

BLUE MISSION BANOS

Supporting the Mission
Ocean Lighthouse in the
Baltic and North Sea Basins

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



3rd MISSION ARENA 26-27 November 2024 Amsterdam

REGIONAL FOCUS ARENA 3

The Netherlands
BELGIUM
DENMARK | West
GERMANY | West
FRANCE | North





3rd MISSION ARENA

26-27 November 2024 | Amsterdam

The Blue on Land: Agriculture Applications of Algae Produced with Circular Resources

Efthalia Arvaniti – s.Pro// SUBMARINER Network

27. November, 11:15-13:00 am
Hall 4 Apartment

Why this – why now?

- Multiple EU Strategies ask for the blue on lalaland
 - Algae Initiative
 - Circular Economy Action Plan
 - Critical Material
 - Empower EU
- Complex value chain using residues
- Market/Technology Readiness Levels 6-8
- Regulatory obstacles are acknowledged



Agenda

| Time | Title | Speaker/ moderator |
|--------------|---|---|
| 11:15-11:25 | Welcome, intro setting the stage, | Efthalia Arvaniti, s.Pro// SUBMARINER |
| 11:25-11:35 | Challenges for scaling seaweed based biostimulants | Dr. Andrea Romero Pérez, University of Ghent) |
| 11:35- 11:40 | Genetic Approaches and cultivation protocols to unravel MEtabolite production of Porphyra spp. targeted towards human and plant health applications | Jessica Knoop, NIOZ/Ghent University |
| 11:40-11:50 | Seaweed biostimulants Q&A and disussion | Moderated by Efthalia Arvaniti |
| 11:50-12:00 | Circular sources for algae fertilising products | Efthalia Arvaniti |
| 12:00-12:10 | Transforming Brewery Waste into Agricultural Solutions: Circular Biotechnology with Algal Remediation | Alla Silkina (Swansea University) |
| 12:10-12:20 | Algae-based Biostimlants from algaeponic effluents | Cristina Brito Lopez, Wageningen University |
| 12:20-12:30 | Circular Microalgae fertilising products Q&A and disussion | Moderated by Efthalia Arvaniti |
| 12:30-12:50 | Panel discussion with audience | Moderated by Efthalia Arvaniti |



Slido poll

2616816

Who is
WHO
?



Circular sources for algae fertilising products

Efthalia Arvaniti (s.Pro) // Marcella de Souza (Ghent Uni)

Amsterdam, 27/11/2024



#EU4Algae

Algae in the European Green Deal

The European Green Deal

Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent



**Do not require
arable land**



**Do not require
freshwater**



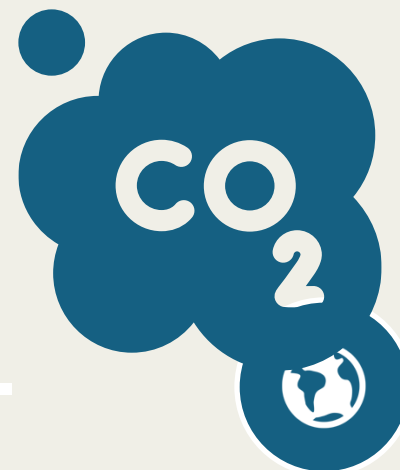
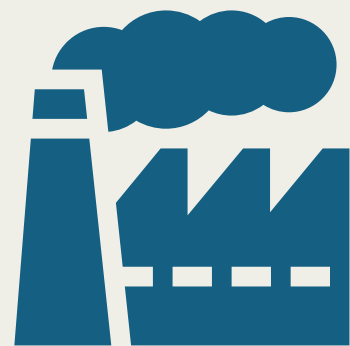
Capture CO₂



**Reduced
seasonality**



Current algae production is not sustainable

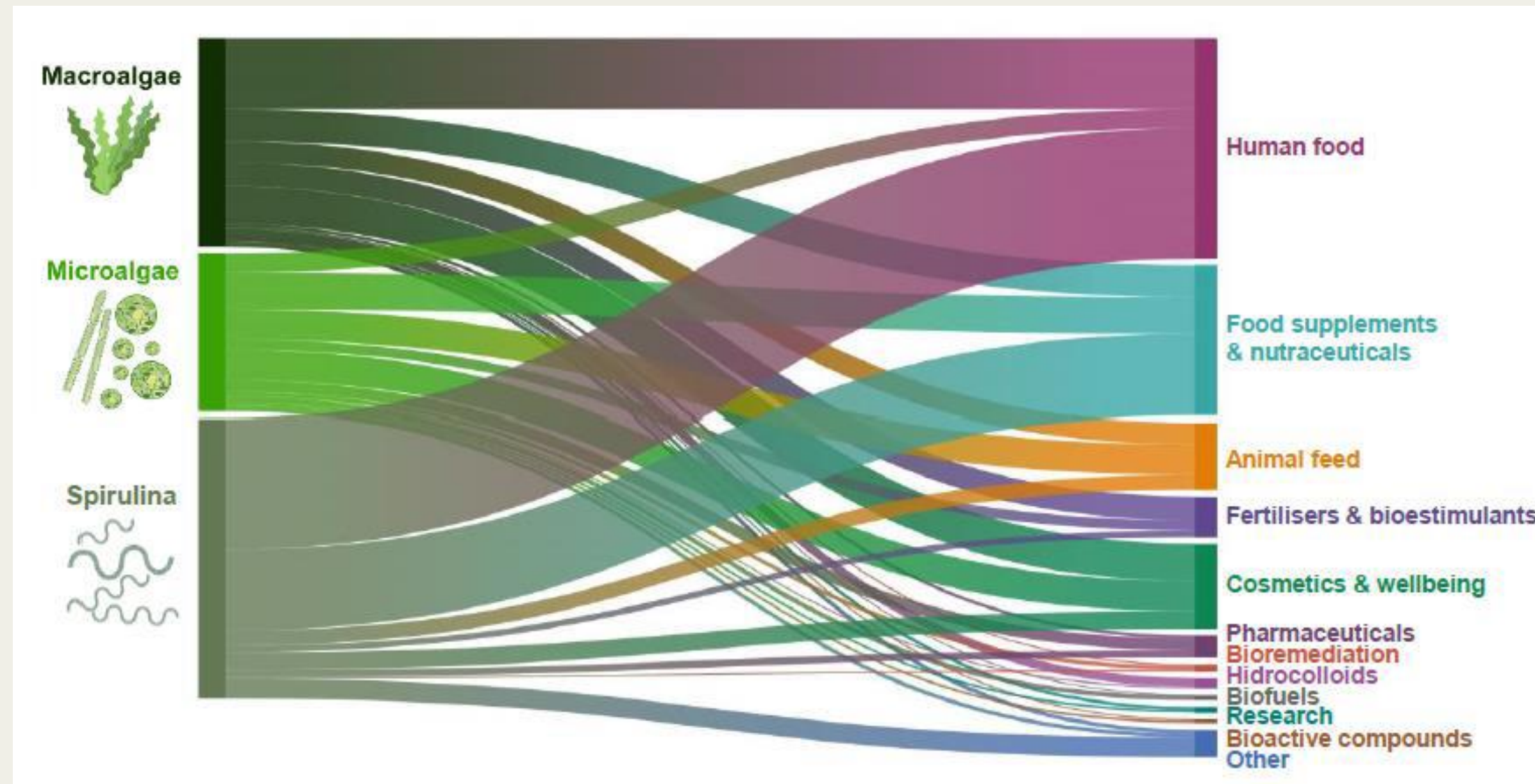


Objectives

1. Assessment of alternative sources of carbon & nutrients, including wastewaters, for (organic) microalgae cultivation for fertilising product applications.
2. Viable alternative sources of carbon & nutrients considering economic, legal and environmental dimensions



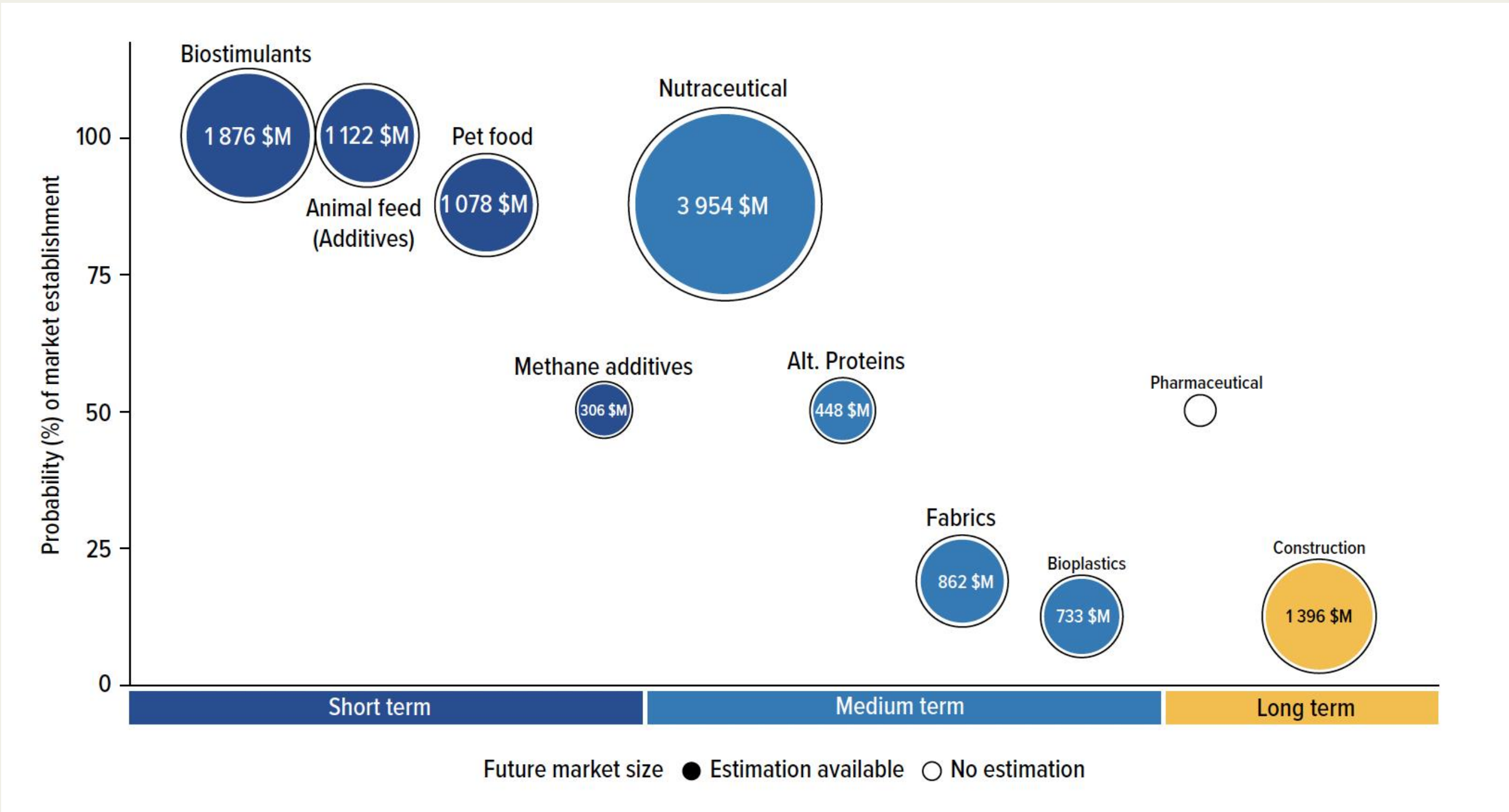
Algae biomass uses in Europe



based on the number of companies supplying biomass for these uses
(Vazquez Calderon and Sanchez Lopez 2022)



Global Seaweed Market Projections to 2030+



For mor info on EU4Algae outcomes and new activities:



#EU4Algae

Develop supply chain scenarios for North and South Europe

- North Europe

- Supply chain
- Legal
- Economic
- Environmental

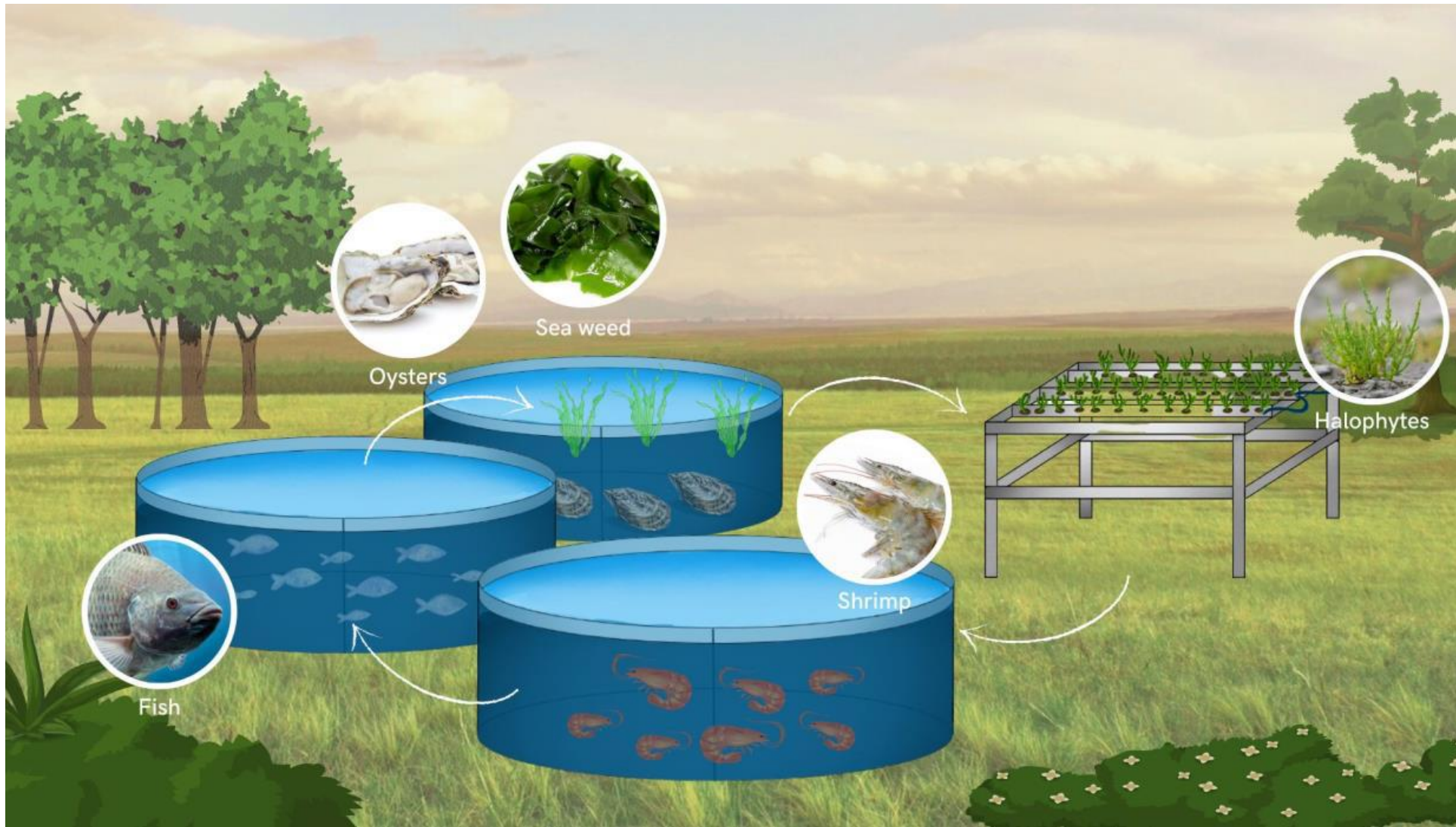
- South ~Europe

- Supply chain
- Legal
- Economic
- Environmental



North Europe #1

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Solution #1 | Industrial Symbiosis using industrial nutrient-rich side-streams at enclosed industrial systems | TRL7-8 |
| Relevant EU projects: | Alg-AD, SCALE, AlgaeNauts, LOCALITY, REALM, AlgaeProBanos, CIRCALGAE, SEMPRES-BIO, AlgaeBrew, IDEA, , GENIALG, SEAMARK, SEABIOPLAS, INTEGRATE, SEACOLORS | |
| Industry practitioners: | Necton (PT), Biorizon Biotech (SP), A4F (PT), Pure Algae (DK), Swedish Algae Factory (SE), Sotenas Symbiose (SE), Power Algae (EE) | |



North Scenario #2

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Solution #2 | Use of a mixture of microalgae and aerobic bacteria in open ponds for treating (urban) wastewaters | TRL 8-9 |
| Relevant EU projects: | SABANA, AlgaeNauts, Water2Return, All-Gas, AGORA, WALNUT | |
| Industry practitioners: | Industry practitioners: Aqualia (SP), Biorizon Biotech (SP), Veolia (SP), CASRTIF (SP), Algen (SL) | |

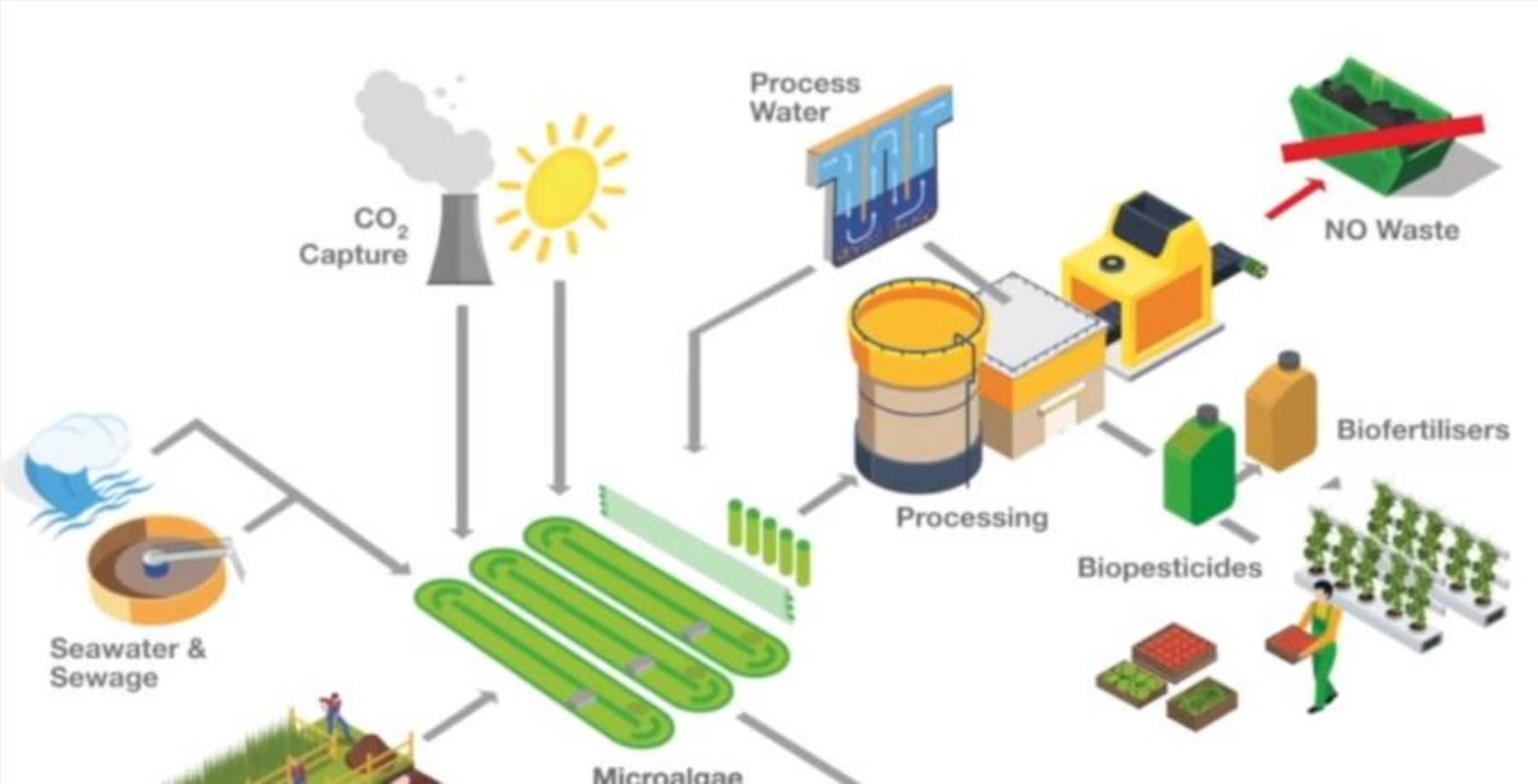


Figure 6 Recovery of e.g. nitrates, phosphates from effluents for production of algae-based biostimulants (AlgaeNauts project)

AlgaeNauts



Solution #3: Collection of algae beach-cast for nutrient removal

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Solution #3 | Collection of algae beach-cast for nutrient removal | TRL: 7-8 |
| Relevant EU projects: | CONTRA, SeaBiogas, SalFar | |
| Industry practitioners: | Søuld (DK), Est-Agar (EE), Grogenics (Canada), Ökowerk (DE) | |



NatureScot





Slido poll for you: Rate solutions

2616816



Stay in touch

DG MARE



[@EU_MARE](#)



[@ourocean_eu](#)



[EU Maritime & Fish](#)



[EU4Algae](#)

18

CINEA



[@cinea_eu](#)



[CINEA - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)



#EU4Algae

Thank you



© European Union 2023

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the CC BY 4.0 license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com



