

6 May 2019

## ASX Announcement

### WOA Signs MOU with WA Hemp Growers' Co-Op for WA's Largest Hemp Trial

- **WOA lead collaborative partner in WA's largest Industrial Hemp Trial**
- **Testing 10 new international seed varieties**
- **Strategy to become leading marketer and distributor of organic & regeneratively produced hemp**

Regenerative food and agriculture group Wide Open Agriculture Ltd (ASX: WOA) (WOA or "the Company") is pleased to announce it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WA Hemp Growers' Cooperative Ltd (HempGro) to be lead collaborative partner in WA's largest Industrial Hemp Trial.

Supported by the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), WOA will collaborate with HempGro in the 'Right Seed for the Right Region' project, a state-wide trial to identify the most suitable industrial hemp seed varieties for various WA conditions.

WOA will provide \$20,000 towards HempGro's Industrial Hemp Grant to test several internationally-sourced hemp varieties at its existing smart shade house facilities and in open field conditions at Arthur River, in WA's Wheatbelt, with DPIRD providing dollar-for-dollar matched funding.

WOA will be receiving 10 different seed varieties from Canada, France and China which HempGro is sourcing for the trials and it is expected crops will be planted in September 2019, testing organic and regenerative growing systems.

In addition to production, WOA is seeking to become Western Australia's leading marketer and distributor of organic and regeneratively grown industrial hemp.

As part of the collaboration, HempGro will provide WOA with introductions to organic and regenerative industrial hemp growers seeking these services.

Open field trials will be undertaken by participants in the Upper Great Southern, Great Southern, Kimberley and Northern Wheatbelt regions of Western Australia.

The WOA trial will be the only program conducted under controlled, automated shade house conditions and open field.

DPIRD will develop and support standardised trial procedures and assist each trial site with agronomic best practice and experimental design.

WOA Managing Director, Dr Ben Cole said: “The WOA trials are focused specifically on determining the seed varieties that are most commercially viable for growing hemp in a Wheatbelt climate.

“Our shade house will allow us to grow hemp varieties in a highly controlled environment, remediating climate risks and permitting testing throughout the year.”

“The results from the protected cropping and open field trials will provide new evidence that will speed up the pathway to commercialisation.”

HempGro Executive Officer Gail Stubber said: “We’re excited to work with WOA as the company’s expertise in protected cropping will assist in pinpointing suitable hemp varieties, which is vital to developing large-scale commercial production.

“This collaboration recognises the opportunities for long-term partnerships for industrial hemp production,” she said.

### **About Industrial Hemp**

Industrial hemp contains less than <1% THC and yields a high-protein seed and a fibre that may be decorticated for textiles and building products. Industrial hemp seeds are also high in omega-3 and can be used in food, non-dairy milk and oil production.

Items manufactured from industrial hemp include food and drinks from hulled hemp seed, seed oil, textiles, fuel, building materials, paper and rope. The industry in Western Australia is regulated under the *Industrial Hemp Act 2004*.

### **About Wide Open Agriculture Ltd**

Wide Open Agriculture (WOA) is a regenerative food and agriculture group based in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. The Company’s vertically integrated food and agriculture business comprises farmland assets, protected cropping and a food brand, Food for Reasons™.

WOA operates under a ‘4 Returns’ framework and seeks to deliver measurable outcomes on financial, natural, social and inspirational returns. The Company manages its farmland under the principle of identifying 3 zones (economic, combined and natural zones) and investing over a 20-year timeframe.

WOA is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (code: WOA) and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (code: 2WO) and is the world’s first ‘4 Returns’ publicly listed company.  
[www.wideopenagriculture.com.au](http://www.wideopenagriculture.com.au)

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