



This project is funded by
the European Union



Microalgae related processes for nutrients recovery from wastes

Prof. F. Gabriel Acien (facien@ual.es)

Dpt. Chemical Engineering, University of Almeria, SPAIN

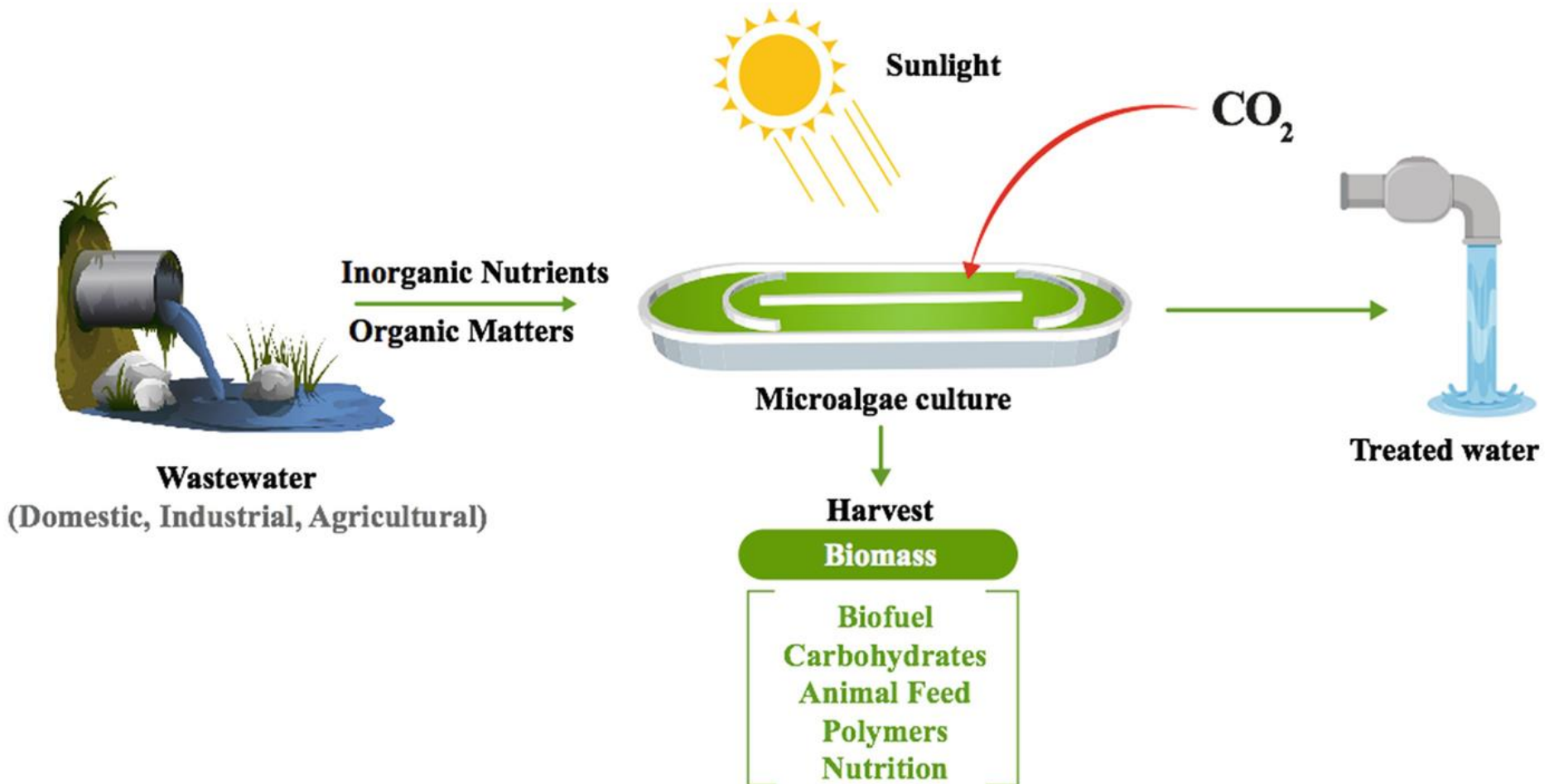


UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA



This project is funded by
the European Union

Aim





This project is funded by
the European Union

Feedstock



Wastewater as nutrients source

The composition of sewage and centrate are similar to standard microalgae culture media, but digestate and manure contain too much contaminants

Effluent	COD/BOD, mg/l	N, mg/l	P, mg/l	Total Suspended Solids, mg/l	Turbidity, NTU
Digestate	9000/7000	8000	400	10000	30000
Manure	16000/12000	9000	500	3000	9000
Agro-industrial (Breweries)	4000/3800	30	10	1000	3000
Centrate	300/200	500	12	1000	3000
Sewage	700/500	65	11	300	900
Microalgae culture medium		50	10	0	0

Microalgae can be produced using whatever of these wastewater as only nutrients source, recovering up 90% of nutrients inlet



