

Role & challenges of industrial biotech in the transition towards a low fossil carbon future

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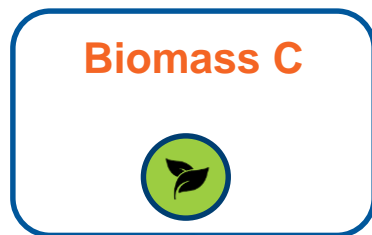
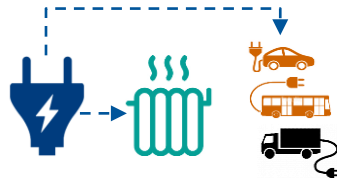
Context: the role

Doing all we do now ... without fossil C?

Routes towards low fossil C

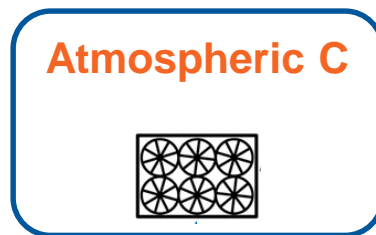


Essentially electricity!

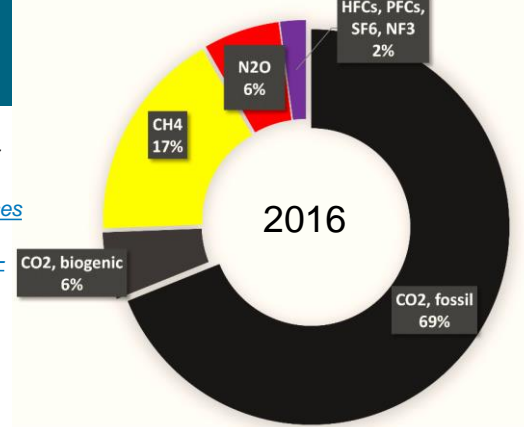


Land
dependant

Residues



Source: own compilation of
data retrieved from
<https://www.wri.org/resources/data-visualizations/world-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2016>



In the low fossil economy:
Carbon becomes a limited resource
to use as efficiently as possible!

Emergency to stabilize global mean annual surface temperatures

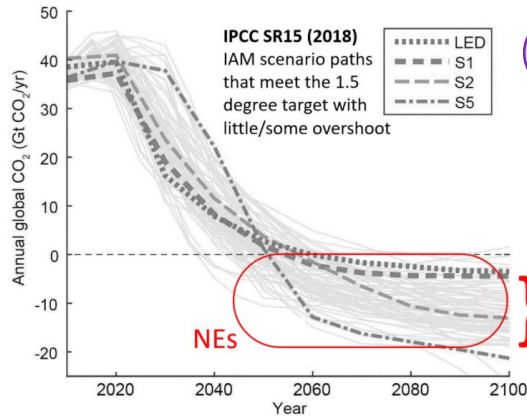
- Limiting warming to 1.5°C requires:
 - Reducing GHGs by 45% (40-60%) by ~2030 (vs 2010 levels) ... and to ZERO by ~2050 (2045-2055)
- Limiting warming to below 2°C requires:
 - Reducing GHGs 20% (10-30%) by ~2030 (vs. 2010 level) ... and to ZERO by ~2075 (2065-2080)

1

GHG reductions now!

2

We need CDR



In comparison:
Current Global Land Sink
9.2 sink – 5.5 LUC loss GtCO₂/yr
= 3.7 GtCO₂/yr

In comparison:
Current Global Ocean Sink
= 11.5 GtCO₂/yr

**Required CO₂ extraction (CDR):
5 to 15 GtCO₂/yr**



3

Leave fossil C in the ground

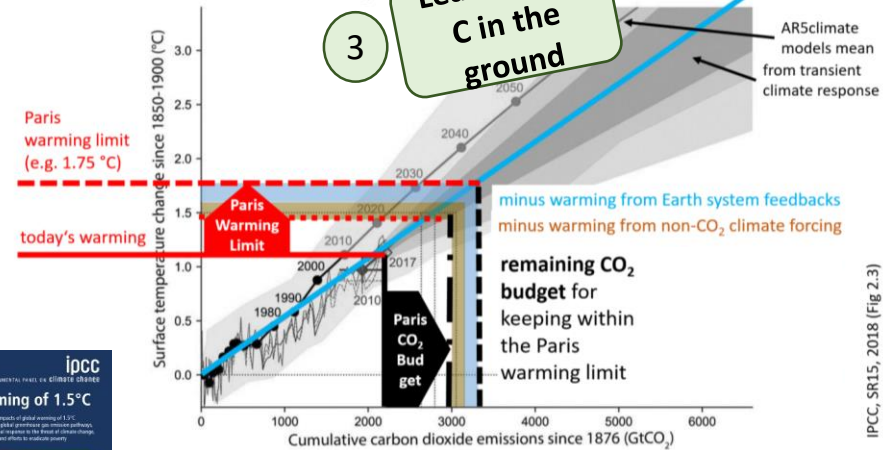


Table 2.2 | The assessed remaining carbon budget and its uncertainties.

