

HEMP 2017:

Coming of Age

15TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OTTAWA, ONTARIO



Connie Kehler
Executive Director, HSSA

Connie grew up on a mixed farm where she worked with her father and grandfather.

She is the Executive director of the Herb, Spice and Specialty Agriculture Association (the association is over 20 years old). She has led the development and implementation of a good agriculture and collection practice (GACP) program.

The GACP program was developed by the specialty agriculture industry to help those who were collecting, growing and processing special crops to prove the good work they were doing, pass that knowledge on to others new in the industry and ensure their good practices were duplicated. It addresses safe handling (including reduction of microbial contamination) and processing of product, traceability to minimize problems and to ensure repeatable practices and quality control.

HSSA and the specialty agriculture industry partnered with Health Canada, World Health Organization, Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to develop the GACP. CFIA recognized the final product as technically sound and one of theirs in food safety programs.

Those who hold an up to date certificate will have an advantage in the market and will address buyers' needs.

