IND HEMP LLC

Industrial Hemp for Malaria Mitigation: Proposal and Feasibility Report

Introduction

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** estimates that **over 250 million people will be infected with malaria this year with almost 600,000 dying from the disease**. Of these, over **75% will be under age five**, living in countries that are limited in their abilities to fight the disease or care for their people. Africa, and particularly Sub-Saharan Africa is disproportionately impacted due to the regional isolation of their people and environmental conditions that provide for mosquito development and persistence.

Malaria is contracted through the bites of an infected female *Anopheles* mosquito. These infected mosquitoes inject a species of the parasite *Plasmodium* into the host which ultimately reside in the liver of the individual causing a number of symptoms and in many cases death to children and those with compromised immune systems. Malaria typically occurs within 10-15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito with flu-like symptoms ranging from fever, shaking chills, and chronic fatigue. More severe symptoms (cerebral malaria) can include extreme tiredness and fatigue, difficulty in breathing, convulsions, abnormal bleeding, loss of consciousness and death.

Historically, methods in reducing malaria exposure include preventative medicines/vaccines, providing protective clothing or netting, spraying insecticides, and reducing environmental conditions which provide a place for the infected mosquitoes to live. Unfortunately, the parasites responsible for malaria appear to be developing a resistance to the drugs and insecticides which are being offered as a response to the disease.

IND HEMP Proposal:

IND HEMP LLC (IND HEMP) is proposing to work with stakeholders to provide for a more nutritional food-based response to mitigating the impact of malaria in Africa and throughout the world where ‘at risk’ populations have been struggling with the effects of the disease for thousands of years. As the largest producer and processor of Industrial Hemp in the United States, **IND HEMP is uniquely qualified to provide hemp seed oil and hemp seed cake to**

those communities that are being impacted by this disease. IND HEMP proposes to work with Non-Profit Organizations (NGOs), local communities, governments and international organizations **to begin providing nutritional industrial hemp food products that contain Omega-3 and Omega-6 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs).** Scientific research over the past 100 years has shown the eating fish can be a successful way of avoiding malaria but providing fish into the diets of millions of Africans is not financially feasible or logistically viable. IND HEMP proposes to begin working directly with stakeholders in Africa to import Industrial Hemp food products (hemp oil and hemp protein) to those who are in immediate need. At the same time, we believe we can work with governments and organizations to begin training farmers on how they can begin growing industrial hemp in their communities and create for a self-sustaining solution to fight malaria while at the same time providing for a nutrient dense protein alternative to their existing diets. This proposal will help deal with the immediate need to reduce malaria illness and deaths within communities while providing for a long-term commitment to the industrial hemp industry that can create opportunities with food, feed, manufacturing and carbon markets.

It Starts in Ghana: (IND HEMP originally looked at Ghana)

Malaria remains a critical public health challenge in Ghana, with an estimated 5–6 million cases annually and over 11,000 deaths in recent years (Ghana | Target Malaria). Traditional malaria control (such as bed nets, insecticides, and antimalarial drugs) has improved outcomes, but innovative complementary strategies are needed to further reduce disease burden. Nutritional interventions have emerged as a promising avenue, given that malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies can worsen malaria outcomes (Malaria, Anemia, and Malnutrition in African Children—Defining ...). In particular, **Omega-3 and Omega-6 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs)** have attracted attention for their potential to *mitigate protozoan infections like malaria* by both direct anti-parasitic effects and immune system modulation (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC).

Industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* with <0.3% THC) is a rich source of Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids via its seed oil, as well as a high-protein food source (seed cake). This proposal evaluates the viability of leveraging **industrial Hemp Seed Oil (HSO) and Hemp Seed Cake (HSC)** as a nutrition-based malaria mitigation strategy in Ghana. IND HEMP has reviewed scientific literature on Omega-3 and Omega-6 in malaria control, compared hemp's fatty acid

profile with alternative food sources (e.g. fish oil, other plant sources), assessed the feasibility of implementing hemp cultivation and use in Ghana, and explored how regenerative agriculture practices could enhance hemp's viability. IND HEMP believes that it can create a stakeholder group that is motivated to eliminate malaria and can provide technical

expertise and oversight to build a hemp industry in Africa. Industrial Hemp in Africa can become self-sustaining and provide an agricultural solution to the struggles with malaria as well as providing a nutrient dense food alternative to improve the basic health needs for the people living there. Our report concludes with findings and actionable recommendations for IND HEMP leadership to consider in decision-making.

Scientific Rationale: Omega-3 and Omega-6 in Malaria Mitigation

A growing body of research indicates that Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids can help combat protozoan parasites, including the *Plasmodium* species that cause malaria. Both Omega-3 and Omega-6 PUFAs have been shown to **decrease the growth and survival of parasites**, demonstrating protective effects in vitro and in vivo (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC). They achieve this through multiple mechanisms:

- **Direct Anti-Parasitic Effects:** PUFAs can act directly on the malaria parasite. In experimental models, Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids added to infected blood or given as supplements have **constrained parasitemia (parasite load)**. For example, in a mouse malaria model (*P. berghei* infection), treatment with PUFA-rich fish oil for 4 days significantly suppressed parasite levels (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC). Human plasma PUFAs can also exert strong anti-*Plasmodium* action by integrating into or disrupting parasite membranes (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC). Notably, one study found that the essential fatty acids **Alpha Linolenic Acid** (ALA, Omega-3) and Linoleic Acid (LA, Omega-6) each dramatically inhibited malaria parasite replication: ALA reduced *P. berghei* parasitemia by ~70% while LA reduced the malaria parasite by ~64% in a 4-day test, and when used together the inhibition reached 96% (Microsoft Word - melaririASB20p). This indicates a potent synergistic anti-malarial effect of Omega-3 and Omega-6 combination.

- **Immune and Inflammatory Modulation:** Omega-3 and Omega-6 PUFAs are precursors to important immunomodulatory molecules (e.g. resolvins, protectins, and lipoxins) that can influence the course of malaria infection (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC) (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). Cerebral Malaria contributes to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people each year due to the body's aggressive reaction to the disease. The balance of Omega-6 and Omega-3 in hemp oil provides for a modulated immune response that controls the body's response to fighting the parasite. By reducing the body's immune response, the patient does not experience excessive inflammation typical in many cases. Hemps unique PUFA profile buffers or reduces the body's response and stabilizes the patient as they fight the parasite. Studies show that Omega-3 supplementation accelerates the resolution phase of the inflammatory response, while certain Omega-6 derivatives like lipoxin A4 can **reduce malaria-induced inflammation** in tissues (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). In mice, administering a lipoxin (15-epi-LXA4, derived from **Omega-6 Arachidonic Acid**) protected against cerebral malaria by lowering pro-inflammatory cytokines, reducing brain blood vessel blockage, and improving survival (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection) (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). Omega-3 fatty acids (like DHA/EPA) have similarly been shown to enhance the host's ability to control infection – for instance, by boosting neutrophil respiratory burst (free radical generation) that kills parasites (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). Patients with higher Omega-3 (EPA) levels show increased **lipid peroxide activity to fight the parasite** (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). Overall, PUFAs can help the immune system clear parasites more effectively while also preventing an overreaction that causes tissue damage.

- **Improved Host Survival:** Perhaps most importantly, Omega-3 and Omega-6 intake has translated into better survival in experimental malaria trials. In one study, mice given Omega-3 and Omega-6 PUFA supplements had higher survival rates during *Plasmodium* infection despite unchanged immune cell counts, suggesting the PUFAs acted by directly impairing the parasite (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC). Another

experiment showed DHA-rich fish oil protected mice from **deadly cerebral malaria**, likely by mitigating inflammation and microvascular obstruction in the brain (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection) (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). These findings support that PUFAs can be a *supportive therapy* in treating malaria by reducing severity and complications.

In summary, there is solid scientific evidence that Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids can **directly inhibit malaria parasites and favorably modulate the host immune response**, resulting in lower parasite levels and reduced disease severity (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC) (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC). This **dual action (antiparasitic and anti-inflammatory) is the key rationale for using a Hemp Seed Oil based nutritional approach to aid malaria control.** *Industrial hemp seed is an attractive Omega source to operationalize this strategy*, as discussed next.

Nutritional Intervention Comparison: Hemp Seed Oil vs. Other Omega Sources

Source	Omega-3 Content (%)	Omega-6 Content (%)	Omega Ratio (ω6:ω3)	Sustainability	Co-Benefits
Hemp Seed Oil	20	55	3:01	High (Local Cultivation)	Protein-rich seed cake
Fish Oil	30	0	0:01	Medium (Overfishing Risk)	DHA/EPA directly available
Flaxseed Oil	55	15	1:04	Medium (Imported)	High ALA content
Chia Seed Oil	60	18	1:03	Medium (Imported)	Rich in fiber
Soybean Oil	8	50	6:01	High (Common Crop)	Widely used in cooking

Table 1: Comparison of Omega-3 and Omega-6 Sources for Malaria Mitigation

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OILSEEDS & FIBER

Food Source (Oil)	Omega-3 %	Omega-6 %	Omega-6/ Omega-3	Sustainability	Co-Benefits
Hemp Seed	20	55	3/1	High: Hemp can be grown in most areas using existing farming practices	Source of Protein and other manufacturing opportunities including carbon markets
Fish	30	0	30/0	Low: due to overfishing and logistical issues, fish is not a viable opportunity	Omega-3 EPA and DHA Bioavailable Good source of Protein
Flax Seed	55	15	1/3	Low: Flax is not grown in Africa due to temperature and climate. Importing only option.	High Omega-3 Source
Chia Seed	60	18	4/1	Medium: not drought tolerant	Good Source of Fiber
Soybean	8	50	7/1	Medium: Soy is used as a feed crop, not as beneficial as a food crop	Widely used throughout the world as a feed crop

Palm Seed	0	10	10/0	High:currently being cultivated throughout Africa	Used as a cooking oil throughout Africa
Corn Oil	0	46	46/0		
Olive Oil	0	10	10/0	Low: Ghana does not produce much.	Good Cooking Oil

Consuming **too much Omega-6 fatty acids in a diet leads to excessive inflammation in the body** due to the imbalance created when not paired with enough Omega-3 fatty acids. A diet high in Omega-6 contributes to chronic diseases like heart disease, obesity, arthritis, and certain cancers, as the body produces pro-inflammatory compounds when Omega-6 intake is significantly higher than Omega-3 intake. Too much Omega-6 in a diet can contribute to the overreaction in the autoimmune system that leads to the body's inflammatory response to dealing with malaria, often resulting in deadly cerebral malaria.

The **ideal ratio of Omega-6: Omega-3 is 3:1.**

Hemp Seed Oil and Malaria Mitigation:

If Omega-3 and Omega-6 are to be delivered as a malaria mitigation intervention, it is important to compare **industrial Hemp's Seed Oil** with other available Omega sources (such as fish oil or other plant-derived oils) in terms of efficacy, availability, and practicality:

- **Omega Content and Profile:** Hemp seed oil is notable for its **balanced fatty acid profile**. Approximately 50% of the weight of hemp seeds is oil, of which about 75% are essential polyunsaturated fats (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition). Hemp oil typically contains ~55–60% Omega-6 (mostly Linoleic Acid) and ~20% Omega-3 (Alpha-Linolenic

Acid), plus a small amount (~3%) of Gamma-Linolenic Acid (GLA, an anti-inflammatory Omega-6) and ~1% Stearidonic Acid (SDA, an Omega-3 intermediate) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition). This yields an **Omega-6:Omega-3 ratio of roughly 3:1**, which is considered an optimal dietary ratio for humans (Does Hemp Oil Have Health Benefits? | Pulse Ghana) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition). (Most Western diets by contrast have ratios of 10:1 to 25:1, promoting inflammation (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition).) The presence of GLA in hemp (which many plant seed oils lack) is a unique advantage, as GLA has additional anti-inflammatory benefits (Does Hemp Oil Have Health Benefits? | Pulse Ghana).

In comparison, **fish oil** (e.g. from oily fish or cod liver) provides Omega-3 in the forms of EPA and DHA, which are long-chain fatty acids readily used in the body. Fish oil has very high Omega-3 content and virtually no Omega-6, making its Omega-6 to Omega-3 ratio extremely low. Fish oil's efficacy in reducing inflammation is well documented, and studies specifically show **DHA/EPA from fish oil can protect against malaria** – e.g. DHA-rich fish oil reduced cerebral malaria severity in mice (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). However, fish oils do not contain Omega-6 linoleic acid (which, as noted, also has direct antimalarial effects (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection)), so they lack the combined Omega-3/Omega-6 synergistic effect seen with hemp's ALA+LA mix. Fish oil supplementation in humans can be effective for general health, but it often requires capsules or refined products, which may be expensive or logistically challenging to distribute at scale in rural African settings. Based on availability, logistics in distribution and product cost, fish oil is considered **non-sustainable and impractical** in meeting the demands of mitigating malaria.

Other plant sources of Omega-3 include **flaxseed (linseed) oil, chia seed oil, and others**. Flaxseed oil is even higher in ALA Omega-3 than hemp (around 50–55% ALA) but contains comparatively little Omega-6, resulting in an imbalanced profile (Omega-6:Omega-3 ~1:4) (A Comparison of Oils: Hemp, Flax and Olive - IND HEMP). This high ALA content also makes flax oil prone to **oxidation (rancidity)** and gives it a short shelf-life (once opened, 1-2 months) and strong flavor (A Comparison of Oils: Hemp, Flax and Olive - IND HEMP), which can be problematic in tropical storage conditions. Chia seeds likewise have very high Omega-3 but are not a traditional crop in West Africa and would require introduction similar to hemp. **Algal oil** is a

direct vegan source of DHA/EPA (like fish oil), but it is expensive and would require industrial production facilities.

Overall, hemp's advantage is providing both Omega-3 and Omega-6 in one package and in a shelf stable form. Hemp seed oil naturally contains vitamin E (tocopherols ~100–150 mg/100g) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition), which acts as an antioxidant to protect the oil from oxidation and prolong shelf stability. This means hemp oil can remain usable longer in the field without extensive processing, unlike flax oil which spoils quickly (A Comparison of Oils: Hemp, Flax and Olive - IND HEMP).

- **Nutritional Co-Benefits:** Importantly, using hemp seed for nutrition yields more than just oil. After oil extraction, the remaining **Hemp Seed Cake** is a protein- and fiber-rich flour (seed cake) that can be used for **human food** or **animal feed**. Hemp seed cake contains roughly 25–30% protein with a well-balanced amino acid profile (including all 9 essential amino acids), along with minerals (like iron, zinc, magnesium) and B vitamins ([PDF] industrial hemp legalization in ghana: potential health impact - OSF) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition). This high-quality protein feed can be given to livestock (poultry, fish, goats, etc.), improving local production of eggs, meat, and dairy – thereby indirectly boosting community nutrition. Fish oil, in contrast, provides no protein or additional nutrients (it is solely fat). Other plant seeds like flax or sunflower also provide protein meals, but hemp's protein (Edestin) is highly digestible, and its seed cake is free of anti-nutritional compounds (unlike e.g. raw soy, which needs processing). Thus, **hemp offers a more holistic nutritional package**: essential fatty acids for immune support and direct antiparasitic action, plus protein and micronutrients that can tackle malnutrition and anemia often accompanying malaria (Malaria, Anemia, and Malnutrition in African Children—Defining ...). This aligns with a broader health intervention, whereas pure Omega supplements (fish or algal oil capsules) would address only fatty acid intake.
- **Local Availability and Sustainability:** Hemp can be *cultivated locally* in Ghana (as discussed below), meaning the supply of Omega-rich material can be produced within the communities that need it. This allows for independence from international supply chains and can reduce cost in the long term. Fish oil would either depend on Ghana's wild fisheries/aquaculture or importation. Ghana's population does consume fish (e.g.

tilapia) as part of the diet, but relying on fish intake alone may not deliver consistent Omega-3 doses to all at-risk populations (inland or poorer communities may have limited access to fish) and is generally too expensive to consume on a daily basis. Moreover, large-scale fish oil supplementation programs would require significant import and distribution infrastructure. On the other hand, **Hemp Seed Oil could be integrated into local diets** (for instance, blended into traditional foods or used as cooking oil in small amounts) if produced at community level. Other plant oils like soybean or peanut oil are common in West Africa but they are high in Omega-6 and low in Omega-3 and thus do not provide the Omega balance needed for this intervention. Flax or chia would similarly need introduction as new crops if chosen, but hemp stands out for its additional economic uses (fiber, feed, carbon, etc.) which can make the overall venture more sustainable.

In summary, **Industrial Hemp seed oil** offers an **ideal Omega-3 to Omega-6 profile (3:1 ratio)** with added anti-inflammatory GLA (Does Hemp Oil Have Health Benefits? | Pulse Ghana), plus the benefit of protein-rich seed cake, all from a crop that can be **grown locally and processed in the communities that need it**. Compared to fish oil, hemp oil provides a broader spectrum of fatty acids (including Linoleic Acid's antiparasitic effects (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection)) and a sustainable agricultural supply at a price that is reasonable and achievable. Compared to other plant sources, hemp has a superior PUFA balance, greater shelf stability and produces valuable co-products (protein, feed, fiber, carbon). This makes hemp-based Omega supplementation a compelling strategy to fight against malaria, especially in a context like Ghana where agricultural production of hemp is feasible and can be tied into local economies.

Feasibility in Ghana: Implementing Hemp as a Malaria Mitigation Strategy

Ghana provides a promising landscape for implementing an industrial hemp-based intervention, but several factors must be considered including: agricultural suitability, legal status, infrastructure, cultural acceptance, and the role IND HEMP could play.

- **Agricultural Suitability:** Ghana's climate is **conducive to hemp cultivation**. Industrial Hemp is a fast-growing plant that thrives in warm environments, and Ghana's tropical and subtropical zones are well-suited for its growth (Cannabis market lanes pave the way for economic growth and regulation in Ghana - The Herald ghana). The country has

distinct wet and dry seasons; hemp can be planted to take advantage of the rainy season, reducing the need for irrigation. Notably, hemp requires **less water than many conventional crops** and is fairly drought-tolerant (Cannabis market lanes pave the way for economic growth and regulation in Ghana - The Herald ghana) (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?), which is advantageous for Ghana's dry season. Regions with existing agriculture (such as the middle and northern belts where maize, legumes, and cocoa are grown) could rotate hemp into their fields. Hemp's relatively short growing cycle (3–4 months for grain cultivars) means it could fit between major food crops or be used as a seasonal cash crop.

- **Legal and Policy Framework:** As of 2025, Ghana **has not legalized the cultivation of industrial hemp** under license. In July 2023, Ghana's Parliament passed legislation (Narcotics Control Commission Regulations 2023) permitting growth of cannabis varieties with THC ≤0.3% for industrial and health purposes (Cannabis market lanes pave the way for economic growth and regulation in Ghana - The Herald ghana) (Cannabis market lanes pave the way for economic growth and regulation in Ghana - The Herald ghana). This legislation was overturned through the Courts and passage of a similar is anticipated later in 2025. The proposed law enables companies or cooperatives to obtain licenses to cultivate hemp for fiber, seed, or medicinal use. The regulatory framework is currently not in place, meaning a project can not legally proceed without appropriate approvals. Indigenous Ghanaian cannabis strains tend to be high in THC, but industrial hemp requires certified low-THC seed – likely imported from established producers (Ghana's preparedness to exploit the medicinal value of industrial hemp - PMC). **IND HEMP's involvement** would facilitate access to approved seed varieties with the desired traits (high seed yield, appropriate fatty acid profile, low THC). Navigating the licensing process and ensuring compliance with Ghana's regulations will be a key step, but the **policy environment is now favorable** for hemp-based projects, reflecting the government's interest in new agricultural industries and medicinal products.

- **Infrastructure and Processing:** Successfully implementing this strategy in Africa will require establishing an agricultural and processing chain for hemp seed. This includes farming, harvesting, seed drying/cleaning, oil extraction, and distribution of the oil and

seed cake. Africa has a robust agricultural sector with many smallholder farmers and some larger farms; however, hemp is a new crop.

- **IND HEMP's involvement in managing this project in collaboration with other stakeholders would provide necessary leadership in making this project a success**. As a company, IND HEMP has built extensive processing infrastructure and farm support programs in Montana (USA) to become a leading supplier of hemp food ingredients (IND HEMP, LLC - Certified B Corporation - B Lab Global). Their expertise in agronomy (seed selection, cultivation practices, pest management) and processing (modern oil presses, decortication for fiber, etc.) can help jump-start Africa's capabilities. IND HEMP's mission is to support farmers and produce sustainable, healthy products (IND HEMP, LLC - Certified B Corporation - B Lab Global), which aligns well with developing a hemp supply chain in Africa's rural communities. **In addition, IND HEMP has available hemp seed oil and seed cake that can be provided immediately to begin malaria treatment and research** while integrating agronomic and production resources as they become available in Ghana and other parts of Africa.

Local partnerships will be crucial: working with African agricultural research institutes (to conduct field trials and adapt cultivation practices to local conditions), farmer cooperatives (to grow and supply hemp), and existing oil processing facilities (some infrastructure used for shea butter or palm oil could possibly be repurposed or upgraded for hemp seed pressing). If a pilot program is run, a modest-scale oil press could be installed in a target community or region to produce hemp oil on-site. The seed cake could be distributed to local communities as a food source of protein or as a feed for poultry, cattle, or fish, creating a 'buy-in' from the agriculture sector. **Distribution for malaria mitigation** could leverage Africa's public health network – for instance, supplying hemp seed oil to clinics or community health volunteers who already deliver nutrition services (like how vitamin A supplements or fortified foods are distributed). Community acceptance will depend on education: it should be emphasized that industrial hemp is non-intoxicating and is being grown/used purely for health and economic benefits, to avoid any stigma associated with "cannabis."

- **Economic Viability and Market Integration:** For long-term sustainability, the hemp-for-malaria project should ideally become self-supporting or integrated into a profitable value chain. Initially, IND HEMP can provide Hemp Seed Oil and Hemp Seed Cake as a

nutritional and medicinal supplement to begin research while at the same time providing technical expertise to train farmers and processors in target areas. The **seed cake provides a premium feed product** to develop existing poultry, fish and livestock markets. In addition to the nutritional benefits of the Hemp Seed Oil and Hemp Seed Cake, industrial hemp has numerous other economic opportunities including fiber which can be utilized for products like biofuels, renewable fuels, animal bedding, building materials and tetiles. This multipurpose value of hemp means farmers could have multiple revenue streams from one crop: oil (for health programs or retail), seed cake (for human food and animal feed), fiber (for local cottage industries or soil mulch), and a great carbon marketing opportunity for mitigating atmospheric carbon. Such diversification reduces risk and makes farmers more likely to adopt hemp in their crop rotations.

- **Scale and Scope:** Africa's initial hemp cultivation can start on a pilot scale – e.g. a few hundred hectares across different regions to identify best-growing areas, farming practices, and seed genetics. Given that hemp yields for seed can range from 800–1500 kg/hectare in good conditions, a pilot of 100 hectares could produce on the order of 100 metric tons of seed. This yields roughly ~30 tons of oil (enough for over **30 million one-teaspoon doses of oil**, since 1 tsp ~5g) and ~70 tons of seed cake. Even a pilot project could supply tens of thousands of people with a daily supplemental dose of Omega-rich oil. Over time, if the intervention proves successful, scaling up to several thousand hectares could make a significant impact on a regional or national level. African farming communities and available arable land present an enormous opportunity for rural communities.

In conclusion, Africa is **feasible ground for industrial hemp production** – the climate is favorable, the legal barriers are changing, and agricultural know-how can be imported and adapted. IND HEMP will play a pivotal role by providing management and technical expertise, encouraging financial investment for farming and processing equipment, while ensuring quality control for the oil and feed products. By collaborating with local partners and government agencies, a hemp-based malaria mitigation initiative in Africa could be implemented in a culturally sensitive and economically viable manner. The next section examines how adopting **regenerative agriculture practices** alongside hemp cultivation could further enhance its viability and benefits within Africa.

Regenerative Agriculture Benefits with Industrial Hemp

Embracing regenerative agricultural practices will not only make hemp cultivation more sustainable in Africa but also improves soil health and community resilience, thereby **enhancing the long-term viability** of this project. Industrial hemp is often hailed as a "regenerative crop" due to its positive environmental attributes:

- **Soil Health Improvement:** Hemp has deep taproots (often extending up to 3 feet or ~1 meter) that penetrate and break up the soil, improving aeration and water infiltration (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?) (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). These roots help prevent soil compaction and erosion – a significant benefit for regions in Africa prone to heavy rains or wind erosion in dry periods. As the roots and fallen leaves decompose, they add nitrogen and organic matter to the soil, boosting fertility and microbial activity. In fact, hemp roots exude compounds that can **increase soil microbial diversity**, which is a cornerstone of soil health (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?) (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). Healthier soil will in turn yield better outcomes for subsequent crops (higher yields for staples like maize, casava, cocoa, or legumes when rotated with hemp). Using hemp in rotation or as a seasonal cover crop can thus regenerate fields that have been degraded by continuous monoculture or intensive chemical use.

- **Reduced Need for Chemicals:** Hemp is naturally pest resistant. Many hemp varieties show resilience against common insects and diseases, meaning farmers can apply far fewer pesticides (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). This is an important advantage in a regenerative system – minimizing synthetic pesticide use protects beneficial insects and soil fauna, while reducing chemical runoff into water sources. Similarly, hemp's quick canopy and dense growth can suppress weeds, lowering the need for herbicides. It has been noted that *almost all varieties of hemp are resistant to insect pests*, greatly reducing the amount of insecticide being used (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). By integrating hemp, African farmers could break pest and weed cycles in their fields without excessive chemical inputs, which also cuts input costs and exposure risks to farmers and their families. Furthermore, hemp often requires less nitrogen fertilizer than

crops like maize; its extensive roots scavenge nutrients from deep soil layers, and its residues return some nutrients to the topsoil (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). This means **lower fertilizer needs (and costs)** and improved nutrient cycling over time.

- **Water Management and Climate Resilience:** In the context of regenerative agriculture, water conservation is key. Hemp's deep roots enable it to be *more tolerant to drought and water stress* than shallow-rooted crops (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). While hemp requires sufficient moisture to germinate (and is not entirely drought-proof), once established it can tap into available subsoil moisture. In addition, once the plant has 'canopied' the underlying soil will be shaded from the hot sun and reduce the amount of evaporation leaving more moisture in the subsoil. Conversely, hemp also withstands periods of waterlogging better than many crops (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?), making it suitable for Africa's variable rainfall patterns. Including hemp in farming systems can thus help communities adapt to climate extremes – it is a **resilient crop under both drought and heavy rain conditions** (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). The improved soil structure and organic matter from hemp cultivation further aids in water retention during dry spells and drainage during floods. Over a period of a few years, this contributes to greater soil carbon and nutrients, providing more stable yields, which is crucial for smallholders' livelihoods.

- **Carbon Sequestration:** A significant regenerative benefit of hemp is its ability to capture carbon. Hemp is a fast-growing plant that can absorb CO_2 more rapidly than most crops including trees. Estimates suggest that for every ton of hemp biomass grown, about 1.6 tons of CO_2 are sequestered from the atmosphere (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). If hemp is grown and its biomass (fiber or residuals) is used in long-lasting products (durably sequestered, e.g. building materials, textiles), that carbon stays locked up, contributing to climate change mitigation. Even if the biomass is returned to the soil as mulch or biochar, it improves available soil carbon which is critical to crops planted in subsequent years. A regenerative hemp project in Ghana would therefore be **marketed as both a health intervention and a climate-smart agriculture initiative**, potentially attracting carbon credit markets and providing an additional revenue source for farmers or land owners.

- **Phytoremediation:** While not a primary goal in this context, it's worth noting hemp's ability to clean soils. Hemp can extract heavy metals and pollutants from soil (it has been used to remediate contaminated sites) (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?). In Ghana, if there are agricultural areas with soil contamination (from mining activities or excessive agrochemical use), hemp cultivation could gradually improve those lands, making them safer for future food production. An additional phytoremediation objective is for hemp to help breakdown and mitigate soil contaminants related to historic pesticide use in the fields.

By adopting **regenerative practices** – such as no-till or low-till farming, composting, and crop rotation including hemp – the hemp cultivation for this project can avoid the pitfalls of industrial monocropping. Instead, it can rejuvenate the land and serve as a model for sustainable farming in the region. IND HEMP's philosophy of "people, planet, profit" and regenerating the earth through agriculture (IND HEMP, LLC - Certified B Corporation - B Lab Global) resonates strongly here. The company can provide guidance on regenerative and/or organic cultivation methods for hemp (minimal chemical use, integrated pest management, etc.), and help farmers achieve certifications (e.g. organic or regenerative certified hemp) which could add value to the products. In summary, **regenerative agriculture and hemp are synergistic**: hemp benefits from healthy soils and in turn makes soil healthier. This synergy will enhance the viability of hemp production in Ghana by improving yields, lowering input costs, and garnering environmental support, thereby ensuring that the malaria mitigation effort is sustainable for the long run.

Projected Impact and Statistical Analysis

To support the claims and assess potential impact, this section provides a **quantitative outlook** on how an industrial hemp Omega-supplementation initiative could affect malaria outcomes and what scale of production is required. All estimates here are preliminary and for proposal modeling purposes:

Scenario	Estimated Fewer Cases per Year	Estimated Fewer Deaths per Year	Oil Needed (Liters per Year)	Hemp Cultivation Required (Hectares)
10% Reduction in Cases	500,000	1,100	182,500	600
20% Reduction in Cases	1,000,000	2,200	365,000	1,200
30% Reduction in Cases	1,500,000	3,300	547,500	1,800

Table 2: Estimated Impact of Hemp-Based Malaria Intervention in Ghana

- **Malaria Burden Reduction:** Given the evidence that Omega-3 and Omega-6 PUFAs can suppress parasites in animal trials by ~64–96% (Microsoft Word - melaririASB20p), one might ask: how could this translate to reducing human malaria cases? It is unrealistic to assume such high efficacy directly in humans via diet alone, but even a **modest reduction in malaria incidence or severity** can save many lives. For instance, if a hemp-based nutritional program reaches a significant portion of the population in endemic areas and achieves just a **10% reduction in malaria cases**, that would mean ~500,000 fewer cases per year in Ghana (based on ~5 million cases) and potentially hundreds fewer deaths (10% of ~11,000) annually. A larger impact, say 20% fewer cases, could prevent a million infections per year. It is also likely that even when people still get infected, their disease could be less severe – leading to lower hospitalization rates and faster recovery – due to improved nutritional status and the direct antiparasitic effects of PUFAs. For example, Omega supplementation might reduce progression to severe malaria (such as cerebral or anemia complications) by a meaningful percentage, improving survival rates. These improvements can be modeled in a health-economic simulation: fewer cases and milder cases translate into less strain on healthcare facilities and economic savings from averted treatment costs and preserved worker productivity.
- **Nutritional Impact:** Introducing hemp seed oil and cake into diets will reduce malnutrition on its own merits. We can estimate the nutritional boost by numbers: **Hemp oil dosage** – providing as little as 1–2 tablespoons of hemp seed oil (15–30 mL) per day

to an individual would supply 6–12 grams of PUFAs, helping to meet recommended daily intake of essential fatty acids. If given to children, even 1–2 teaspoons (5–10 mL) daily mixed into food could significantly raise their Omega-3 index. **Protein from hemp cake** could be incorporated into staples (like adding hemp flour to maize porridge or bread). Just 50 grams of hemp seed cake can provide ~15 grams of protein and a range of micronutrients, which is substantial for children and pregnant mothers. Improved protein and micronutrient intake can reduce anemia and support immune function, which in turn improves malaria outcomes (malaria causes and is worsened by anemia). A statistical relationship exists between nutritional status (e.g. underweight, low protein intake) and malaria mortality (Malaria, Anemia, and Malnutrition in African Children—Defining ...); improving nutrition directly contributes to lower malaria case-fatality rate.

- **Agricultural Production Requirements:** To achieve a meaningful coverage, we would recommend a scenario which would target 100,000 people (e.g. children under five and pregnant women in a high-malaria region) for daily hemp oil supplementation. Assuming ~5 mL per person per day, that's 500 L of oil consumed per day, or ~182,500 liters per year. Given hemp seed is ~30% oil, we need ~608,000 liters of seeds (since 0.3 L oil per 1 L seed) – roughly 550–600 metric tons of seed annually. If the average seed yield is 1,000 kg/hectare, this requires about **600 hectares of hemp cultivation**. This is a moderate area – for comparison, 600 ha is 6 km², which could be distributed among small farmers (for example, 120 farmers with 5 ha each, or 600 farmers with 1 ha each). If the program expanded to 1,000,000 people, it would need ~6,000 hectares of hemp nationwide (60 km², still a small fraction of Ghana's agricultural land). These calculations show that scaling is feasible: a few thousand hectares (which could be spread across different communities and growing seasons) could support a nationwide nutrition program.
    - *Until there is sufficient acres of hemp being grown in Ghana to provide the necessary hemp protein and hemp oil for this project to scale, it is recommended that IND HEMP provide/import these products from their operations in the United States to allow for the pilot project to begin this year (2025) in order to monitor health impacts within participating communities and assess farming practices.*

- **Yield and Cost Projections:** Hemp yields and oil output will vary, so building a buffer is wise – e.g., plant 20% more area than minimum to account for bad weather or pest issues. In terms of cost, rough modeling can be done: If one hectare yields 1,000 kg seed, and the farmgate price for hemp seed is estimated (for Ghana) at, say, $500 per ton (just an estimate based on global prices), then seed cost is $500/ha. Processing costs (cleaning, cold-press oil extraction, filtering, bottling) might add $200/ton. This means the raw cost of oil might be on the order of $2.50 per liter (this is speculative; global hemp oil prices are higher, but we consider a subsidized local production model). At 5 mL per day, one liter provides 200 doses; $2.50 per liter equates to $0.0125 per dose – essentially 1.25 US cents per person per day. This is very cost-effective compared to typical health interventions. Even if our cost estimates are low, there is a lot of room before this becomes financially unviable (for example, 5 cents per day would be $18.25 per year per person, which is still reasonable for a targeted intervention). Additionally, revenue from selling seed cake as animal feed (or using it to improve local farms) can offset some costs. If seed cake sells at, say, $300/ton as feed, the 600 tons of seed yield ~420 tons cake (70%) which could bring in $126,000, helping to subsidize the oil distribution. A full business case analysis is beyond this report's scope, but these numbers indicate the intervention could be *surprisingly affordable per beneficiary*, especially if managed as a social enterprise or public-private partnership.

- **Monitoring and Efficacy Data:** It is recommended that any implementation include a strong monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component. This means collecting baseline and follow-up data on malaria incidence in the target population, Omega-3 index or nutritional status of participants, and any changes in health outcomes after introducing hemp products. A statistically robust approach could be a **cluster-randomized trial**: e.g., select several communities to receive the hemp nutritional supplement and compare malaria outcomes to control communities over 1–2 years. Modeling can then be refined with real-world data to project national impact. For instance, if a trial shows a 15% drop in under-5 (children) malaria cases in the intervention communities, one could model scaling that to national level, adjusting for coverage. Such statistical evidence will be critical to convince stakeholders and funders of the program's value.

In summary, the **statistical modeling suggests** that a hemp-based Omega intervention is plausible and could have a significant impact on malaria in Ghana. The production scale needed

is within reach, and the cost per person is low relative to typical healthcare costs. These projections support proceeding to a pilot phase, where actual data can be gathered to firm up the impact estimates. They also highlight that even incremental improvements in malaria control (a few percentage points reduction) translate to large absolute numbers of cases averted in a high-burden country like Ghana. The combination of direct parasite suppression (as shown in lab studies) and improved overall health could make hemp supplementation an important tool in improving human health and reducing malaria across the country.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This comprehensive evaluation finds that industrial hemp – via its Omega-3 and Omega-6 rich seed oil and nutritious seed cake – holds *promising potential as a malaria mitigation strategy* in Ghana. Scientific literature strongly supports the role of Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids in reducing the protozoan parasite burden and dampening harmful inflammation in malaria (Omega-3 and Omega-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC) (Mediterranean Diet: Lipids, Inflammation, and Malaria Infection). Hemp stands out among Omega-3 and Omega-6 sources due to its balanced fatty acid profile (ideal 1:3 ratio) (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition), anti-inflammatory components (GLA, SDA), and additional protein and micronutrients, which together can improve overall health in malaria-afflicted populations.

Our assessment of hemp to alternative food sources indicates that while fish oil or other supplements can provide Omega-3s, hemp offers a more *holistic and sustainable solution* for rural communities – it can be grown locally, processed into multiple useful products, and aligned with agricultural development goals. The feasibility analysis shows that Ghana has the right conditions (climate, regulatory temperament, farming capacity, and social commitment) to cultivate industrial hemp, especially with the support of an experienced leader such as IND HEMP. A hemp initiative would dovetail with Ghana's push for crop diversification and could provide economic opportunity to local farmers through new commodities and carbon markets.

Key findings:

- Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids can directly inhibit malaria parasites and improve host outcomes, as evidenced by significant reductions in parasitemia and improved survival in studies (Microsoft Word - melaririASB20p) (Omega-3 and Omega-6

polyunsaturated fatty acids and their potential therapeutic role in protozoan infections - PMC).

- Hemp seed oil is an excellent source of these fatty acids, containing ~75% PUFAs and a 3:1 Omega-6:Omega-3 ratio, plus antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compounds (All About Hemp - Precision Nutrition) (Does Hemp Oil Have Health Benefits? | Pulse Ghana). Hemp seed also provides high-quality protein and micronutrients that address malnutrition.
- Compared to fish oil or flax, hemp is more suitable for local production in Ghana and has a built-in mechanism for economic sustainability (farmers can use or sell every part of the crop: oil, cake, fiber).
- Ghana has shown a willingness to change the legal status of hemp and allow for the production of industrial hemp for grain and fiber. (Cannabis market lanes pave the way for economic growth and regulation in Ghana - The Herald ghana). The climate and agricultural conditions are favorable, and IND HEMP's expertise can significantly shorten the learning curve and ensure quality outputs.
- Regenerative agriculture with hemp can improve soil health, reduce dependence on agrochemicals, and contribute to climate change mitigation (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?) (What Do Hemp Fiber, Soil Health, and Water Quality Have in Common?), making the project attractive from an environmental perspective as well.
- Preliminary models indicate that the approach is scalable and cost-effective, with potentially large impacts on malaria incidence if implemented widely. A modest Pilot Project would provide the opportunity to reach tens of thousands of people which could yield measurable health benefits at low cost.

Actionable Recommendations for IND HEMP:

1. **Initiate a Pilot Project and Partnership Building:** We recommend IND HEMP spearhead a pilot program in Ghana in collaboration with local stakeholders. This pilot (e.g. ~100 hectares of hemp cultivation, targeting a few thousand beneficiaries) will generate on-the-ground data. Begin by partnering with Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health/National Malaria Control Programme, as well as NGOs

experienced in community health. Secure the necessary cultivation license and identify a suitable region (high malaria prevalence, agricultural infrastructure, community buy-in). Also, engage a local university or research institute to assist with baseline surveys and M&E design.

2. **Provide initial Hemp Seed Oil:** In order to get the research moving forward prior to having hemp cultivation in Ghana, IND HEMP should be prepared to help subsidize the project and provide Hemp Seed Oil as necessary to get the malaria studies started.

3. **Secure Quality Seed and Train Farmers:** Import certified low-THC hemp seeds with a high oil yield from trusted sources. IND HEMP can leverage its network to select cultivars that thrive in tropical climates. Conduct training workshops for the participating farmers on hemp agronomy – covering land preparation, sowing, pest management (using organic/regenerative methods), and harvesting techniques. Demonstration plots can help overcome initial learning hurdles. Ensure agronomists from IND HEMP or consultants are on the ground during the first grow cycle for guidance.

4. **Set Up Processing and Distribution Channels:** Invest in or loan suitable processing equipment (such as a cold press oil mill and filtration unit) to a local partner or cooperative. This could be a mini processing facility in the pilot region. Establish protocols for oil extraction, quality testing (for purity, rancidity, and THC compliance), and packaging. Simultaneously, plan the distribution of the produced oil to the target population. This might involve working with local clinics or community health workers to incorporate a daily or weekly ration of hemp oil into feeding programs (for children or pregnant women). The seed cake utilization plan should also be in place – e.g., partner with a local feed mill or directly supply it to farmers with chickens or fish ponds, possibly as part of an integrated livelihood program.

5. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research:** Alongside implementation, run a structured study to evaluate outcomes. IND HEMP should coordinate with health researchers to track indicators such as malaria case frequency in the intervention group vs. a control group, nutritional status changes, acceptability of hemp products, etc. If possible, publish the findings (with Ghanaian partners) to contribute to the scientific and development literature. This will not only validate (or refine) the approach but also increase credibility when seeking scale-up funding. Collect data on agricultural performance too: yield per

hectare, any challenges in cultivation, farmer feedback on regenerative practices, etc. These data will inform improvements in subsequent seasons.

6. **Scale-Up and Business Model Development:** If the pilot shows positive results, prepare for scaling. This includes exploring different business models: for example, IND HEMP could consider a joint venture in Ghana or support a social enterprise that continues the project. Evaluate the market opportunities for surplus hemp products – beyond the amounts used in health programs, extra oil could be sold commercially (food supplement for general population or exported niche product) and fiber could find buyers in textile or materials industry. These revenue streams can make the initiative self-sustaining. Create a roadmap with Ghanaian authorities for expanding cultivated area, possibly integrating hemp into existing subsidy or agricultural extension programs. Engage with international donors (UN, Global Fund, etc.) and impact investors by presenting the pilot data – funding from these sources could facilitate a wider rollout linking malaria control with nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

7. **Risk Management and Continuous Improvement:** Anticipate and address potential risks. For instance, monitor that hemp cultivation does not inadvertently compete with food crops for land in a way that harms food security – instead it should be on fallow/idle lands or as a second crop. Manage community perceptions to avoid any associations of the project with illicit cannabis (continuous education campaigns highlighting the non-drug nature and health benefits of hemp are crucial). From an organizational perspective, IND HEMP should ensure compliance with all local laws and international regulations (for example, traceability of THC content). Regularly incorporate feedback from local farmers and participants to improve processes (perhaps through a community advisory board). By staying adaptive, the project can navigate challenges and serve as a model for other countries in the region.

By following these recommendations, **IND HEMP can carefully assess and incrementally build up this project** – moving from concept to pilot to a scalable program. This phased approach allows learning and managing uncertainties while keeping the long-term vision in mind: a successful integration of industrial hemp into Ghana's health system, which would exemplify innovation in global health. It aligns with IND HEMP's mission to provide sustainable,

regenerative solutions and would position the company as a leader in demonstrating how hemp can contribute not just to industry and nutrition, but also to solving pressing health challenges.

Conclusion: Industrial hemp's seed oil and derivatives present a novel, evidence-backed means to fortify populations against malaria. The intersection of agriculture, nutrition, and health in this proposal offers co-benefits that few other interventions can claim – from empowering farmers and improving soils to boosting immune systems and saving lives. The viability analysis suggests that with strategic planning and collaboration, what might have seemed an unconventional idea can become a practical reality in Ghana. It is recommended that IND HEMP proceeds with due diligence into a pilot phase, keeping scientific rigor and community welfare at the core. If successful, this initiative could be transformative, exemplifying how "The Goodness of Hemp" (IND HEMP, LLC - Certified B Corporation - B Lab Global) can extend to global health improvements. The next step is for IND HEMP leadership to review these findings, allocate resources for an initial project development team, and engage with Ghanaian partners to move this proposal from paper to the field. The potential rewards – both social impact and the development of new markets – make this a compelling opportunity worthy of IND HEMP's forward-thinking vision.

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