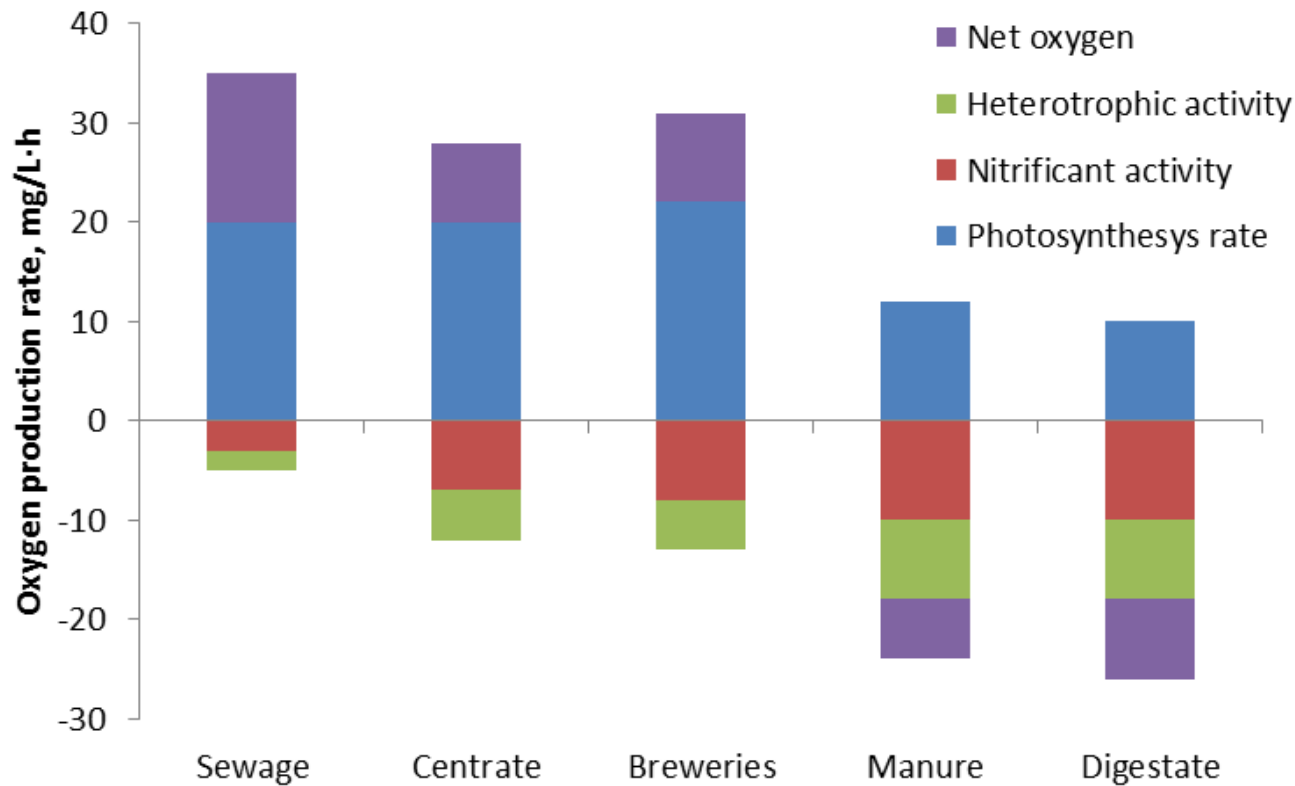
This project is funded by the European Union



Microalgae consortia

Management of microalgae consortia

According to the wastewater composition different design/operational conditions are required



Composition of the consortia largely modifies as a function of wastewater type used, thus modifying the entire performance of the system



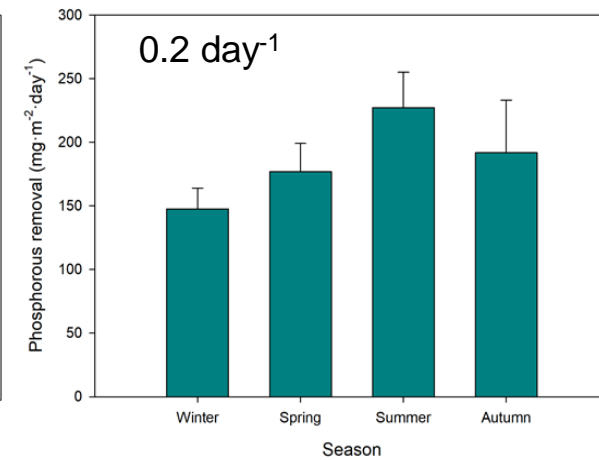
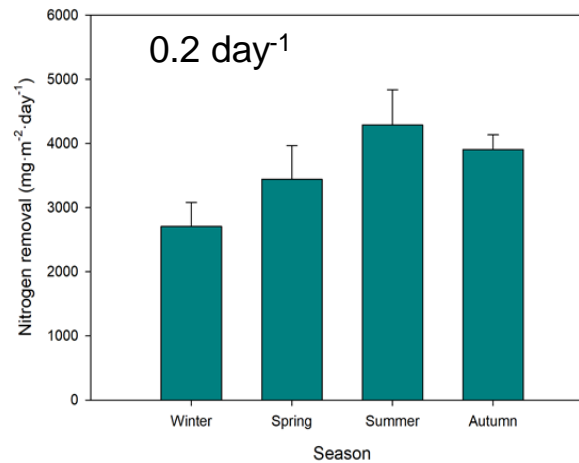
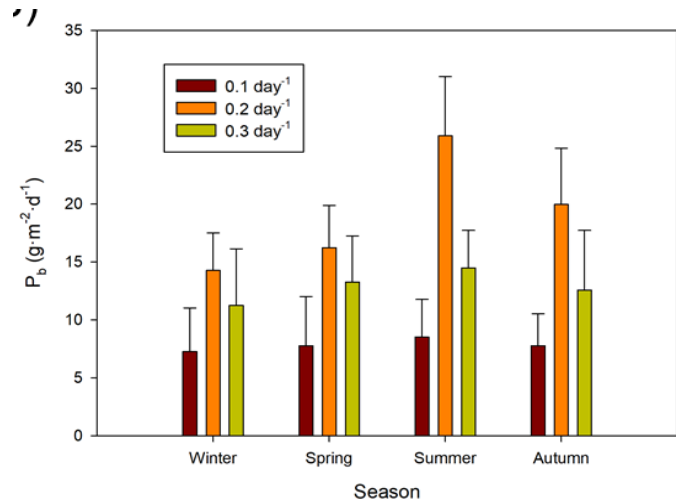
This project is funded by the European Union



