



## *Low cost recovery of reclaimed water from sewage mixed industrial effluents*

### **‘REWATER project’**

This event is co-financed by the European Commission through the involvement of several projects.



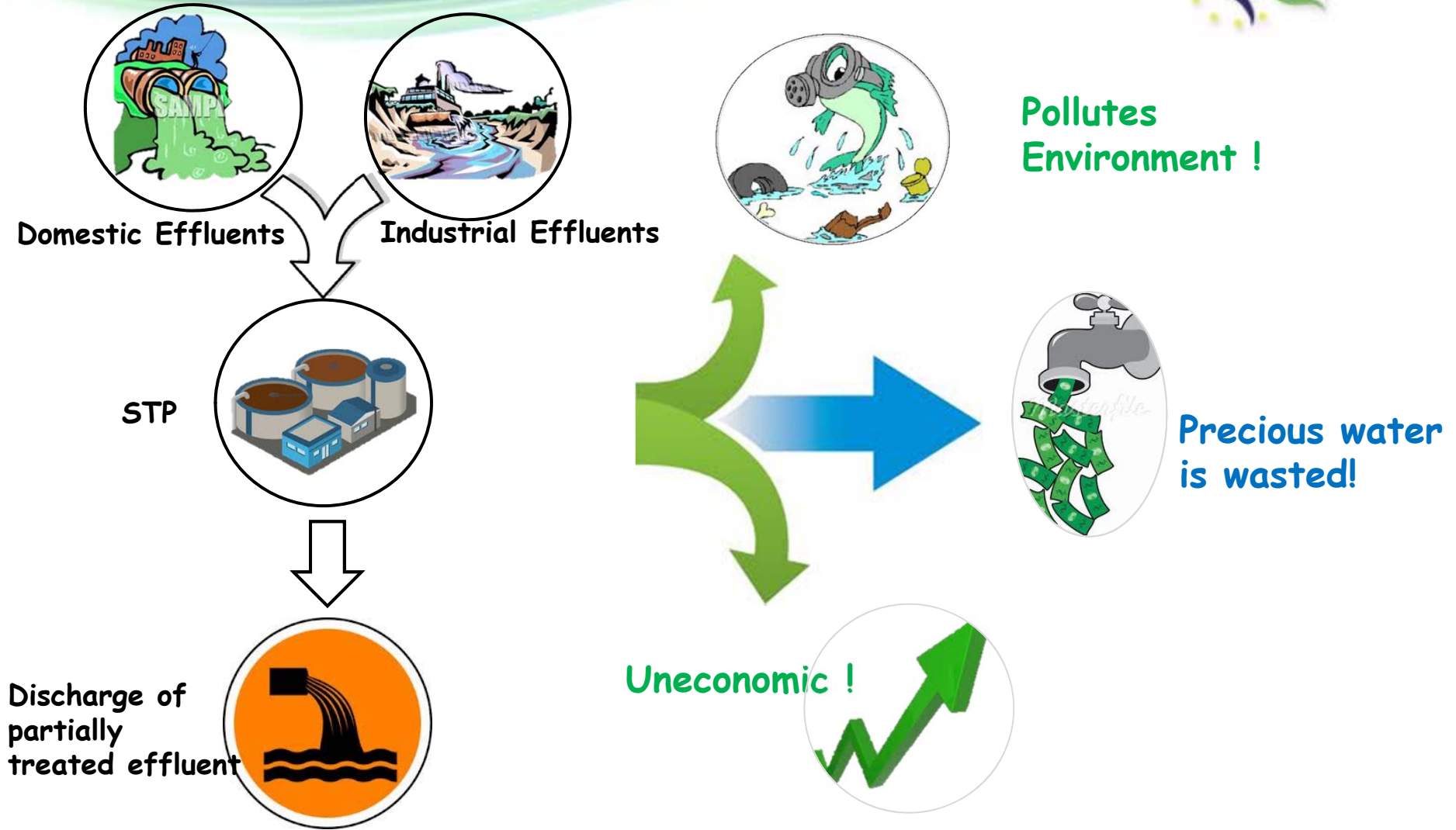
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# THE PROBLEM



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# REWATER Aim

*'To develop a cost effective, natural and energy efficient process package to treat sewage-mixed industrial effluent to a recyclable quality free that is from pollutants (PPCPs), nutrients, micronutrients and pathogens'*

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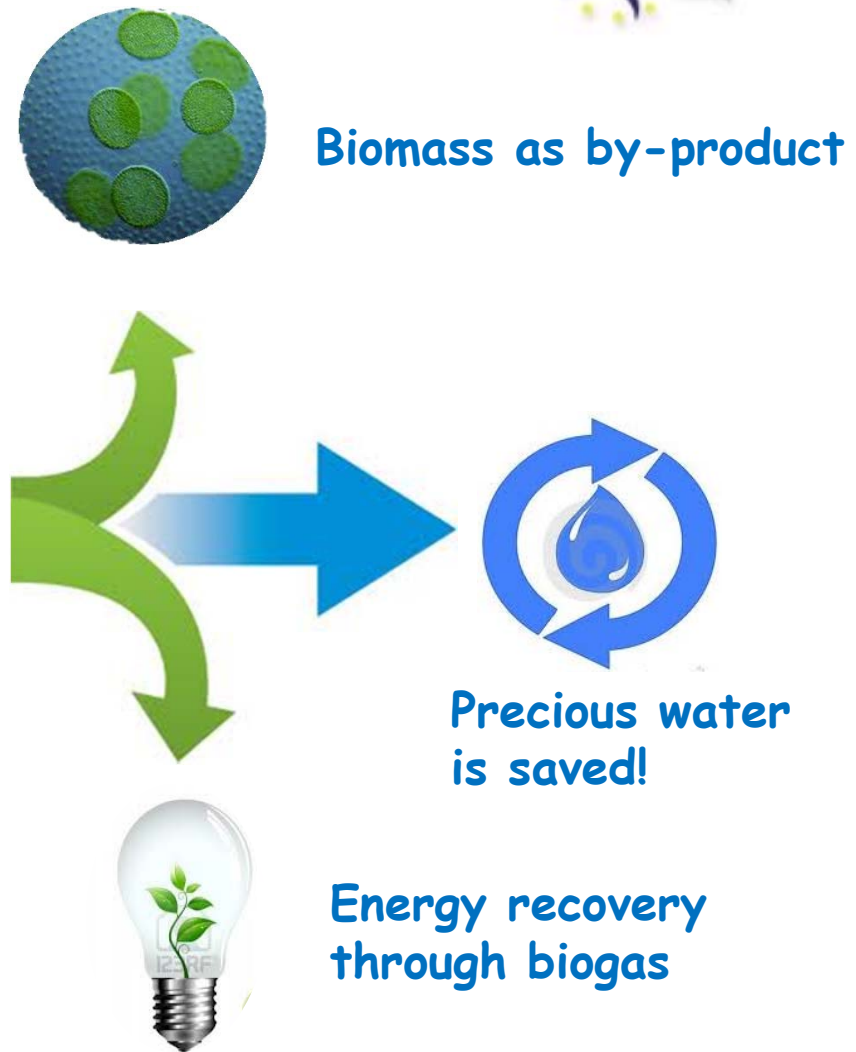
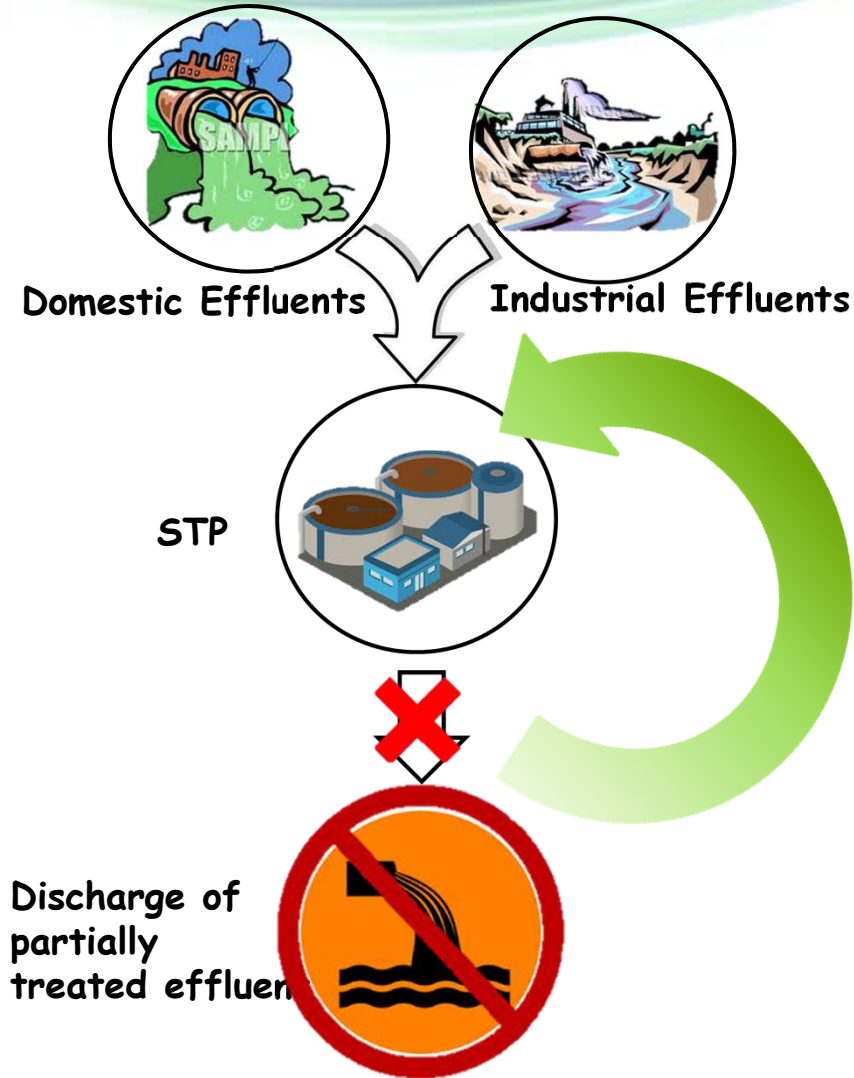
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# SOLUTION



