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CHLORELLA VULGARIS HIGH-GLUCOSE SYRUP AS CARBON FEEDSTOCK FOR PHA-PRODUCING BACTERIA

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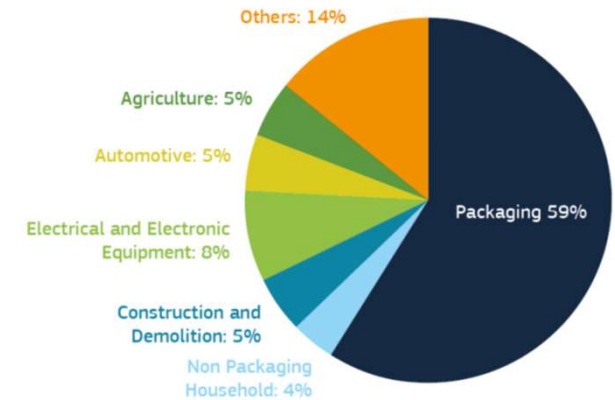
³Institut Régional des Matériaux Avancés (IRMA)

TOO MUCH PLASTIC



- **Global production of plastics:**
322 million tonnes (2015)
- **EU plastic waste:**
25.8 million tonnes / year

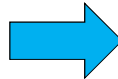
EU PLASTIC WASTE GENERATION IN 2015



We need to reduce plastic consumption but also we need more **BIOPLASTICS**

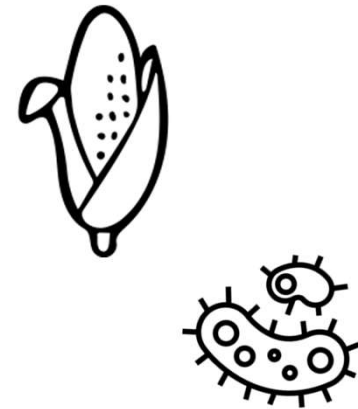
Conventional plastics (Fossil-based, Non-biodegradable)

Polypropylene (PP)
Polyethylene (PE)
Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)



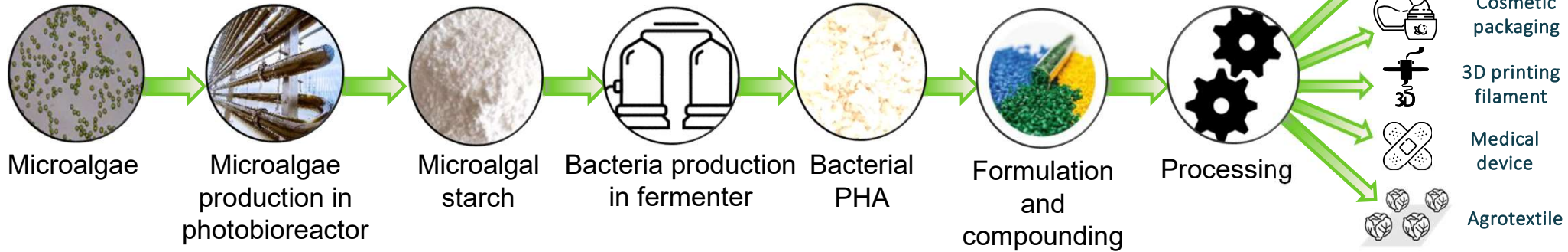
Bioplastics (Bio-based, Bio-degradable)

Starch blends
Polylactic acid (PLA)
Polybutylene succinate (PBS)
Polyhydroxalcanoate (PHA)





NENU2PHAR PROJECT



For a sustainable and European value chain of PHA-based materials for high-volume consumer products