Domestic wastewater

Year-long evaluation of microalgae production using wastewater

BOD is always removed but N/P is only removed when maximizing productivity



Mean values on annual basis:

- Wastewater treatment = 400 m³/ha·day
- Biomass production = 200 kg/ha·day
- BOD removal = 200 kg/ha·day
- N removal = 35 kgN/ha·day
- P removal = 1.8 kgP/ha·day
- Complete accomplishment of regulation (BOD, N, P)



This project is funded by the European Union

Domestic wastewater



Firsts industrial demonstrators



20,000m²



Mérida

10,000m²



Hellín

22,200m²



Chiclana

Almería

3,000m²





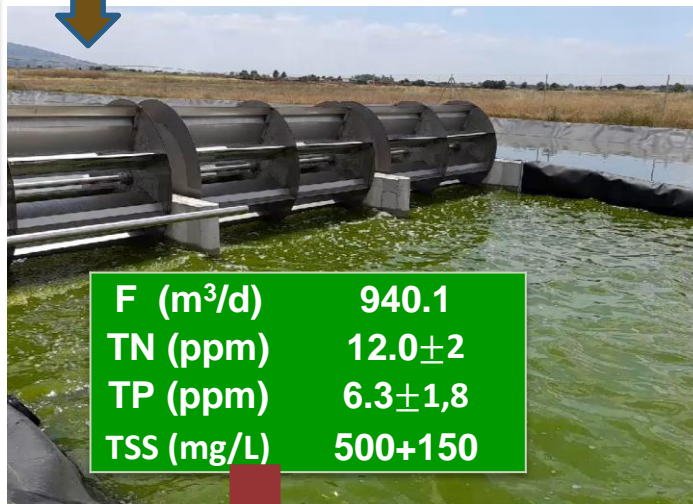
This project is funded by the European Union

Domestic wastewater



Firsts industrial demonstrators

F (m ³ /d)	1000
TN (ppm)	50.4±8
TP (ppm)	10.3±3
COD (mgO ₂ /L)	525±120



F (m ³ /d)	940.1
TN (ppm)	12.0±2
TP (ppm)	6.3±1,8
TSS (mg/L)	500+150

Simultaneous COD, TN and TP removal, 80%, 74% and 88%, respectively

Energy requirement 0,17kWh/m³

2 to 3 m²/PE

Simple process:
No external carbon
Single stage

Biomass rich in:
N and P

Biomass
110±32
Ton/Ha yr



TN (ppm)	12.0± 2,2
TP (ppm)	1.01±0,75
COD (ppm)	80.2±20
TSS (ppm)	25.4±7,5





This project is funded by the European Union

Domestic wastewater



Firsts industrial demonstrators

5000 PE

Simultaneous

N, P, COD & TSS removal
Below directive 91/271/EC



1000 m³/d WW

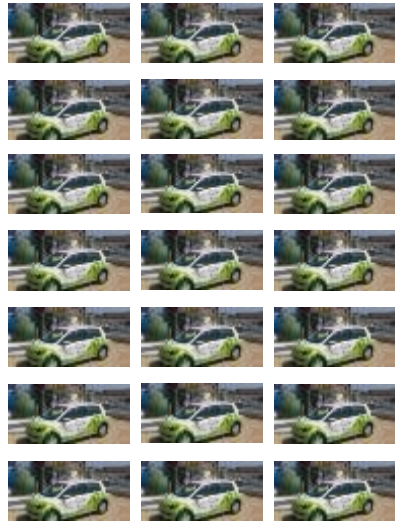
1 hectare

40-60 Ton/yr biomass

950 m³/d Reuse



15 000 kg / 4,5 = 330.000 km
15 000 km/yr, 22 cars



13,000 kg CH₄/yr

- 0,3kWh/m³

Energy saving
106.800 kWh/yr

50-60% VS bio-CH₄

>100 Ton/ yr





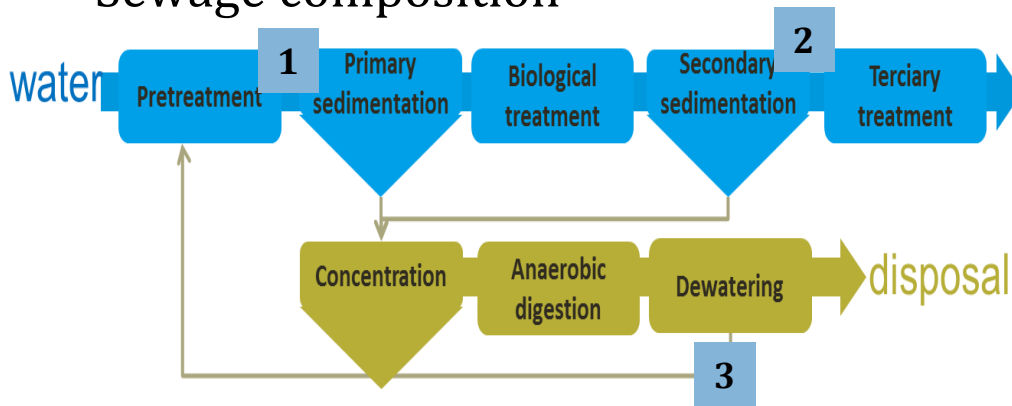
This project is funded by the European Union

