



Jan Slaski, Ph.D.

**Team Lead, Crop Development and Management,
Alberta Innovates Technology Futures**

Jan J. Slaski is a Senior Researcher and a leader of the Crop Development and Management team with the Ecosystems and Plant Sciences Unit of Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF), Vegreville, Alberta. He obtained a M.Sc. in agronomy from the Warsaw Agricultural University and Ph.D. from the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute, Poland.

During the last 14 years he has been leading at AITF a hemp research program offering solutions from “seed to final product”. This program includes three pillars: breeding and agronomy, plant processing and product development. Jan puts particular emphasis on promoting, supporting and advocating for the fibre industry across Canada. He maintains a leading fibre type hemp cultivar, Silesia, provides breeding support to several Canadian companies and conducts extensive studies focused on the development of best management practices permitting sustainable hemp production under changing environmental conditions. His team at Vegreville, AB operates a decortication facility that serves fibre utilizing enterprises who either optimize their processing parameters or run pre-commercial volumes of hemp stalks. In that capacity, over the last six years Jan’s team served 60+ clients representing biocomposite, construction, textile, biomedical and nanotechnology industries.

Another group of his team runs a Health Canada accredited laboratory providing cannabinoids analytical services to several external customers as well as supports extensive in house studies aimed at profiling of non-narcotic cannabinoids in wide range of Canadian varieties and identifying crop production factors leading to enhancement of CBD levels in industrial hemp.

To support and promote the hemp industry in Alberta and beyond Jan disseminates his extensive knowledge of the opportunities associated with this crop to various stakeholders ranging from growers and processors to academia, business development officers and investors. As a prolific speaker in recent years he delivered on average 25 invited hemp talks per annum to national and international audiences.



Since 2012 Jan has been serving the hemp industry as a director of the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance. During his tenure he actively participated in numerous CHTA initiatives and undertakings. The most noteworthy activities include:

- Coauthor of the Hemp Production eGuide designed to support experienced producers to capture greater benefit based on the collective knowledge and experience of industrial hemp production.
- Go-to person on the CHTA board responsible for hemp fiber production, processing and applications.
- Head of the National Variety Trial Committee that assesses, advises and directs on new innovations and trials.
- Member of the Convention Committee that plans, manages and executes the annual CHTA convention. Jan was instrumental in organizing last five CHTA conventions.
- Member of the Research Committee that provides recommendations to the Board of Directors on research direction and plans and seeks research funding.
- Speaker presenting CHTA's Hemp Promotion and Research Agency initiative to Alberta stakeholders.

Jan is seeking re-election for the director's position to continue providing multifaceted support to the Canadian hemp industry.