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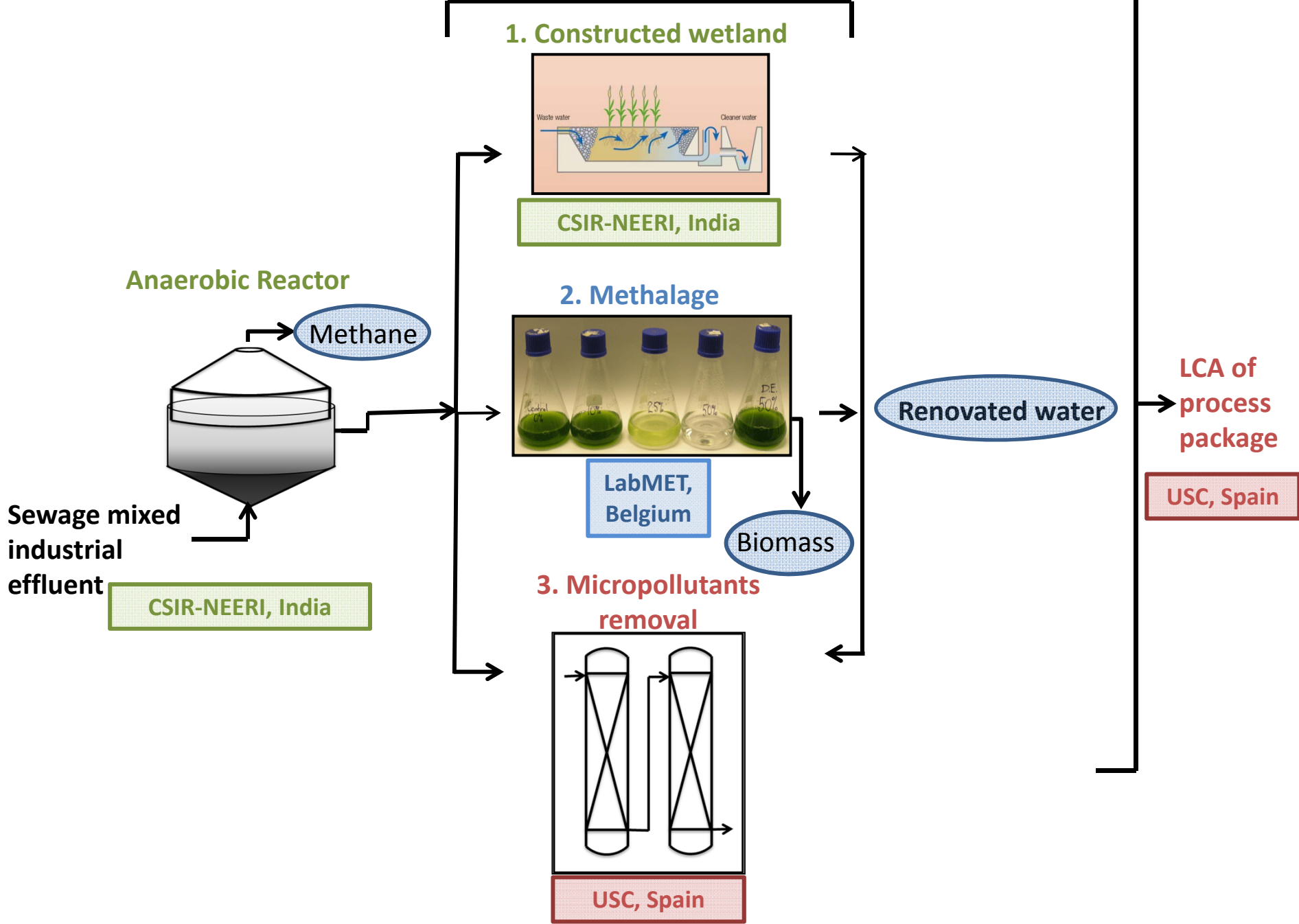


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# Post Anaerobic Treatment Options



# National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI)

Wastewater Technology Division

**Dr. Rima Biswas Mondal**



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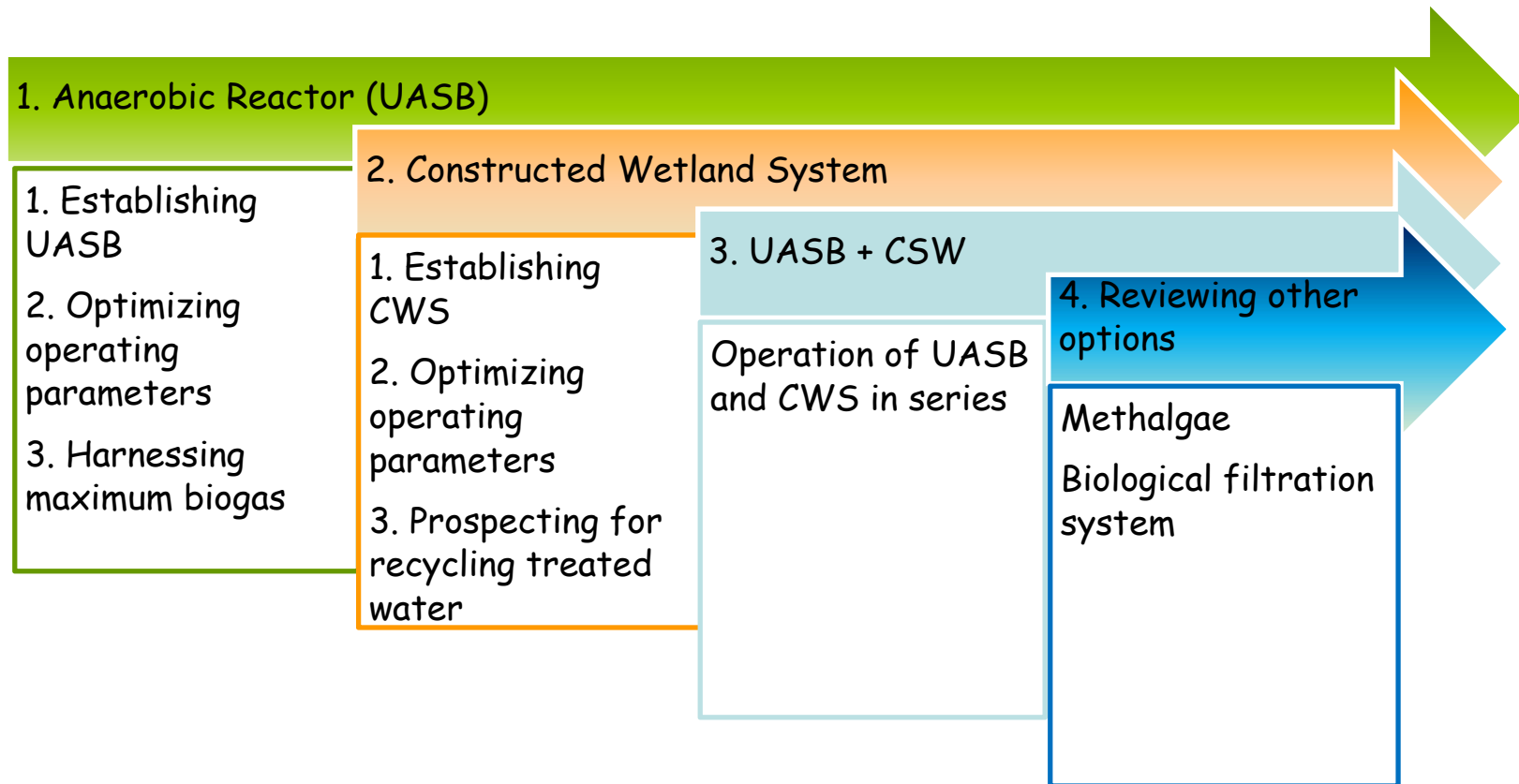
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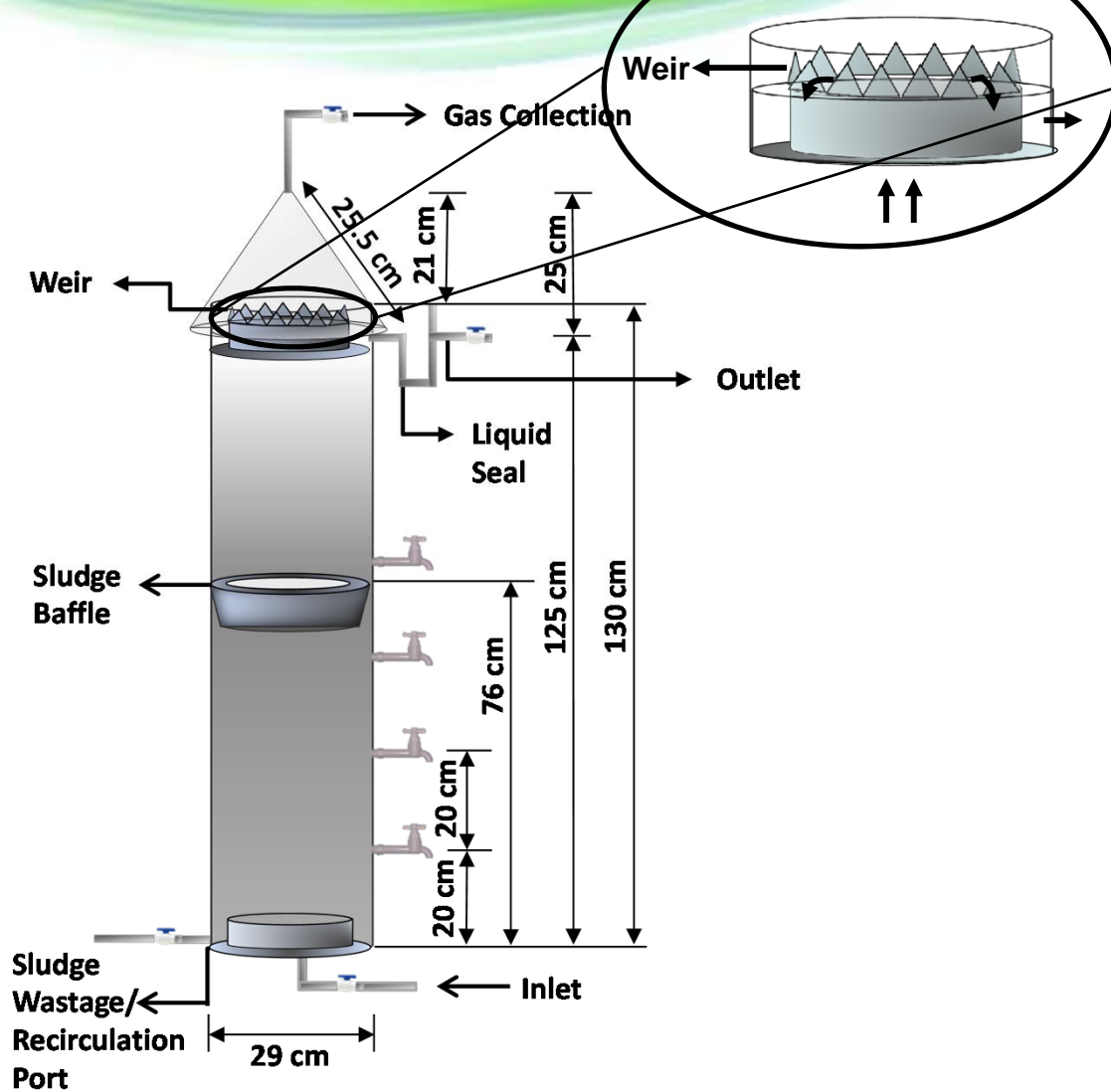
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## Strategy