Agroindustrial effluents



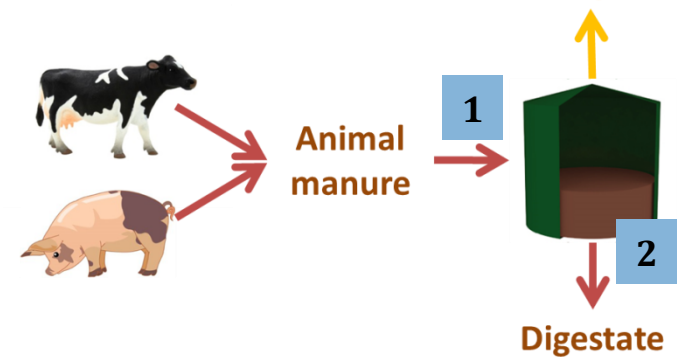
Manure from animal farming

Sewage composition



Conc., mg/L	Arnon	1 Primary treatment	2 Secondary treatment	3 Anaerobic digestion
TKN	114	65	20	511
TP	41	11	10	12
TC	47	296	82	247

Manure composition



Conc., mg/L	1 Undigested	2 Digested
TKN	9000	8000
TP	500	400
TC	16000	9000

Composition of waste water is different, thus they must be managed differently
 Manure/digestate must be diluted consuming large amounts of water

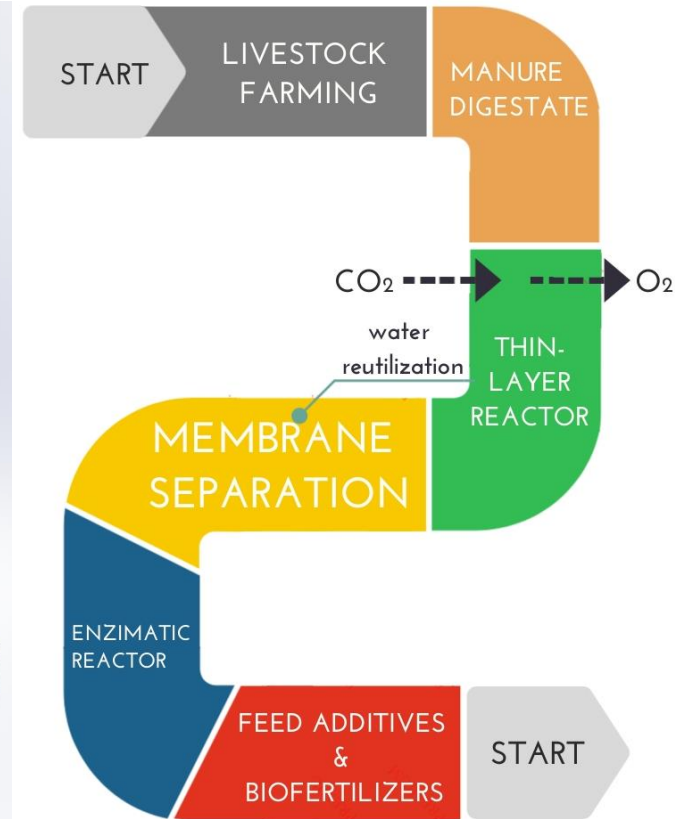
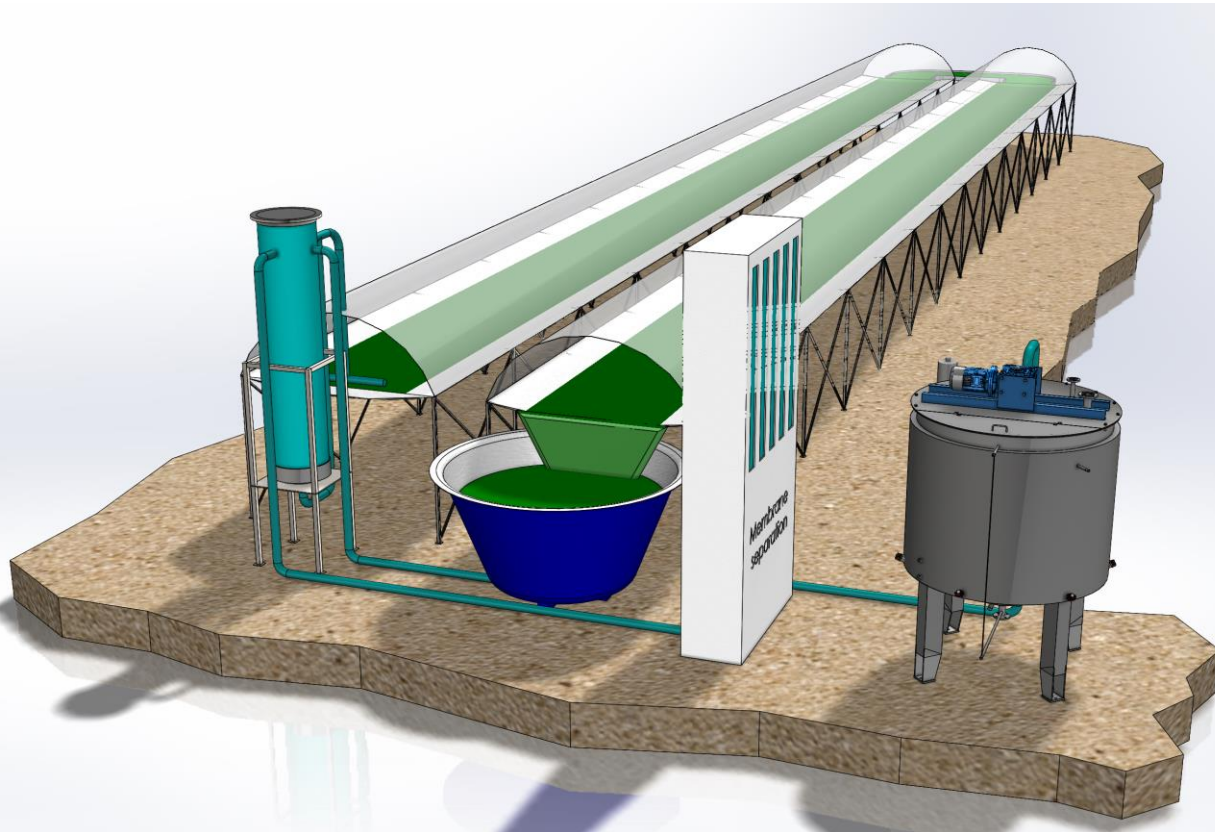


