannabis products, oversupply has led to a drastic decrease in the price of cannabis oil products.

Similarly, just as the American British Tobacco Company has taken over the cultivation of tobacco in Sri Lanka today, even if cannabis cultivation is begun in the country, the industry’s ownership and profit will inevitably be taken over by cannabis companies. (As of now, cannabis farms around the world are being rapidly acquired by tobacco companies.)



Report: Hemp Prices Plunging Due to Oversupply, Limited Demand

The cost of the cannabis strain from which cannabis oil is extracted could fall further due to increased cultivation activity.

By Bill Kalman (Contributor)
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The magazine industry's www.globe.com has been well documented, and now it seems that the hemp segment of the market is experiencing similar challenges.

A report published Monday by ENR Bloomberg details a sharp plunge in prices for hemp in the second half of 2020. According to data compiled by Fertichange in commodities exchange that operations in this part, in December, the product spot price per percentage point of cannabinoid (CBD) content per pound for Kentucky hemp was \$235. As recently as July that figure was \$425.

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McMahon said growers are making less money per pound than previous years because the suppliers' market is over-saturated.

"The steep drop in price is due largely to a dramatic increase in the volume of cannabis production coming from other areas of the state," McMahon said.

Not only are more cultivators starting cannabis business ventures for the first time, but more established cultivators are becoming licensed.

<https://www.theunion.com/news/the-economics-of-pot-price-of-cannabis-flower-drops-50-from-last-year/>

How practical is it to grow and export cannabis with the intervention of the security forces?

Promoters of cannabis argue that with the intervention of security forces, the public is able to grow and export cannabis without it having an impact on them. The practical reality of the situation is that in countries in which cannabis is already grown and produced under protection. It has been observed that illegal cannabis trade has spread rapidly. There is also historical evidence that providing security forces with cigarettes free of charge or at a discounted price was a common practice in order to promote their use. Legal manufacturing companies giving rise to illegal businesses are a common occurrence. In Sri Lanka, too, we have witnessed that both tobacco and alcohol companies engage in illegal activities. Therefore, the arguments purporting that cannabis can be safely grown and exported are purely theoretical and not a practical reality.

The true nature of the medicinal use of cannabis

Currently, in Western medicine, while only two drugs are being produced using cannabis, one was removed from the British NICE organization's approved list in 2019.

Although cannabis is used in local indigenous medicine, traditional medicine does not endorse its inhalation in the form of smoke in any way. In addition, traditional medicine has made it clear that marijuana smoke can cause a number of illnesses, and it is only used in a medicinal capacity after a lengthy detoxification process. For instance, frying the cannabis in ghee and boiling it in king coconut oil are some of the methods used to detoxify it.

The real situation of cannabis use

Suicide and self-harm are common due to mental disorders caused by cannabis use. Research has shown that cannabis negatively affects the brain. According to scientific principles, it is also linked to addiction. Cannabis has an irreversible effect on adolescents. Similarly, there is an increasing rate of addiction in young people who started using cannabis before the age of 18. Research has also shown that driving under the influence of cannabis can result in more accidents.

The current situation in countries where the laws have already been relaxed

Of more than 193 United Nations member states, only five countries (Uruguay, Mexico, Georgia, South Africa, and Canada) and a few other nations have relaxed their laws on the use of marijuana as a drug. These decisions are political rather than scientific.

The current social impact of cannabis in countries where it has been legalized is enormous. Surveys have demonstrated that cannabis use is on the rise, especially among young people, and that dropping out of school and university education is a result. It has also been revealed that cannabis has contributed to the increase in suicides among teenagers. Studies conducted in countries where cannabis is legal have shown that its use has also contributed to the rise in crime in those countries. Studies have established that cannabis can weaken the country's workforce.

Against this backdrop, the cunning attempt by the clergy, politicians, professionals, artists, and the media to ease cannabis laws in Sri Lanka by spreading false information should be stopped. The sinister attempt to relax cannabis laws in Sri Lanka by using the media must be conquered. We must overcome this attempt by the multinational tobacco companies and their local agents, politicians who have not properly analysed the facts, and those try to promote cannabis as a commercial crop through social media to lure our country into a trap.

Just as cigarettes are sold in the store in front of your child's school, this is the first step in an attempt to sell cannabis in the same manner.

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