Challenges for scaling seaweed-based biostimulants

Prof. Dr. Margriet Drouillon & Dr. Andrea Romero Pérez



Challenges in biostimulants industry

Technical:

- Lack of **evidence** of efficacy
- **Targeted** applications for optimal bioactivity
- Variability in **application mode**

Market:

- Higher **cost** of fertilization per hectare (near future)
- **Risk** of adopt new and expensive product
- More information needed regarding **market's demands**
- **Regulatory clarity**

21

Consumer/Buyer:

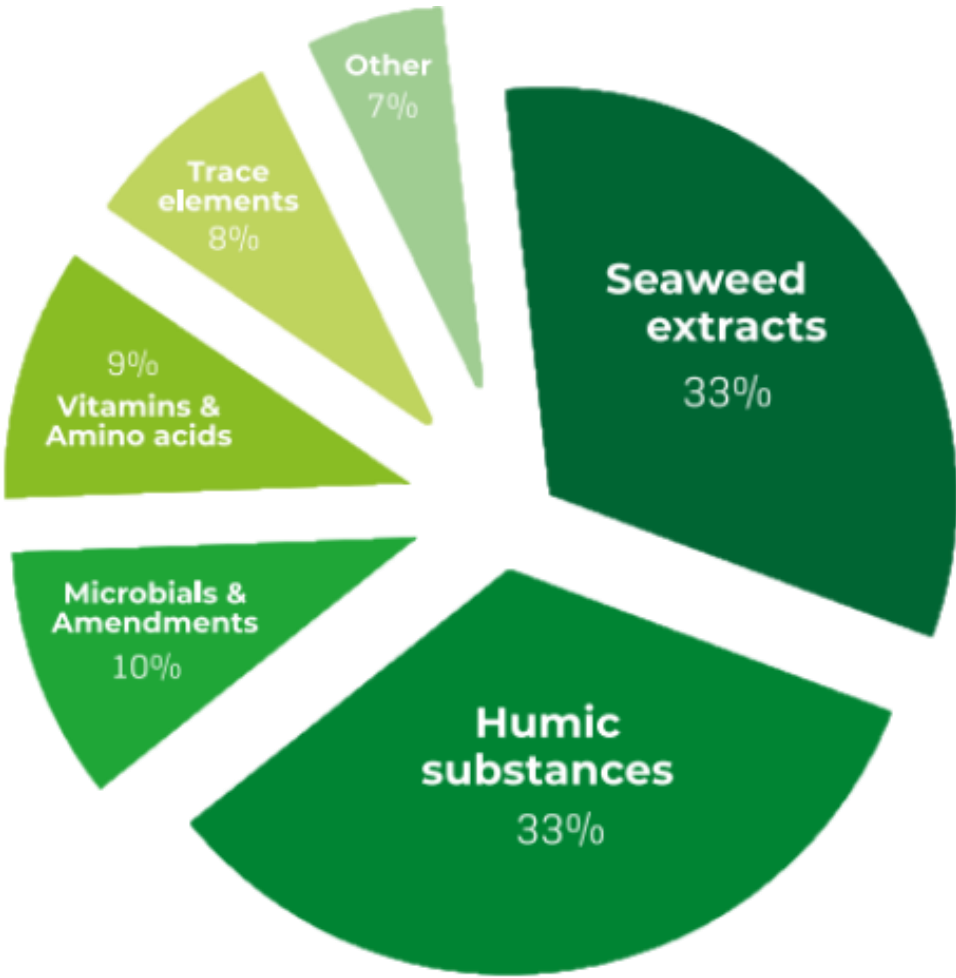
- Reduced level of **trust** in effectiveness
- Not always properly **educated** about the use of the product

Seaweed-based biostimulants industry

- The seaweed-based biostimulant market is projected to grow at **13%** per year.
- Valuation:
 - Current value (2023): **\$1 billion** – **30-40% market share** of the biostimulants market
 - Requiring **250,000 to 500,000 tons** of seaweed per year
 - Expected value by 2030: **\$1.8 billion**

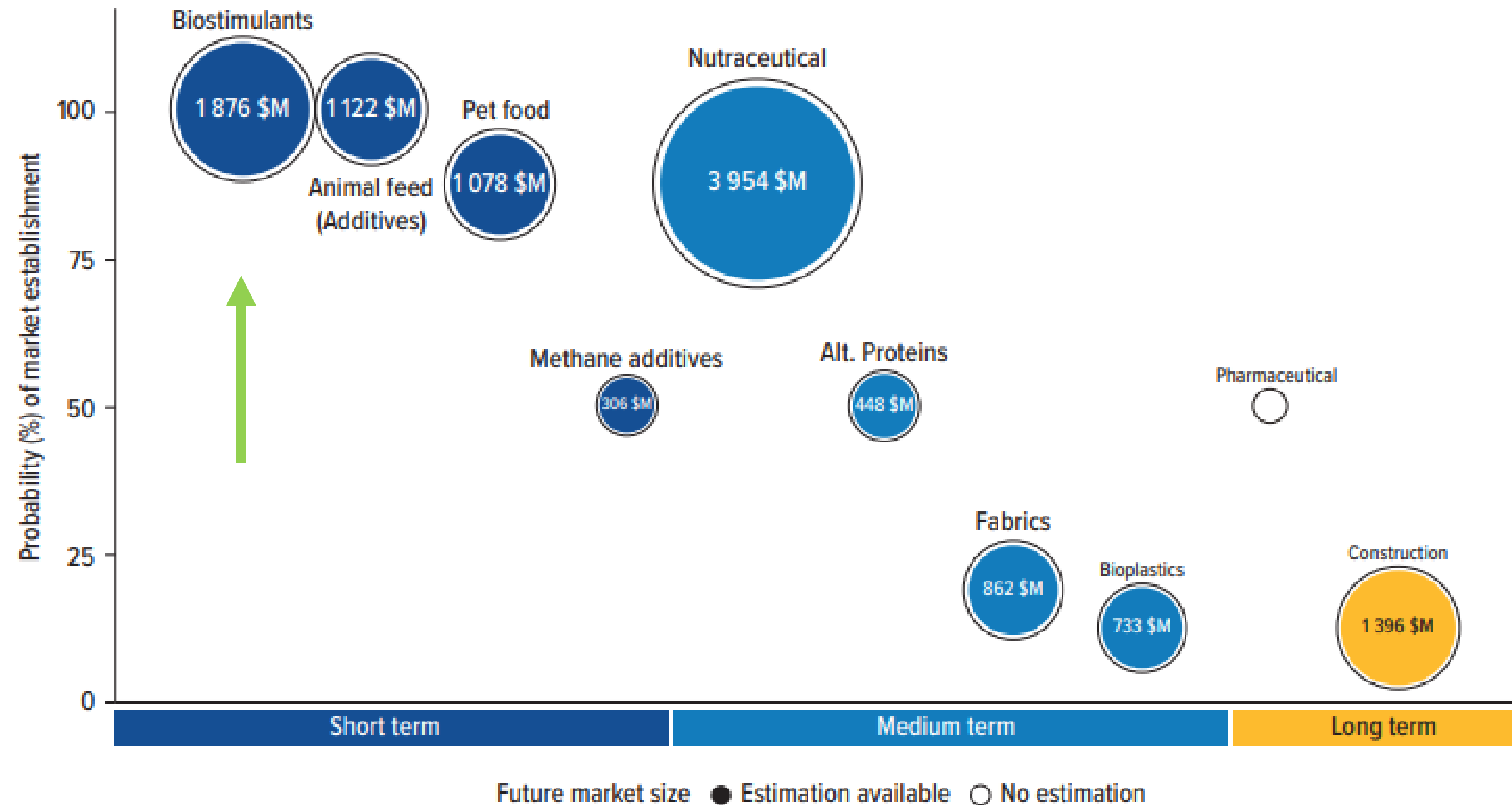
TABLE 5: The market share of biostimulant categories, according to interviews and adapted from S&P Global 2022

| Category | Market share | Market value 2021 |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Seaweed extracts | 40% | \$935 million |
| Fulvic/humic acids | 36% | \$843 million |
| Microbial biostimulants | 10% | \$233 million |
| Amino acids | 10% | \$233 million |
| Trace minerals and others | 4% | \$100 million |



Seaweed market

FIGURE A: Predicted seaweed market size by 2030 (\$ millions) with chance of market establishment indicated by color on a high-level market horizon timeline



Biostimulants Value chain: Seaweed?

FIGURE 36 **BIOSTIMULANTS MARKET: VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS**



Source: Secondary Research, Primary Interviews, Industry Journals, Related Research Publications, Press Releases, and MarketsandMarkets Analysis

Biostimulants Value chain: Seaweed?



Wild harvesting: major source for seaweed-based biostimulants

Wild populations can't fulfill the demands in the EU market

- Wild sources are being regulated
- But demands continuously grow

New source? Seaweed farming

- Off-shore farms
- Multi-use of space at the sea
- In-land production

CASE: vetik

Vetik is a biotechnology startup from **Saaremaa, Estonia**, dedicated to sustainably valorizing **local red seaweed** into high value, high-quality products.



Arvi Talk
Seaweed harvester



Tanel Ilmjärv
CEO, CTO

Valmar Kasuk
Sales, Marketing

CASE: vetik

Vetik is a biotechnology startup **from Saaremaa, Estonia**, dedicated to sustainably valorizing **local red seaweed** into high value, high-quality products.

- Why seaweed?
 - Abundant, underutilized red seaweed resources in Saaremaa
 - **Local resource → High-value products + promoting sustainability and rural development**
- Why biostimulant?
 - Other ideas were explored (ex: pigment for cosmetics)
 - Biostimulants have best **performance, market traction**, and potential for a **strong business case**.
 - Effective and natural solutions for enhancing plant growth and yield in a sustainable way
- Regulatory hurdles:
 - Understanding of regulations like **CE certification** and **REACH**
 - Extensive testing and detailed documentation to validate product claims and ensure compliance.

Upscaling in the blue economy: not straightforward

❖ **Global phenomenon:**

- Much research TRL 2 – 5, little scale-up to pilot or commercial scale
- Slower than in similar sustainable technology areas
- Corporates and financial institutions are reluctant

❖ **Barriers partially identified:**

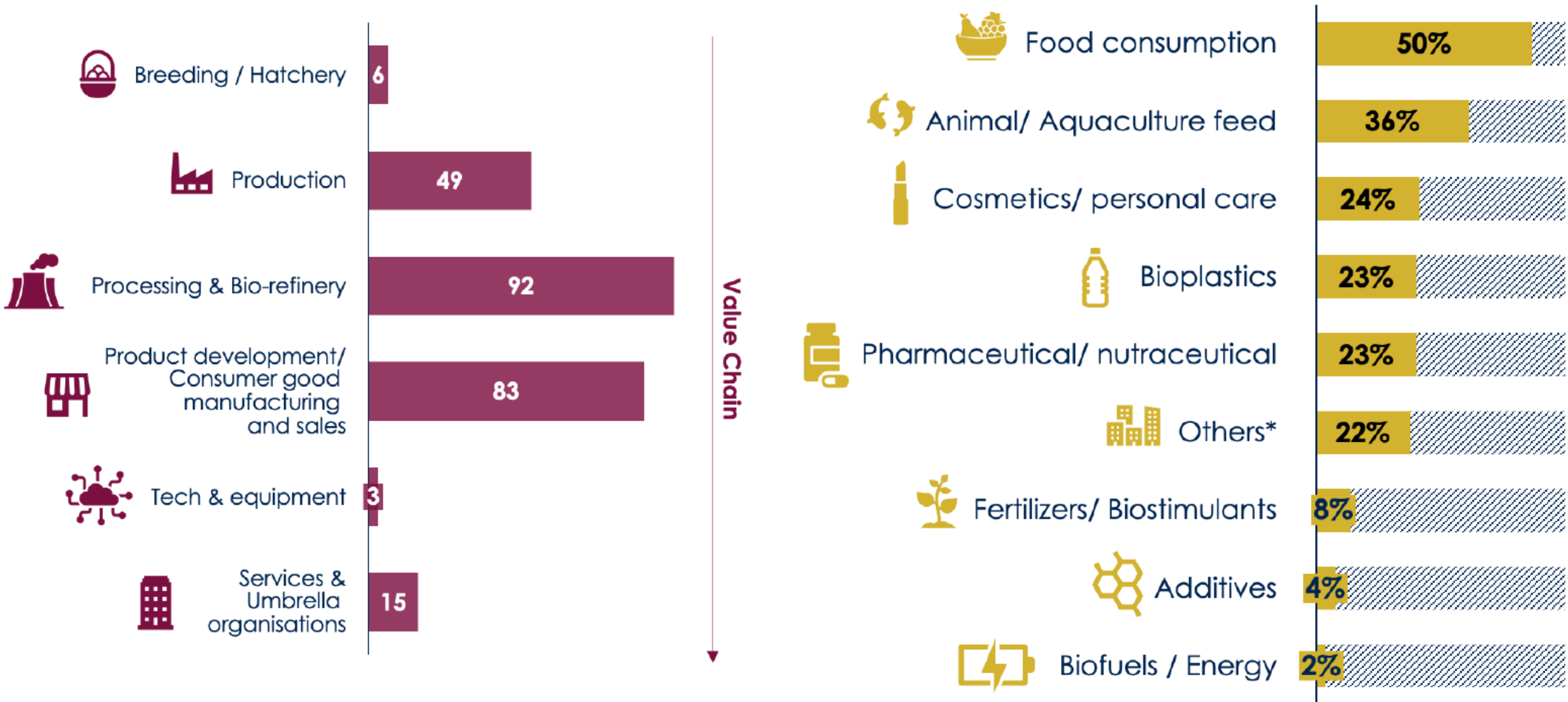
- Sea as investible topic: not visible
- Economies of scale, risk / return unknown, no parameters or benchmarks
- Lack of talent ready to lead technically complex, longer-horizon company development
- Understanding of and trust in blue economy related investments with asset owners / managers (patient capital)
- A complex operating environment leading to a long development and funding cycle → Inherently more risky and capital intensive

❖ **Seaweed is exception: 'on trend'**

Investor's interest in seaweed companies by stage of value chain and application

Investor's interest breakdown by stage of value chain and seaweed application

(within the 138 investors' tickets mapped)

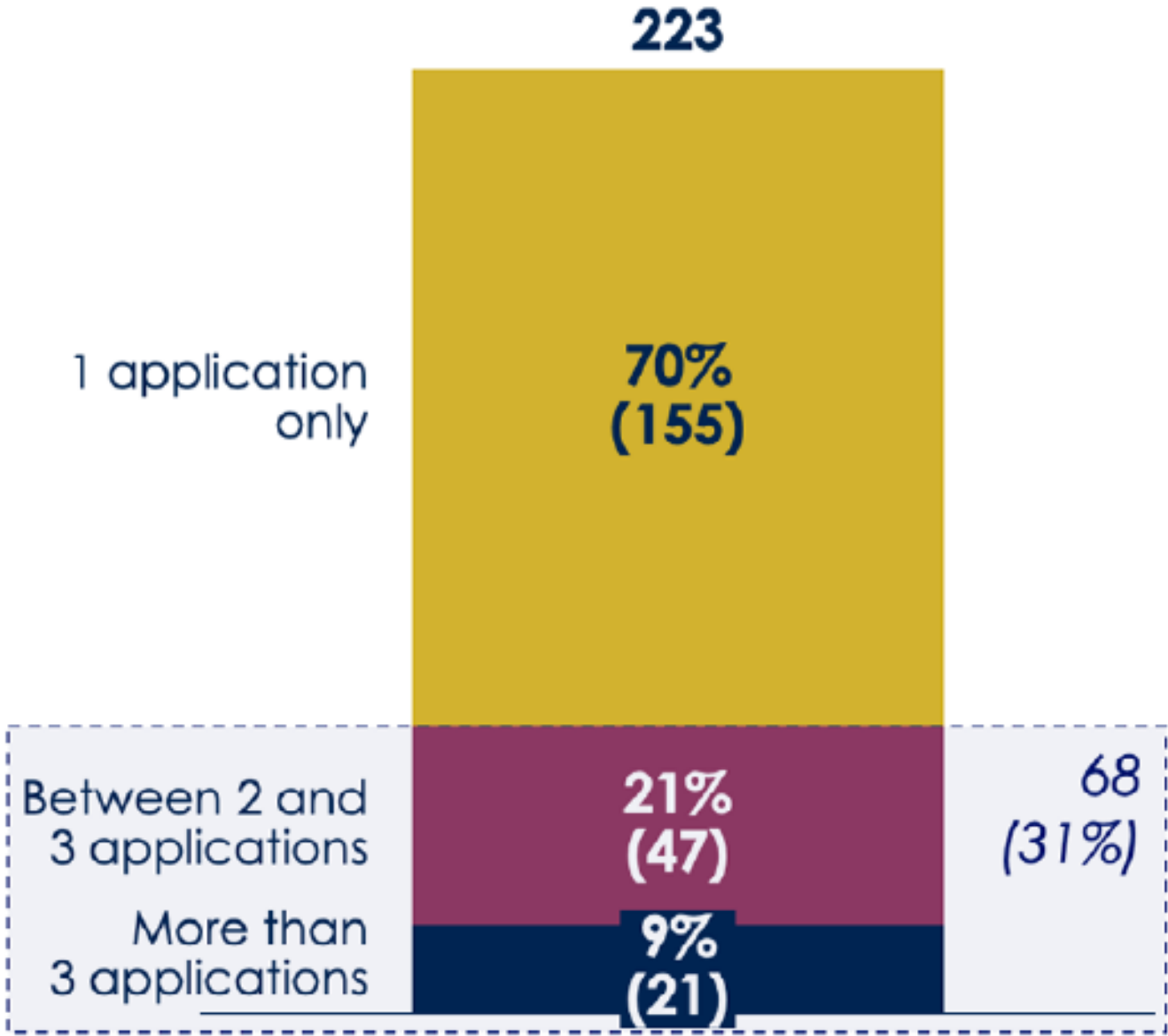
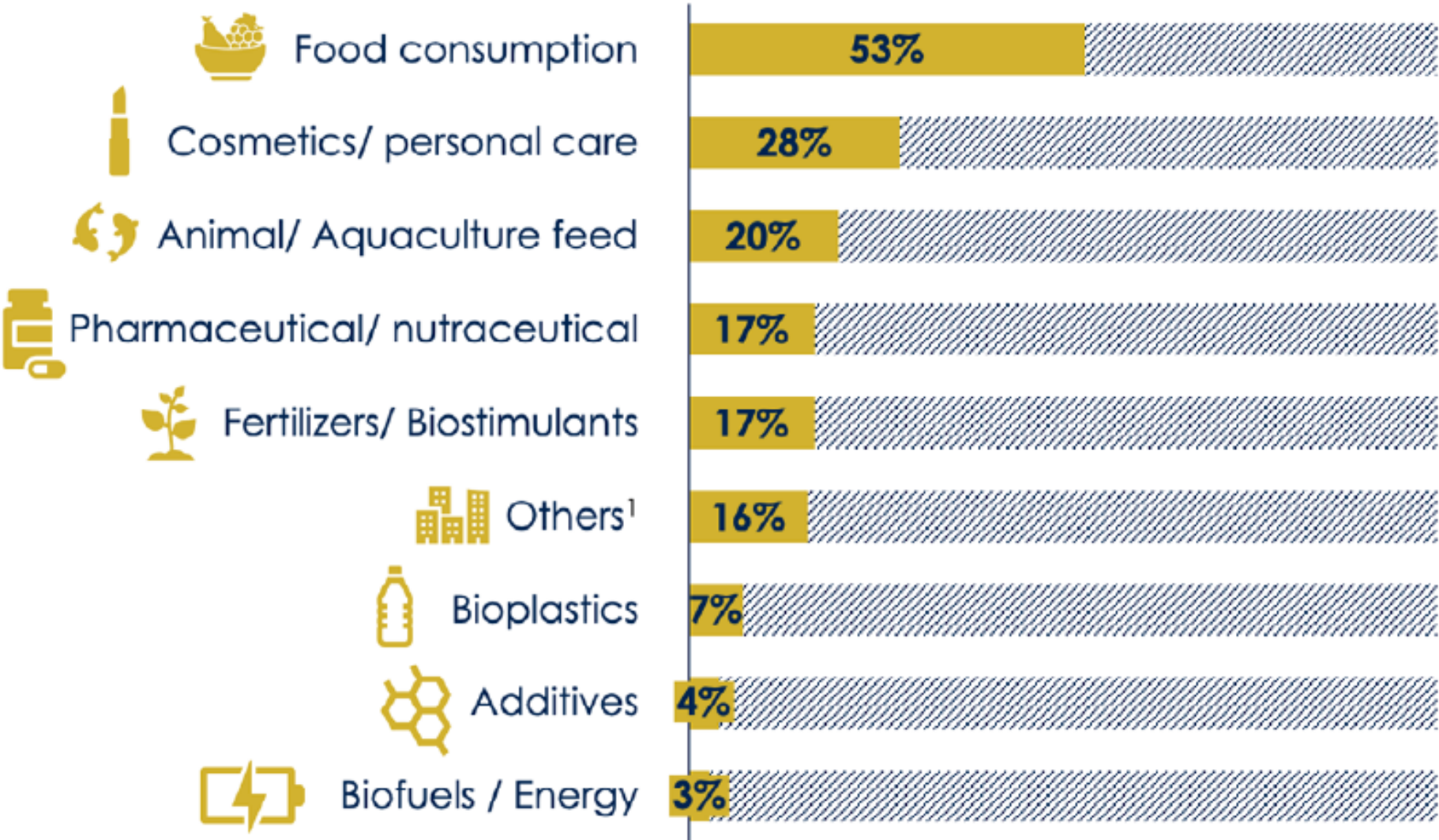


applications – single vs. multiple

– Single application focus prevails

Pipeline breakdown by type of application

(% of companies within the 223 organisations screened)