This project is funded by the European Union

Agroindustrial effluents



Proposed technology



Covered reactors to minimize water losses
Membrane technologies for water recovery/recirculation
Robust technologies

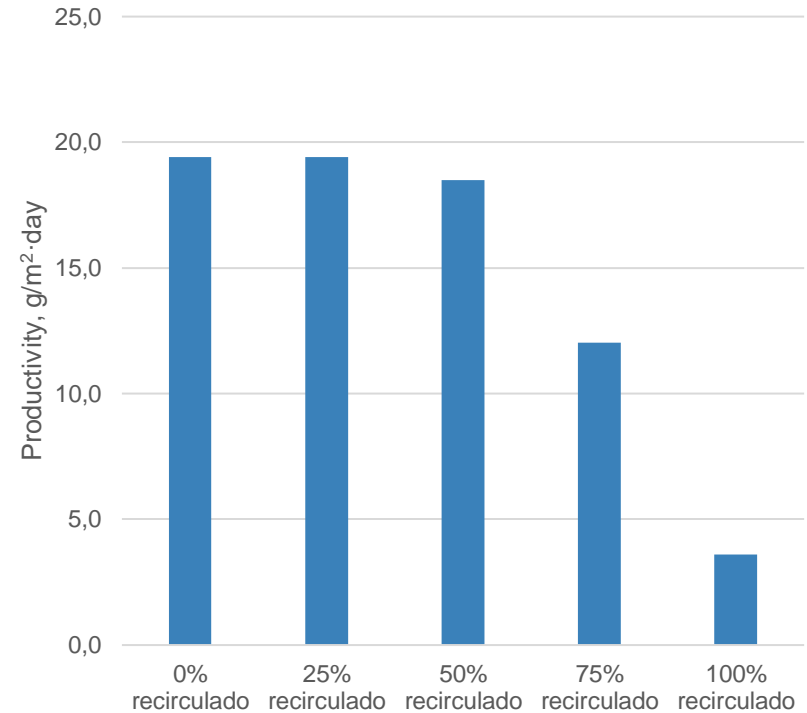
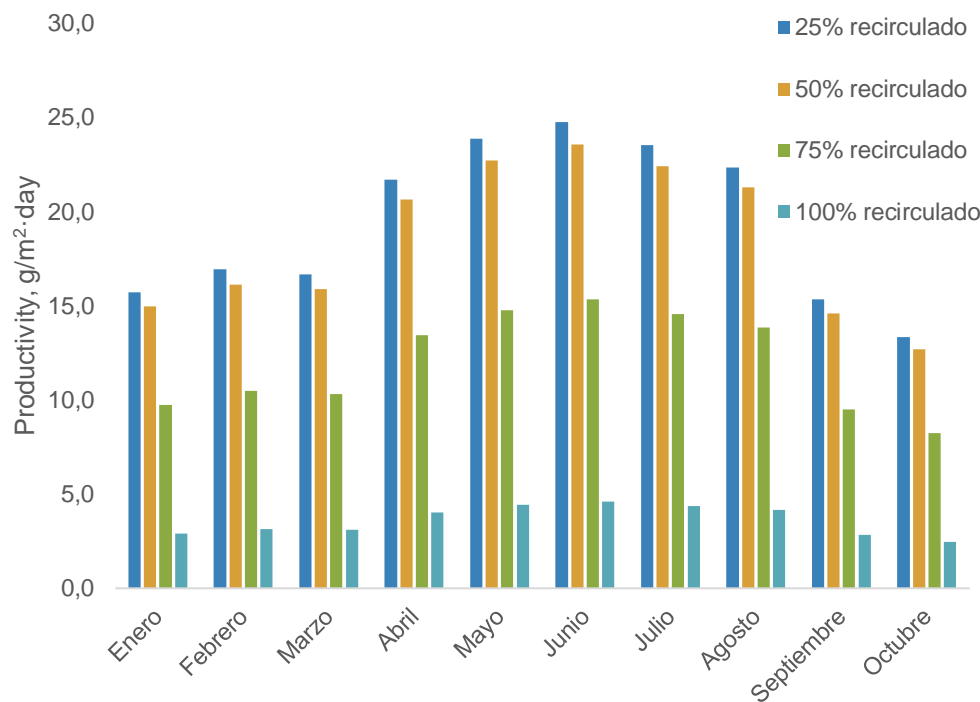