Additional Warming since 2006-2015 [°C] ⁽¹⁾	Approximate Warming 1850-1900 [°C] ⁽¹⁾	Remaining Carbon Budget (Excluding Additional Earth System Feedbacks ⁽²⁾) [GtCO ₂ from 1.1.2018] ⁽²⁾		
		Percentiles of TCRE		
		33rd	50th	67th
0.3		290	160	80
0.4		530	350	230
0.5		770	530	100
0.53	-1.5°C	840	580	420
0.6		1010	710	530
0.63		1080	770	570
0.7		1240	900	600
0.78	-1.75°C	1440	1040	800
0.8		1480	1080	830
0.9		1720	1260	980
1		1960	1450	1130
1.03	-2°C	2030	1500	1170

for a 2/3 likelihood of meeting the target

Paris agreement: a delicate balance

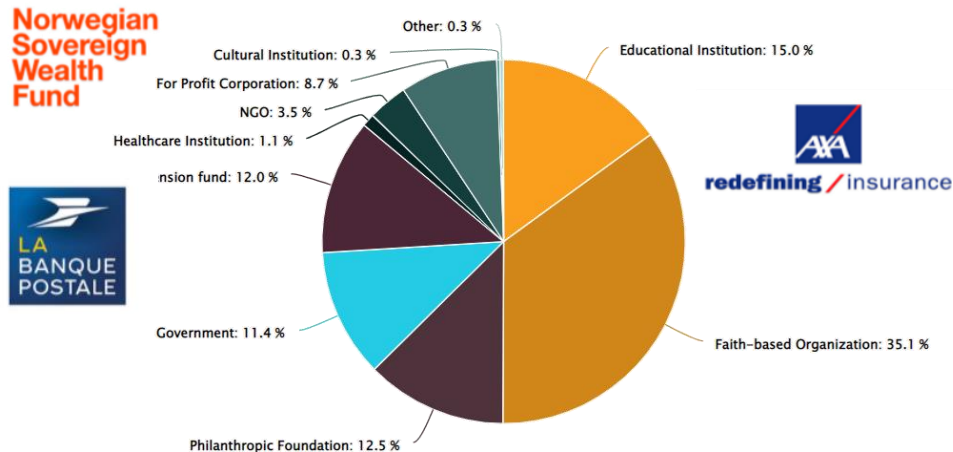
Recognizing that “climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat” to humanity, the Paris Agreement calls for limiting global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. It also calls for a “balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century”.



Seems we are really going there...

Global divestment database

What kinds of institutions are divesting?



Source: <https://divestmentdatabase.org/>



SCIENCE
BASED
TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION



United Nations
Global Compact

2

Context: the challenges

The challenges of biotech – seen from an environmental scientist



Land



Energy



Water



Nutrients



Innovation (more efficient processes)

3

The land challenge



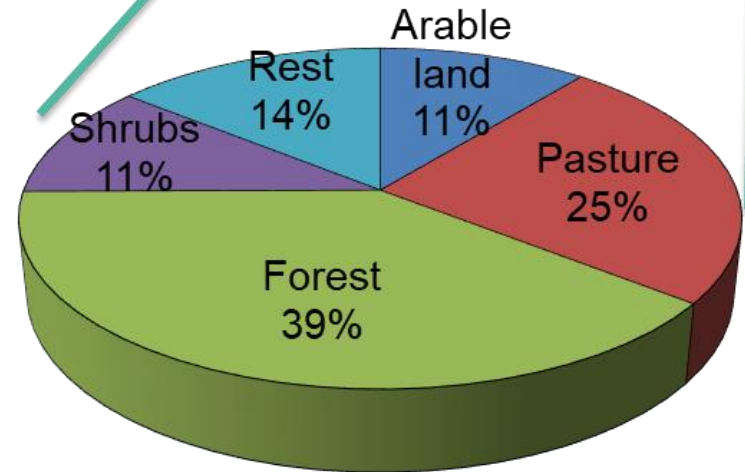
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Global outlook on land use