BBI JU contribution: €4.9 million

Duration: September 2020 – February 2024

**4 RTOs
1 Academic
1 Innovation
Cluster**

6 SMEs

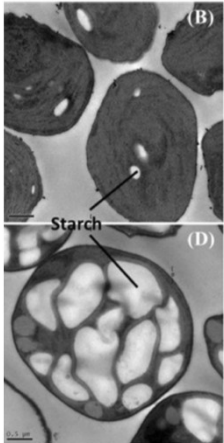
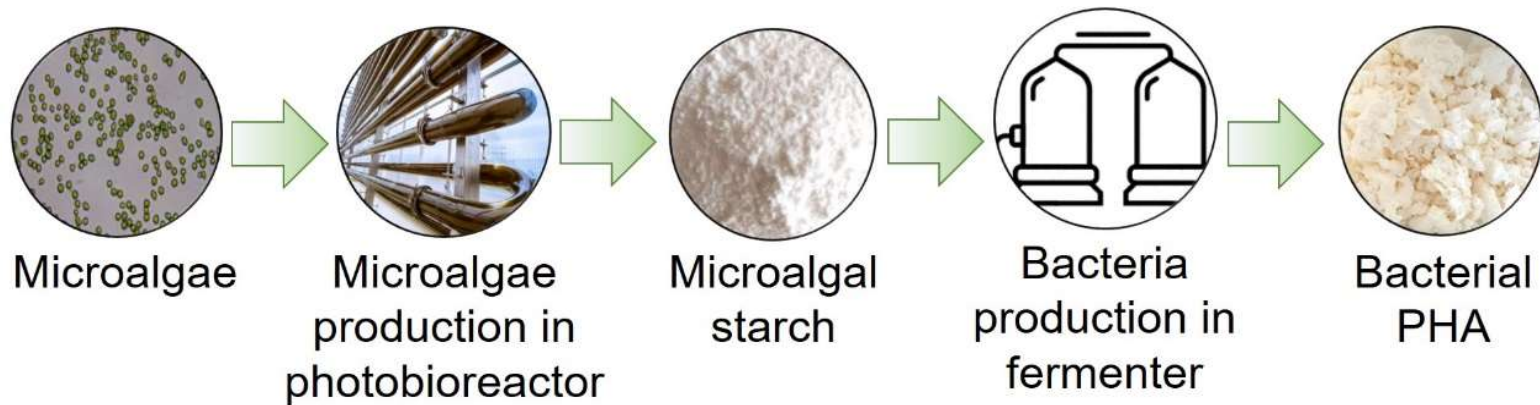
**4 Large
Companies**



This project has received funding from the Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI-JU) under grant agreement No 887474. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the Bio Based Industries Consortium.

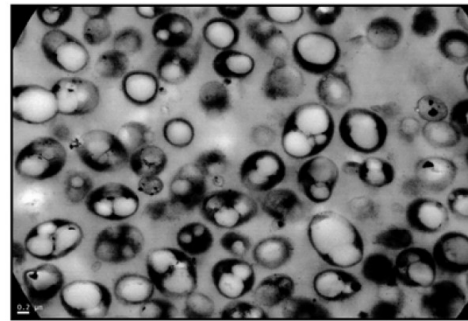
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KEY CONCEPT: STARCH FROM MICROALGAE



- Starch granules in nutrient-limited *Chlorella vulgaris*

Cheng et al., (2017)
Improving carbohydrate and starch accumulation in *Chlorella* sp. AE10 by a novel two-stage process with cell dilution.

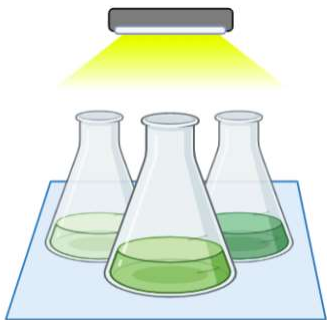


PHA granules in nutrient-limited *Cupriavidis necator*

Nygaard et al., (2021)
PHA granule formation and degradation by *Cupriavidis necator* under different nutritional conditions

PROCESS AT LAB-SCALE IN ERLENMEYER

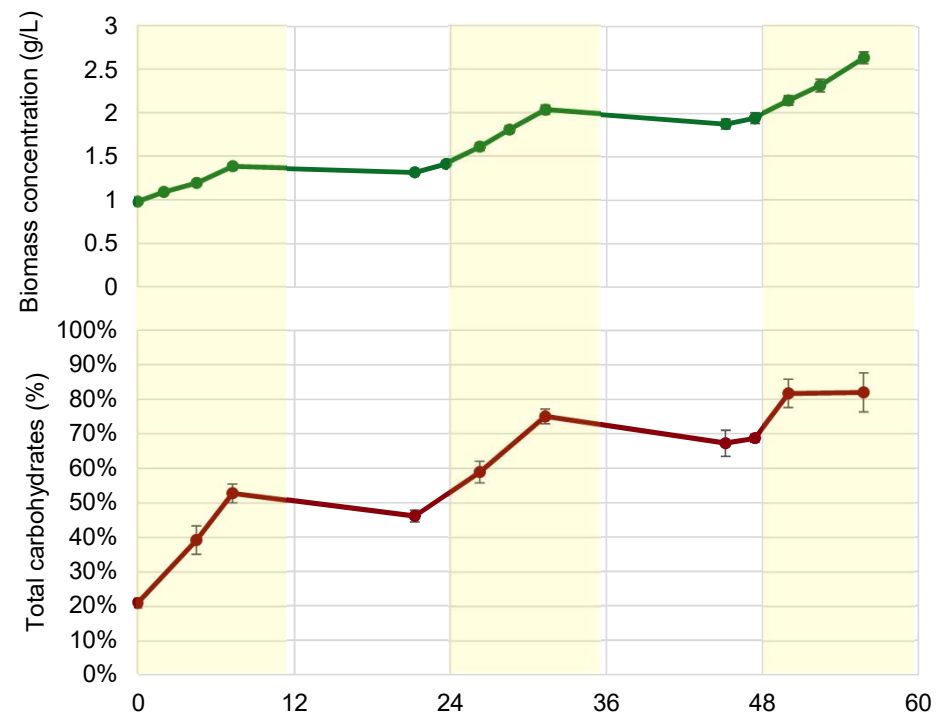
C. vulgaris CCALA924



Erlenmeyers
in culture chamber

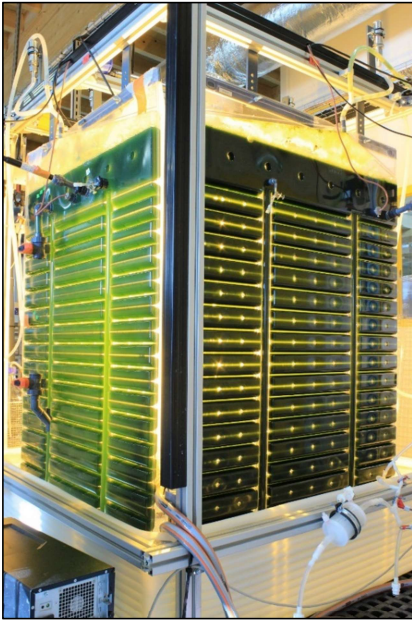
200 μ E/m²/s
11h/13h (Day/Night)
25°C, 2%CO₂, 150rpm

NO₃⁻ depleted
medium



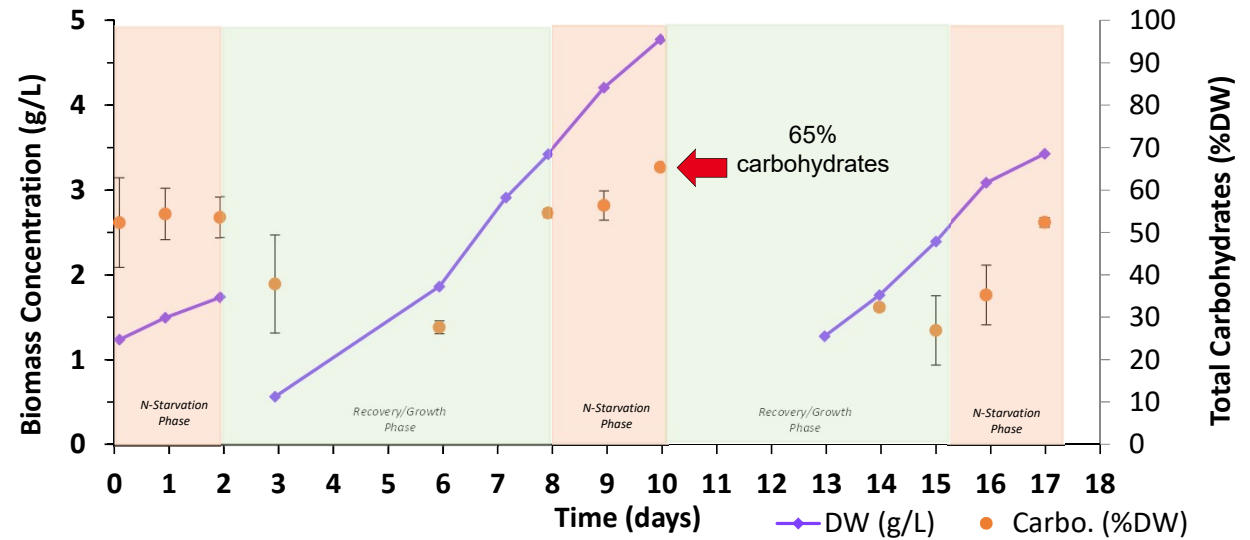
80%
carbohydrates

PROCESS AT LAB-SCALE IN PHOTOBIOREACTOR



25L Flat panel airlift photobioreactor

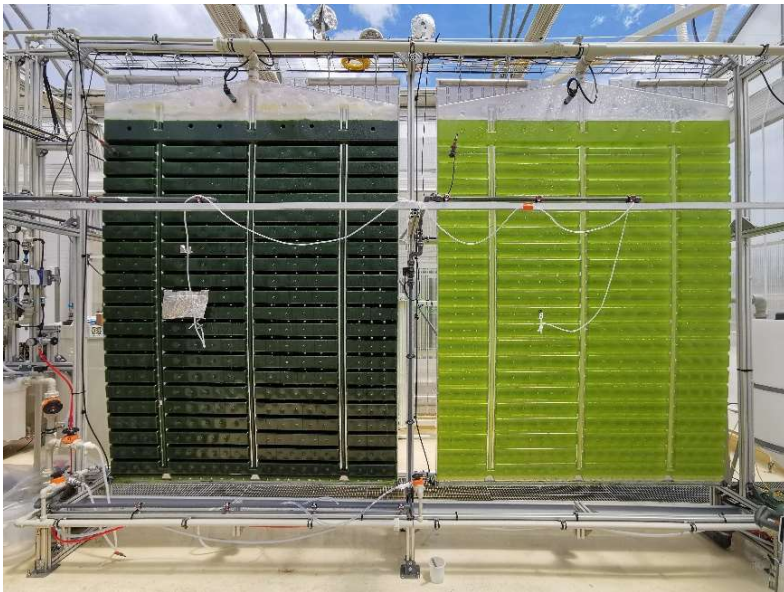
240 μ E/m²/s
20h/4h (Day/Night)
25°C, 2%CO₂,



Chlorella vulgaris, A PROMISING FEEDSTOCK FOR STARCH-BASED BIOPLASTICS

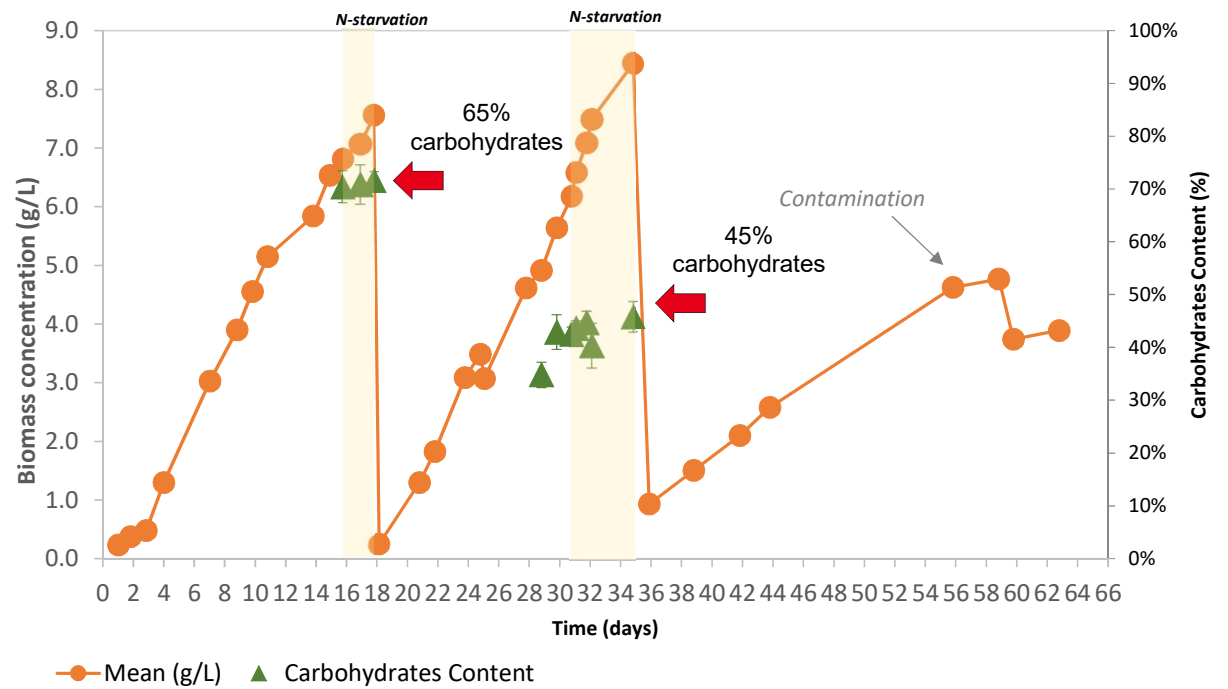
Poster: Compadre et al. (2021)

PROCESS AT SEMI-INDUSTRIAL SCALE IN PHOTOBIOREACTOR



180L Flat panel airlift photobioreactor

25°C, 2%CO₂,



DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING: MECHANICAL *C. VULGARIS* DISRUPTION

Ultrasound
(US)



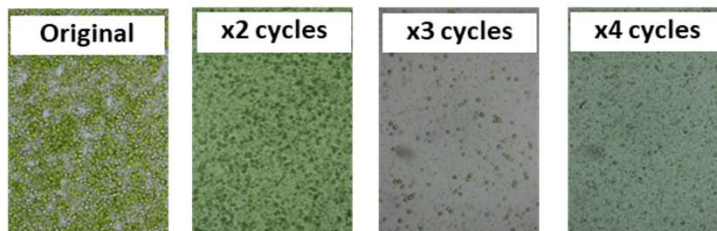
Pulsed Electric Field
(PEF)



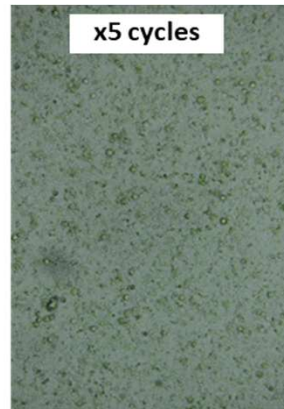
High pressure
homogenization
(HPH)



HPH at 1400 bar



x5 cycles



HPH works but too much energy.

Can we optimize this?



Enzymatical treatment

DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING: ENZYMATIC PRE-TREATMENT FOR *C. VULGARIS* DISRUPTION

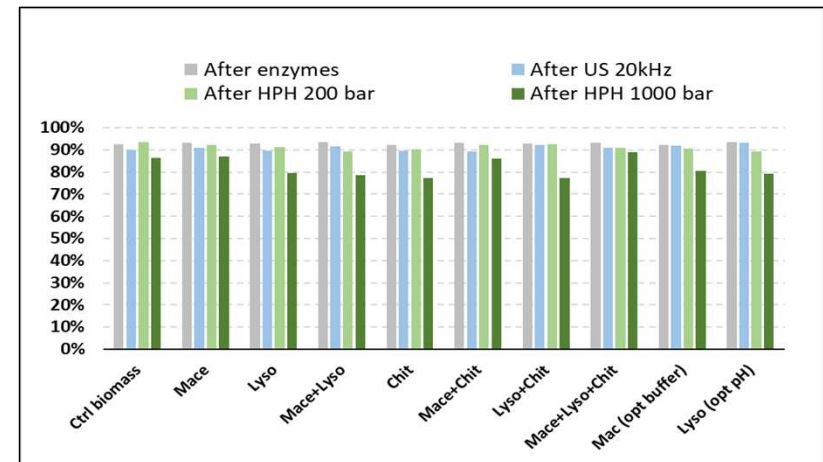
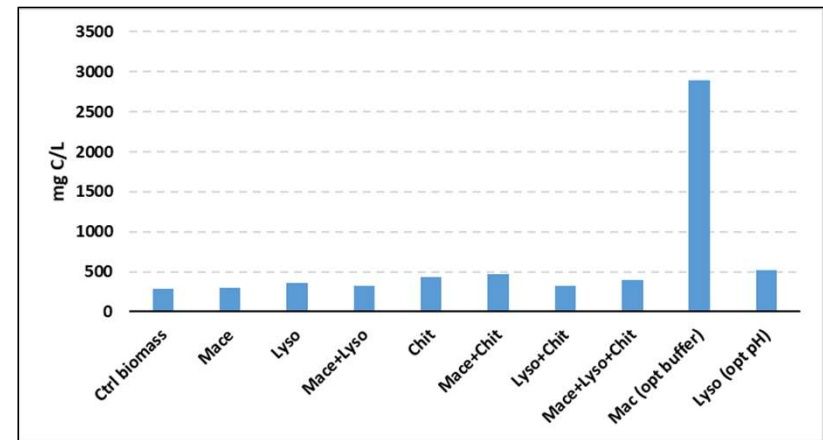
3 enzymes to
degrade *C.*
vulgaris cell wall

Macerocyme
(Pectinase)

Lysozyme

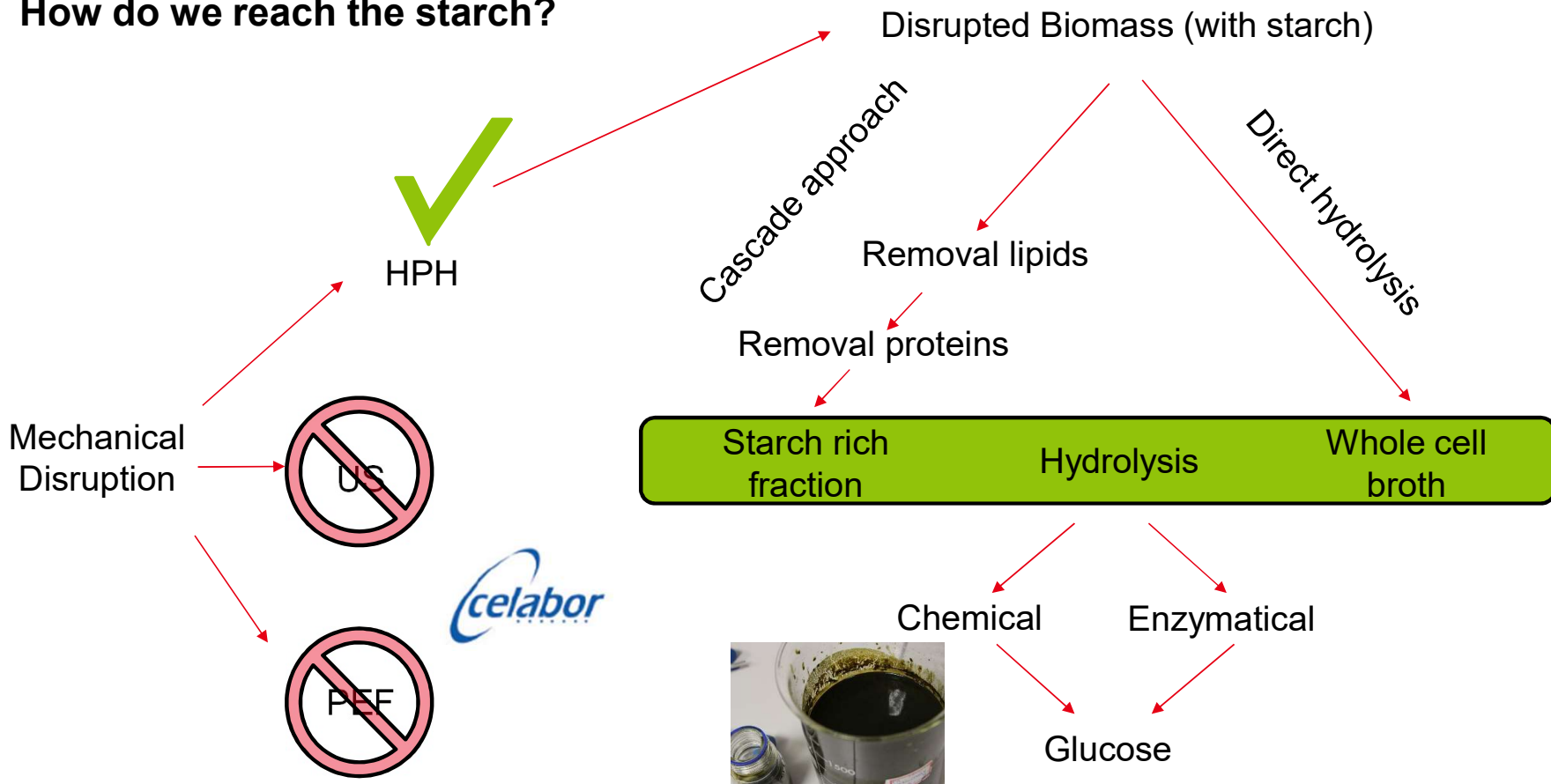
Chitinase

Experiment	Factor		
	Macerocyme	Lysozyme	Chitinase
1: Ctrl Biomass	0	0	0
2: Mace	1	0	0
3: Lyso	0	1	0
4: Mace+Lyso	1	1	0
5: Chit	0	0	1
6: Mace+Chit	1	0	1
7: Lyso+Chit	0	1	1
8: Mace+Lyso+Chit	1	1	1
Extra			
*9: Mace (opt pH)	1	0	0
*10 (opt pH)	0	1	0



DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING: MECHANICAL *C. VULGARIS* DISRUPTION + ENZYMATIC HYDROLYSIS OF STARCH

How do we reach the starch?

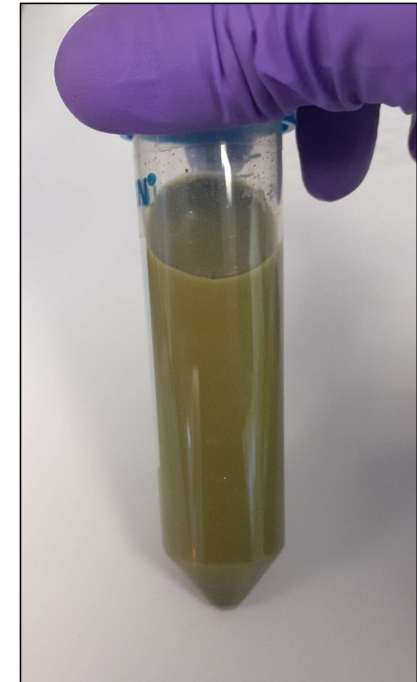
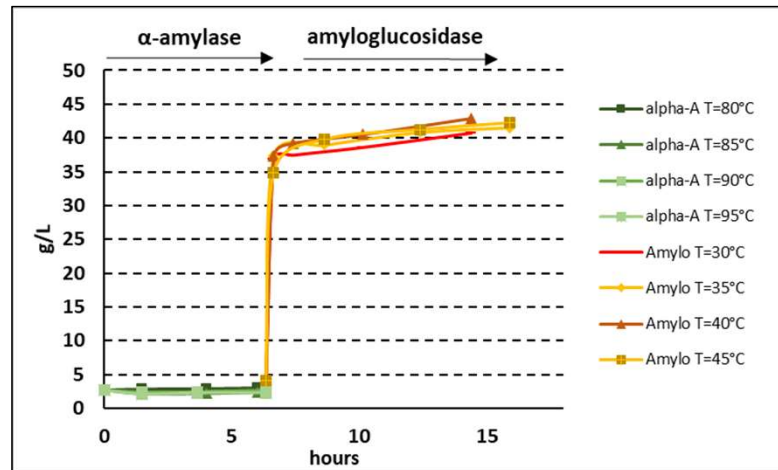


DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING: ENZYMATIC HYDROLYSIS OF CELL BROTH



SIGMA-ALDRICH:
 α -amylase \rightarrow A6180
 amyloglucosidase \rightarrow A7095

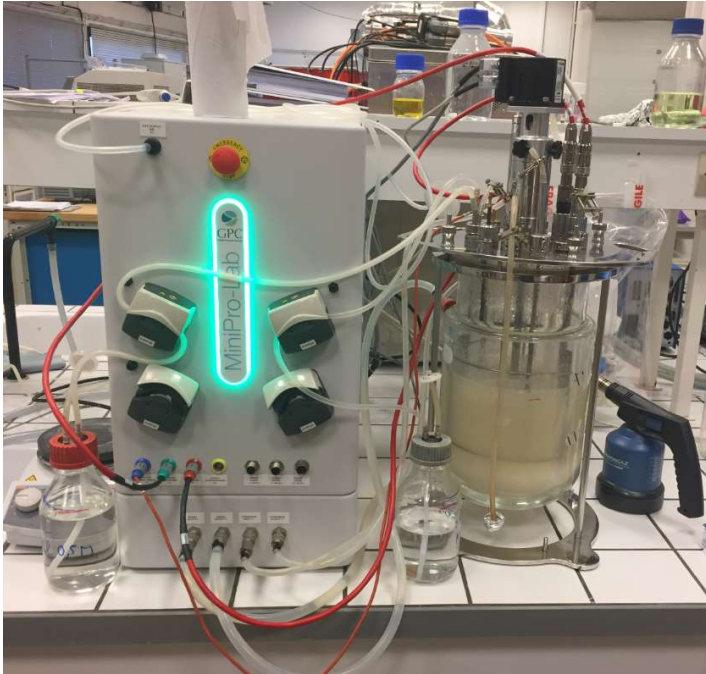
Glucose release



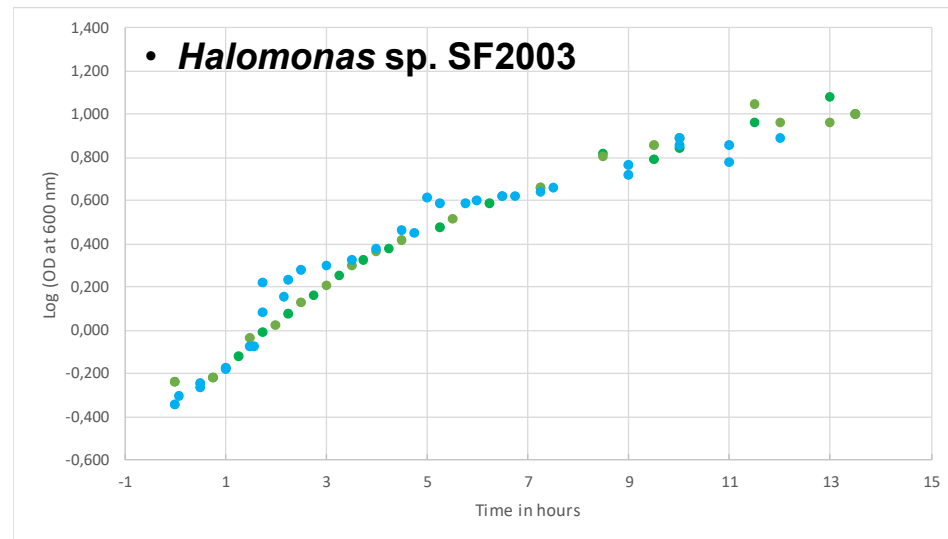
Novozymes:
 1) α -amylase \rightarrow Liquozyme SC4X
 2) Amyloglucosidase \rightarrow Spirizyme Fuel HS

MICROALGAL GLUCOSE AS FERMENTATION SUBSTRATE

- *Halomonas* sp. SF2003



Control = commercial glucose
Test = Hydrolyzed algal supernatant



MICROALGAL GLUCOSE AS FERMENTATION SUBSTRATE CELL BROTH CLARIFICATION

Lab extraction in chloroform



Water phase

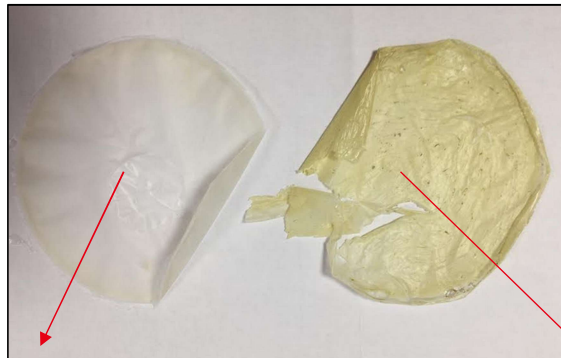
Biomass residue

Organic phase containing PHB

Slow drying at room temperature in Petri dish



PHA extracted



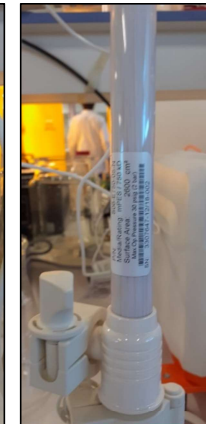
Hydrolyzed algal supernatant as substrate

Hydrolyzed algal broth as substrate

Tangential Filtration



7.5 g/L glucose

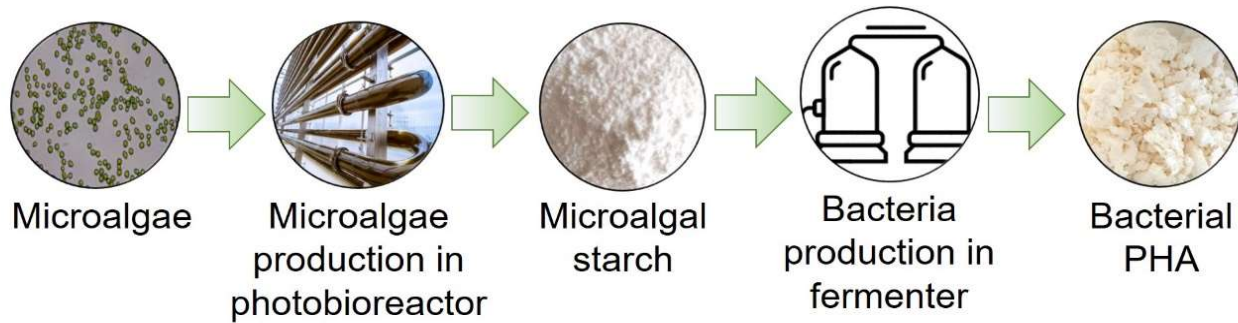


750 KDa Tangential filtration

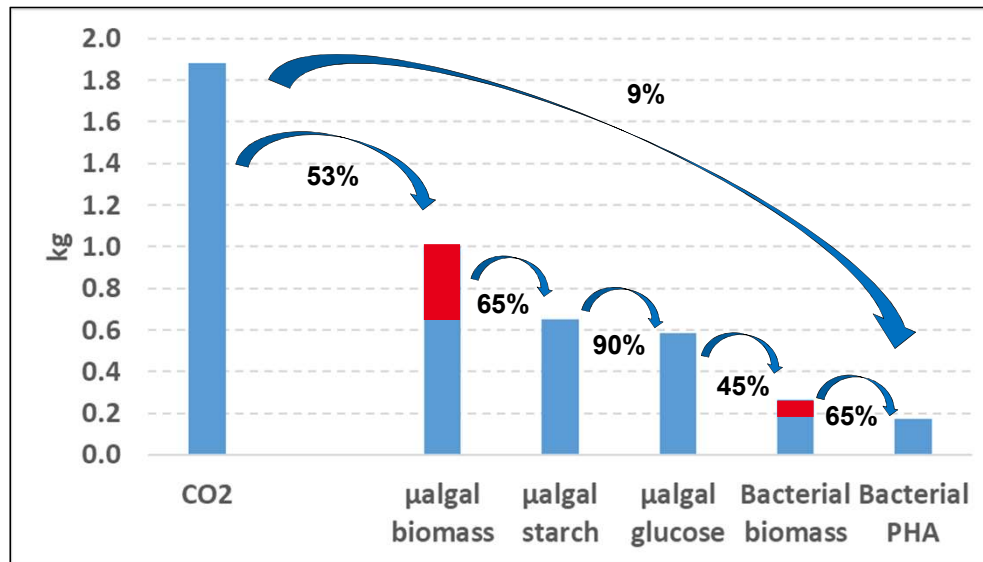


5.9 g/L glucose

FROM ALGAE TO PHA: MASS BALANCE



Conversion rates



1kg of PHA → 5,8 kg of µalgae

1kg of PHA → 11 kg of CO₂



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Bio-based Industries
Consortium



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