This project is funded by the European Union

Agroindustrial effluents



Performance of the system



Biomass productivity remains constant at recirculation rates up to 50%
Seasonal variations largely influences the performance of the cultures
The behavior is analogous to conventional microalgae production systems



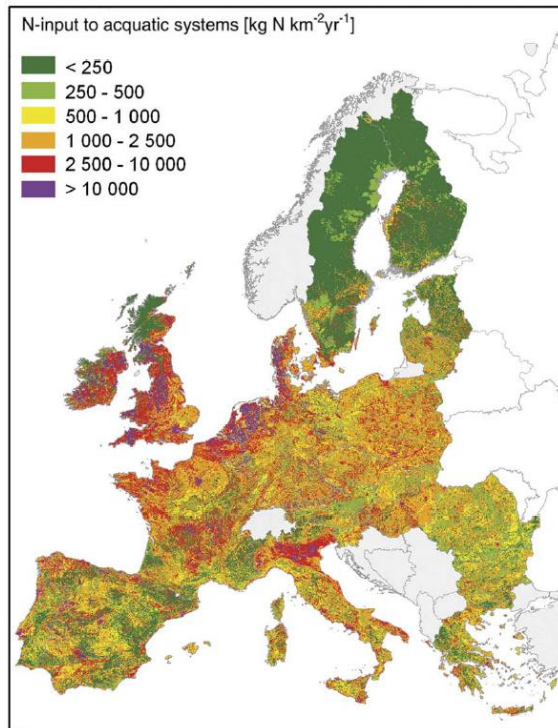
This project is funded by the European Union

Drain water

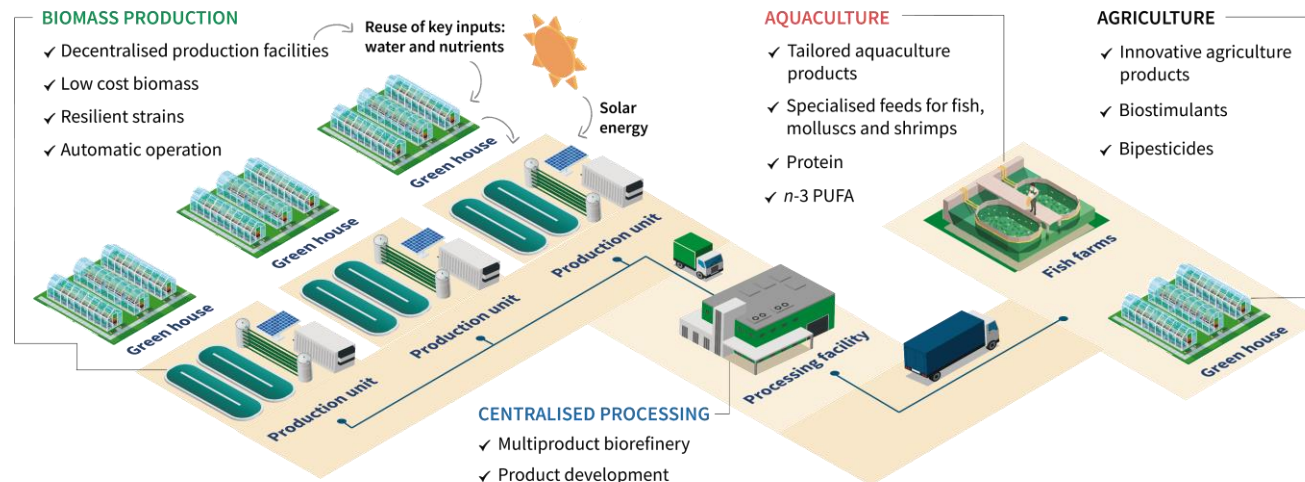


HORIZON-CL6-2021-CIRCBIO-01-09 — Unlocking the potential of algae for a thriving European blue bioeconomy. Innovation Action . TRL 7

REUSING EFFLUENTS FROM AGRICULTURE TO UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF MICROALGAE (GA 101060991)



REALM VALUE CHAIN CONCEPT



Distributed production of microalgae recovering nutrients from drain water and integrated valorization in foods production systems (agriculture and aquaculture)



This project is funded by
the European Union

Drain water



Data from commercial producers



Inlet		
Water	3L/m ² ·day	
NO ₃ ⁻	1000mg/L	
TKN	226mg/L	

1 ha scenario	
Water	10 m ³ /day
TKN	158 mg/L
N total	1581 g/day
N biomass	10%
Biomass productivity	20 g/m ² ·day
Biomass production	16 kg/day
Surface required	790 m²

	Use	Losses
Water	67%	33%
NO ₃ ⁻	30%	70%
TKN	30%	70%

Outlet		
Water	1 L/m ² ·day	
NO ₃ ⁻	700 mg/L	
TKN	158 mg/L	

Challenges:

- Avoid contamination of water bodies
- Reuse of water/nutrients
- Remove pathogens



This project is funded by the European Union

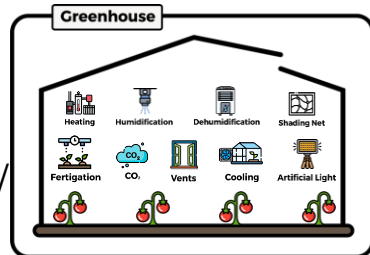
Drain water



Demonstration scale facility

1100 m², hydroponic

100 m², raceway



<http://agroconnect.es/>

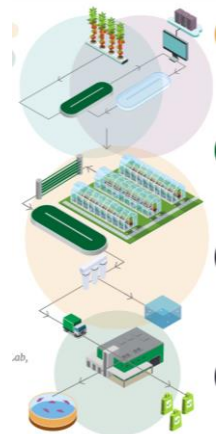
Samples: Inlet, Outlet

Periodicity: twice per week

Measurements: pH, CE, TIC, COD, turbidity



- Continuous cultures
- Influence of environmental conditions
- Bioactivity tests
- Evaluation of removal of compounds of emerging concern