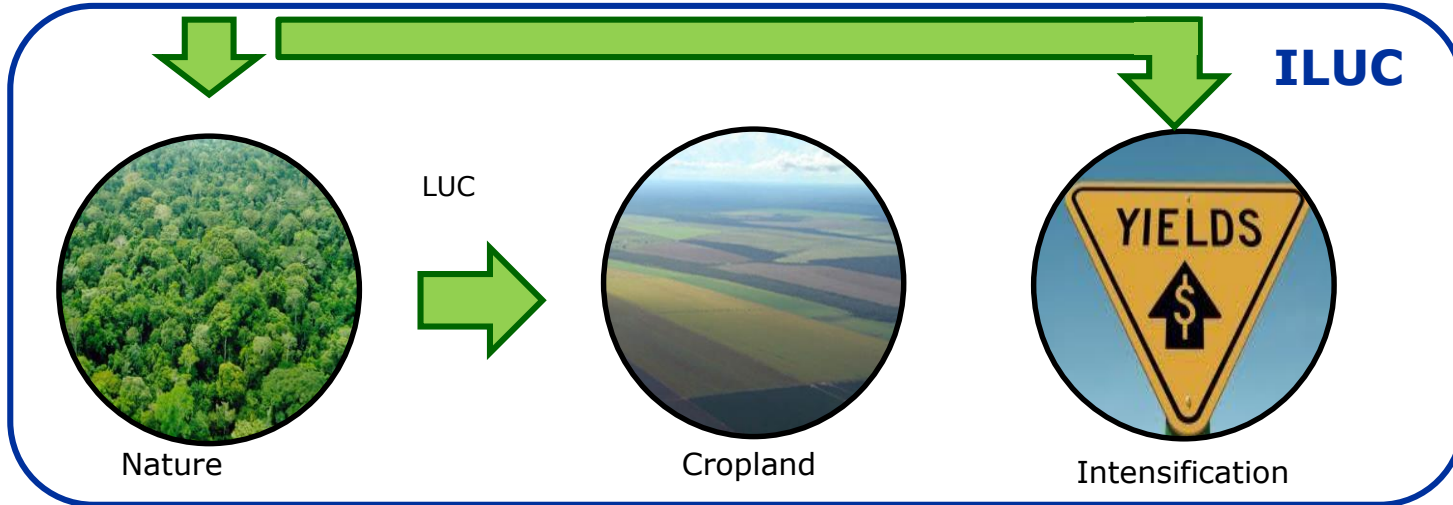
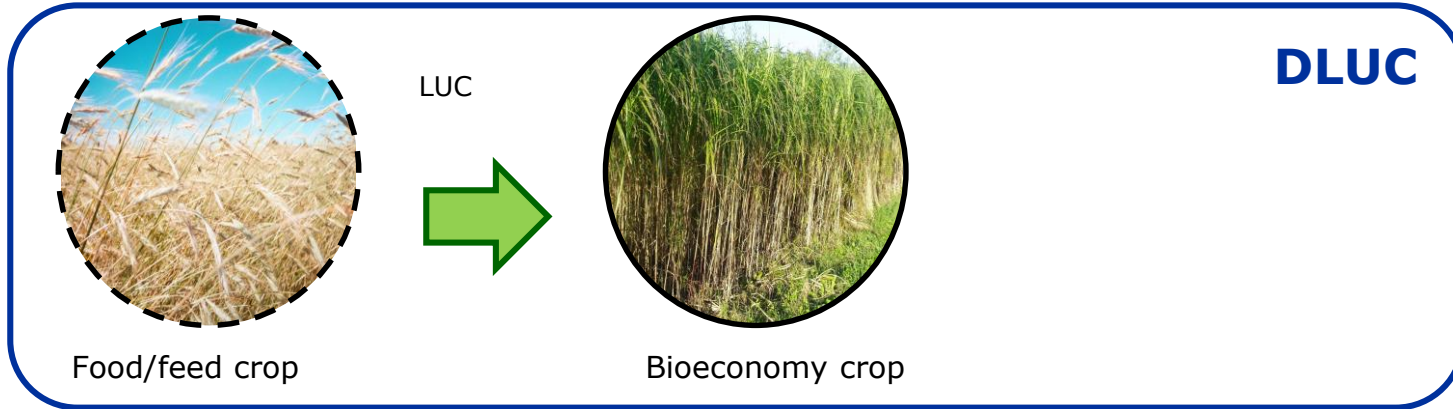
12.5 Gha of land area on Earth* :



- **4.5 Gha agricultural land**
 - 1.4 Gha arable land;
 - 3.1 Gha pastures
- **4.9 Gha forest**
 - ~1.6 Gha primary forest;
 - ~ 0.3 Gha plantations;
 - ~ 2.9 Gha naturally regenerated;
- **3.1 Gha other land**
 - 1.7 Gha uncultivable (permanent snow, water);
 - 0.08 Gha rest (urban)
 - 1.4 Gha shrub



Land Use Changes: case of crops



COMMENT • 27 MARCH 2019

Why the US-China trade war spells disaster for the Amazon

An analysis of global soybean production forecasts massive deforestation in Brazil — stakeholders must act fast to prevent it, warns Richard Fuchs and colleagues.

Peter Alexander, Colum Brown, Frances Cassar, Rudijn C. Henry & Mark Roussell
Richard Fuchs



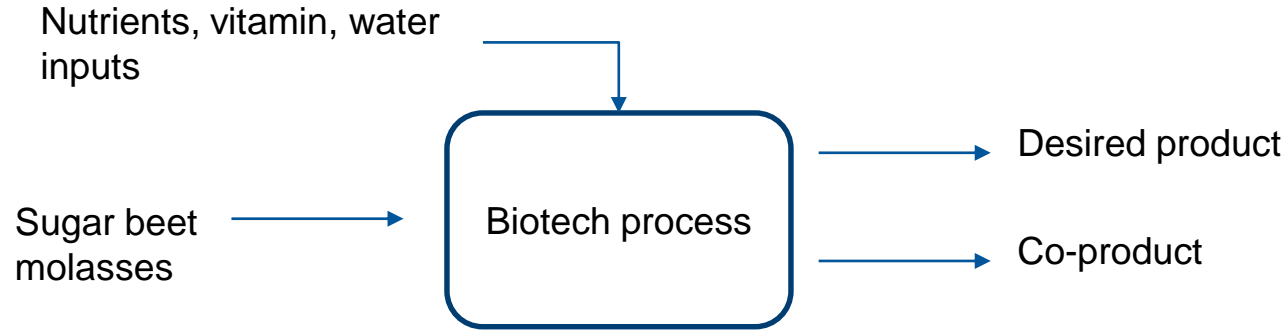
Fields of soybeans (left) sit alongside untouched natural forest in the Cerrado mosaic of Brazil. Credit: Marilisa Crispin/Corbis

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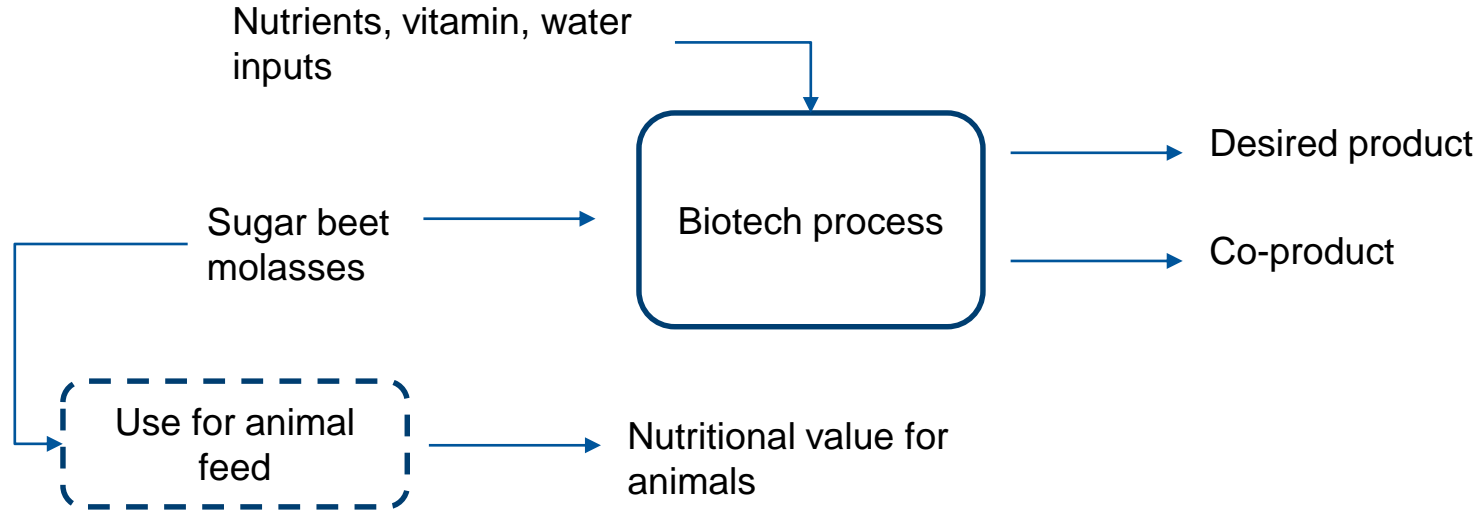
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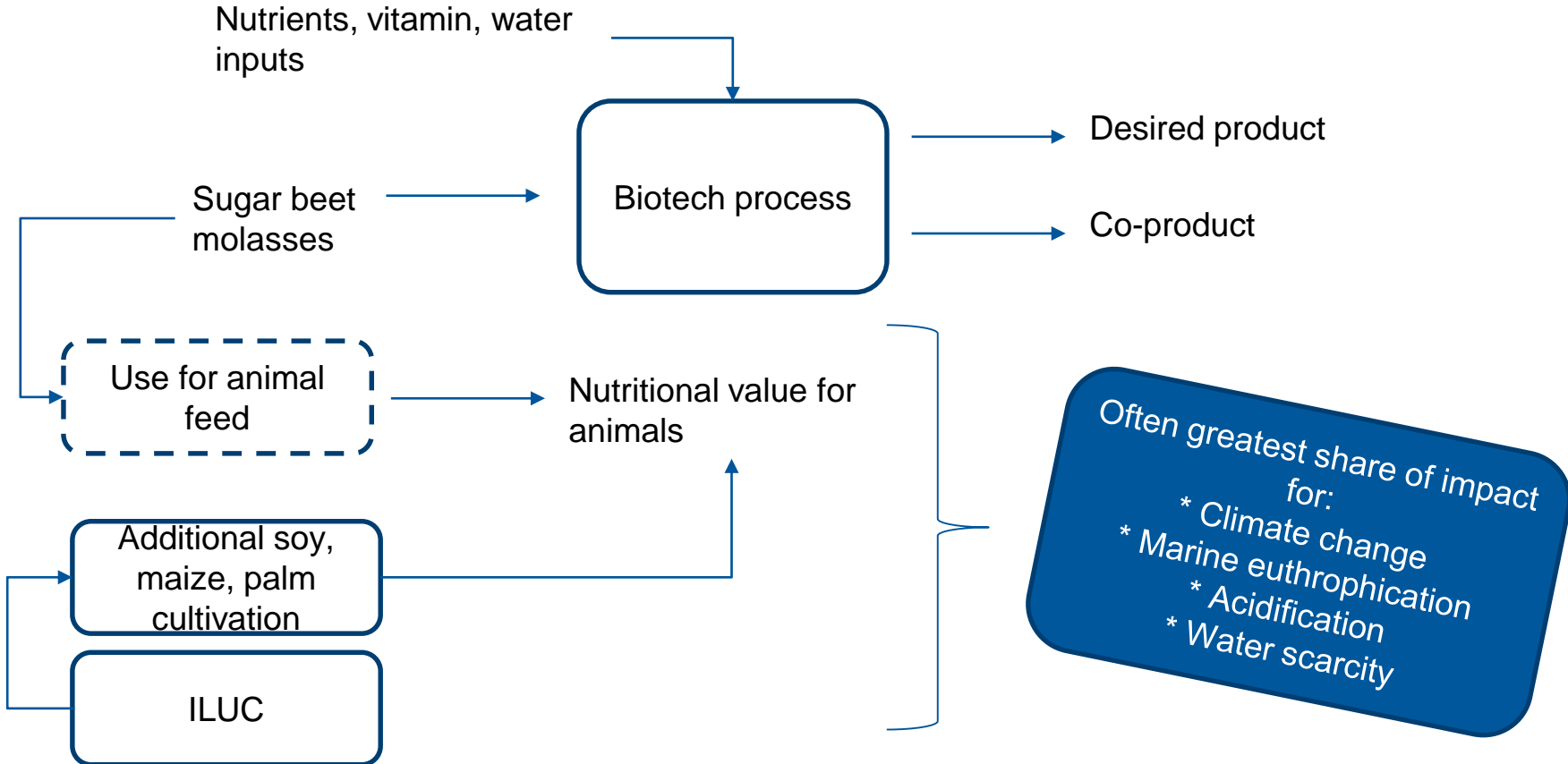
The case of coproducts as input feedstock



The case of coproducts as input feedstock



The case of coproducts as input feedstock



The case of coproducts as input feedstock

No free lunch!

Nutrients, vitamin, water
inputs

Sugar beet
molasses

Biotech process

Desired product

Co-product

Use for animal
feed

Nutritional value for
animals

Additional soy,
maize, palm
cultivation

ILUC

Often greatest share of impact
for:

- * Climate change
- * Marine eutrophication
- * Acidification
- * Water scarcity

Co-products : acknowledged prioritization in circular economy

D.A. Teigiserova et al. / Science of the Total Environment 706 (2020) 136033

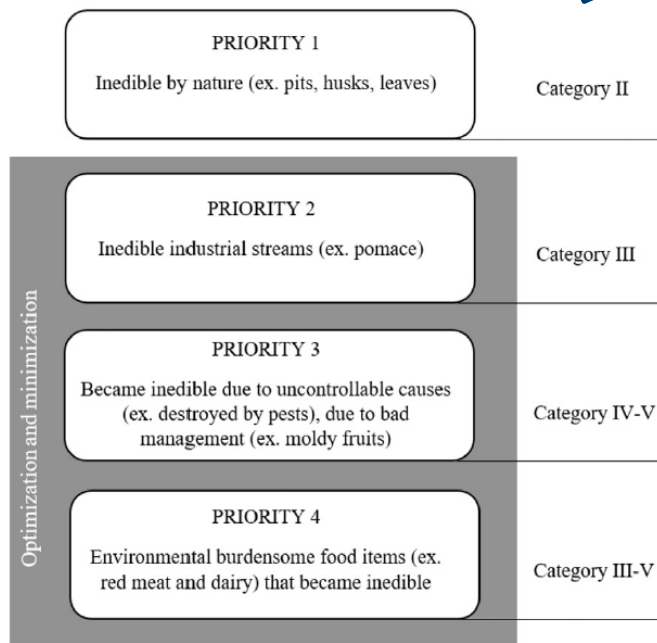


Fig. 3. Ranking proposed to prioritize which inedible food waste stream to use in future food waste biorefineries. Linked to category

Table 3
Categorization of FSWL in connection with edibility and possibility of avoidance.

Edible	Inedible	Other
Available	Unavailable	Partly available
I. All edible food	II. Naturally inedible (ex. bones, pits, leaves) III. Processing waste residues (ex. apple pomace, tea leaves)	IV. Became inedible due to natural causes (crops damaged due weather) V. Became inedible due to inefficient management a. poor functioning of the FSC (lack of proper refrigeration, inadequate infrastructure, etc.) b. avoidable negligence
Surplus food	Food waste	Food loss

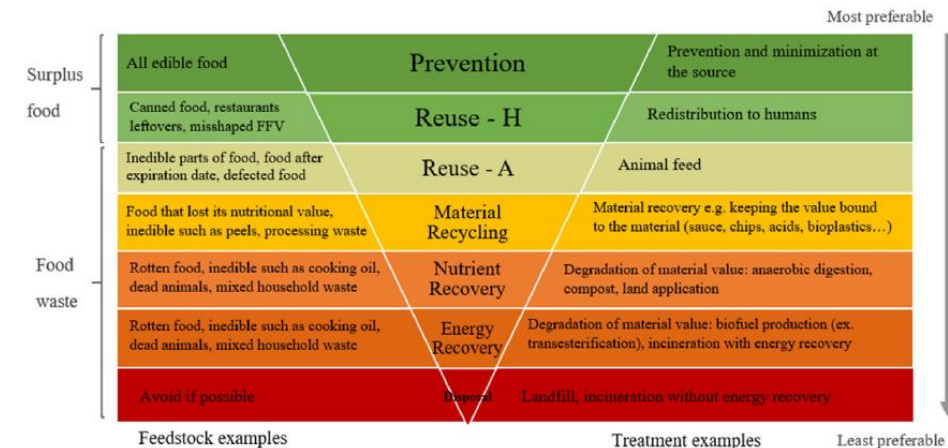


Fig. 1. Updated hierarchy for food surplus and waste proposed herein building on terminology from major European and national projects (UNEP, 2014; WRAP, 2013; FUSIONS: Östergren et al., 2014). *FFV fresh fruits and vegetables.

4

Fluctuating power challenge

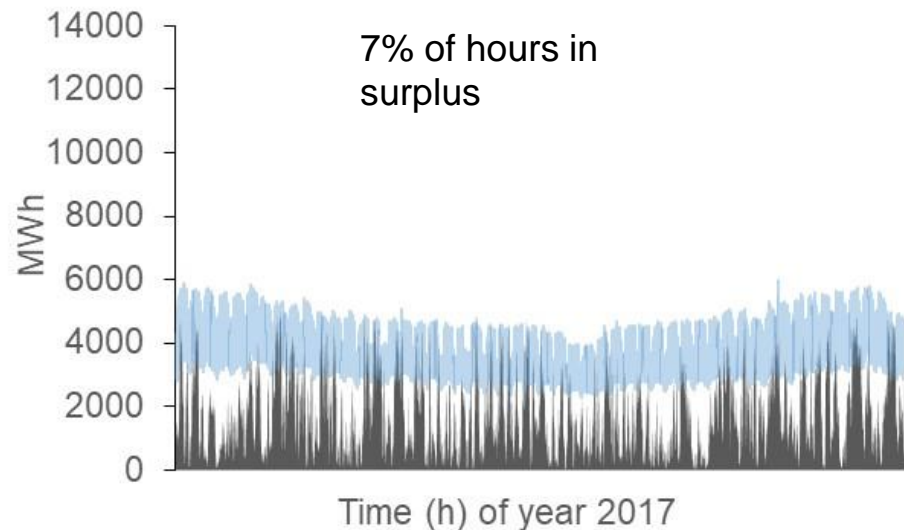


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The opportunities of more fluctuating power

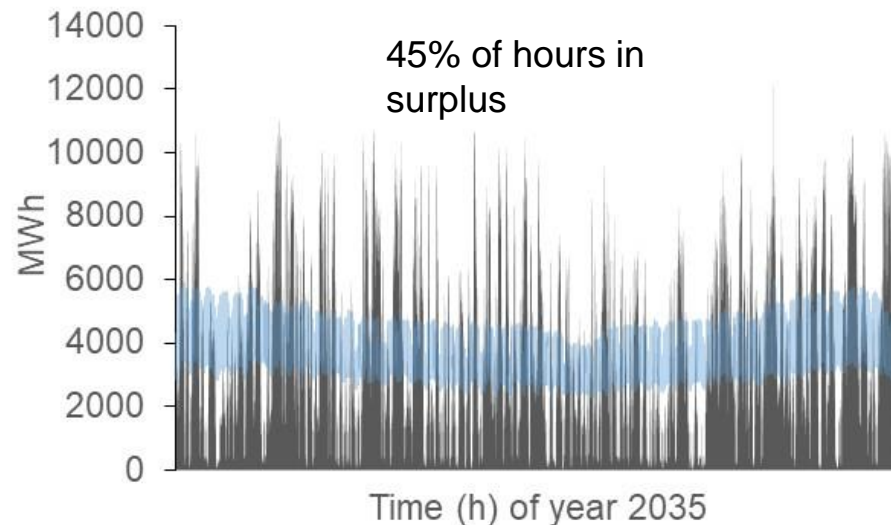
2017
6092 MW fluctuating power
installed capacity

(a)



2035
13,409 MW fluctuating power
installed capacity

(b)



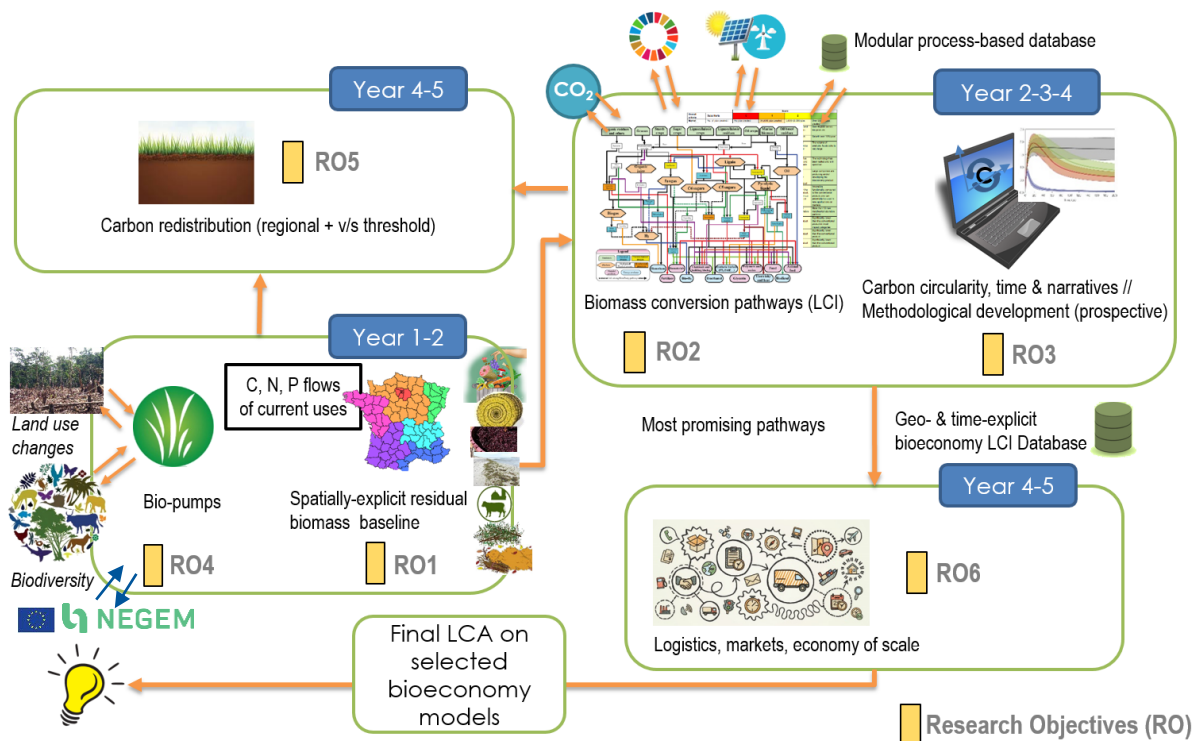
Classic electricity consumption



Fluctuating power production

5

Cambioscop: what we do



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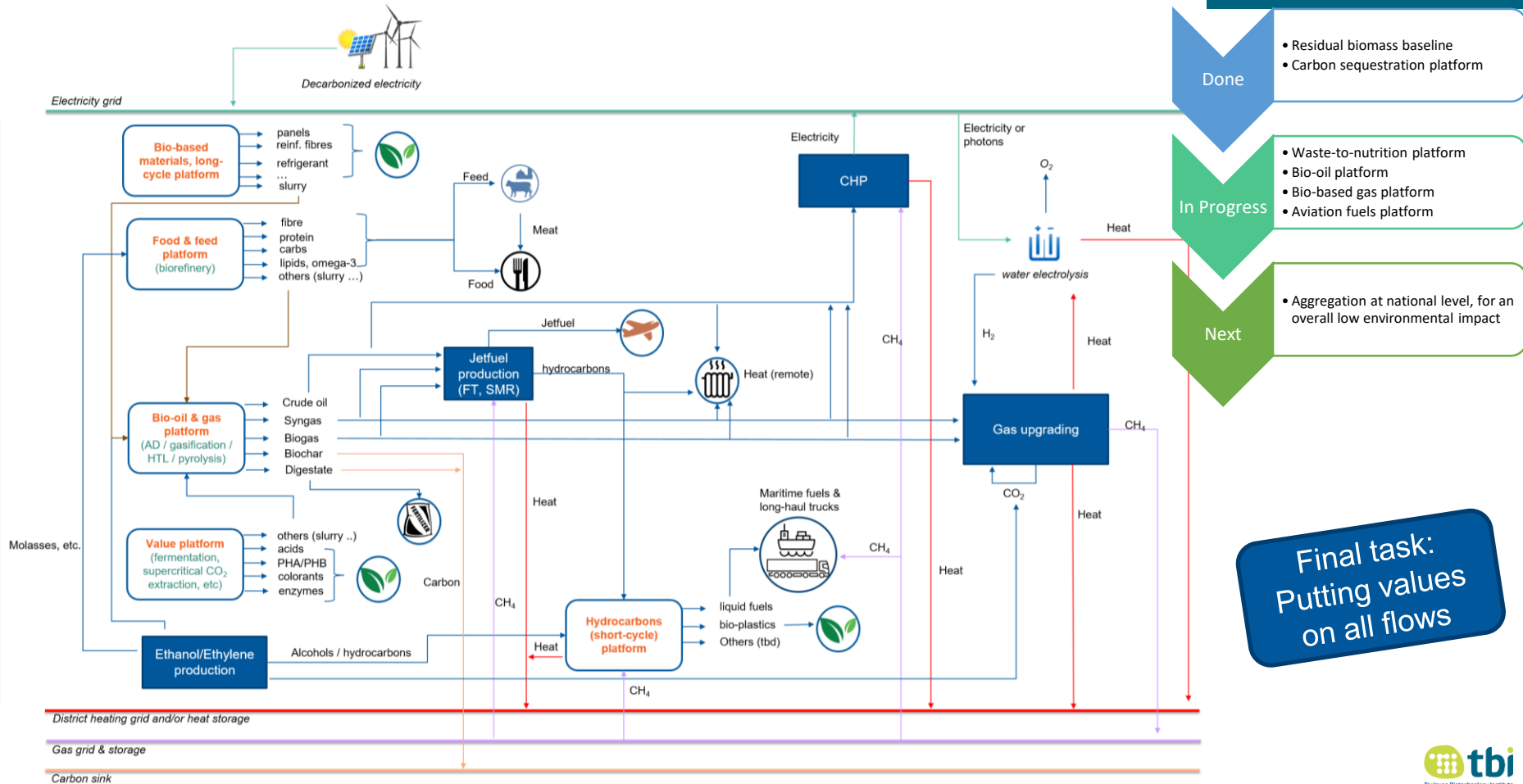
Emmanuel Macron

French president's climate talent search nabs 18 foreign scientists

By Elisabeth Pain | Dec 11, 2017, 2:00 PM

MAKE OUR PLANET GREAT AGAIN

The interconnected vision of our economic systems



Disclaimer

- **Not only C**
- **Not only climate change (but all 16 environmental impacts of the Environmental Footprint life cycle impact assessment method)**

Take home messages

- **Biotech has a role in making it possible to keep fossil C in the ground**
 - => and environmental scientists to properly account for it! (July 4th)
- **Biotech has a role in improving its processes:**
 - => developing more efficient processes using C as efficiently as possible
 - => processes using less water
 - => processes using less energy
- **Beware what you put in:**
 - => No free lunch! Even residual biomasses generate land use change. Consider what would have otherwise happened to the feedstock!
 - => Avoid Haber-Bosch! Recovering/recycling nutrients to the extent possible
- **Transport is often meaningless!**

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What do you think are the greatest challenges ahead?



Carbon management towards low fossil carbon use

<https://cambioscop.cnrs.fr/>



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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvWM2_5hSWN1zujJ4vEZNA

Video on the project on the MOPGA channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I7VkgHM9lw&list=UUegK_BEcsgqJt1YOeFsenNg&index=12&ab_channel=MakeOurPlanetGreatAgain

Note: all of our data are publicly available when ready, on the Cambioscop website and/or as SI of our papers and/or as preprints and/or on data repository

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