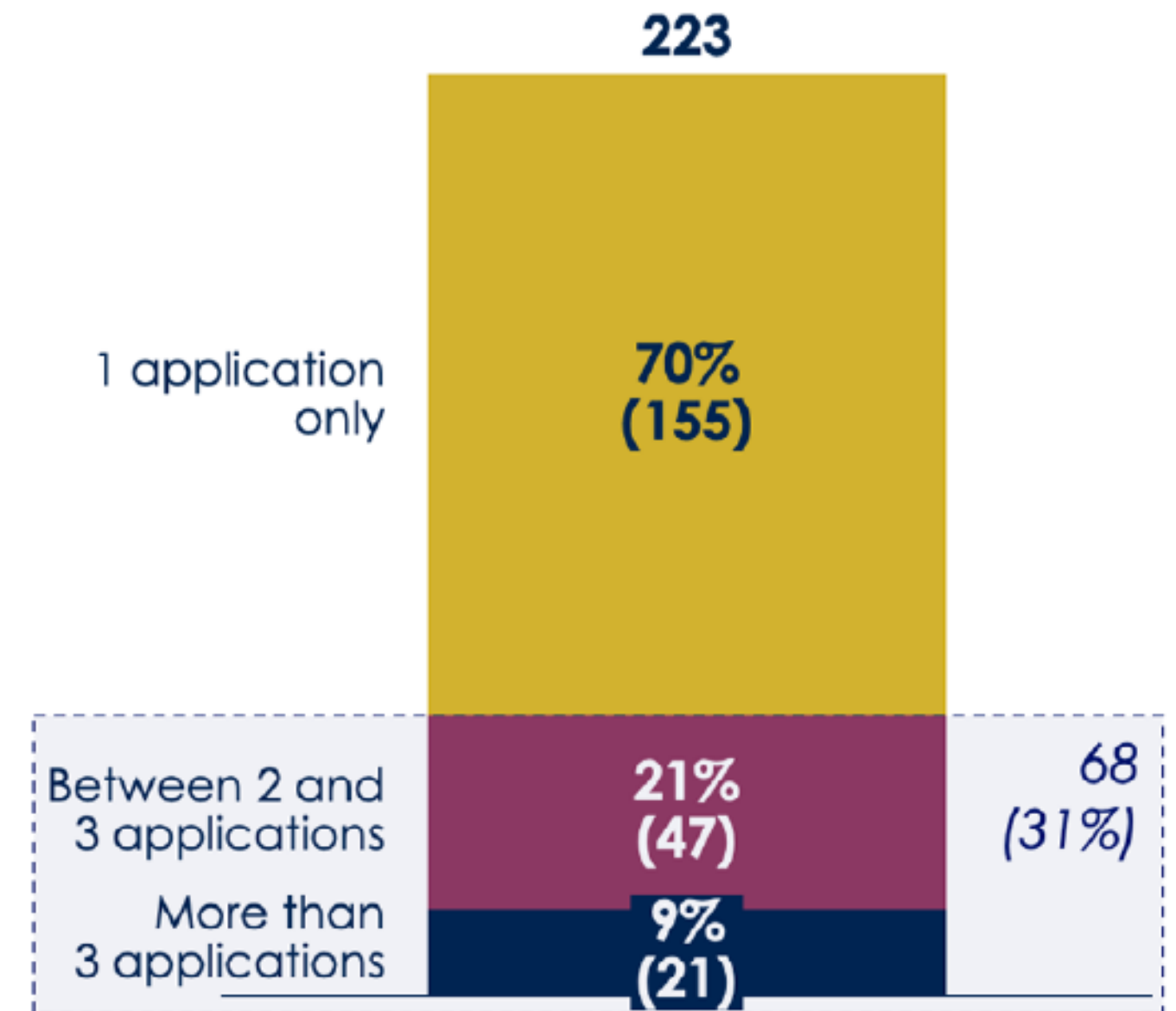
Multiple applications

Combinations:

- 10% cosmetics, pharma & food
- 10% cosmetics and food consumption
- 9% pharma/nutraceutical and food consumption business
- 7% animal feed and fertilizer business

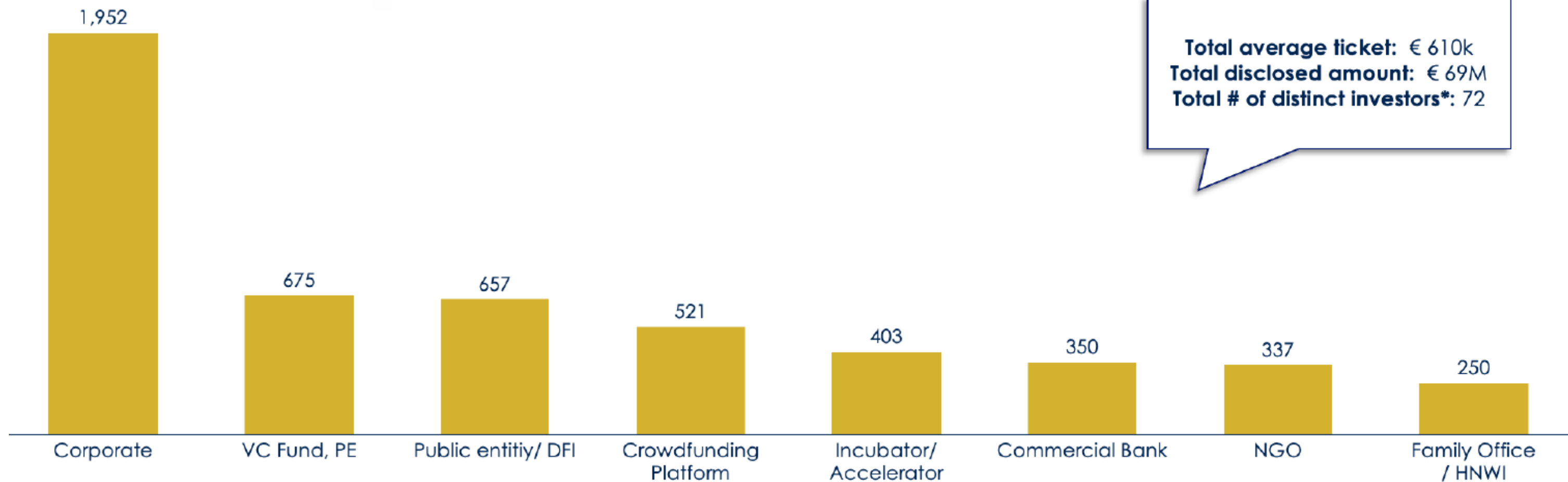
Seaweed biostimulant (184 companies, 2023):

- 42% has other applications in portfolio
- Feed > Food ~ Hydrocolloids > Personal care



Average ticket size in seaweed business

(in '000 EUR, considering only the 67 deals with disclosed amount)



Total average ticket: € 610k
Total disclosed amount: € 69M
Total # of distinct investors*: 72

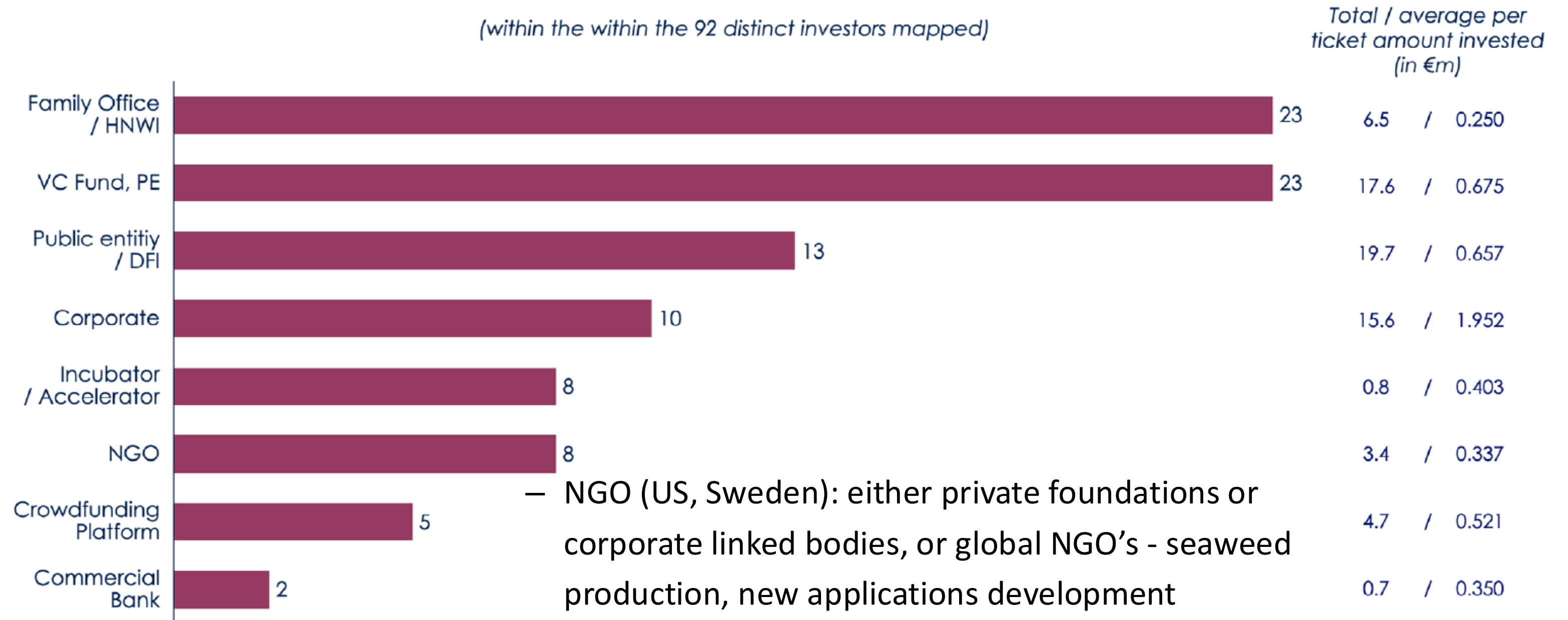
Total disclosed amount invested ('000 EUR)

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| 15,618 | 17,557 | 19,719 | 4,693 | 806 | 700 | 3,374 | 6,504 |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|

of distinct investors per background

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| 6 | 19 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 19 |
|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|

Investor types



- NGO (US, Sweden): either private foundations or corporate linked bodies, or global NGO's - seaweed production, new applications development
- Public entities: EU (EASME, EMFF), national bodies (UK coastal communities fund, regional (conseil regional d'acquitaine)



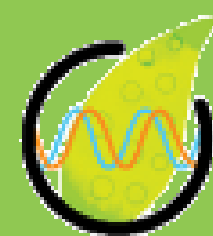
GAME

Genetic **A**pproaches and cultivation protocols to unravel **M**etabolite production of *Porphyra* spp. targeted towards human and plant health applications

Jessica Knoop, NIOZ/Ghent University

(Jessica.knoop@nioz.nl)

Olivier De Clerck (UGent), Jana Asselman (UGent), Kris Audenaert (UGent), Klaas Timmermans (NIOZ), Ilias Semmouri (UGent), Silke Deketelaere (UGent), Noémie De Zutter (UGent), Silke Bouckennooghe (UGent), Jordi Morcillo (UGent), Dorien Derksen (NIOZ), Jesse van Groenigen (NIOZ), Andrea Romero Pérez (Biomares), Maaïke Perneel (Business Developer), Margriet Drouillon (Business Developer), Ximena Reynafarje (Innovation Officer)



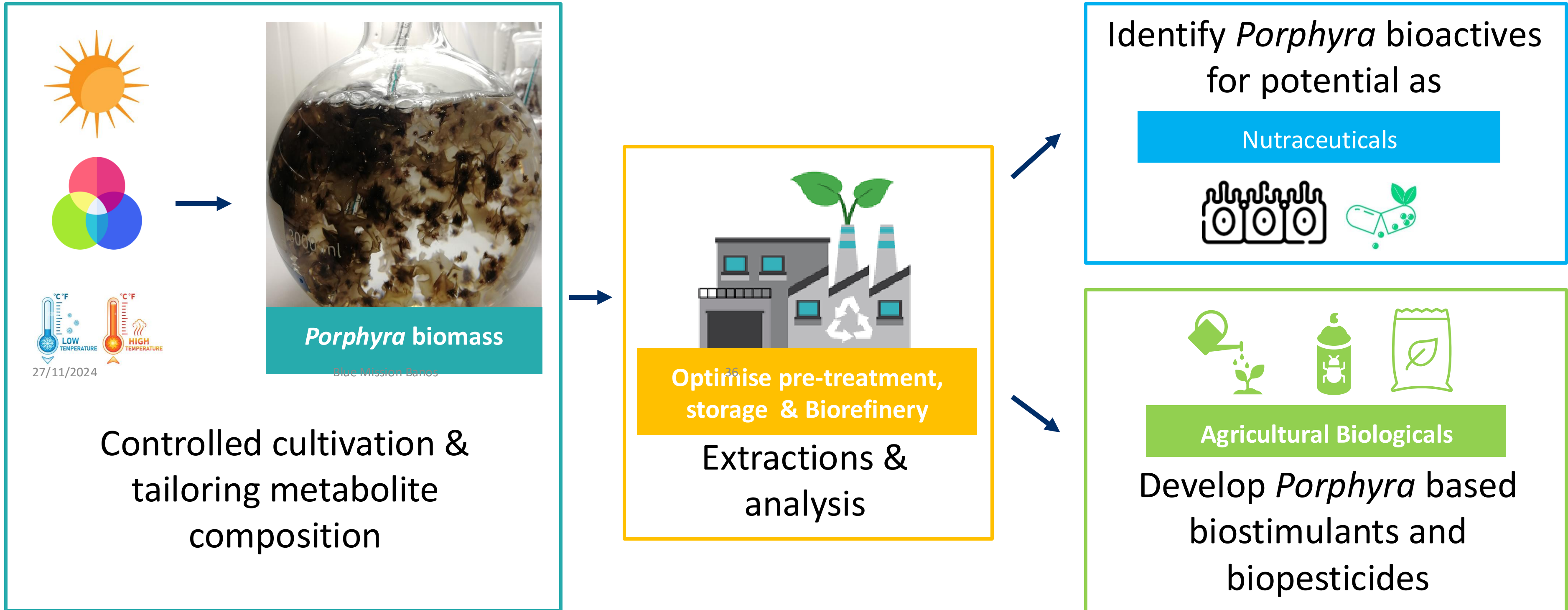
Provision of consistently high-quality bioactive compounds...

...for nutraceuticals, biostimulants and biocontrol industries

- Seaweeds = essential link in the development of a [circular](#) bioeconomy
- *Porphyra* (red alga):
 - occurs in the North Sea
 - fast growth
 - rich in [bioactive metabolites](#)
 - dynamic physiological response
 - can be cultivated on land and at sea



Our approach: Optimise, identify and develop



Controlled cultivation & tailoring metabolite composition

- close the existing knowledge gaps on the life cycle variations
- define environmental conditions to trigger asexual or sexual reproduction
- define optimal abiotic stressors for enhanced bioactive compound content

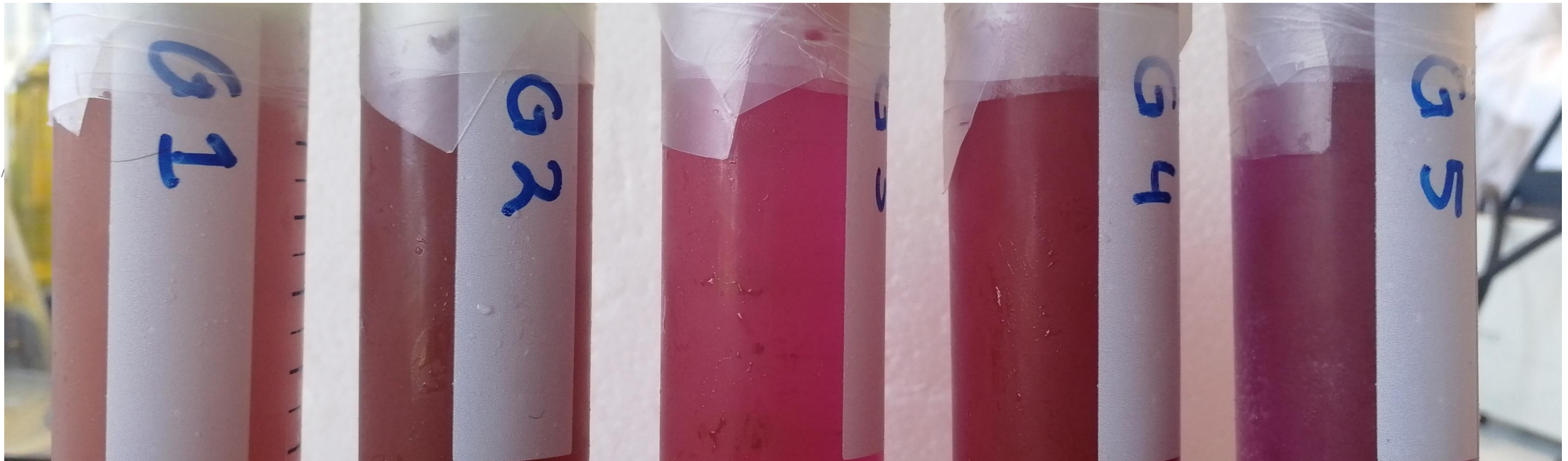


Extractions & analysis

- Effects of post-harvest treatments
- Extraction and fractionation
- Biochemical analysis (C/N, pigments, MAAs, antioxidants, amino acids)

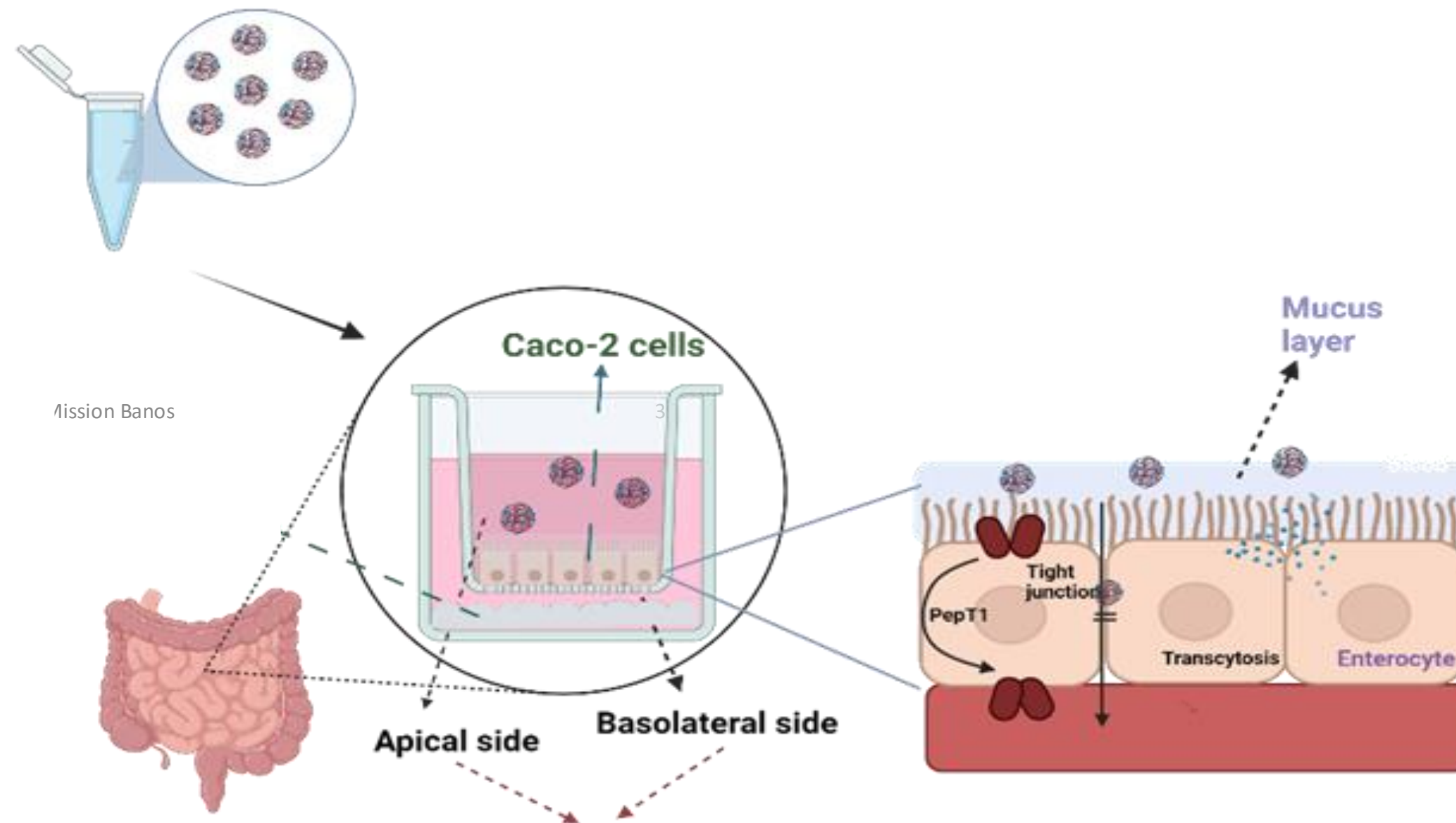


27/11/



Evaluate bioactivity of extracts for nutraceutical activity

- confirm stability and uptake of seaweed bioactive compounds in the human digestive system



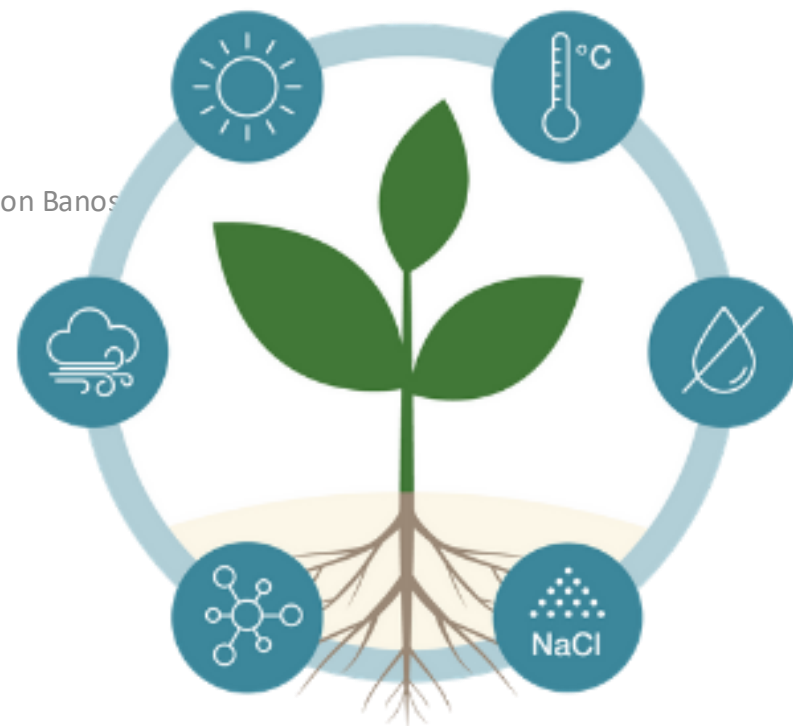
Evaluate *Porphyra* extracts as biostimulants and biopesticides

- Evaluate the crude *Porphyra* extracts for selected traits
 - Fungicidal activity, UV protectant, resistance inducers, biostimulants
- Bioactivity-based extract optimization/fractionation

27/11/2024

Blue Mission Banos

40





Thank you!

BLUE MISSION BANOS

Supporting the Mission
Ocean Lighthouse in the
Baltic and North Sea Basins

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



3rd MISSION ARENA 26-27 November 2024 Amsterdam

REGIONAL FOCUS ARENA 3

The Netherlands
BELGIUM
DENMARK | West
GERMANY | West
FRANCE | North





3rd MISSION ARENA
26-27 November 2024 | Amsterdam

TRANSFORMING BREWERY WASTE INTO AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS: CIRCULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ALGAL REMEDIATION

Dr Alla Silkina, Swansea University

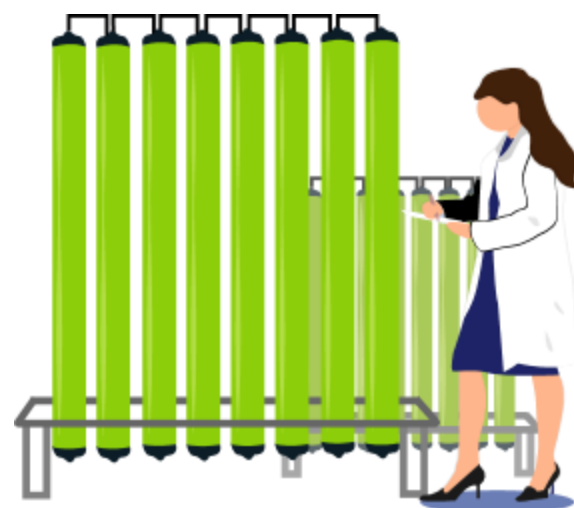
27 November, 11:15-13:00am
Hall 4



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



MicroALGAE



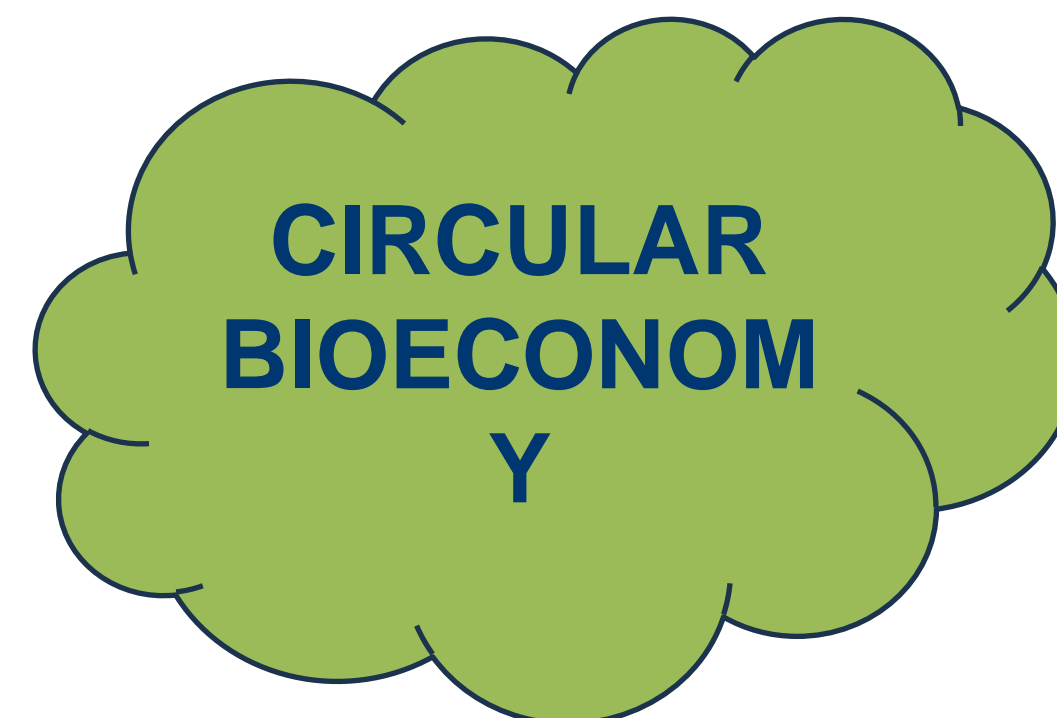
BIOFERTILISERS

BIOSTIMULANTS

TRANSFORM WASTE NUTRIENTS to Valuable PRODUCTS

Interreg 
North-West Europe
ALG-AD
European Regional Development Fund

Interreg 
North-West Europe
IDEA
European Regional Development Fund

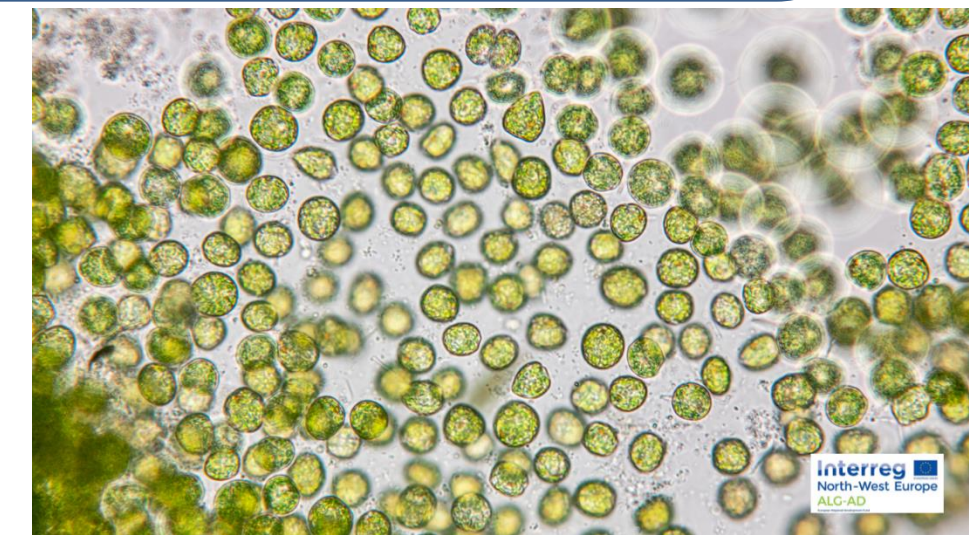


Swansea University Algal Biotechnology

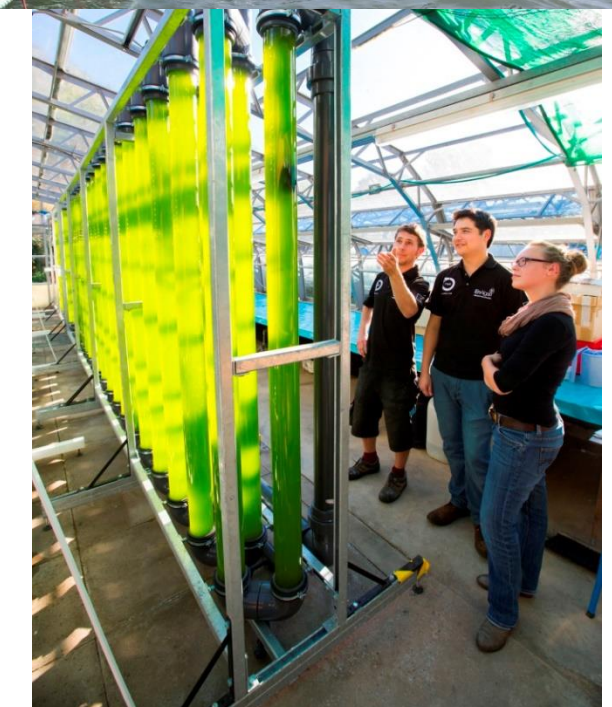
- Algal collections ~ 27 species for mass cultivation (Sterile cultures 20ml → 2L → 20L Carboys)
- 20 x 100L batch culture capacity, controlled environment lab
- 2 x 800L Biofences, greenhouse
- 1 x 1000L Phyco-Flow glass PBR,
- 1 x 2000L PBR, greenhouse
- 1 x 4000L vertical PBR, from industrial location
- 3 x 1,000L Phyco-Ponds Raceways



- Pilot dewatering facilities membrane filtration: MF, UF, DF
- Continuous flow-centrifuge 200 L/hours
- Industrial freeze dryer /Spray drier
- Homogeniser and bead mill



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe



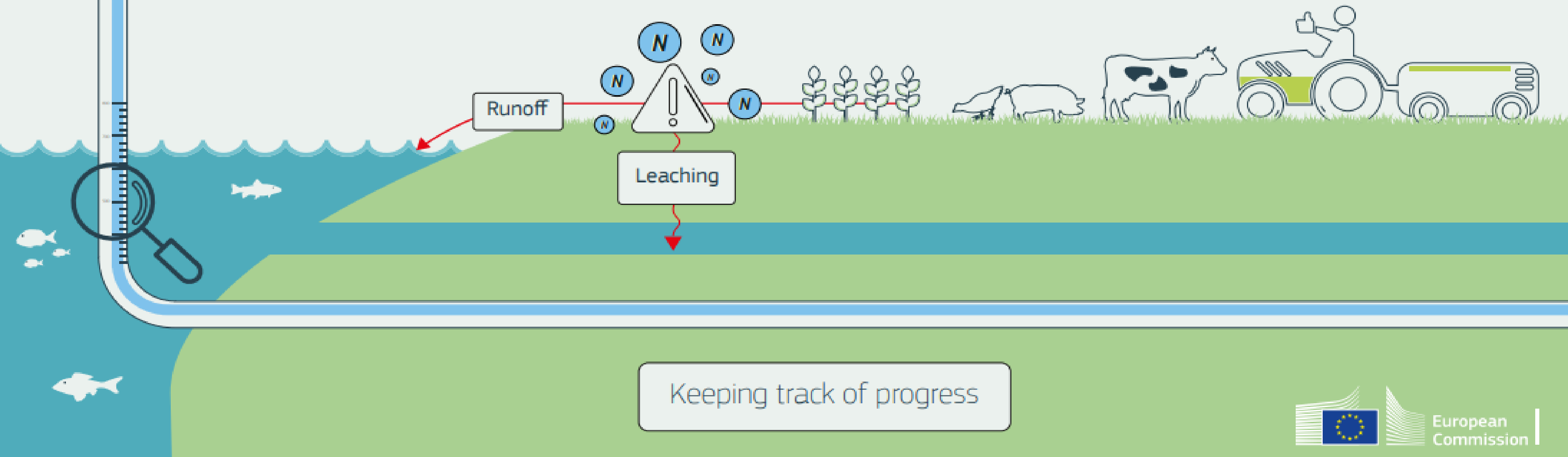
ALG – AD BACKGROUND

The EU wants to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates used in agriculture and sets out steps for EU countries to take

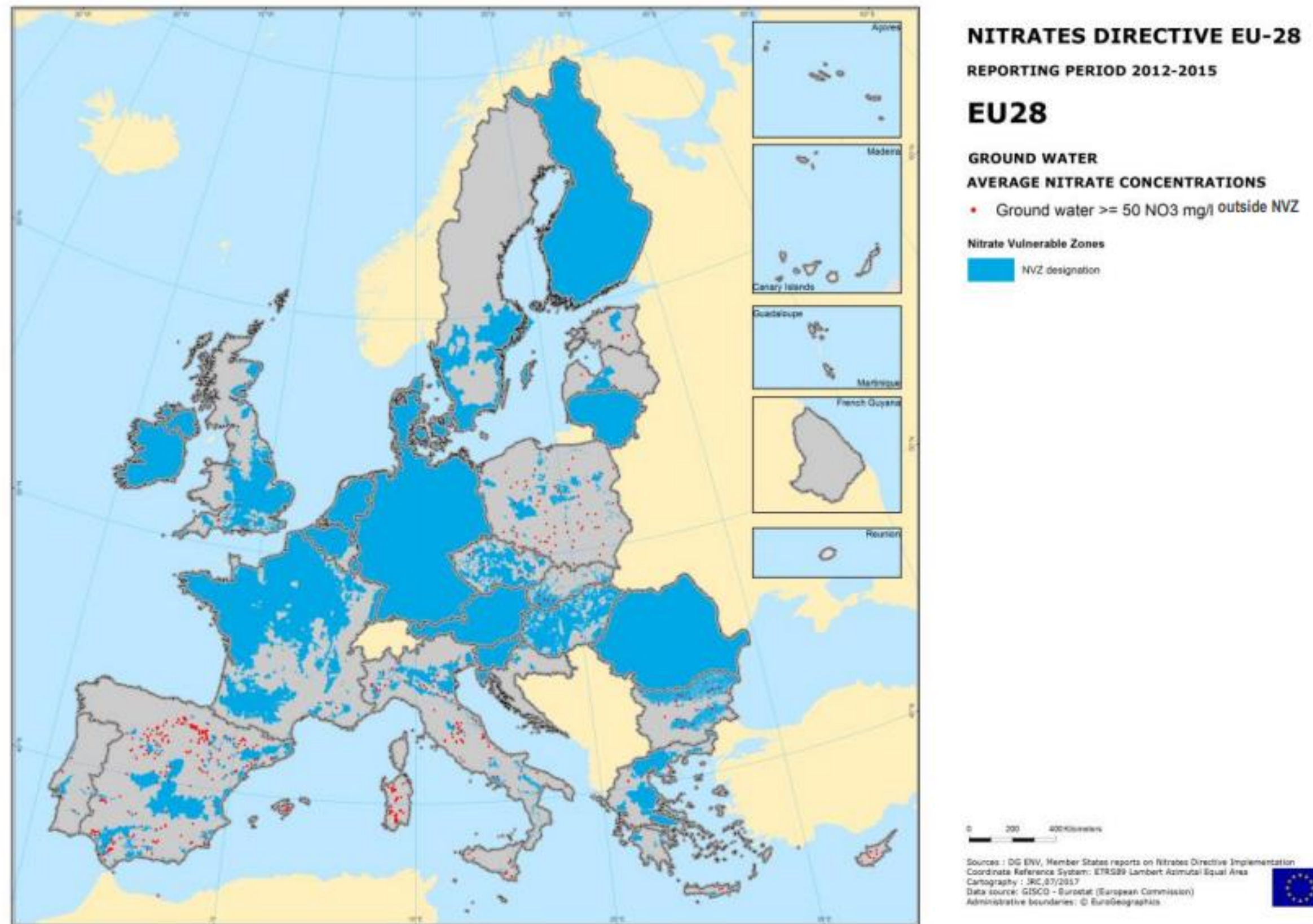
Monitoring of water bodies with regard to nitrate concentrations

Designation of nitrate vulnerable zones

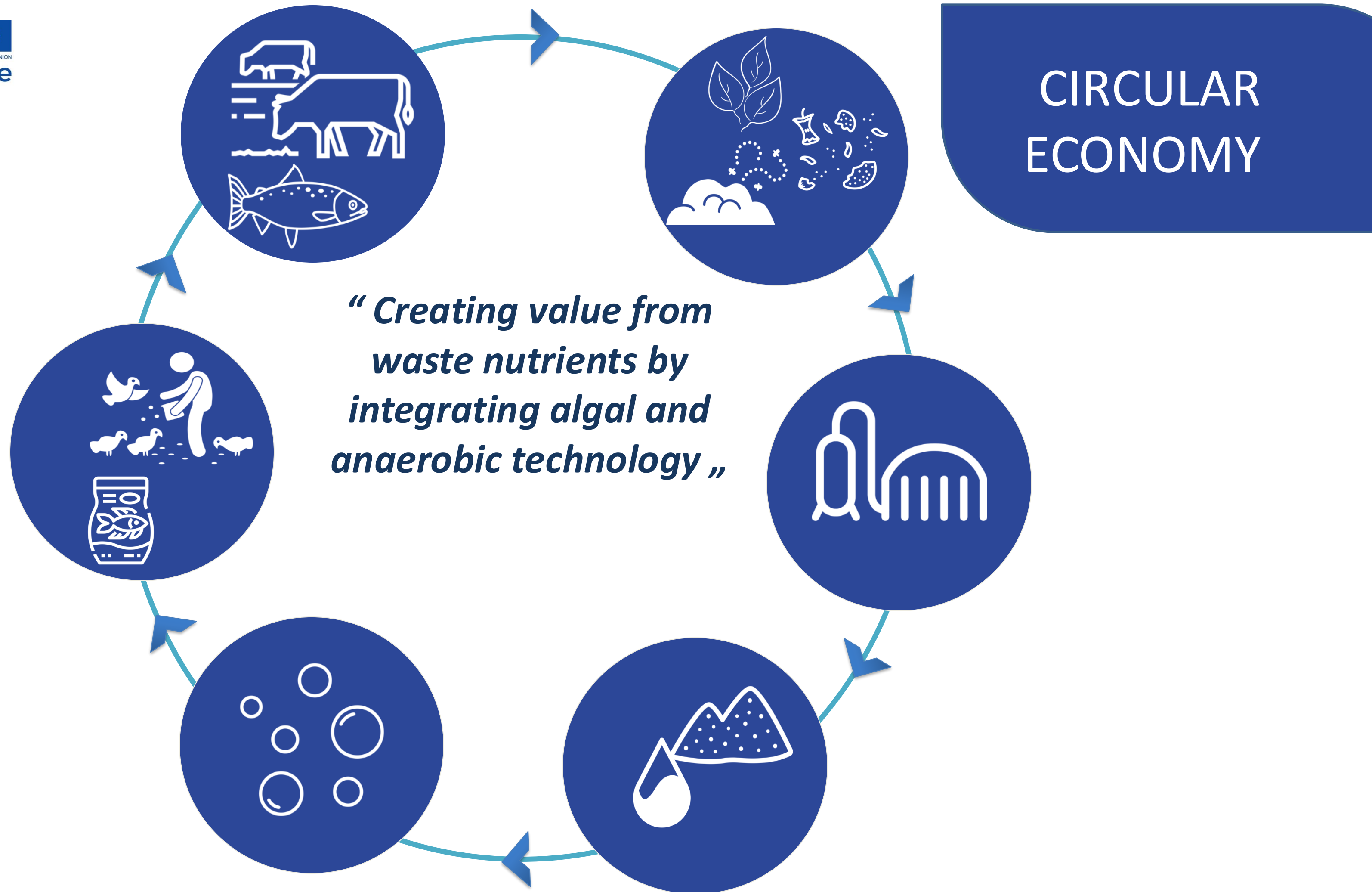
Establishing codes of good agricultural practices and measures to prevent and reduce water pollution from nitrates



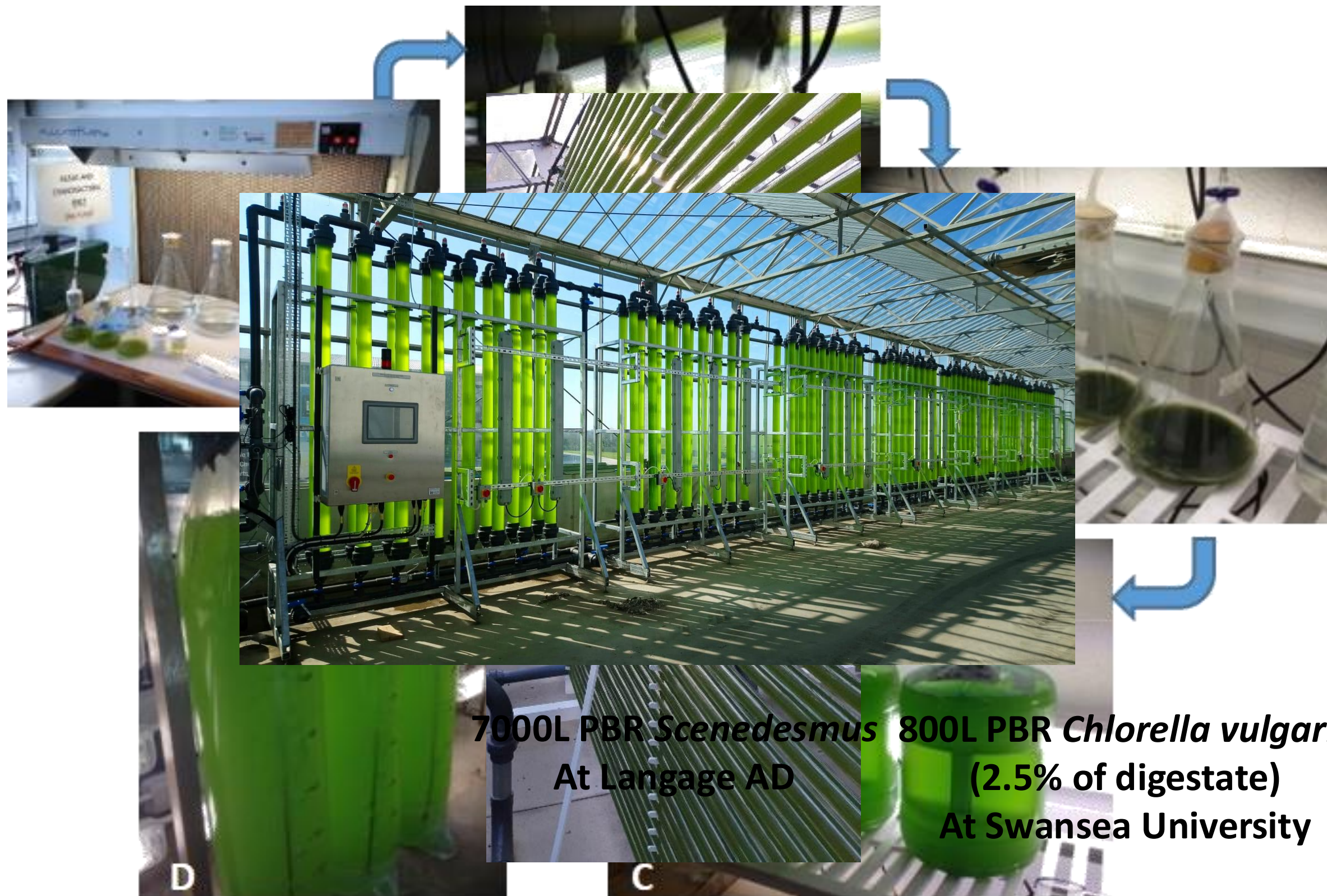
NITRATES VULNERABLE ZONES IN EUROPE



Map A. Area designated as Nitrates Vulnerable Zone and groundwater monitoring stations with average nitrates concentrations above 50mg/L outside NVZ, period 2012-2015⁴⁴.



FROM LAB TO PILOT SITE

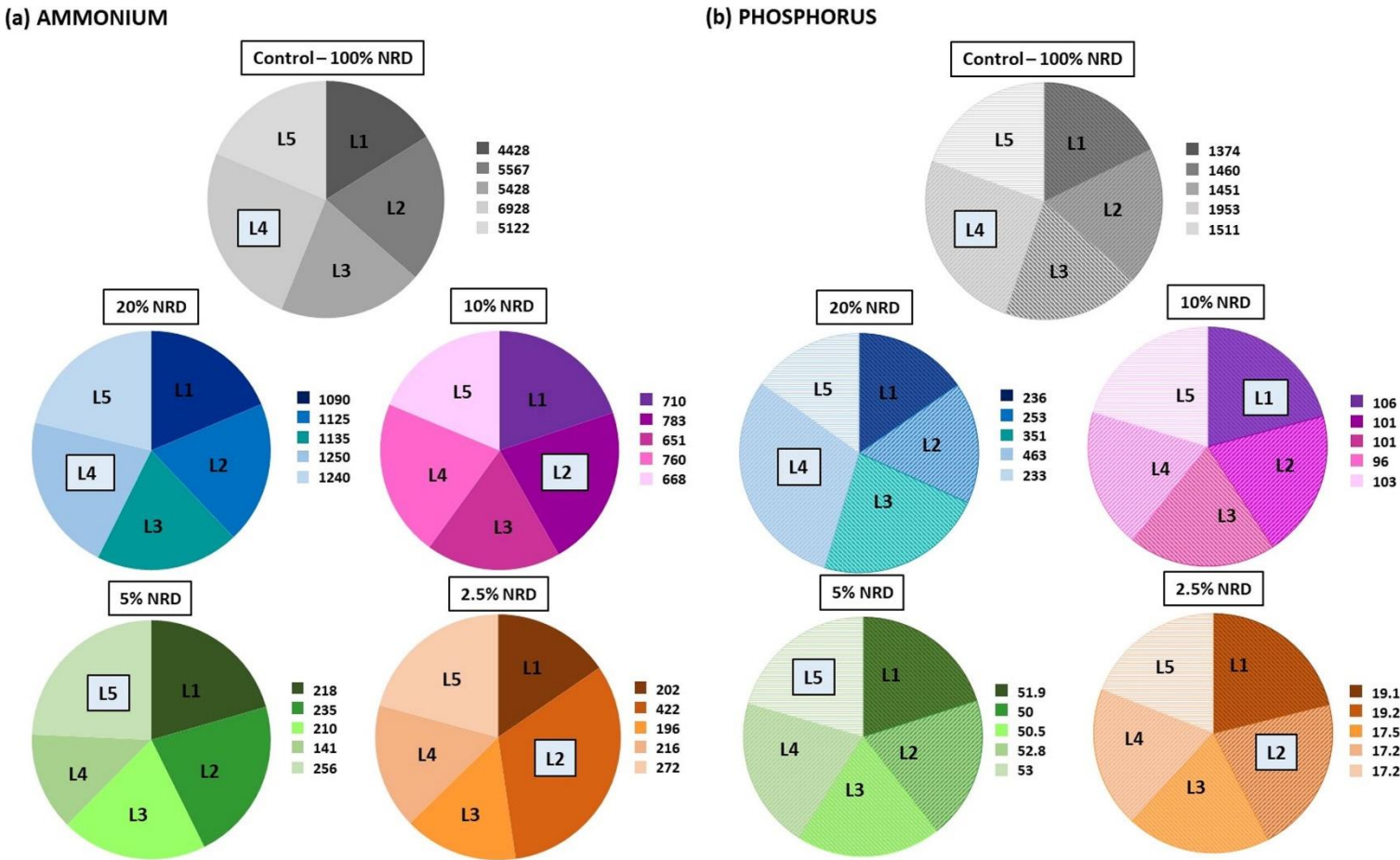


Agricultural waste remediation

- Liquid waste after the AD process, initial feedstock: food waste, milk by-products and others
 - Pre-treatment of the waste and digestate
 - Com
- Methods: filtration



| | Ammonium NH4+ (g/L) | Total Nitrogen N (g/L) | Phosphorus P (g/L) |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Raw waste | 4.01 | 5.17 | 0.66 |
| Micro-filtered | 3.15±0.22 | 4.05±0.28 | 0.05±0.001 |
| Ultra-filtered | 1.43±0.33 | 1.84±0.43 | 0.02±0.001 |
| Nano-filtered | 1.94±0.18 | 2.49±0.23 | 0.02±0.0002 |



Silkina, 2019; Fernandes et al, 2020

THREE PILOTE FACILITIES

 Langage AD,
Plymouth



 Cooperl,
Lamballe



 Innolab,
Ghent

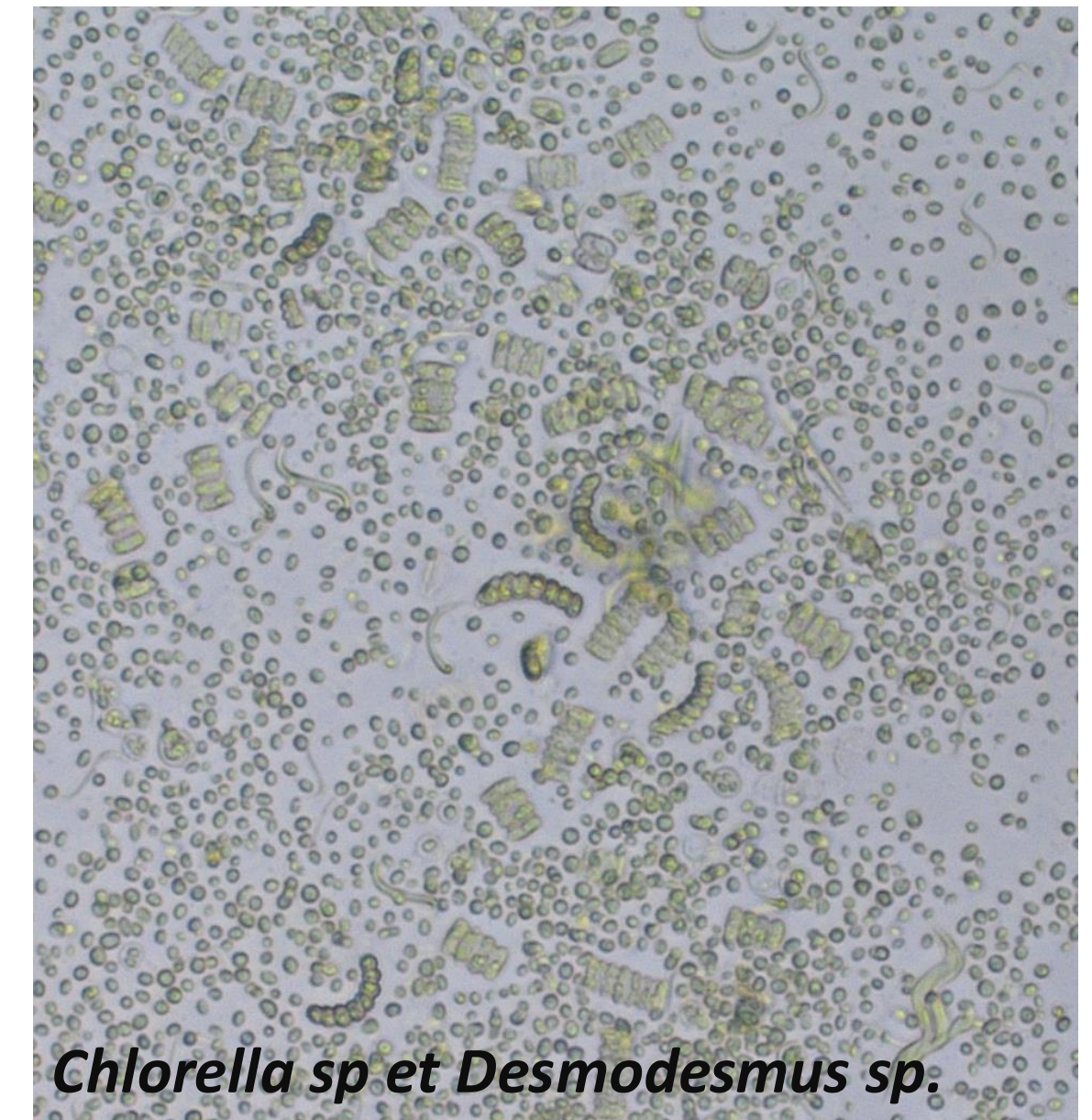
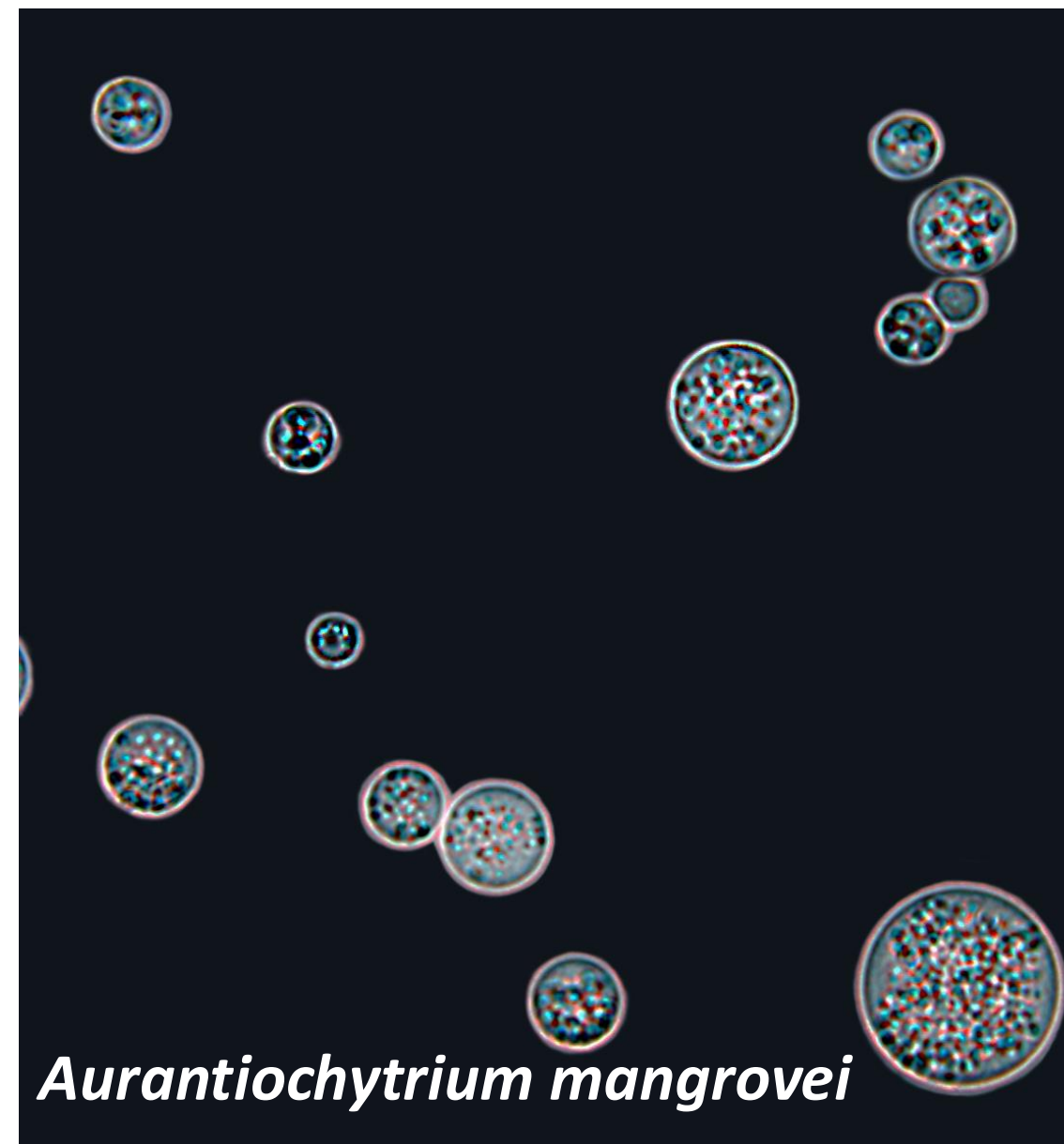
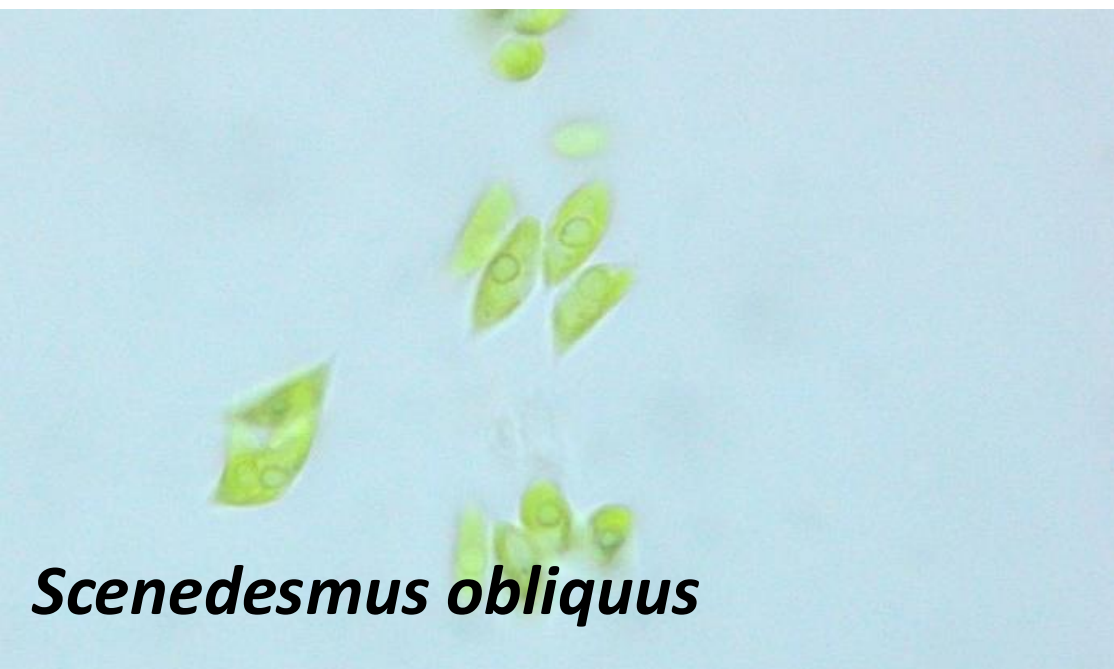
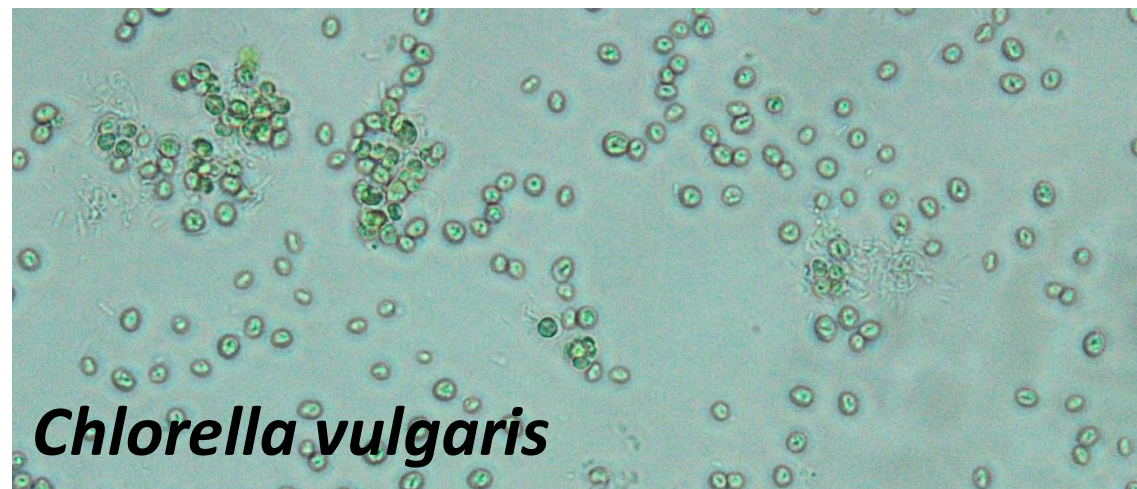


THREE PILOTE FACILITIES

 Langage AD,
Plymouth

 Cooperl,
Lamballe

 Innolab,
Ghent



THREE PILOTE FACILITIES



Langage AD,
Plymouth

2.5% digestate (80 mg/L
 NH_4^+)

7 days of cultivation

10 g/L glucose in mixo phase

14 g/L final biomass

20 mg/L/day N uptake



Cooperl,
Lamballe

2.5% digestate (70 mg/L
 NH_4^+)

2 days of cultivation

20 g/L glucose, 2 g/L yeast
extract, 2 g/L peptone

4 g/L final biomass

35 mg/L/day N uptake



Innolab,
Ghent

2.5% digestate (50 mg/L
 NH_4^+)

7 days of cultivation

No external nutrients

1.7 g/L final biomass

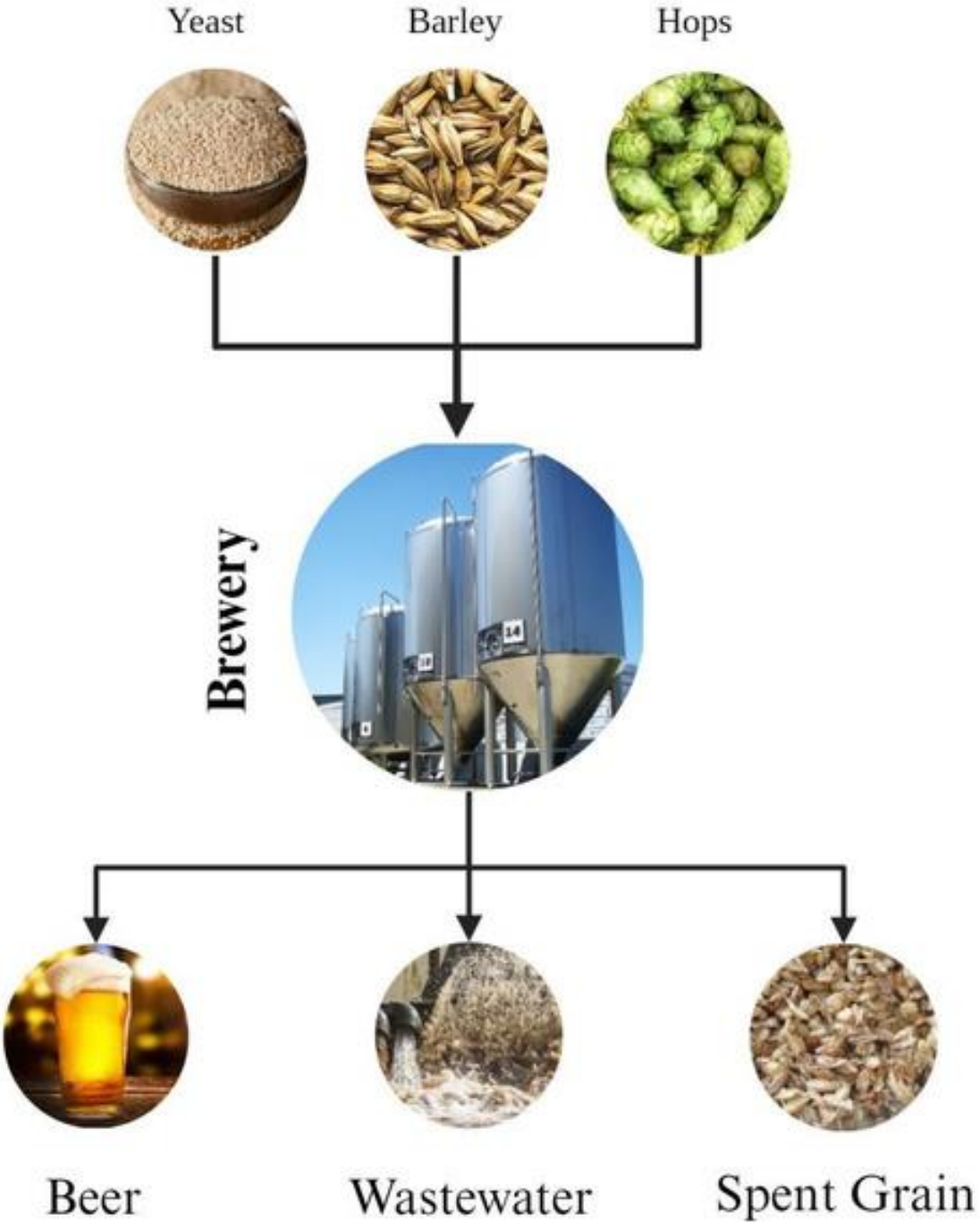
20 mg/L/day N uptake

ALGAL BIOMASS USE

- High concentration of proteins, pigments and fatty acids
 - 70% of protein content
- Hydrolysatation for the functional protein fractionation
- Animal feed development and testing for pigs and fish



The Problem: Breweries and wastewater



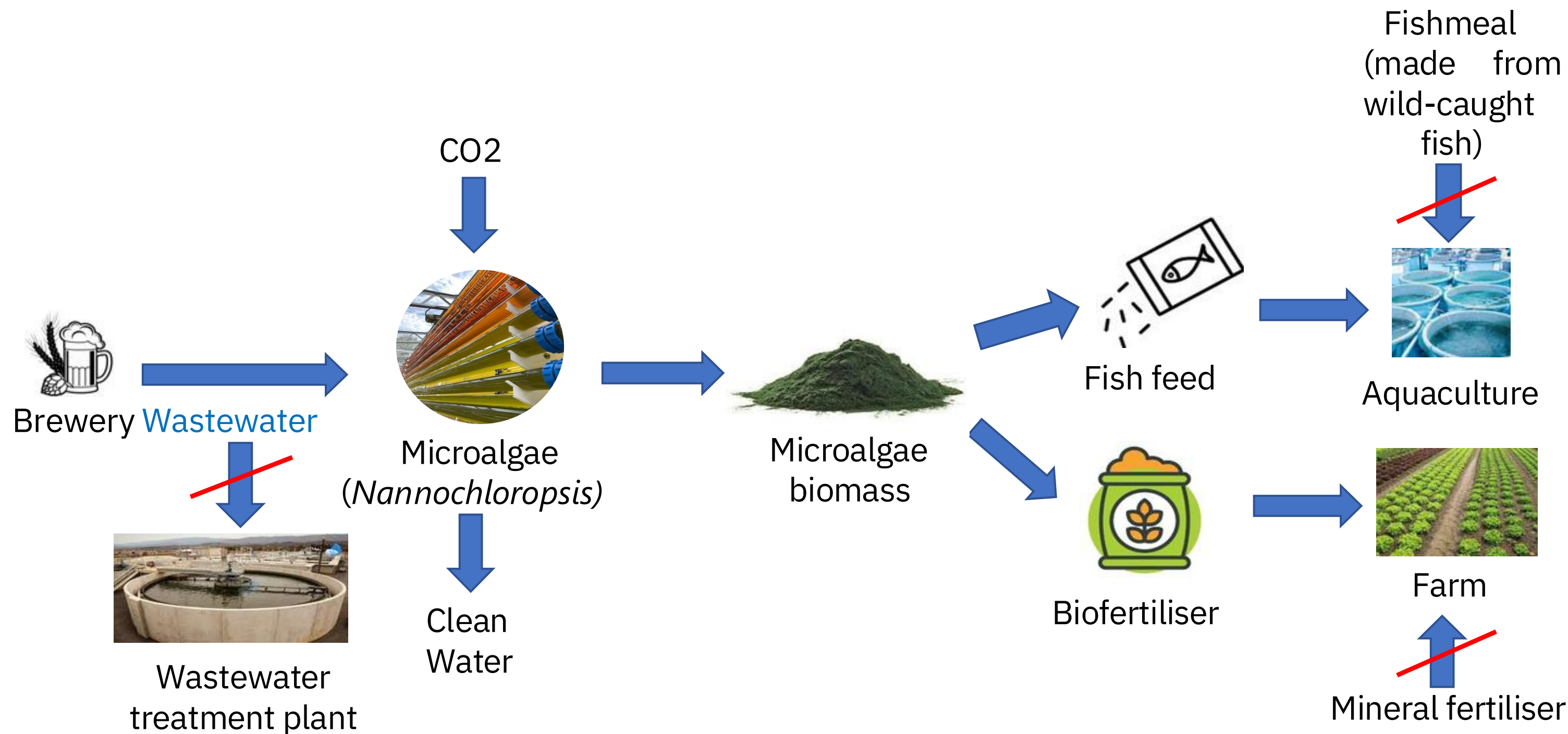
Brewery Wastewater Treatment

Complex multi-step treatment
Energy intensive
Long residence time
Chemical heavy



| | | |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 52B. Litres | 156-520B. Litres | 10B. Kilograms |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|

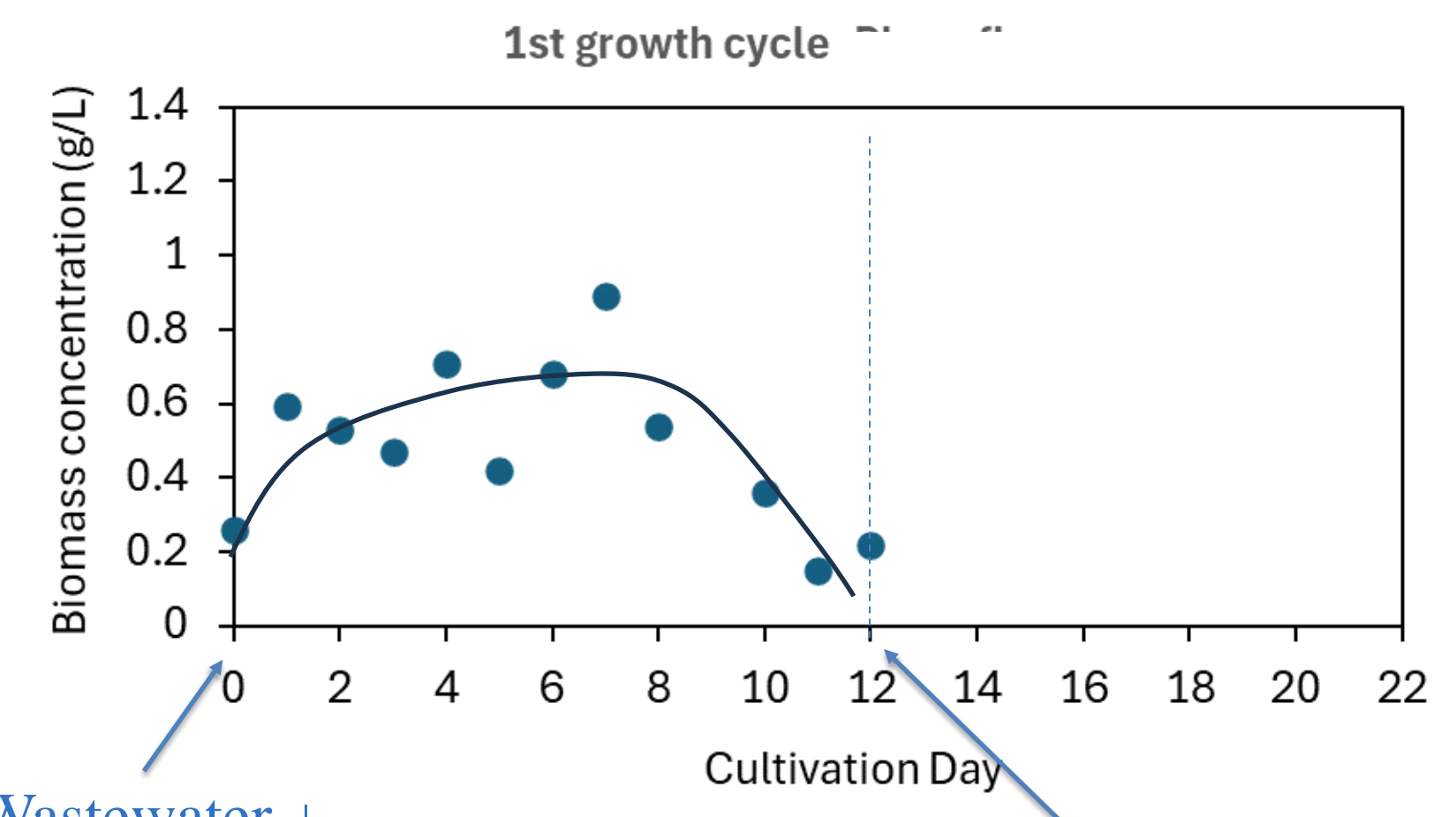
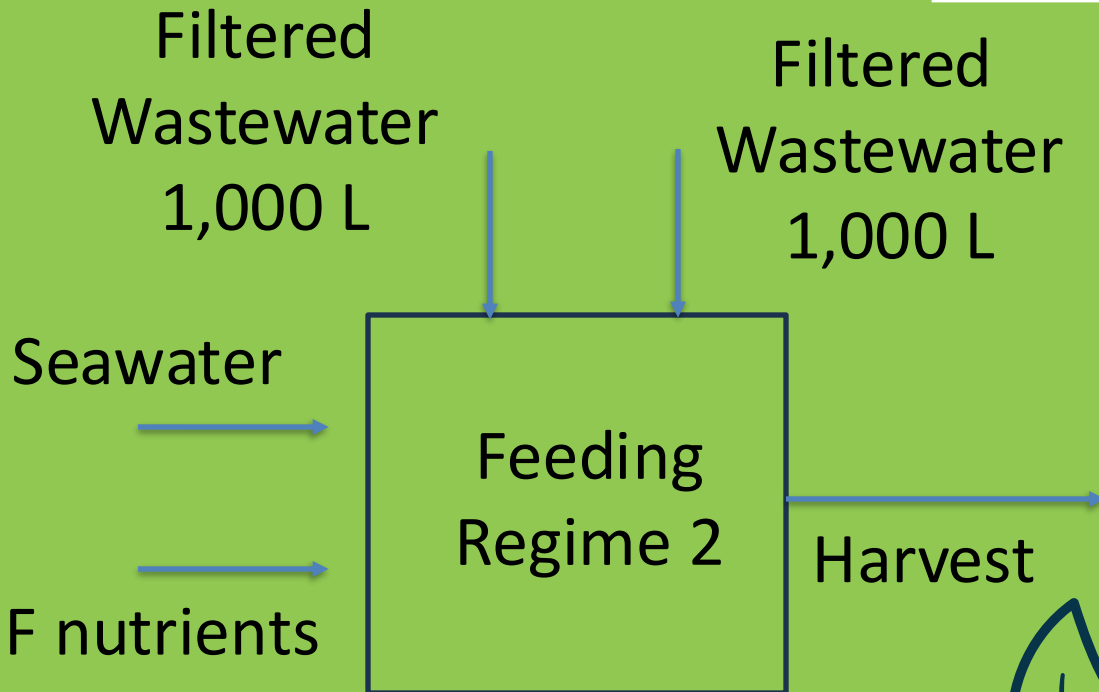
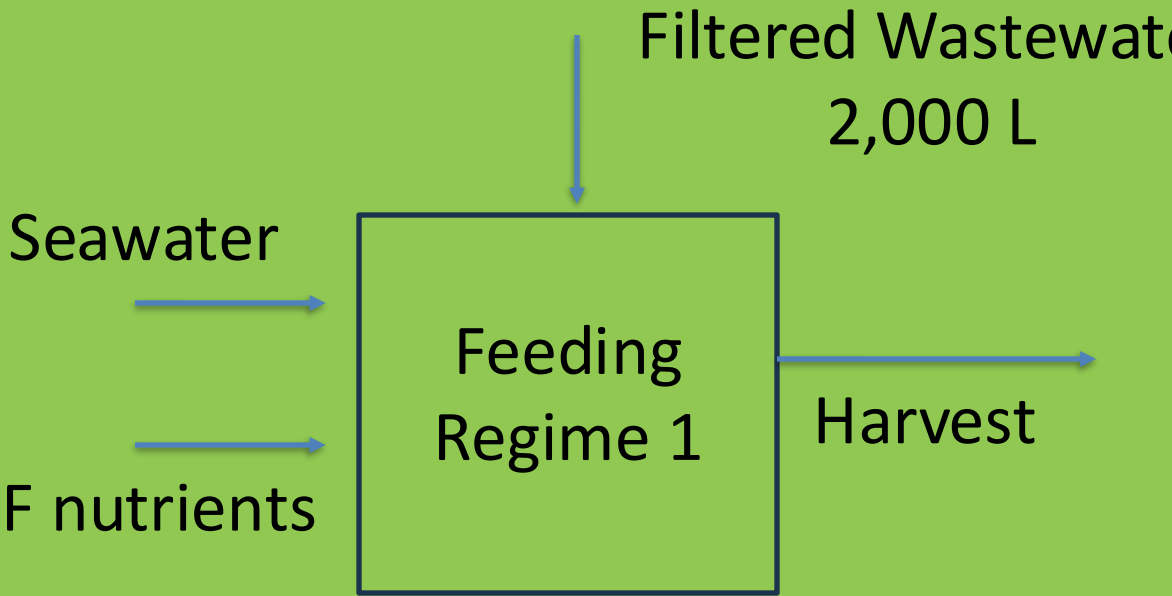
AlgaeBrewProject Scope



Pilot scale-up

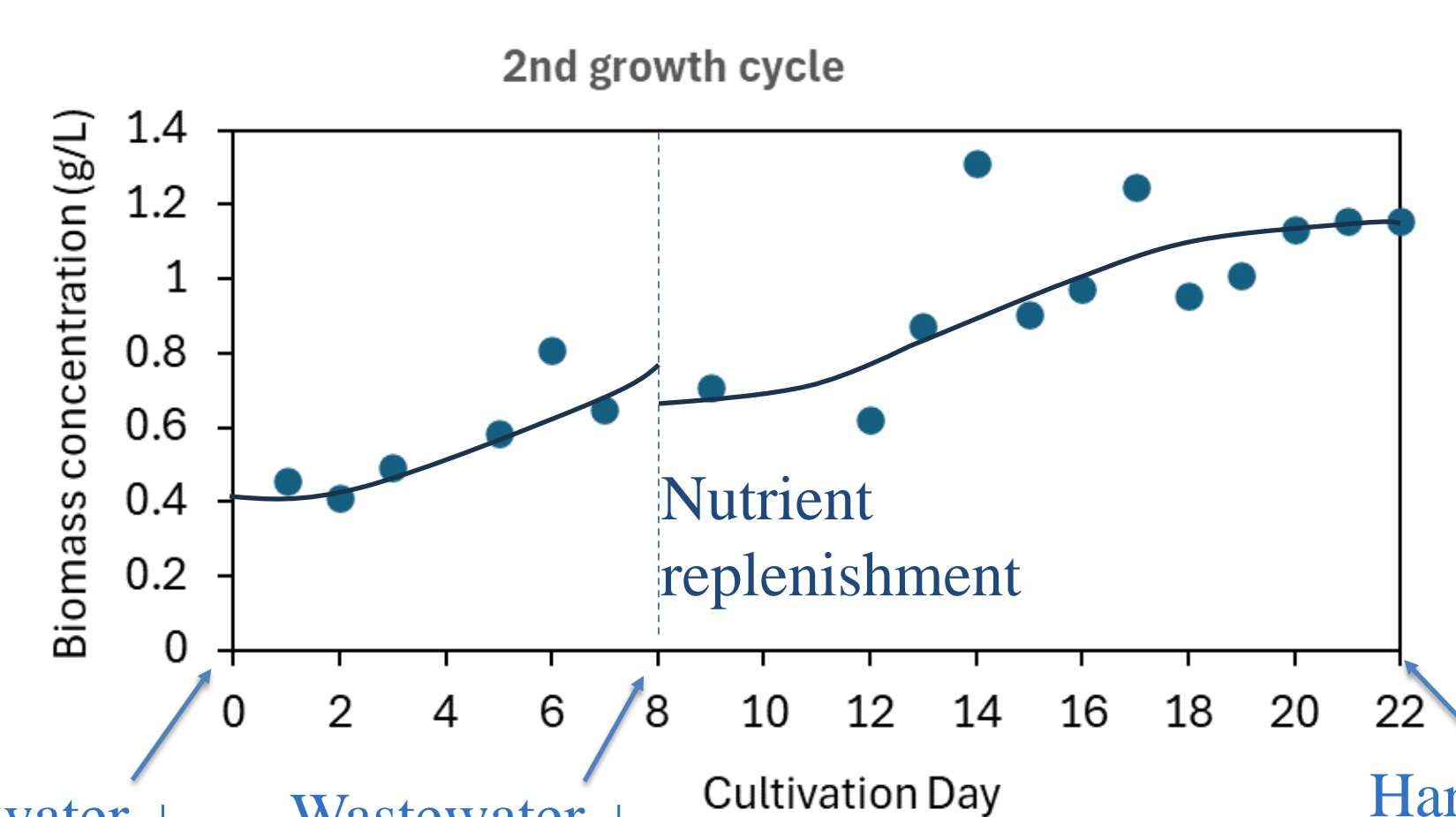


#EU4Algae



Wastewater +
f medium

Harvest

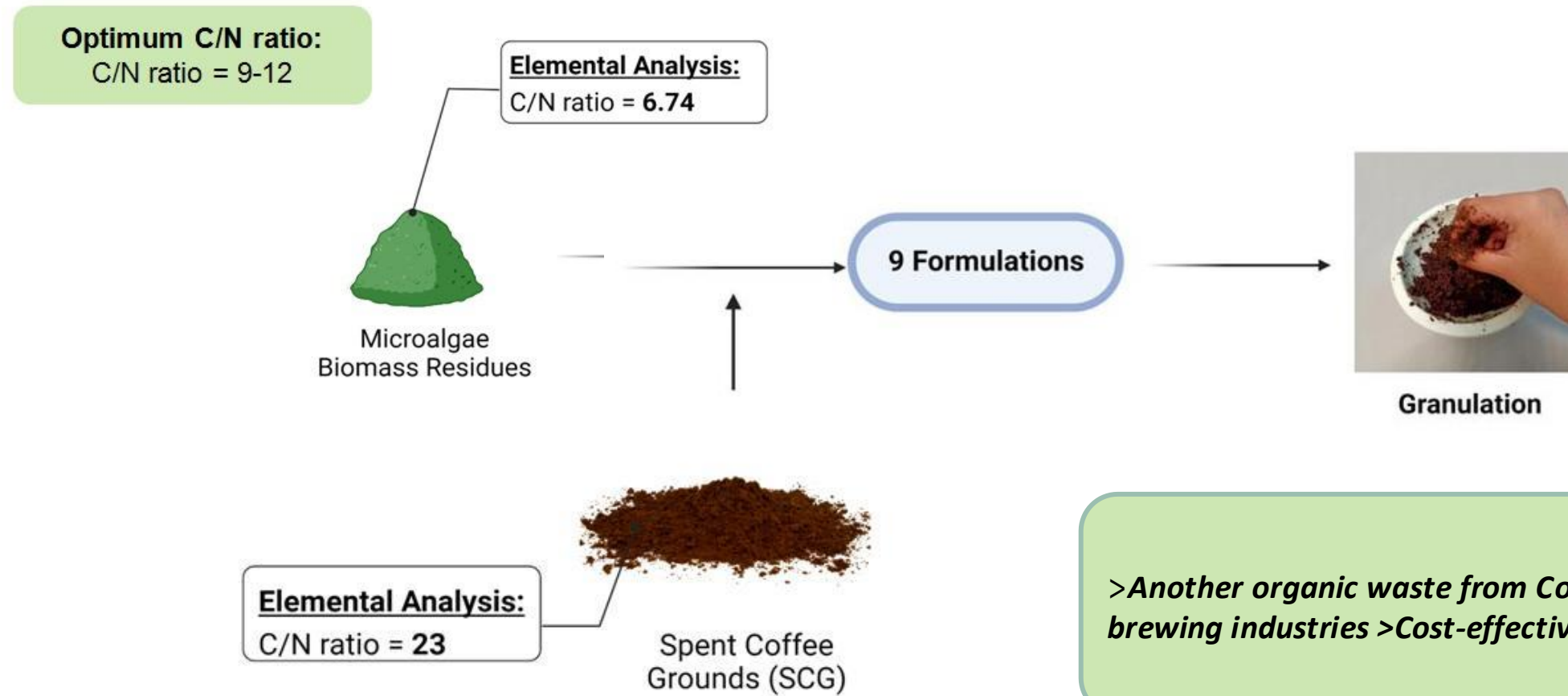


Wastewater +
f medium

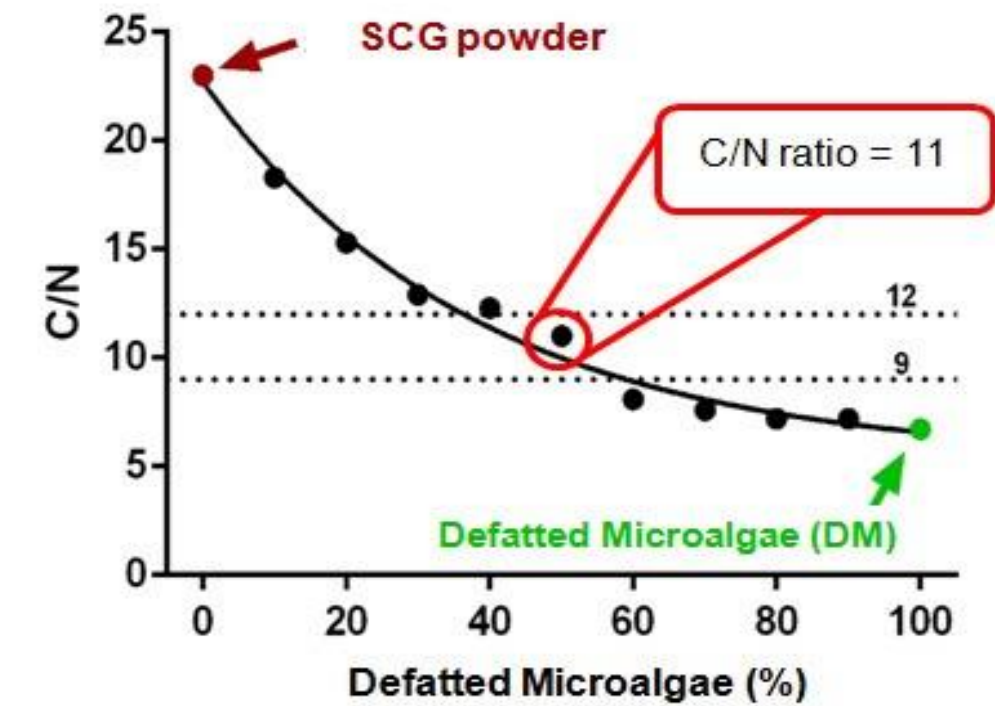
Wastewater +
f medium

Harvest

BIOFERTILASERS from microalgae



*>Another organic waste from Coffee
brewing industries >Cost-effective material*





Plant health effects: Phyto-toxicity Tests



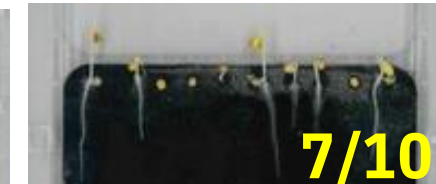
Measures the decrease (or the absence) of seed germination and of the growth of the young roots after a few days of exposure of fertilizer (treatment) in comparison to the controls (reference soil)

Three Plant Species

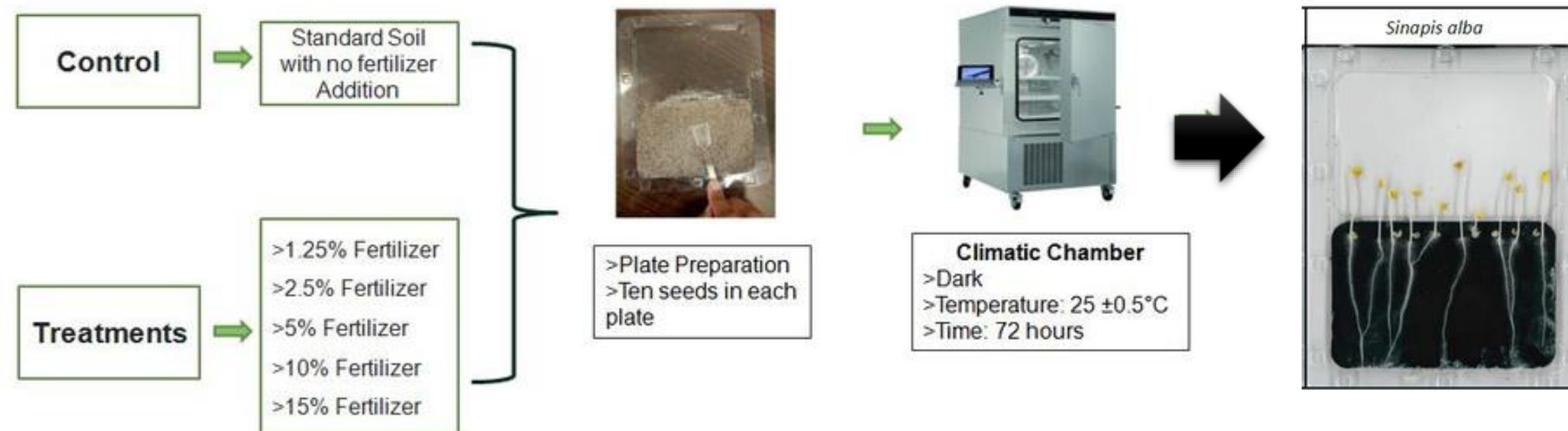
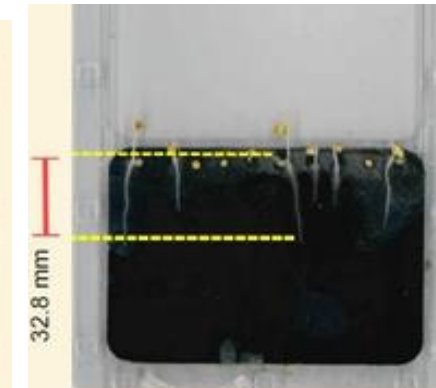
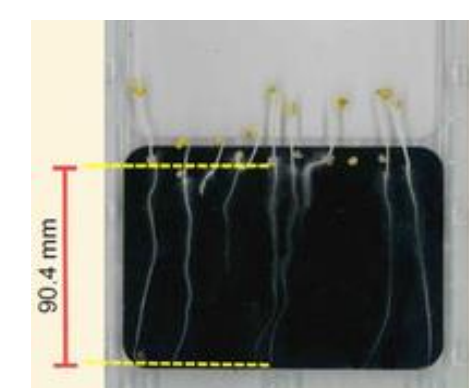
- 1) *Sorghum* (*Sorghum saccharatum*)
- 2) *Cress* (*Lepidium sativum*)
- 3) *Mustard* (*Sinapis alba*)

ISO standard 11269-1

Seed Germination Rate



Root Length



Plates are scanned by using a flatbed scanner and analyzed by

ImageJ <https://imagej.net/ij/>





CIRCULAR
BIOECONOMY

Microalgae - sustainable way to produced the biomass

Transformation of AD and brewery WASTE nutrients demonstrated at the industrial locations

BIOFERTILASERS from microalgae are validated

a.silkina@swansea.ac.uk



BLUE MISSION BANOS

Supporting the Mission
Ocean Lighthouse in the
Baltic and North Sea Basins

EU MISSIONS
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



3rd MISSION ARENA 26-27 November 2024 Amsterdam

REGIONAL FOCUS ARENA 3

The Netherlands
BELGIUM
DENMARK | West
GERMANY | West
FRANCE | North





3rd MISSION ARENA
26-27 November 2024 | Amsterdam

The power of microalgae in agriculture

Biostimulants: A sustainable boost for plant health

27 November, 12:10-12:20am
Hall 1



Traditional plant nutrition





Traditional plant nutrition

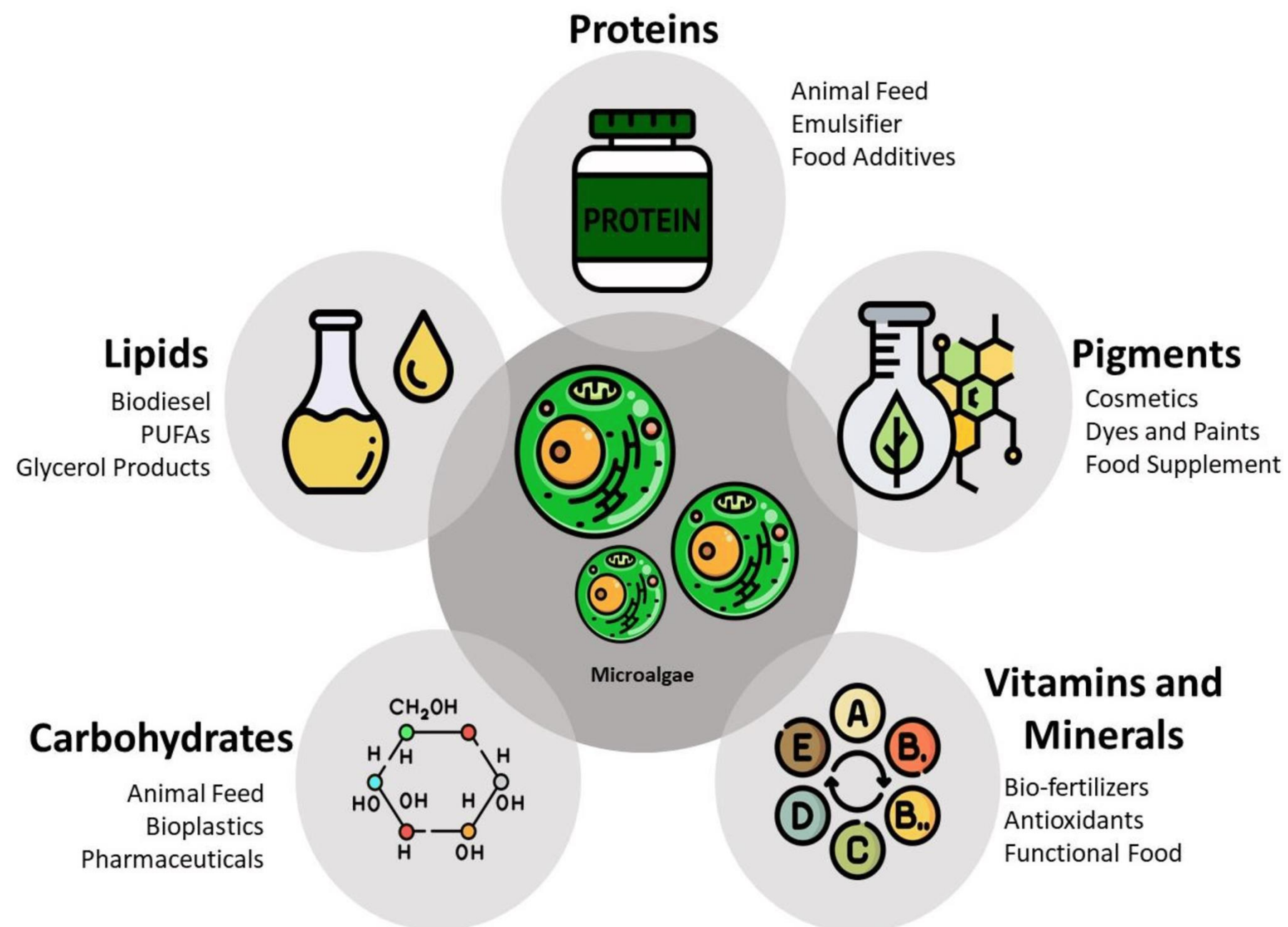




Biostimulants

“Any substance or microorganisms applied to plants with the aim to enhance nutrient efficiency, abiotic stress tolerance, and/or crop quality traits, regardless of its nutrient content”

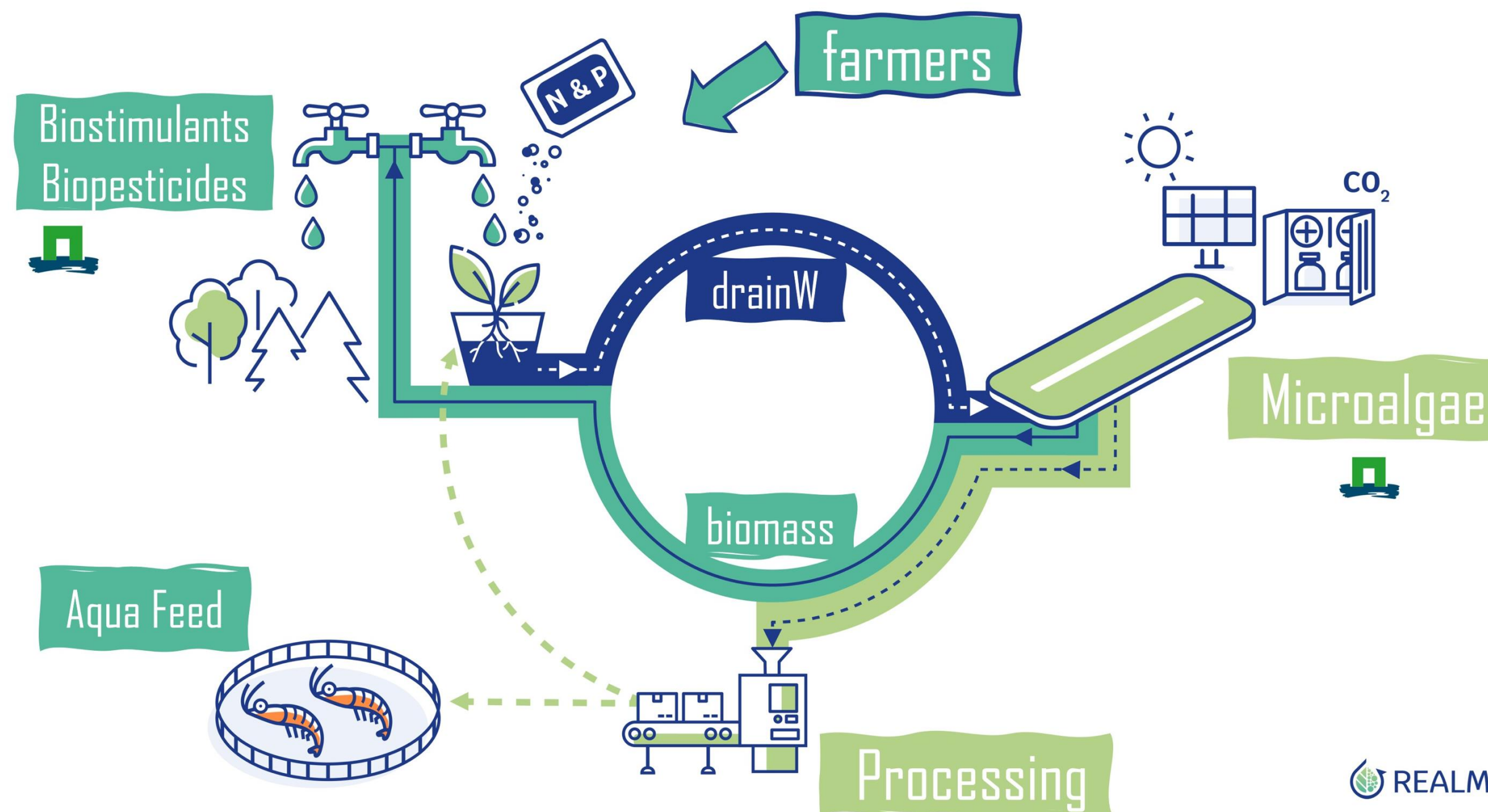
(Du Jardin, 2015)



Olguin, et al (2022)

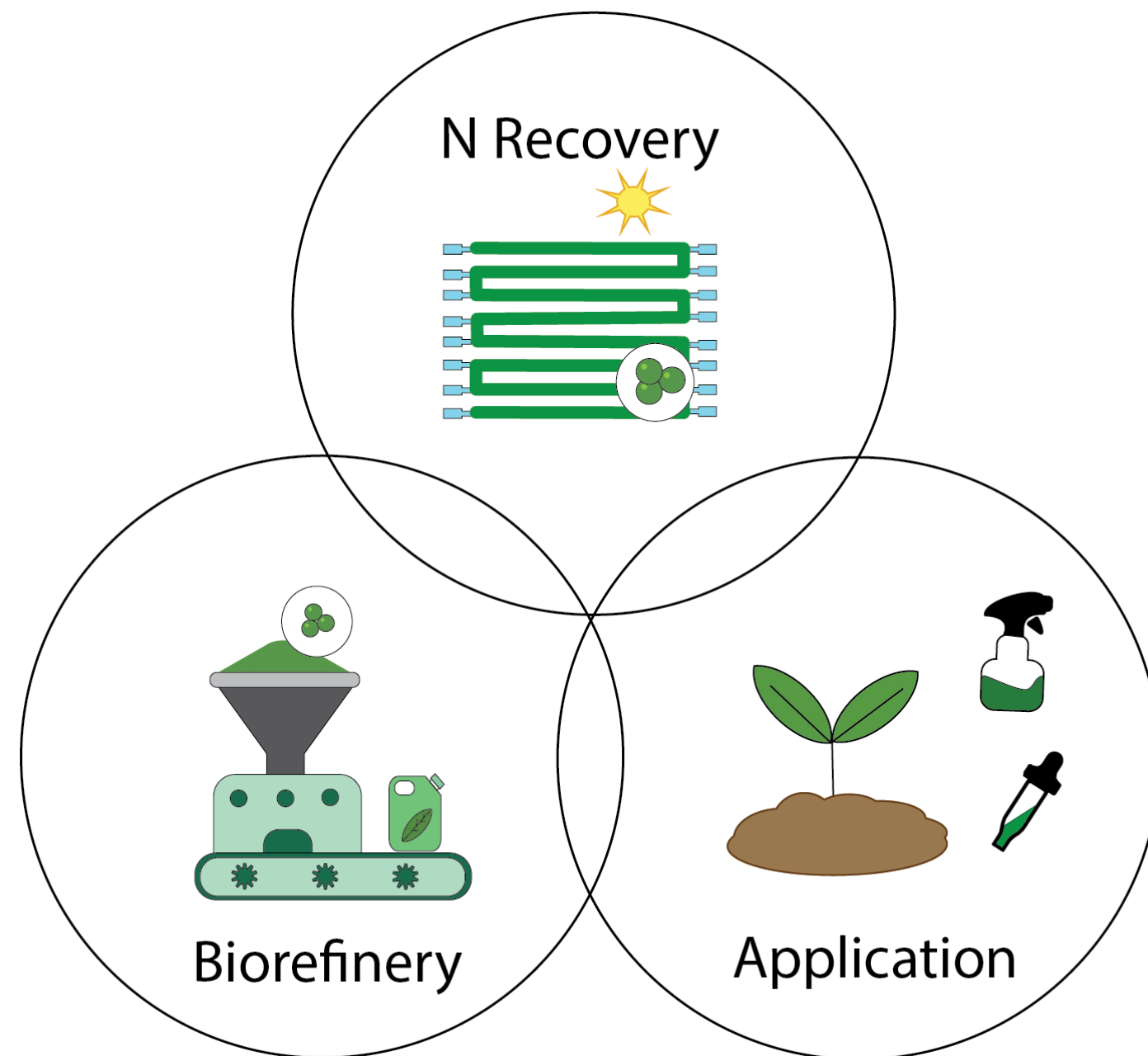


REALM-concept





Challenges for developing biostimulants



Nutrient recovery

- Microalgae growth conditions
- Composition of the wastewater

Biorefinery

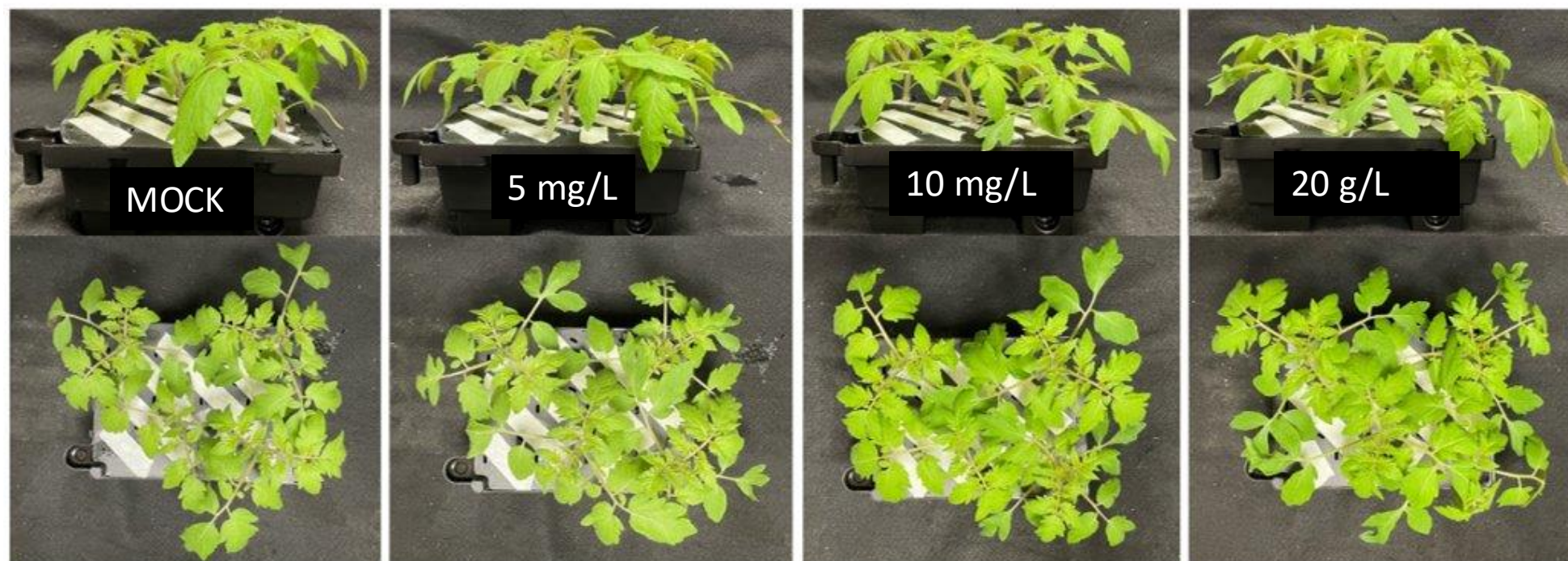
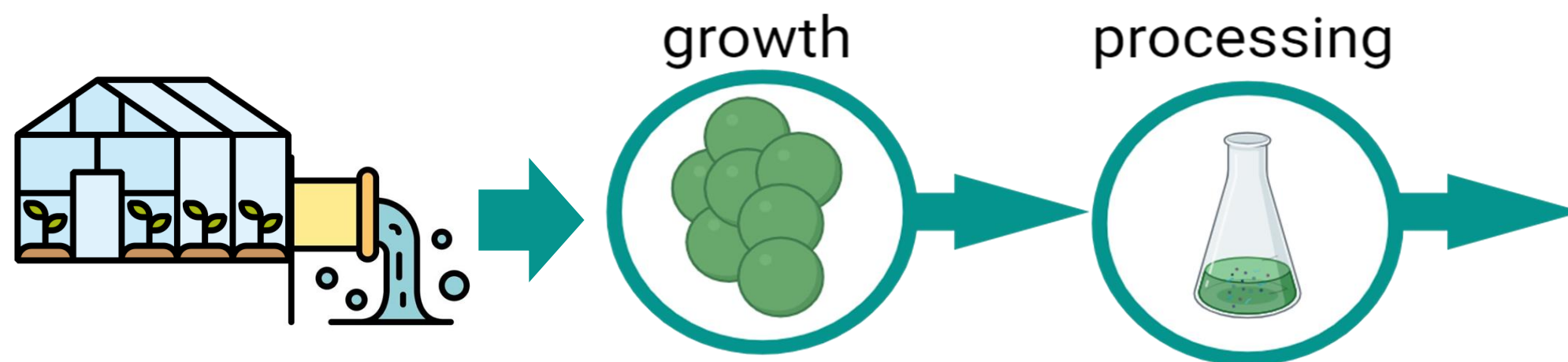
- Fractions
- Composition biomass

Application

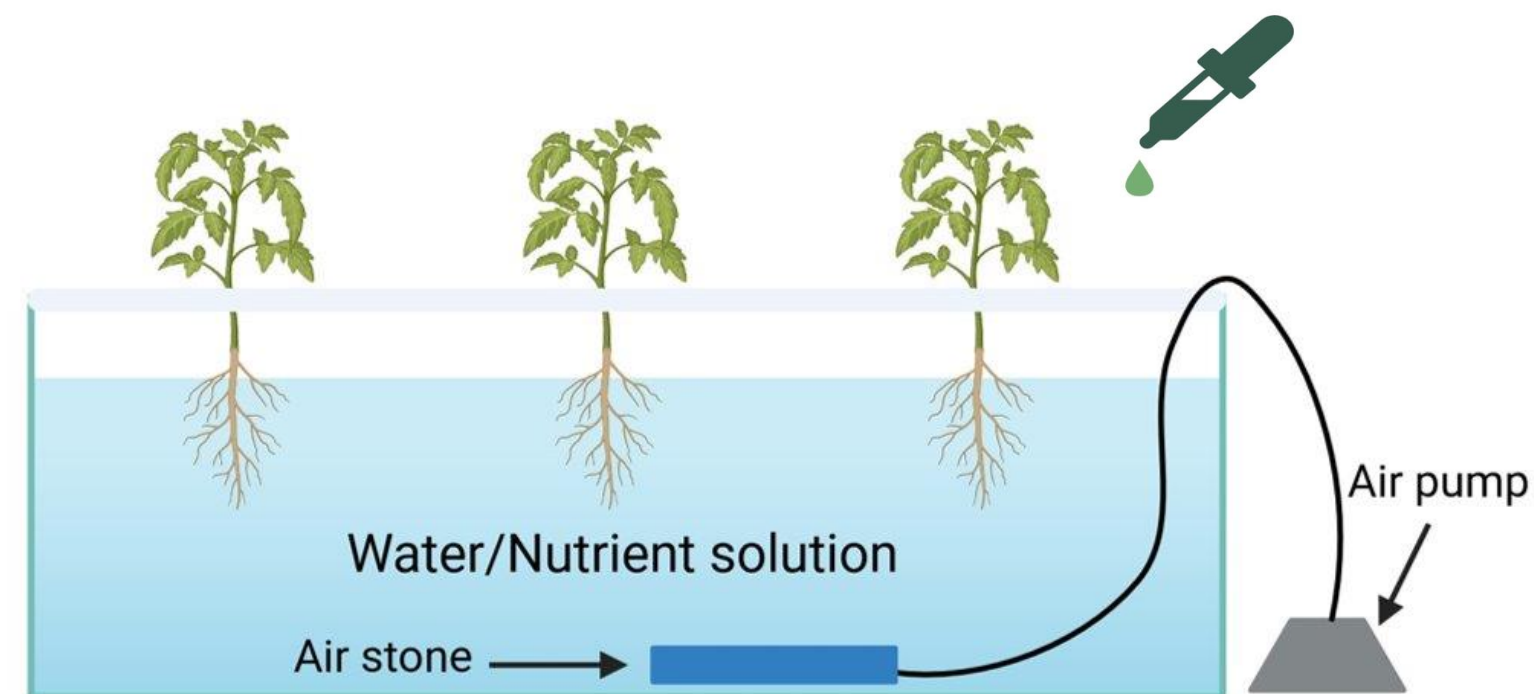
- Dosage
- Foliar/soil drench
- Molecular mechanisms
- Metabolic pathways



Do they work?



Optimization of dosage



Biostimulatory activity



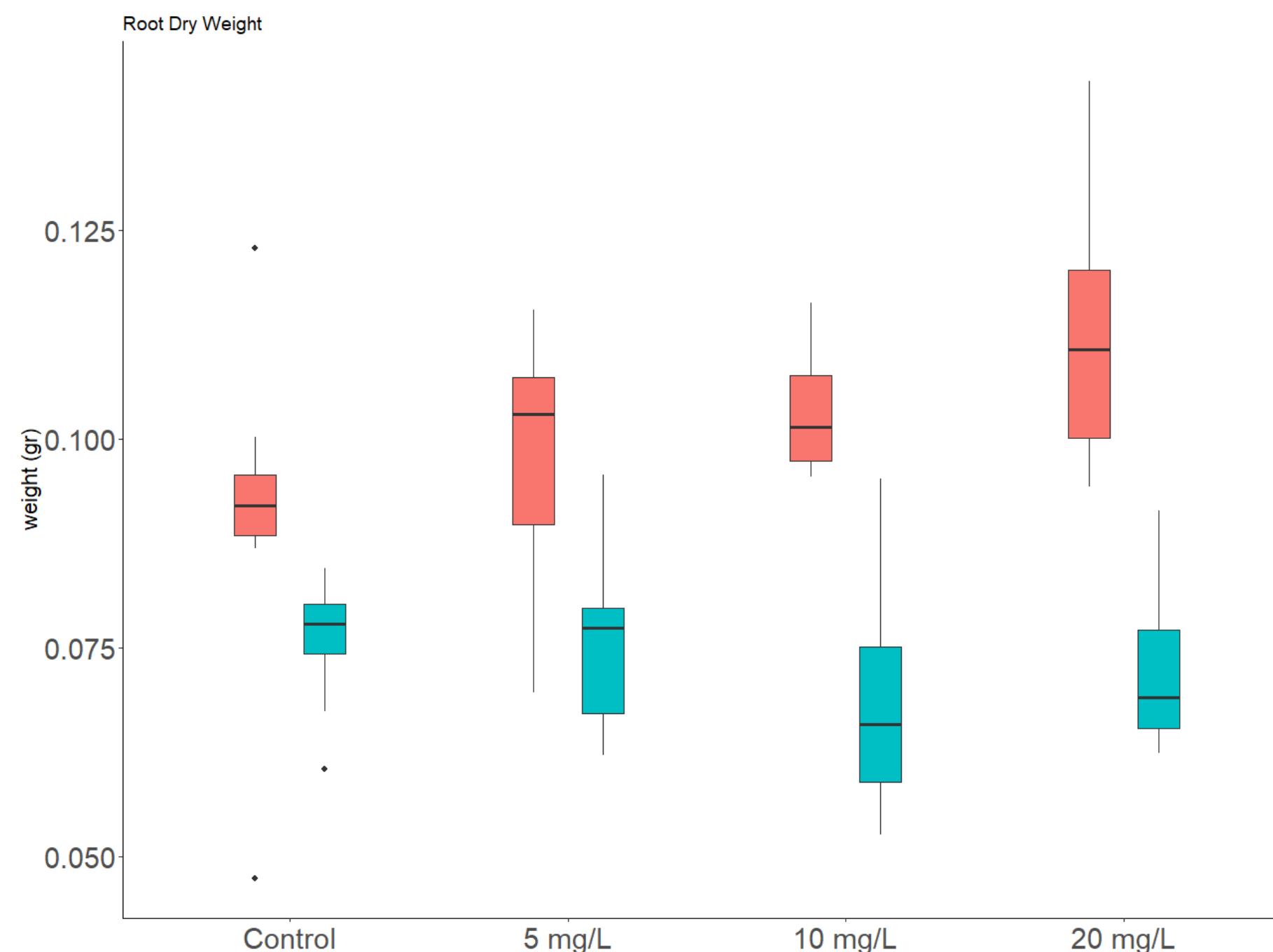
Sweet spot?



Reduce nutrient input

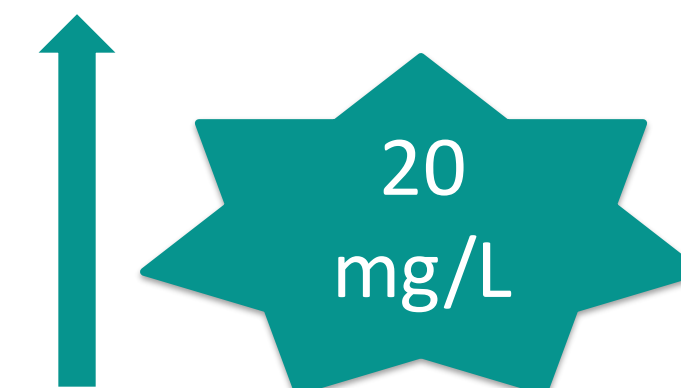


Do they work?



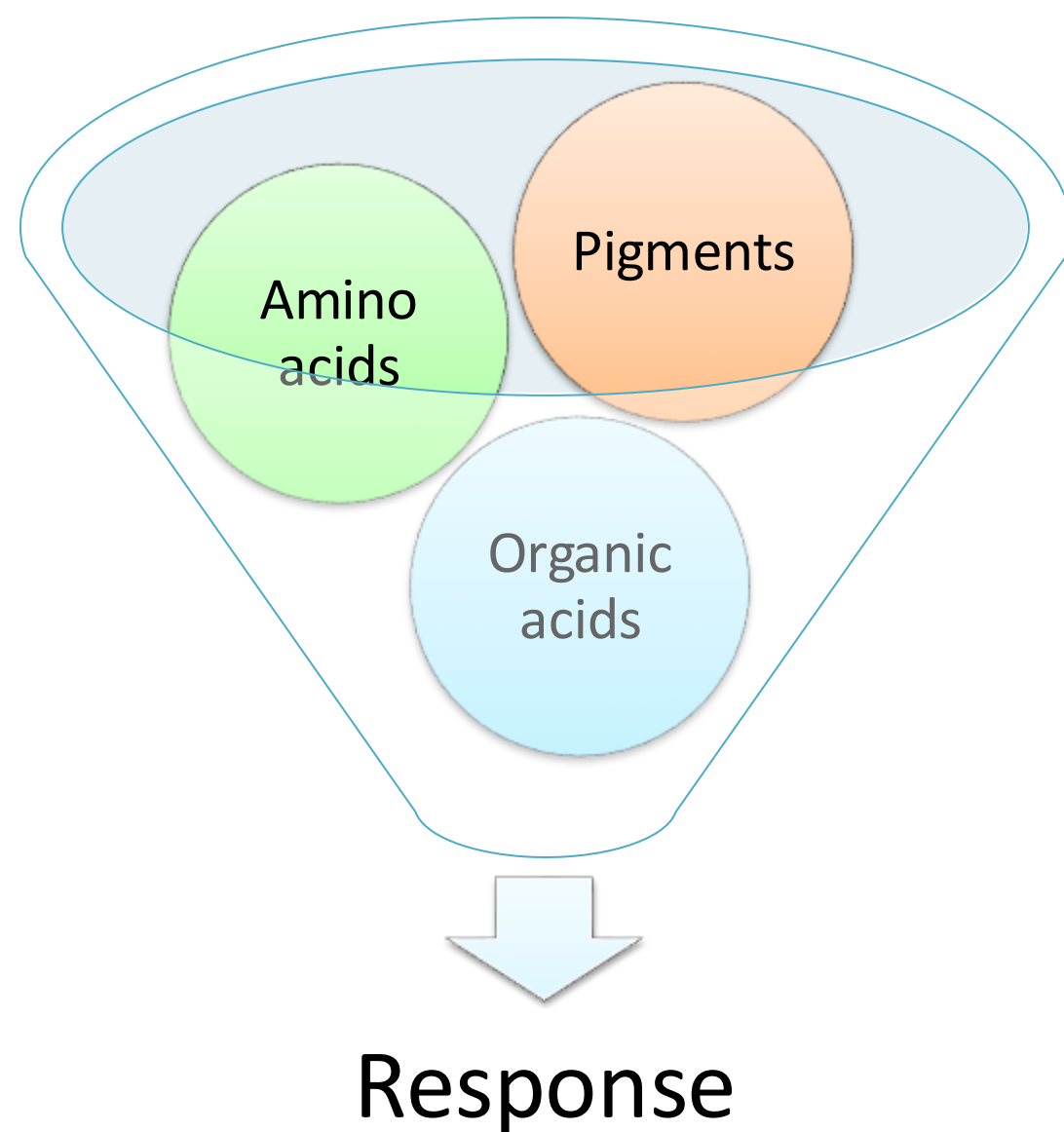
| Criteria | Value |
|-------------------|---|
| Treatments | 5, 10, 20 mg/L Salinity stress |
| Best performance | 20 mg/L |
| Variables | Root FW, DW Shoot FW, DW Root area, Leaf A. |
| Worst performance | Salt + 20mg/L |

RFW 27.2%
RDW 24.2% *
SFW 19%
SDW 14.3%
LA 16%





Finding the one



Biostimulatory activity?

Sweet spot





How they work?

Phytohormones

- Auxins
- Cytokinin

Symbiosis

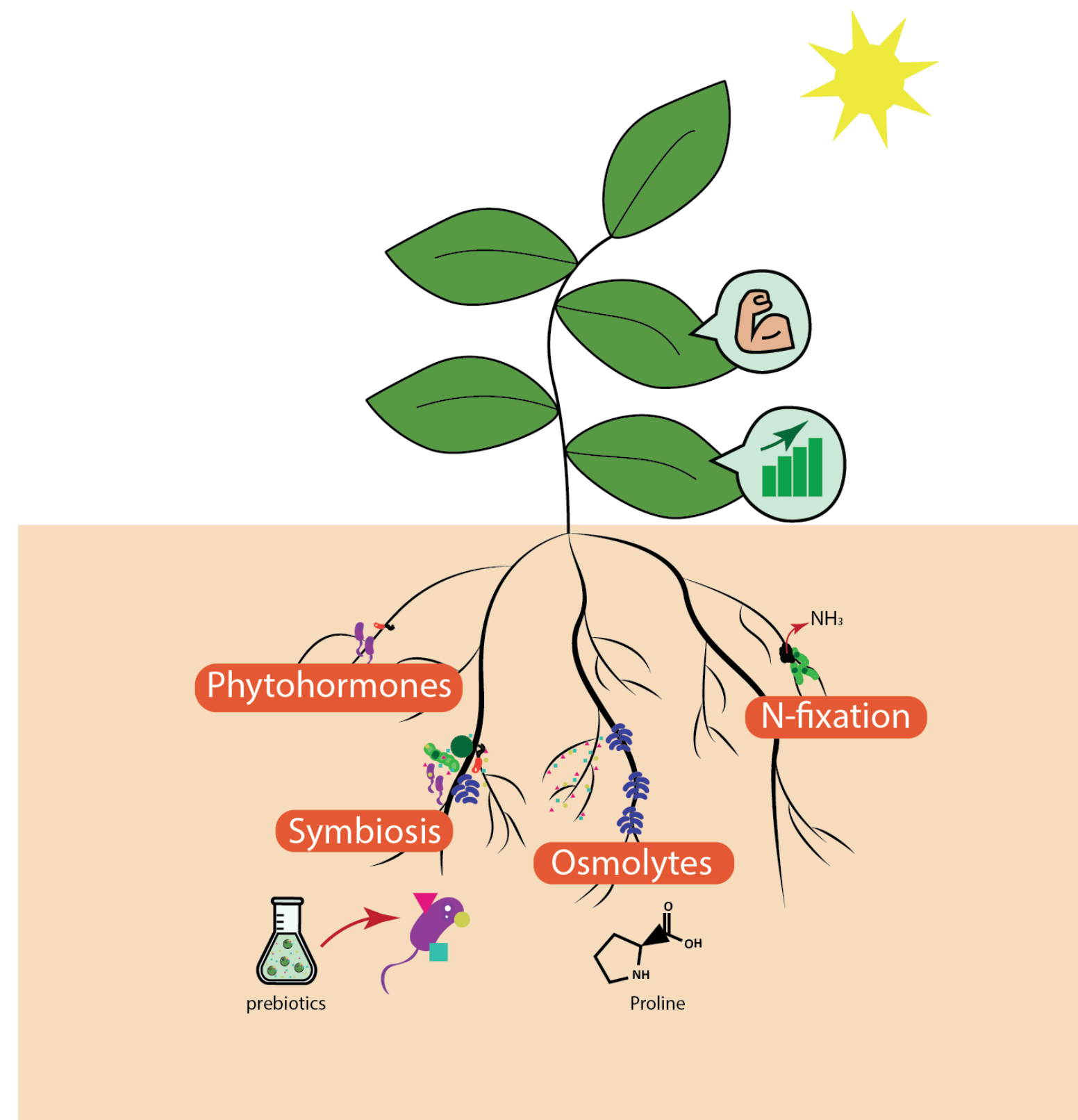
- Prebiotics
- Plant-microbe interactions

Osmolytes

- Proline
- Tolerance to abiotic stress

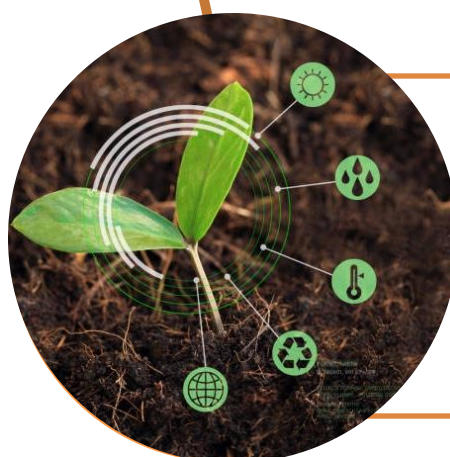
Nitrogen-fix

- Cyanobacteria
- Nodules





Reduce agrochemical input
Improve tolerance to abiotic stress



High crop productivity



Sustainable and renewable solution



THANK YOU

dr. Maria Barbosa
dr. Romyana Karlova

Microalgae biostimulants



Cristina Brito Lopez
cristina.britolopez@wur.nl