# Anaerobic Reactor at CSIR-NEERI



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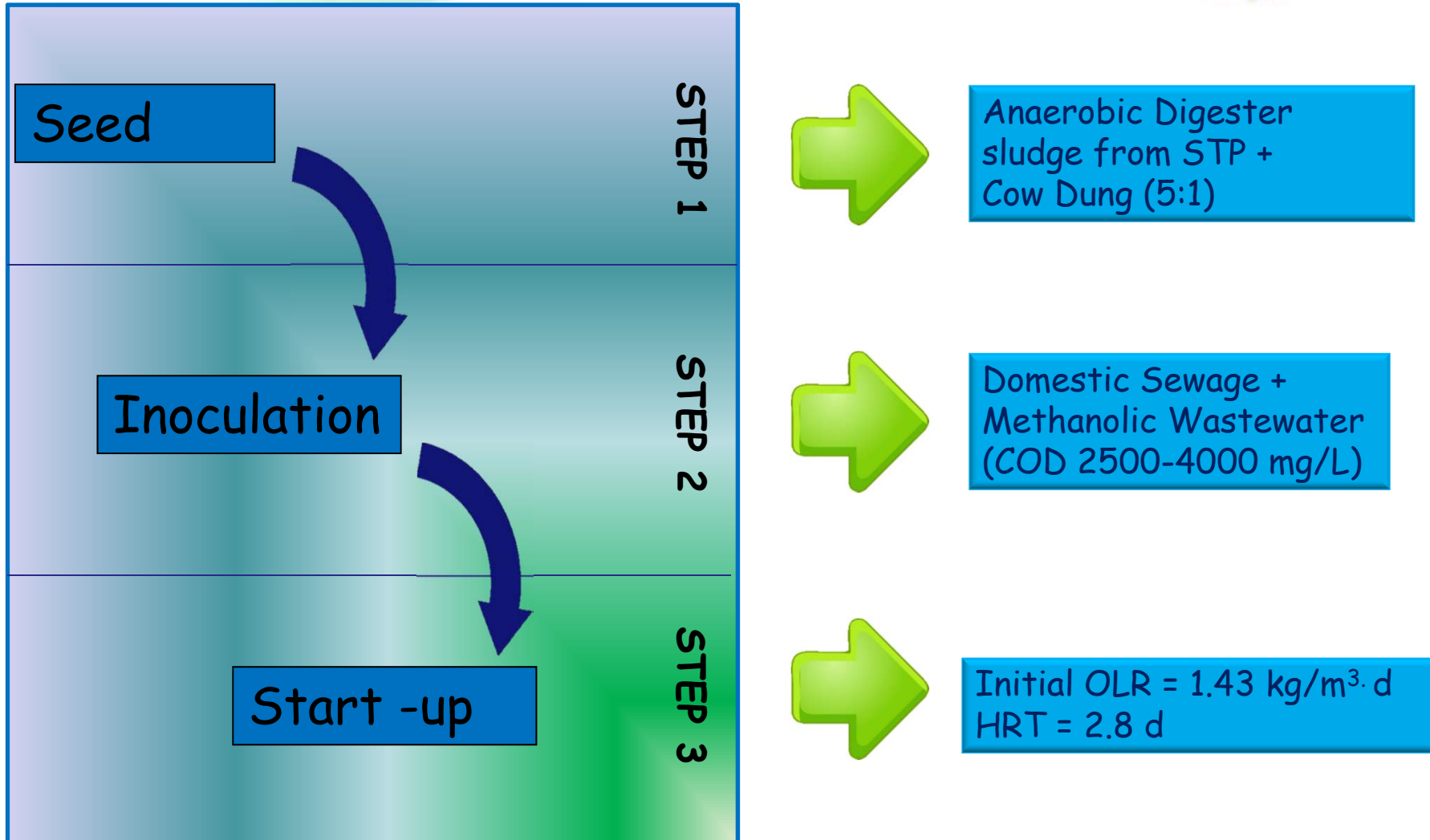