This project is funded by the European Union

Products



Agriculture applications

Produced biomass can be used to obtain valuable product as biofertilizers among others, otherwise it would be a waste



Biomass is highly valuable to produce biofertilizers/biostimulants for agricultural uses, quality of the product being validate in field trials



Products

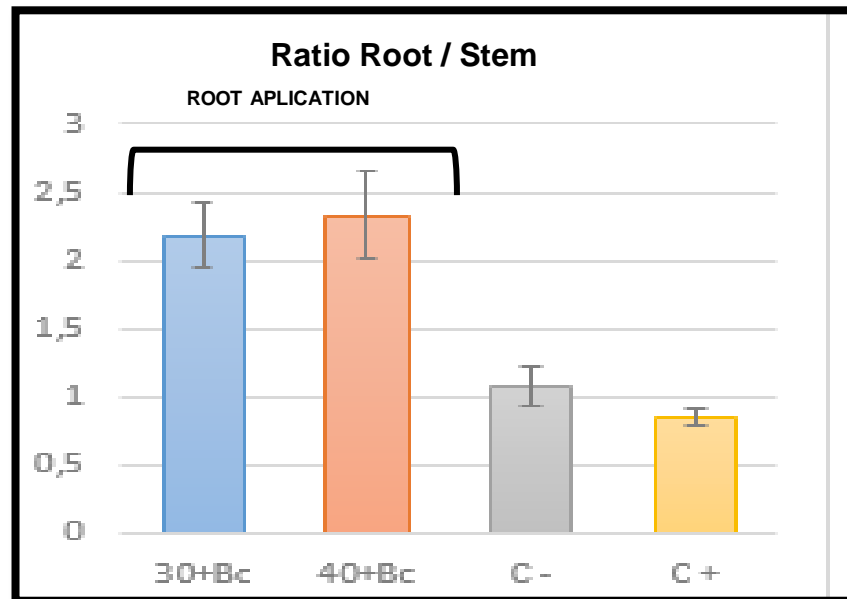


This project is funded by the European Union



Biostimulants

Protective effect



- Higher productivity/quality (>20%)
- Reduction on fertilizers consumption (<10%)
- Reduction of fungi adverse effects (>40%)
- Larger root development and tolerance to stress factors



This project is funded by the European Union

Products



Irrigation water

Evaluation of the reuse of regenerated water from microalgae-related wastewater treatment processes in horticulture

Tatiana P.L. Cunha-Chiamolera^{a*}, Ainoa Morillas España^b, Raúl Ortega^c, Isabel Miralles^c, Cynthia Victoria González-López^b, Ileri A. Carbajal-Valenzuela^d, Miguel Urrestarazu^a

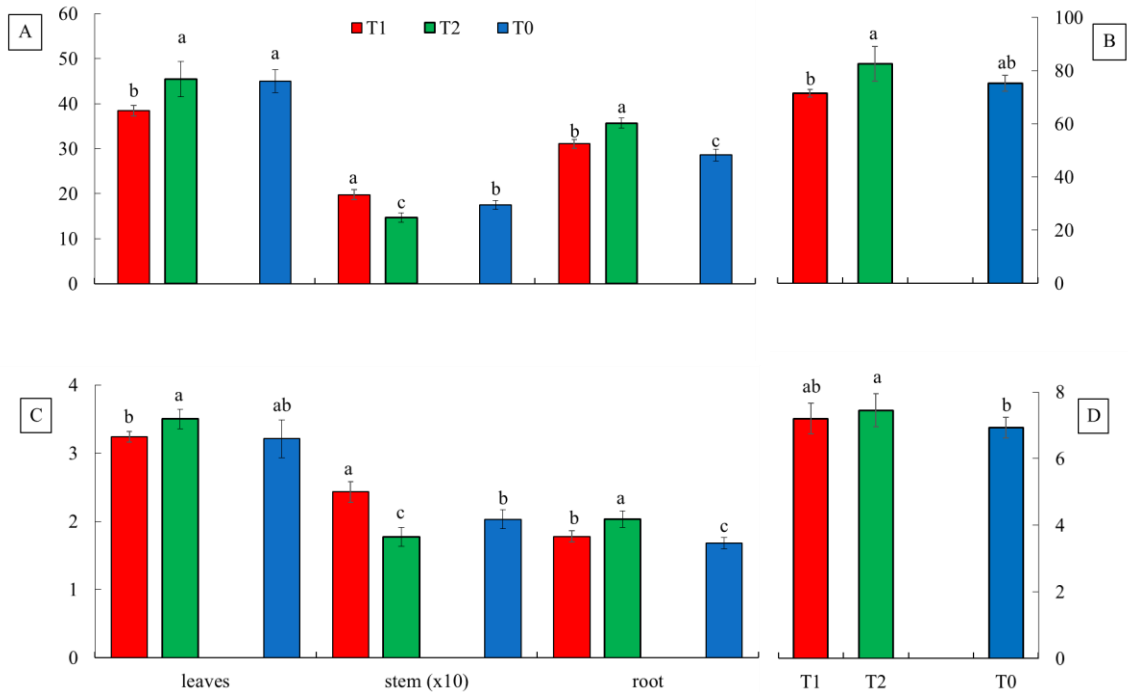


Figure 6.- Fresh (A and B) and dry weight (C and D) of lettuce crop (g plant⁻¹) versus application of untreated (T1) and treated wastewater (T2) using microalgae, compared to the control with nutrient solution (T0). Different letters indicate significant differences at p<0.05 according to Tukey's test for each organ and total weight.



