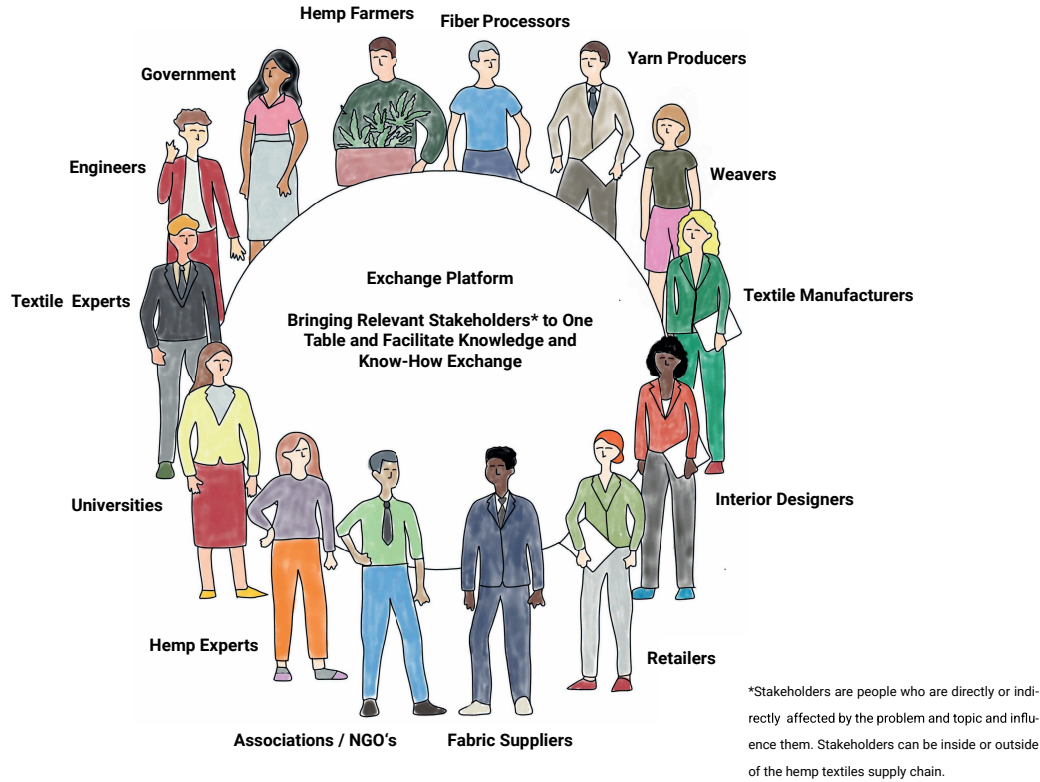
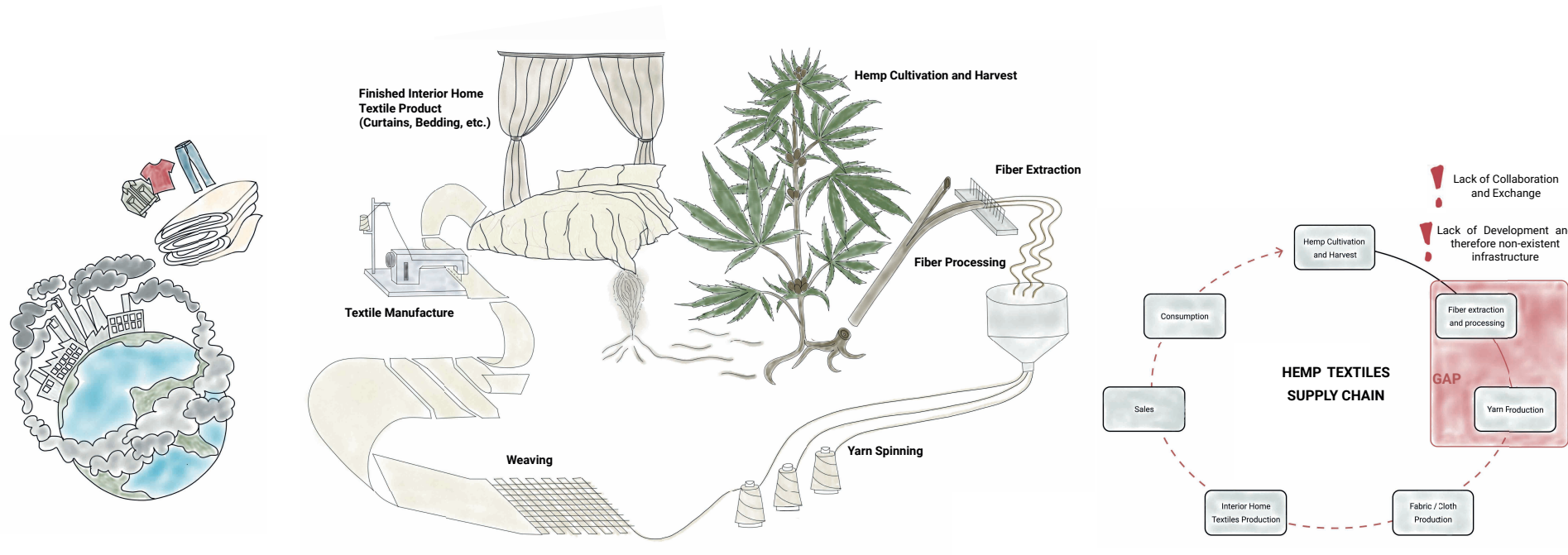


BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE TABLE TO FOSTER HEMP ADOPTION IN HOME TEXTILES

Helping People in the Interior Home Textile Sector to Advance the Development and Adoption of Hemp Textiles by Facilitating Knowledge Exchange and Interactions with Design Led Methods



*Stakeholders are people who are directly or indirectly affected by the problem and topic and influence them. Stakeholders can be inside or outside of the hemp textiles supply chain.

NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The textile industry is one of the **most damaging industries to our environment**, including everything from cultivation to finished products, such as monocultures, immense water consumption and use of pesticides. In short, **we need a drastic change in our textile production.**

HEMP FIBERS FOR SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE APPLICATIONS

Due to the pressure of the negative environmental impacts, many people in Switzerland within the interior home textile sector are trying to use **material alternatives** to circumvent these impacts. One of them are **hemp fibers for textile applications**. Hemp has not only many **environmental benefits** and belongs to a local cultivable plant, but also has properties well suited for the application of home textiles. However, there are several **barriers people are facing to adopt hemp textiles in the interior home textile sector.**

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

This thesis investigates the topic of hemp textiles and understanding why this ancient plant is not used more for textile applications, and **how we can help people in the interior home textile sector to foster hemp textiles.**

BARRIERS OF SUPPLIERS TO ADOPT HEMP TEXTILES

There are **two main gaps in the supply chain** that do not exist in Switzerland, namely **hemp fiber processing and hemp yarn production**. Without practical improvements to optimize these two steps, the steps that follow course cannot be executed. This tells us that, the infrastructure does not exist which indicates that the production or development is not advanced enough. Furthermore, **meaningful collaborations and exchange do not yet take place where people can help and learn from each other in the different expertise fields.**

UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS PEOPLE ARE FACING

The people engaged in adopting hemp textiles, **are facing these problems alone although they have the expertise in the different areas required.** Somehow, they do not engage in a meaningful exchange with others to actually expand that crucial knowledge and know-how, even though the interest and engagement are widely existing. The goal of designing an intervention was to **help people tackling this problem by facilitating this exchange and make an impact to the environment.**

HELPING PEOPLE BY ENGAGING IN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Interviews and co-design sessions with several textiles and hemp experts helped to understand the barriers in the supply chain and struggles they are facing to advance the development of producing local hemp textiles. **In order to help people actively connect with each other and facilitate interactions and interfaces between these relevant expert fields, a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange was created as a design intervention.** This platform brings all these people to one table and ensures **valuable exchange** and eventually a meaningful development in **fostering and adopting hemp textiles**. It is crucial to understand each's value and interface that can help contribute to the cause.

CREATING VALUE

Ideally, this exchange takes place between all the people involved in order to complement the **knowledge in the different areas and build on it by taking actions.** Further **course of actions can be explored and implemented** and brought to tangible events, such as **collaborations** between these people and advancing the development in production.



- The values created for these people with this intervention are:
- Bringing stakeholders to one table
 - Helping people by providing measures to tackle the topic and problem
 - Human-centered approach through interactions, empowerment, and participation
 - Communication and mobilization
 - Facilitated exchange
 - A platform for further course of actions (collaboration and development)
 - Expanded network of engaged stakeholders
 - Database of Knowledge and Knowhow to build upon and examine