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# Start-Up



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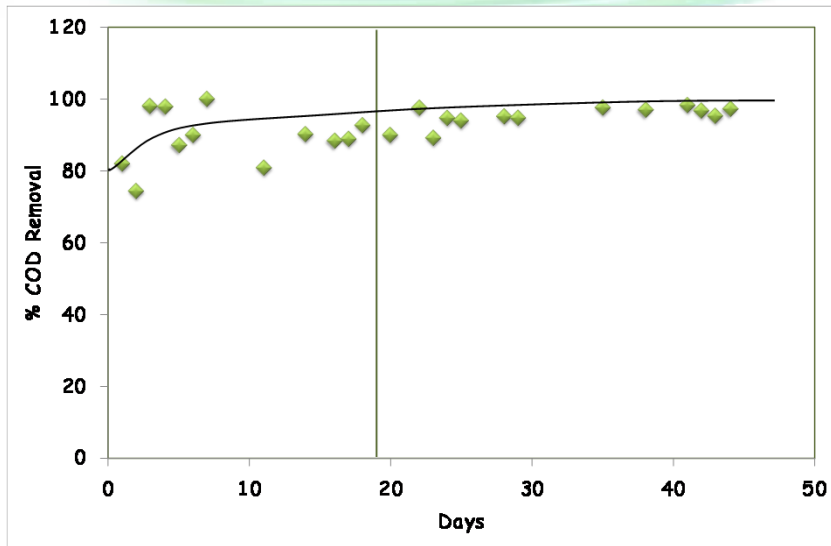
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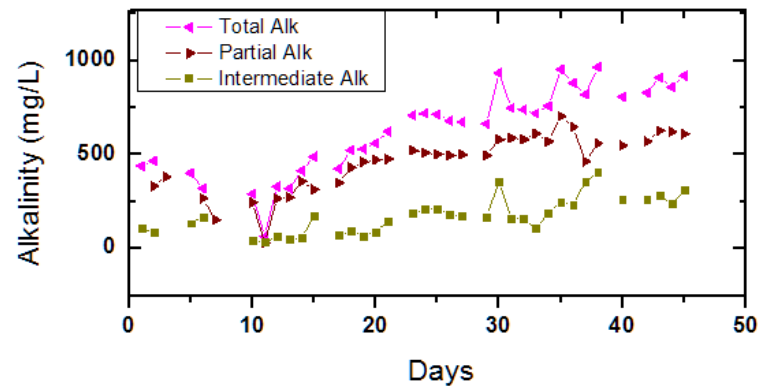
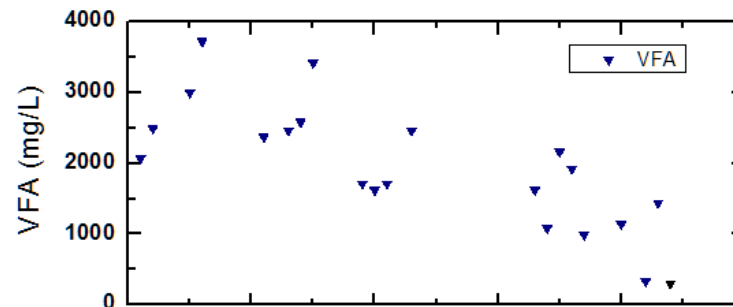
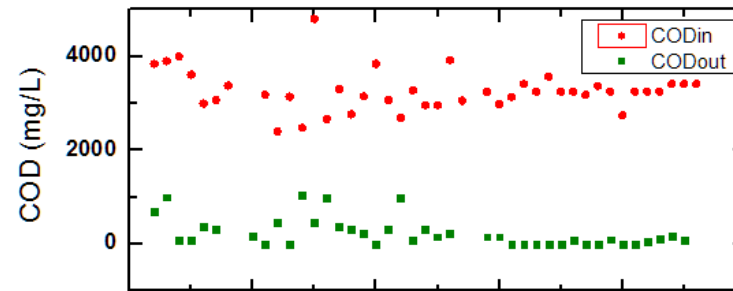
# Performance of Anaerobic Unit



← OLR 1.43 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.d  
HRT 2.8 d

OLR 2 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.d  
HRT 1.9 d →

The unit is still under stabilization phase



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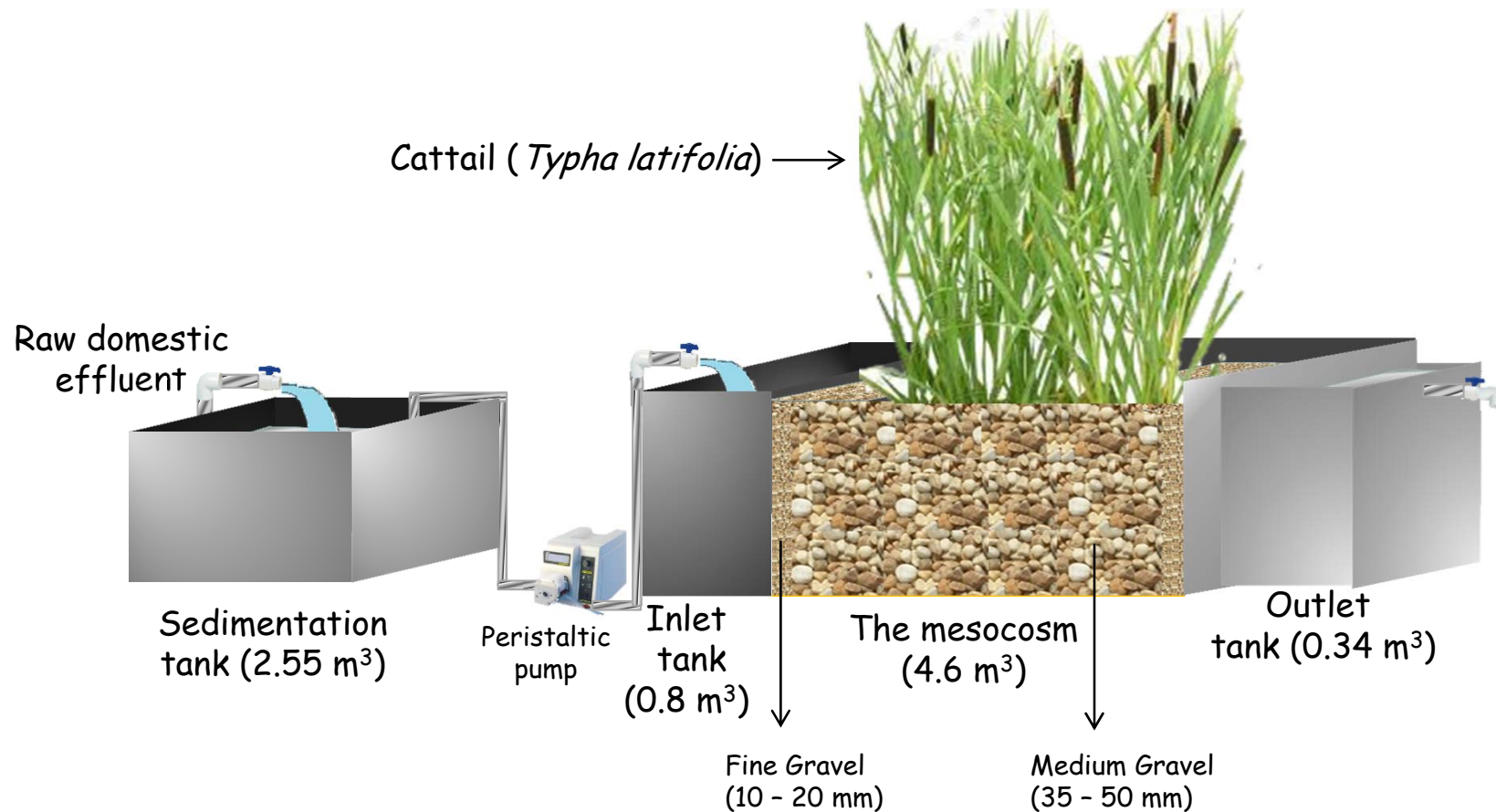
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# Constructed Wetland System at CSIR-NEERI



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**Type:** Free water, surface constructed wetland

**Flow:** Vertical (Up-Flow)

**Wetland Plant:** *Typha latifolia*

**Wastewater:** Domestic Effluent

**HRT:** 2.4 d

**OLR:** 0.23 m/d

Sedimentation tank (2.55 m<sup>3</sup>)

Inlet tank (0.8 m<sup>3</sup>)

The mesocosm (4.6 m<sup>3</sup>)

Outlet tank (0.34 m<sup>3</sup>)

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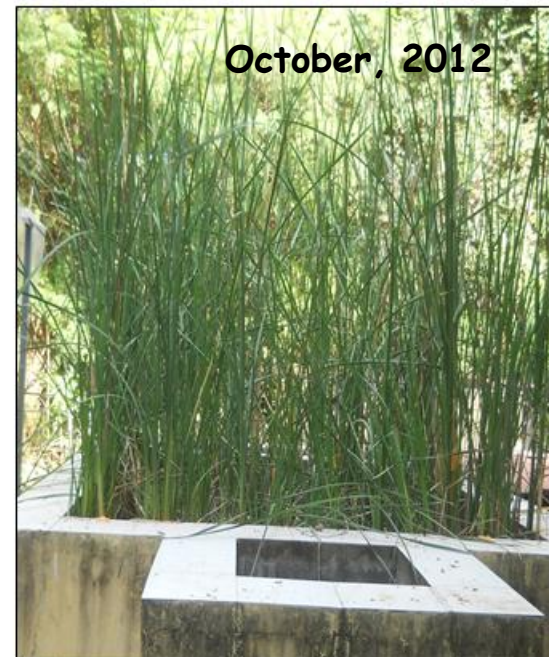




August, 2012



September, 2012



October, 2012

S. No.	Plant Classification	Basis for Classification (Plant Height, m)	Number of Plants	
			August, 2012	October, 2012
1	Mature	2.5 - 3.5	14	16
2	Young	1 - 2.5	33	153
3	New	< 1	7	21
Total Number of Plants			54	190
Plant Density (No. of Plants/m <sup>2</sup> )			11	38

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## Overall Performance of CWS

Parameters		RAW SEWAGE	INLET	OUTLET
pH	Range (Min – Max)	6.7 – 7.4	6.9 – 7.4	6.8 – 7.8
	Avg. ± Std Dev.	139.28 ± 59.1	81.79 ± 30.22	39.33 ± 15.53
COD (mg/L)	Range (Min – Max)	69.12 – 310.4	42.7– 128.04	7.68 – 68
	Avg. ± Std Dev.	29.87 ± 5.83	28 ± 5.6	22.4 ± 4.85
TKN (mg/L)	Range (Min – Max)	25.2 – 36.4	22.4 – 33.6	19.6 – 28
	Avg. ± Std Dev.	9.6±4.2	8.92 ± 3.37	7.7 ± 3.54
NH <sub>3</sub> -N (mg/L)	Range (Min – Max)	4.5-16.8	4.44 – 15.53	2.93 – 10.74
	Avg. ± Std Dev.	7.2±4.3	6.21 ± 3.74	5.1 ± 2.97
PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> - P (mg/L)	Range (Min – Max)	3.2-15.6	2.25 – 13.05	2.03 – 12.15
	Avg. ± Std Dev.	200 ± 53.96	34.67 ±23.28	10 ± 4.9
TSS (mg/L)	Range (Min – Max)	132 – 260	20 – 80	4 – 16

Group of Environmental Engineering and Bioprocesses  
School of Engineering  
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
**Dr. Marta Carballa**

**Bio**Group

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# Santiago de Compostela



Santiago de Compostela



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# School of Engineering



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8 Professors

5 Full Professors

3 Associate Prof.

4 Technicians

1 Technological Manager

40 Researchers

7 Post-docs

30 PhD Students

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# Research topics



- ✚ Development of bioprocesses
- ✚ Novel wastewater treatment technologies
- ✚ Anaerobic (co) Digestion
- ✚ Environmental Management: Life Cycle Assessment and carbon footprint
- ✚ Biological treatment of gaseous waste streams

<http://www.usc.es/biogrup/>

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# Biogroup role in REWATER project: Micropollutants removal and LCA analysis

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# Organic micropollutants



**Micropollutants:** synthetic or natural substances occurring in waters at very low concentrations ( $\mu\text{g/L}$  or  $\text{ng/L}$ )

**Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCPs):** Bioactive ingredients of pharmaceuticals and personal care products and hormones.

**Antiphlogistics, neurodrugs, antibiotics and fragrances**



## Environmental and Health Impact

- Increase of antibiotic resistance
- Bioaccumulation
- Endocrine disruption of aquatic organisms

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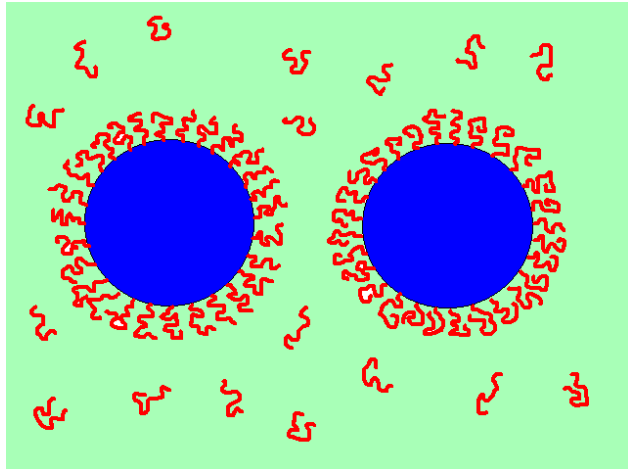


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# Removal mechanisms

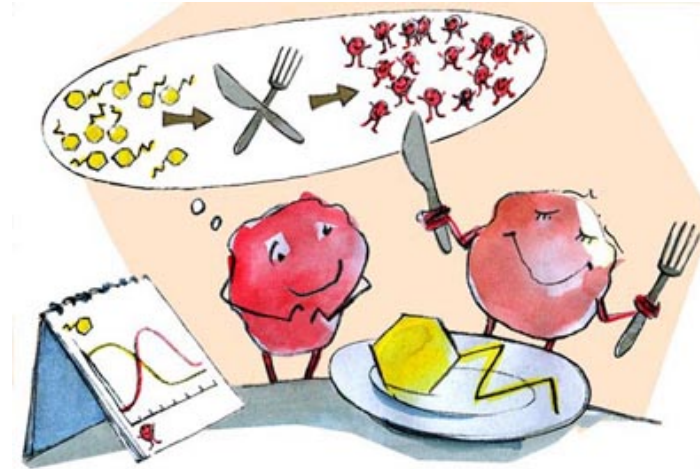
## SORPTION



$$K_d = \frac{k_{sor}}{k_{des}} = \frac{C_s}{X_{TSS} \cdot C_w}$$

- Temperature, pH
- Organic matter content
- $K_{ow}$  (absorption)
- pKa (adsorption)

## BIODEGRADATION



$$r_{biol} = -\frac{dC}{dt} = k_{biol} \cdot X_{VSS} \cdot C_w$$

- Type of biomass and concentration
- Biomass activity
- Hydraulic Retention Time
- Sludge Retention Time

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# REWATER strategy for PPCPs removal

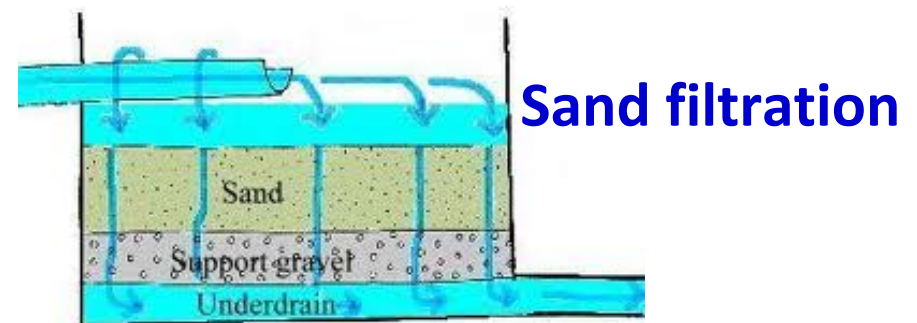


- To evaluate PPCPs removal in other WP processes.
- To design and test a **biological filtration/adsorption system**.



**Powdered Activated Carbon**

**Nitrifying biomass**



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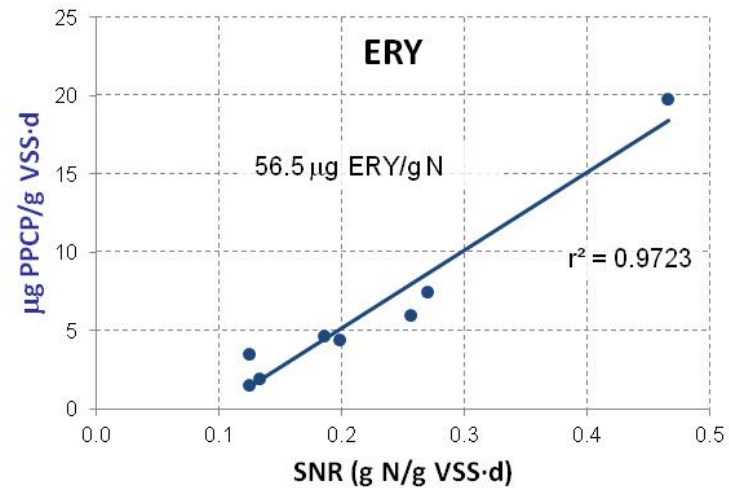
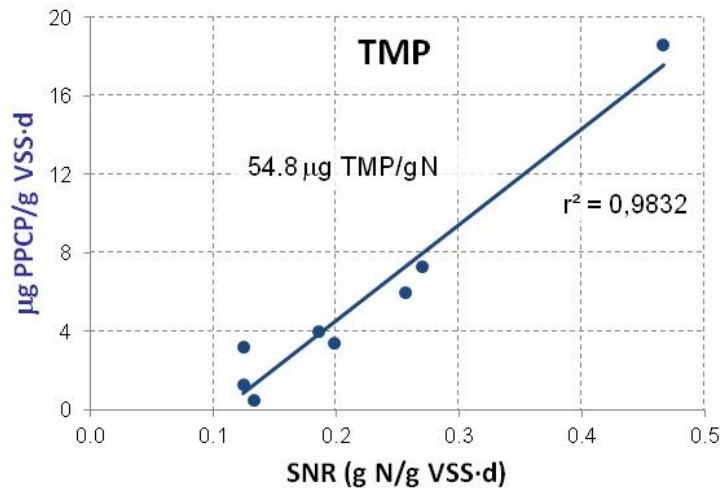
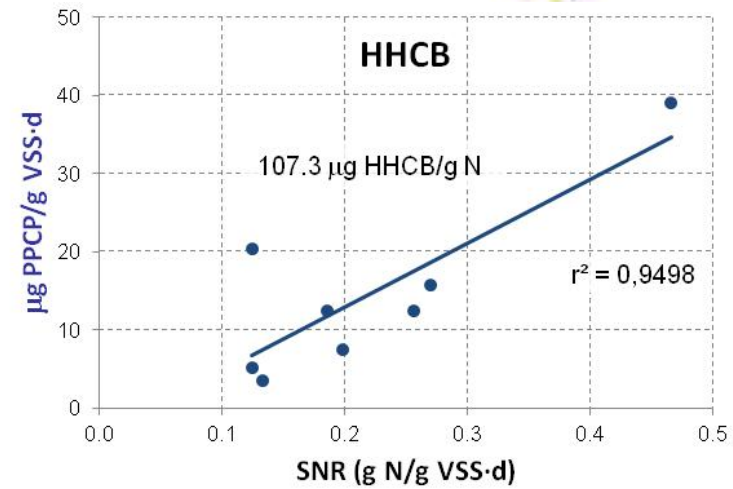
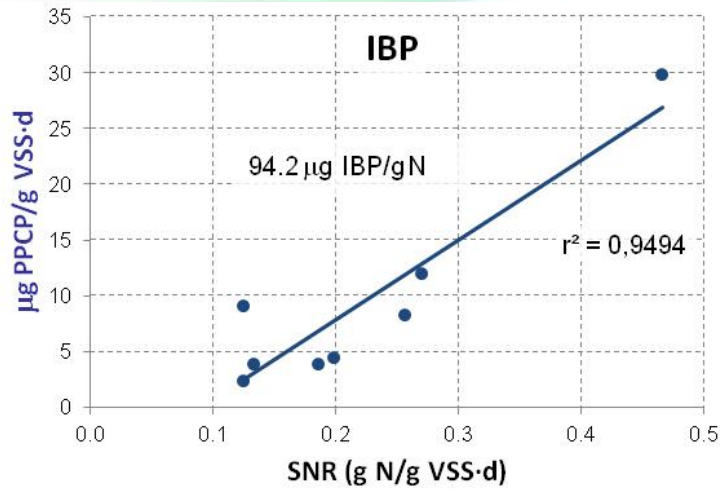


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# PPCPs biodegradation vs. Nitrifying activity



Fernandez-Fontaina et al., *Water Research* 46 (2012), 5434-5444.

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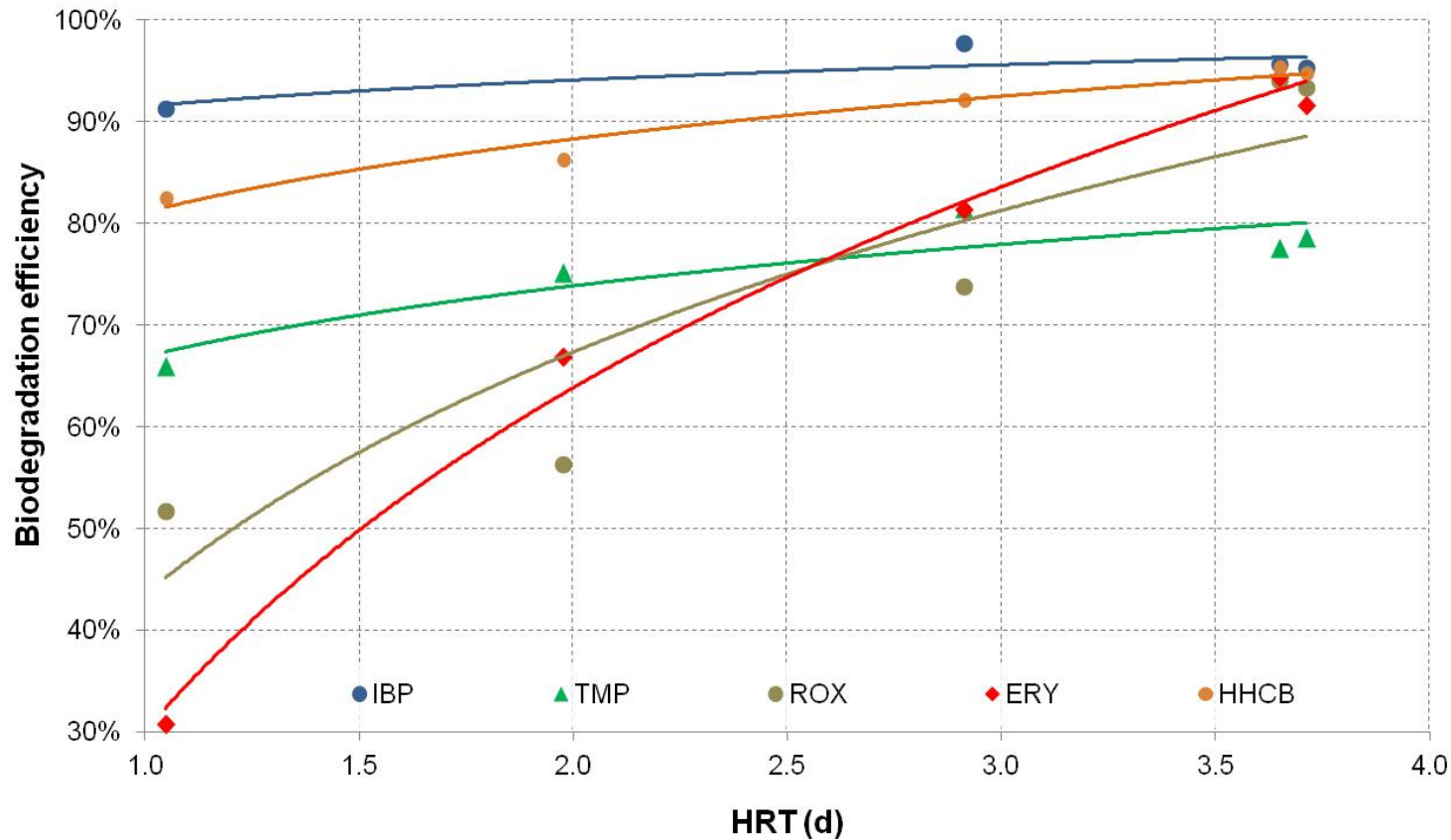


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# PPCPs biodegradation vs. HRT



Fernandez-Fontaina et al., *Water Research* 46 (2012), 5434-5444.

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# Sequential Membrane reactor with PAC addition (SeMPAC)



## Enhances removal of PPCPs

- Biodegradation ( $\uparrow$ SRT,  $\uparrow$ X, adaptation)
- Sorption onto sludge
- Sorption onto PAC

**Patent ES 2 362 298 B2**

## Possible applications

- Hospital effluents
- Industrial wastewater (pharmaceutical, cosmetic production)
- Aquaculture



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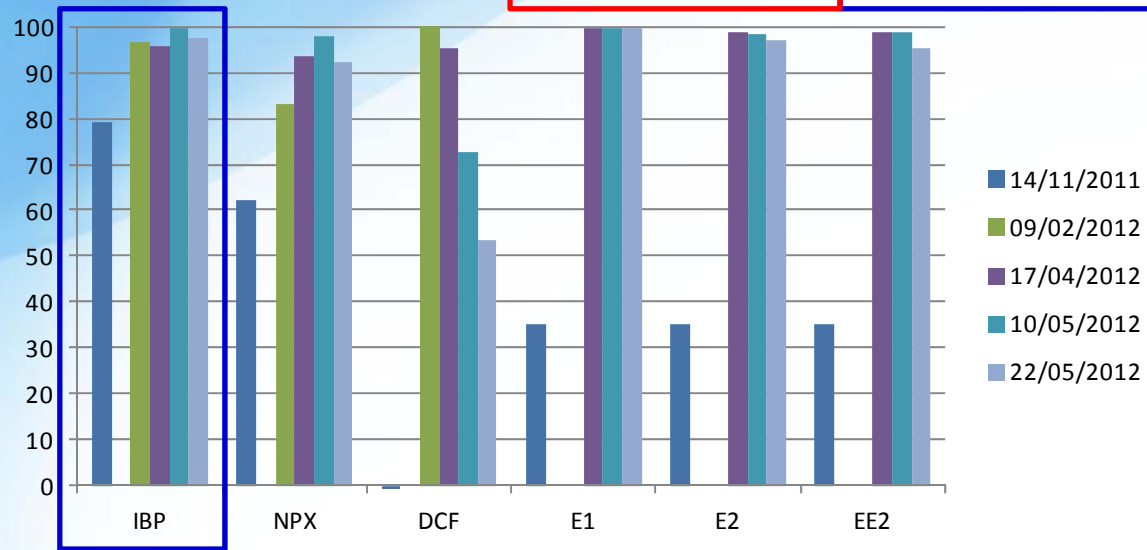
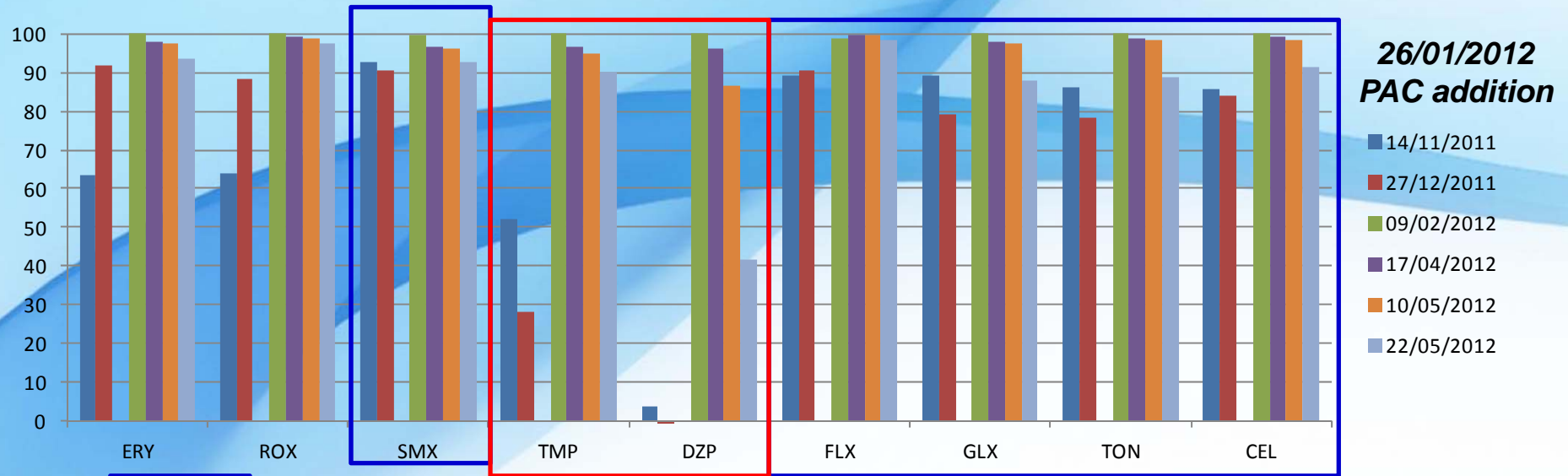
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# PPCPs removal (SemPAC)

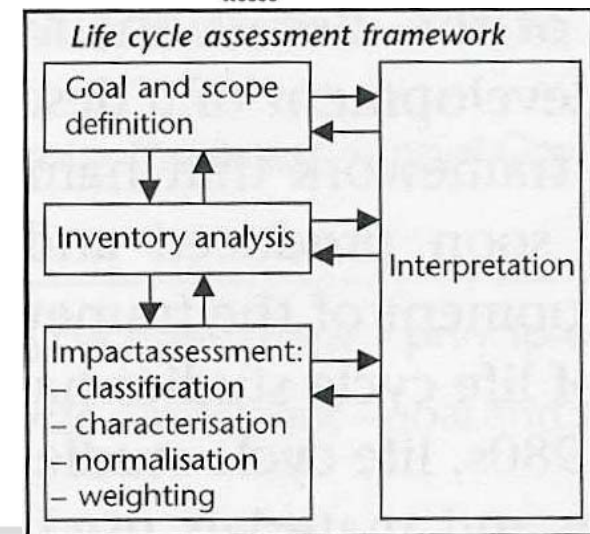


Compounds with more sorption reach more quickly the saturation

# Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)



- **Holistic tool** used to evaluate the environmental burdens associated with a product, process or activity (Baumann and Tillman, 2004).
- **Widely used** as a **decision support tool** in the selection of the **best management strategy** for wastewaters and solid wastes (Su and Rousseaux, 2002; Hospido et al., 2005; Clearly, 2009; De Feo and Malvano, 2009; Peters and Rowley, 2009; Hospido et al., 2010).
- **Limited or no information** about the environmental impact of **wetlands, methalgae** and **micropollutants**.



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Laboratory of Microbial Ecology and Technology (LabMET)  
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering  
Ghent University, Belgium  
**Prof. Nico Boon**



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# LabMET



**Teaching staff:** N. Boon, T. Van de Wiele, K. Rabaey

**Post-doc:** 9

**Scientific staff:** 34 PhD-collaborators

**Technical staff:** 8 persons

**Administrative staff:** 3 persons

**Master students:** 38



## 3 key domains:

- » Applied microbial ecology & management
- » Anthropogenic and engineered environments
- » Host-microbe interactions, pre/probiotics

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# LabMET role in REWATER project: Sustainable carbon neutral methane oxidation

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# Methane emissions from AD



- » Anaerobic effluents are oversaturated with  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  (Hartley et al., 2006; Biotech. Bioeng., 95, 384-398)
- » Anaerobic digestion: a novel wastewater treatment technology
  - Up to 25% of the produced  $\text{CH}_4$  can be lost to the water phase (Cakir et al., 2005; Wat. Res., 39, 4197-4203)
  - Case study at Agristo plant (Harelbeke, Belgium)



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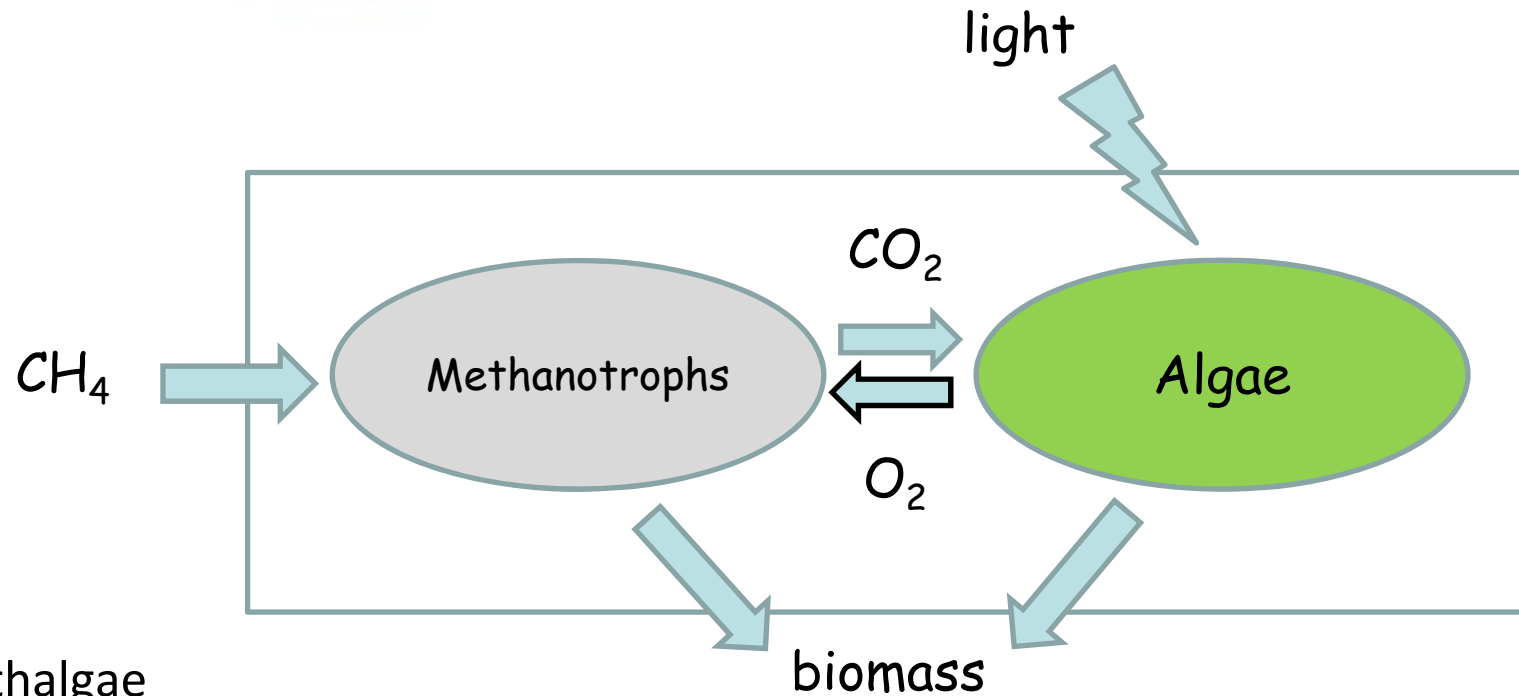
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# Methalgae: the principle



Methalgae

- = coculture of methane oxidizing communities + algae
- = total oxidation of CH<sub>4</sub> to biomass without GHG
- = no expensive air sparging needed
- = removal of nutrients

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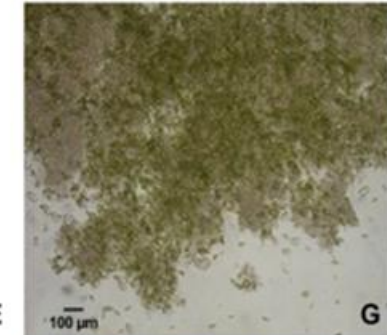
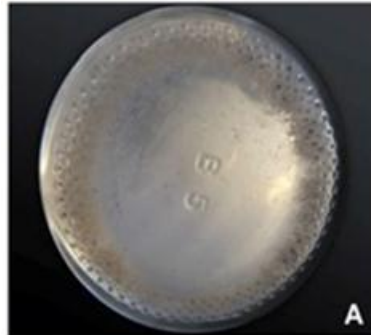
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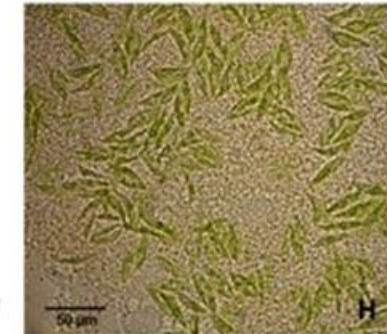
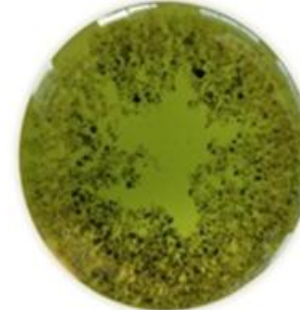
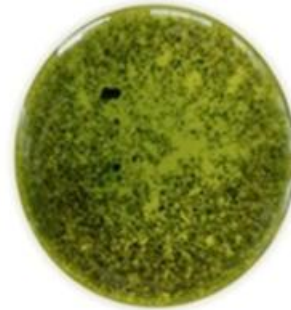
# Methalgae: visual observations



Cycle 1



Cycle 5



MOB with  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (MOC)      Methalgae  $\text{NO}_3^-$  (N-MAC)      Methalgae  $\text{NH}_4^+$  (A-MAC)

**Take home:** co-existence of MOB and algae is possible

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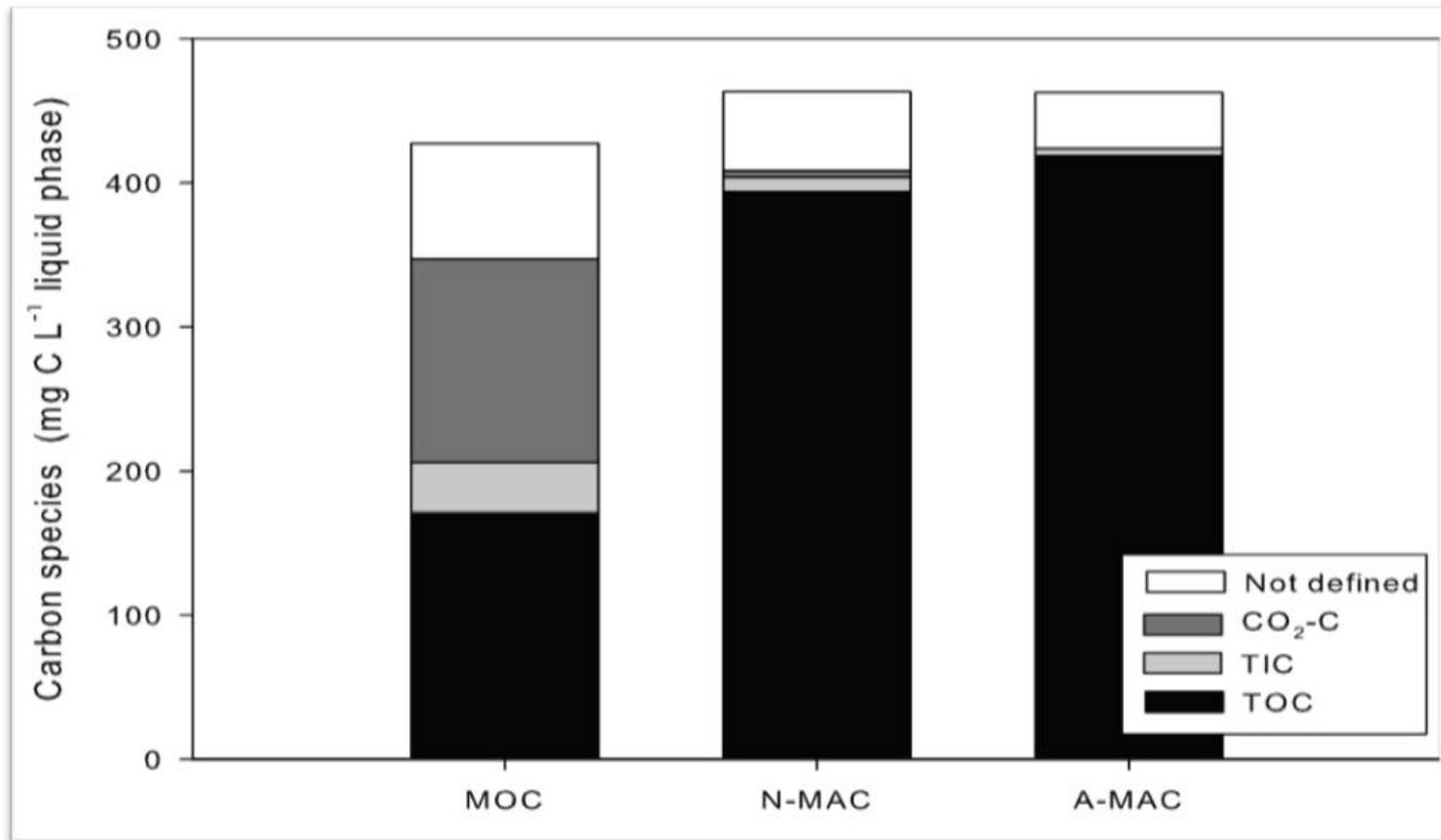


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# Methalgae: carbon balances



van der Ha, D., et al.. *Water Res* **45**, 2845-2854.

**Take home:** with methalgae all methane is fixed in organic carbon

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# Methalgae: an evaluation



- » **Co-culturing** of MOB and algae is possible
  - No effect of algae presence on the methane removal rate
- » A **GHG free** methane removal was achieved
  - Algae oxidized the produced CO<sub>2</sub> almost completely
- » Algae provide MOB *in situ* of necessary **oxygen**
  - CH<sub>4</sub> removal was achieved with initially anoxic conditions
  - Low light intensities allow enough oxygen production for methane removal
- » Methalgae are useful as **tertiary treatment**
  - Partial removal of COD, H<sub>2</sub>S, N & P
- » **An optimized reactor set-up is a prerequisite for further application and implementation**

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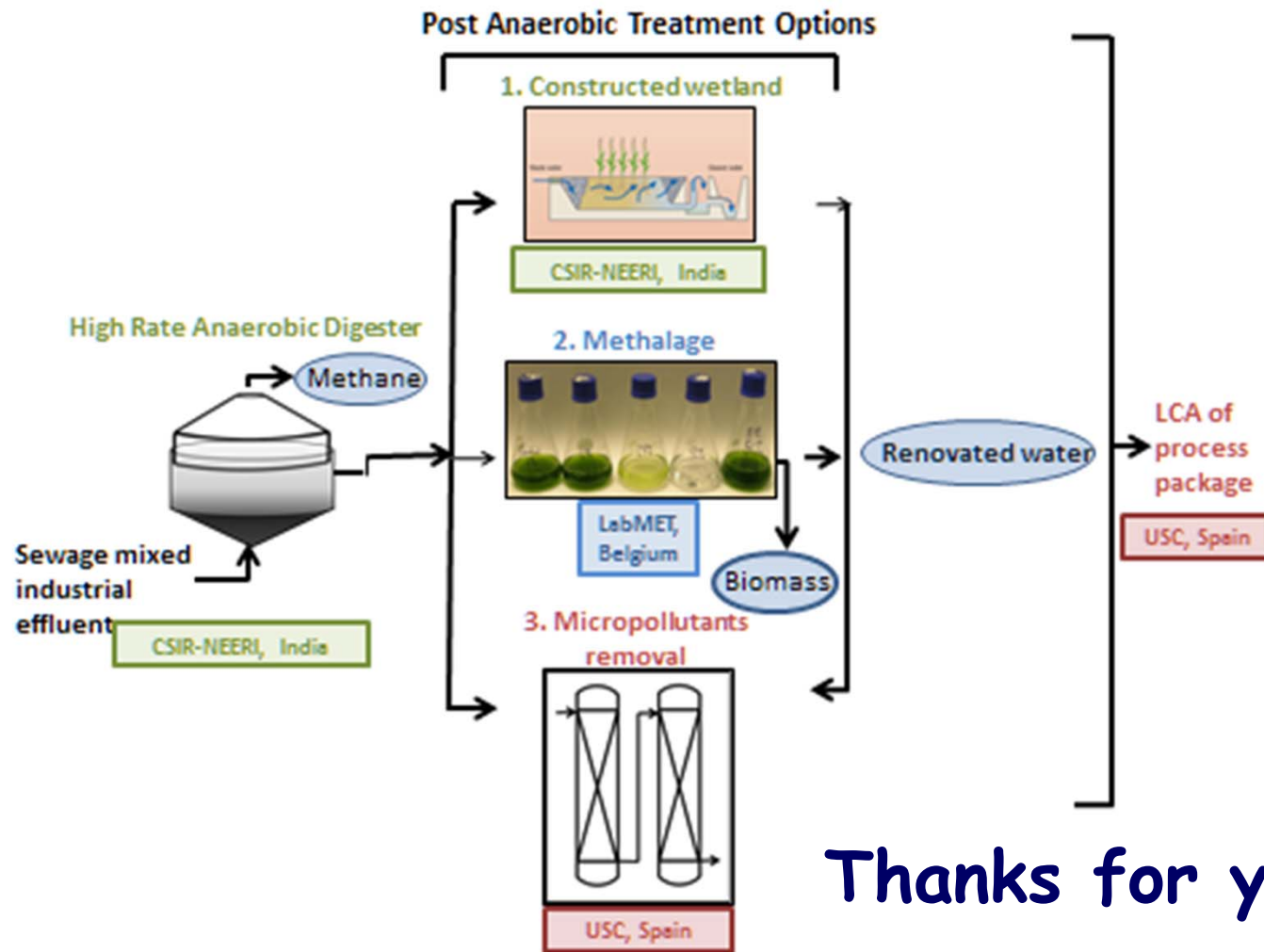
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# REWATER Project



Thanks for your attention

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