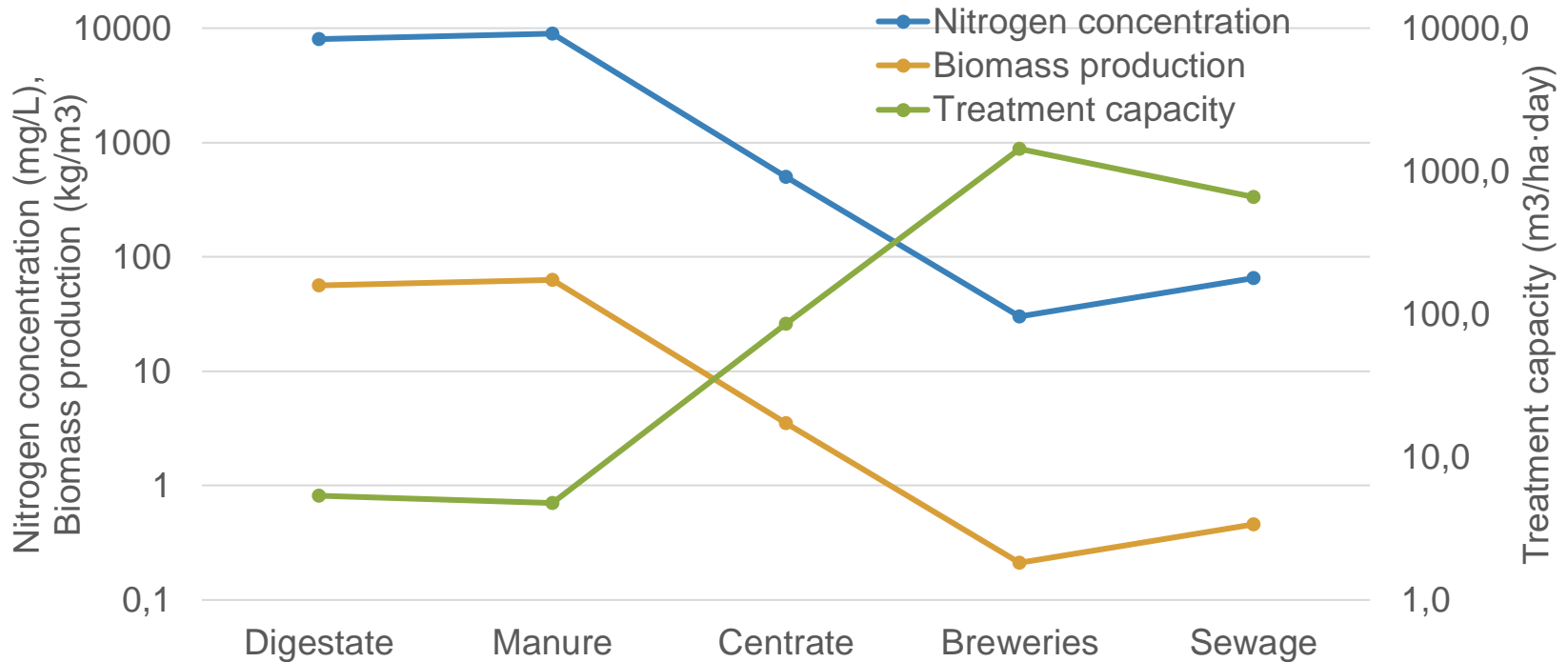
This project is funded by the European Union

Marketability



Overall capacity is a function of nutrients source

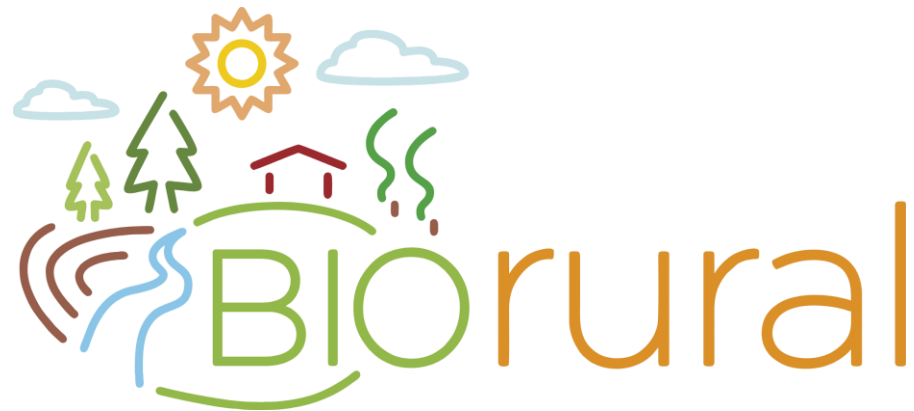
Both biomass production and wastewater treatment capacity is a function of composition of the wastewater, mainly N/P concentrations



Capacity of the process is limited by the performance of photosynthetic reaction



This project is funded by
the European Union



Microalgae related processes for nutrients recovery from wastes

Prof. F. Gabriel Acien (facien@ual.es)

Dpt. Chemical Engineering, University of Almeria, SPAIN



UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA