
NOVEL MISCANTHUS-BASED VALUE CHAINS

CHE 650 Hazardous Waste Engineering Seminar:
Phytotechnology with Biomass Production

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Miscanthus as a biomass crop



- Tall perennial rhizomatous C4 grass
- Potential dry matter yield of up to 25 t ha⁻¹ a⁻¹ in Central Europe
- Low-input crop with a high nitrogen, land-use and energy efficiency
- Can be harvested annually (after a establishment phase) for up to 20 years



Miscanthus research in Hohenheim

Expired Miscanthus projects:

- EMI
- OPTIMISC
- New miscanthus genotypes for lignocellulose-based value chains

Ongoing Miscanthus projects:

- MISCOMAR
- BioC4
- GRACE



EMI – European Miscanthus Improvement

Time: 1997 – 2000

Funding: EU

Description:

- 15 Miscanthus genotypes were tested across Europe
- Propagation methods were developed and optimized



Start of miscanthus breeding in Europe (collection of germplasm in Asia)



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OPTIMISC – Optimizing Miscanthus Biomass Production

Time: 2011 – 2016

Funding: EU



Description:

- 15 novel Miscanthus hybrids tested across Europe
- Utilization options (e.g. bioethanol, biogas) analyzed
- Large scale establishment was demonstrated
- Life-Cycle Assessment of various conversion routes
- Follow-up of EMI project



The project is supported by funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. °289159.



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OPTIMISC – Optimizing Miscanthus Biomass Production



Intermediate products from two European breeding programs (IBERS, WUR) were tested



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New miscanthus genotypes for lignocellulose-based value chains

Time: 2014 – 2017

Funding: Ministry of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg

Description:

- 5 novel seed-based hybrids tested at 3 sites in Baden-Württemberg
- Focus on rather marginal areas
- Development of seed-coating method for miscanthus seeds
- Assessment of environmental performance

New miscanthus genotypes for lignocellulose-based value chains



First tests with near-to-market hybrids on marginal areas

New miscanthus genotypes for lignocellulose-based value chains



Source: S. Bopper



Source: S. Bopper

MISCOMAR – Miscanthus biomass options for contaminated and marginal land

Time: 2016 – 2019

Funding: BMBF, FACCE SURPLUS

Description:

- Medium-scale test of novel seed-based hybrids
- Novel establishment method (biodegradable mulch film)
- Field test on heavy metal contaminated site in Poland
- Analysis of soil interactions/changes under miscanthus
- Utilization: Biogas (green harvest) and combustion (dry harvest)



MISCOMAR



Near-to-market hybrids tested on marginal and contaminated areas

MISCOMAR

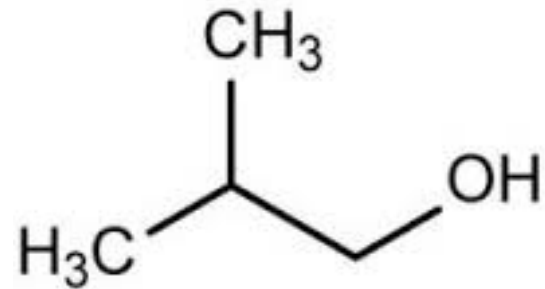


BioC4

BioC4 – New integrative sustainable system from C4 photosynthetic miscanthus to biological synthesis of valuable C4 compounds

Time: 2016 – 2019

Funding: BMBF, FACCE SURPLUS



BioC4

Description:

- Development of new yeast stream which produces Isobutanol (aviation fuel, platform chemical)
- Miscanthus as raw material
- Biogas yield potential of residues
- Life-Cycle Assessment and concept study



Novel, high-value utilization option for miscanthus biomass

BBI Annual Work Plan 2016 – Call D2

BBI 2016.D2 – Improvement and adaptation of industrial crop varieties and novel sources of biomass to diversify biomass feedstock for bio refineries

Scope: Demonstrate the techno-economic viability and sustainability of complete value chains based on utilization of dedicated, purposely developed biomass production systems as feedstock for the bio-based industries.

Specific focus on non-food-conflicting biomass production systems:

- that are suitable for cultivation on unused, marginal or contaminated land (optional: phytoremediation)
- that can be cultivated in novel and highly resource-efficient conditions

Sustainability (LCA) and sound business models of entire value chain need to be included!



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GRACE - GRowing Advanced industrial Crops on marginal lands for biorEfineries

BBI Demonstration project

Coordinated by: University of Hohenheim (340b)

Consortium: 22 partners from science, industry (incl. SME) and agricultural sector

Time: 2017 – 2022

Funding: BBI within EU H2020

Budget: 15 million €



GRACE - Partners



Gießereitechnik Kühn



GRACE

Description:

- Crops: Miscanthus and hemp
- Large scale demonstration of seed-based miscanthus hybrids
- Focus areas: marginal, contaminated and abandoned land
- Linking biomass production to industrial application
- Connecting all stakeholders along various value chains
(from farmer to industry)
- Assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts



GRACE

WP 1: Management

WP 2

Supply and propagation of germplasm and their biochemical characterization.

WP 3

Miscanthus and hemp for utilization of marginal, contaminated or unused lands.

WP 4

Demonstration cases

WP 5: Value chain assesement and organization

WP 6: Demo-to-market-strategy

WP 7: Ethic requirements

GRACE – WP 2/3: Propagation and crop production

Demonstration of crop production (>80 ha):

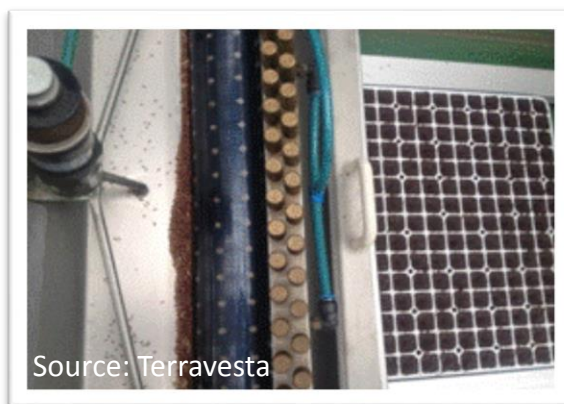
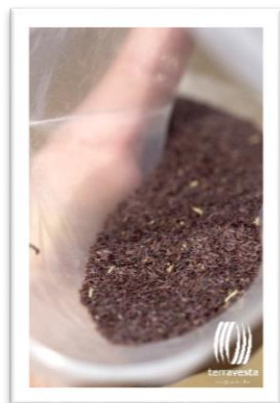
- Suitability of hemp and miscanthus for marginal, abandoned and contaminated land



GRACE – WP 2/3: Propagation and crop production

Demonstration of crop production (>80 ha):

- Upscaling of miscanthus seed production, seed-based propagation and crop production (Logistics!)



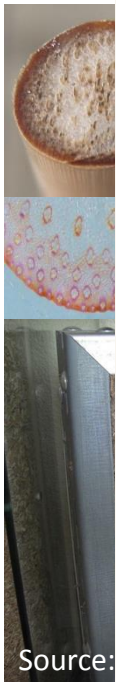
GRACE – WP 4: Demonstration Cases

Ten Demonstration Cases

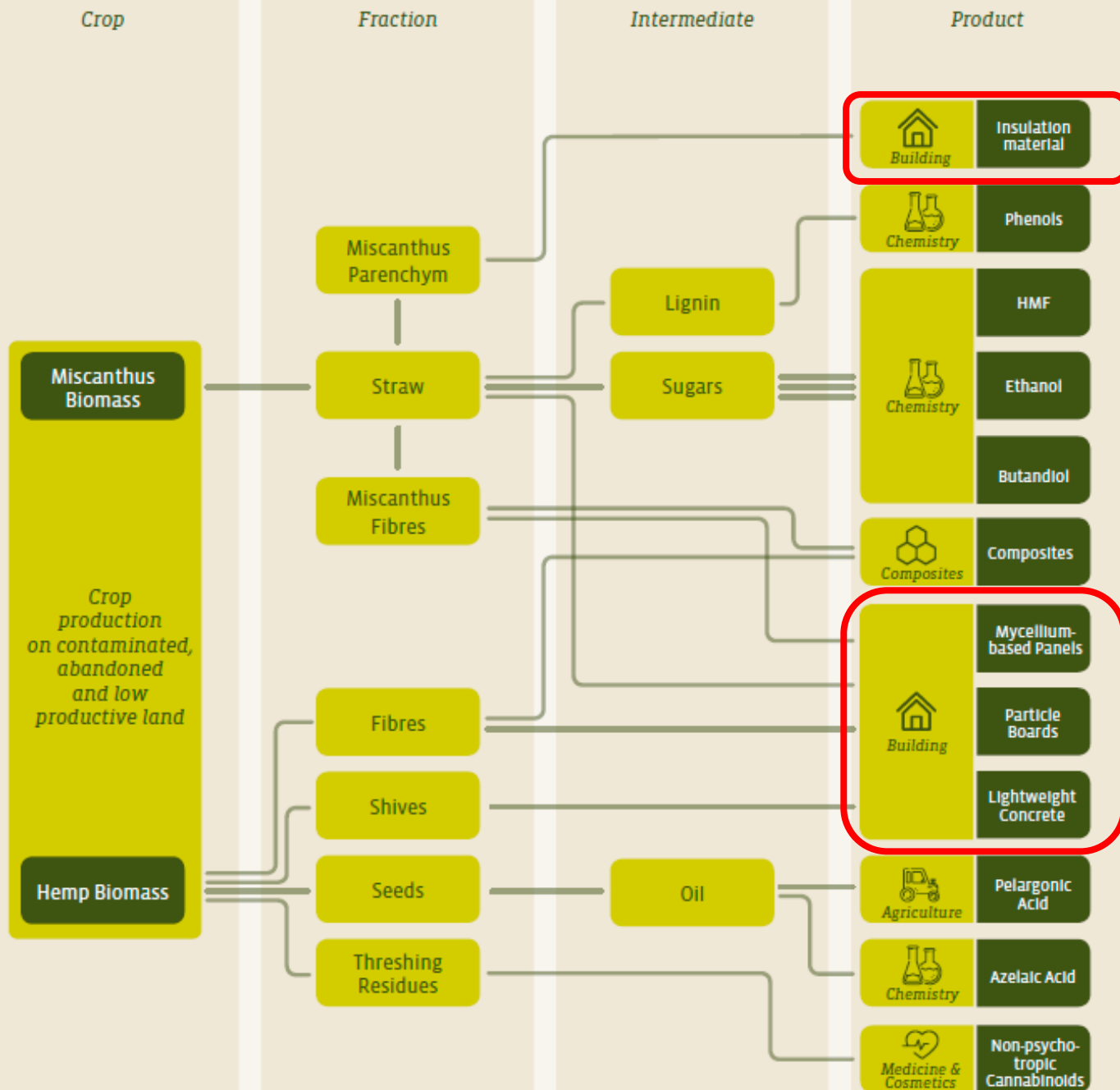
- **Green Building**
- **Green Agriculture**
- **Green Medicine and Cosmetics**
- **Green Chemistry**
- **Green Composites**



Green misc

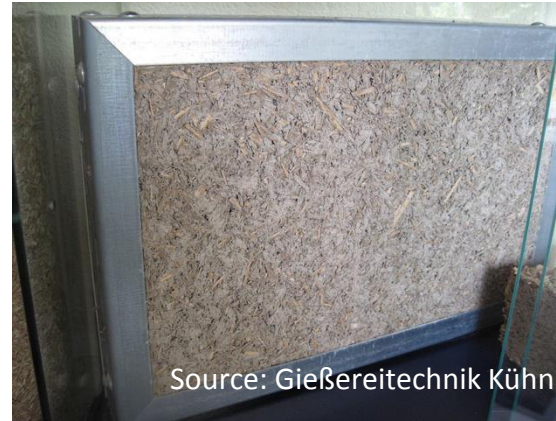
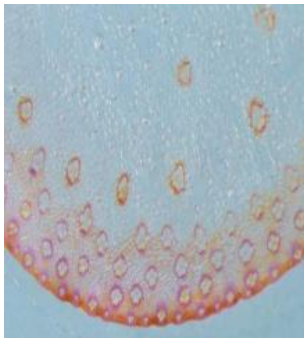


Source:



g from the Bio-
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vation programme

Green Building: Utilizing miscanthus parenchyma as insulation material



- Fractionate parenchyma from stem fragments and utilize as insulation material in building bricks

Green Building: Mycelium-based panels from hemp and miscanthus



- Fungal biomass as glue for lignocellulosic substrates

Green Building: Formaldehyde-free bio-building material



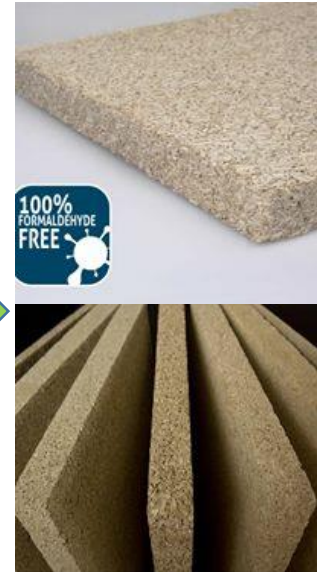
Biomass



Preparation and
mixing with biomass



Pressing



Formaldehyde-free
biobuilding panel

- Hemp- and miscanthus-based building panels, patented technology by CMF Greentech

Green Building: Lightweight Concrete

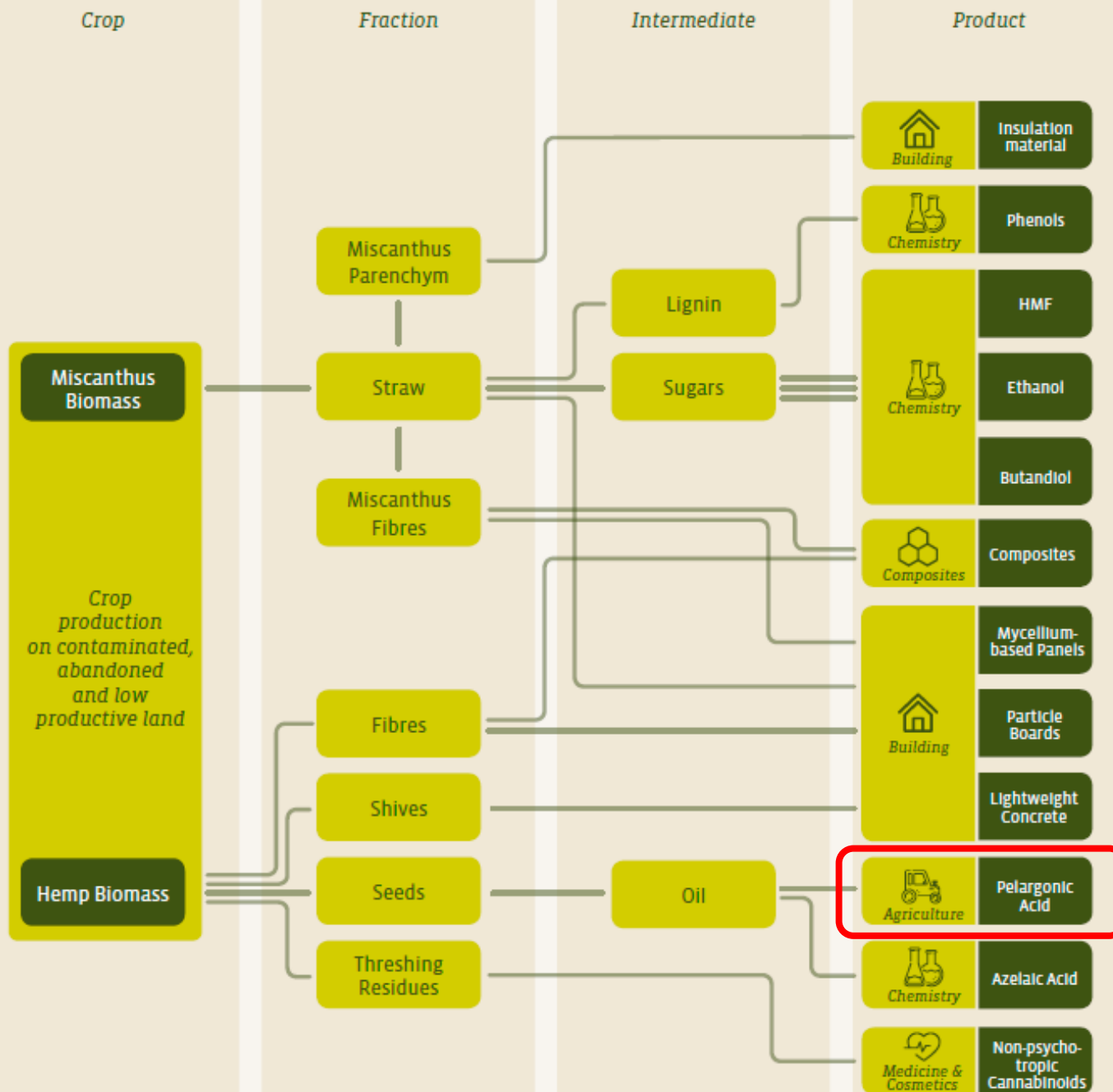


Source: Schiphol Trade Park

- Schiphol refinery
- Lightweight concretes, paper and paper-based products
- Based on miscanthus biomass



Source: <http://acroniq.nl/>

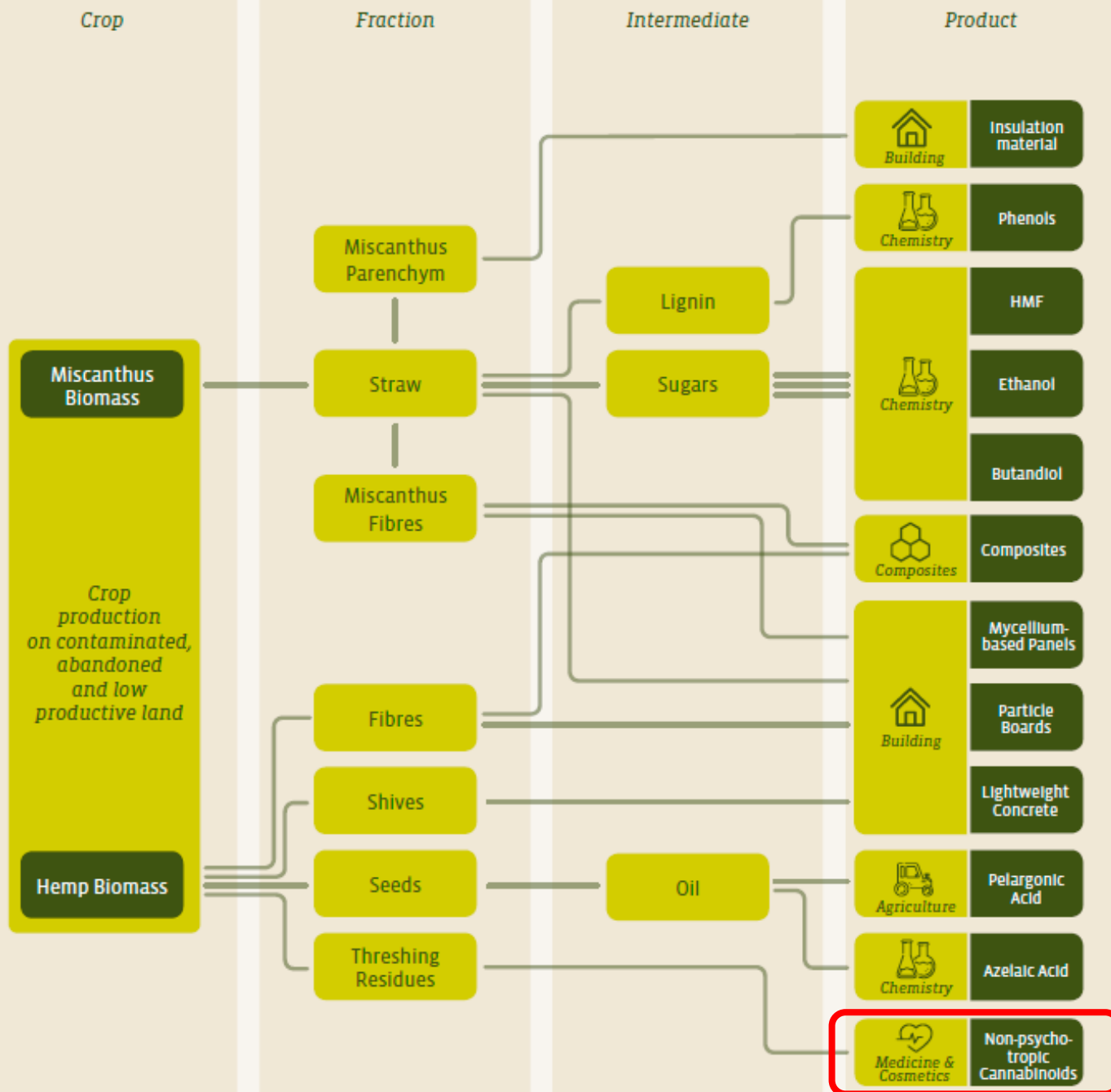


Green Agriculture: Bio-herbicide refinery



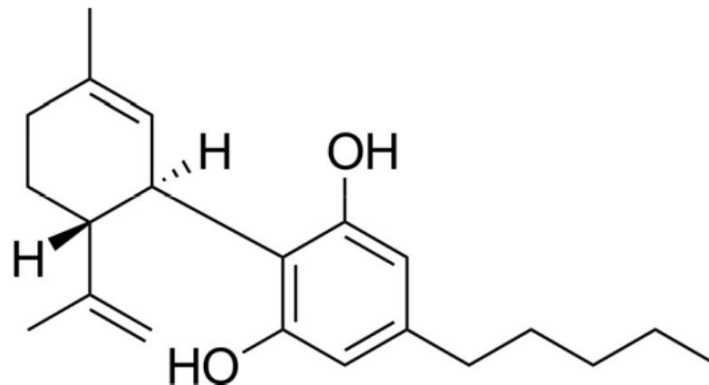
- Hemp oil-based pelargonic acid as herbicide
- Pelargonic acid causes rapid and non-selective burn-down of green tissues
- Possible substitute of glyphosate

Green



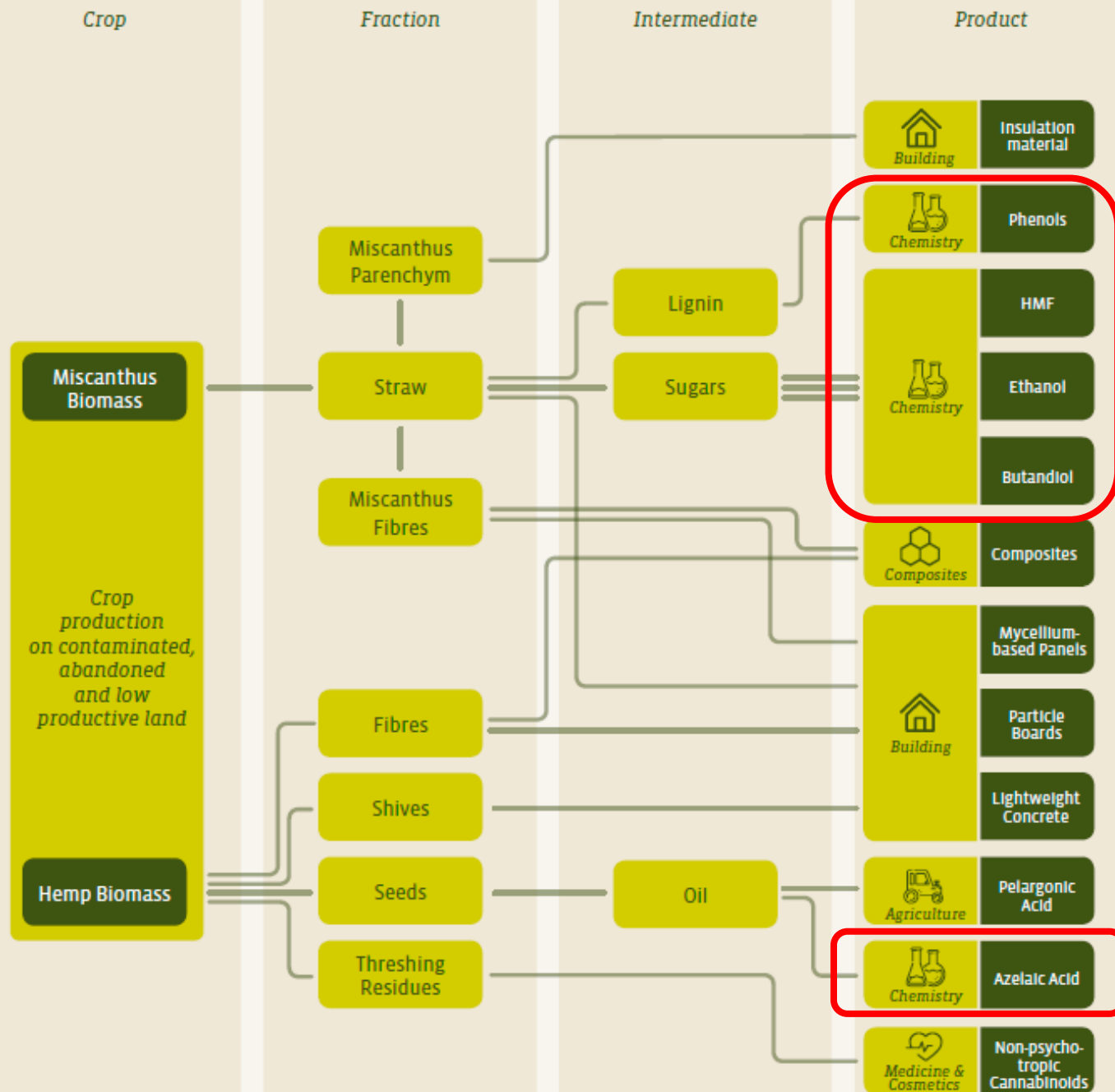
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novation programme

Green Medicines and Cosmetics:



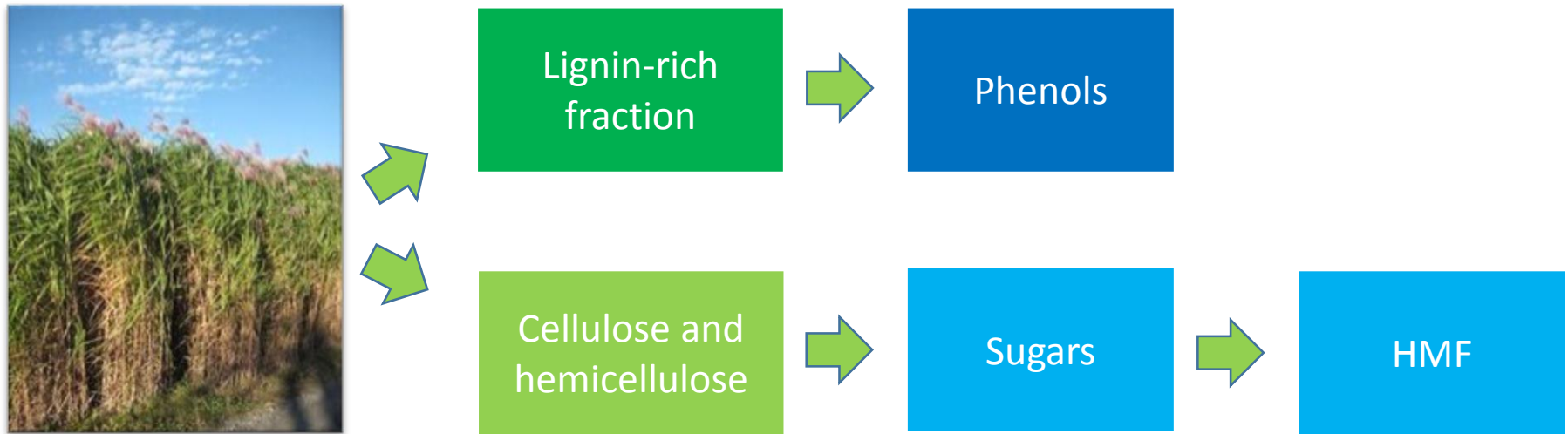
- Extraction of non psychotropic cannabinoids from hemp threshing residues for medicinal and cosmetic application

Green chemistry



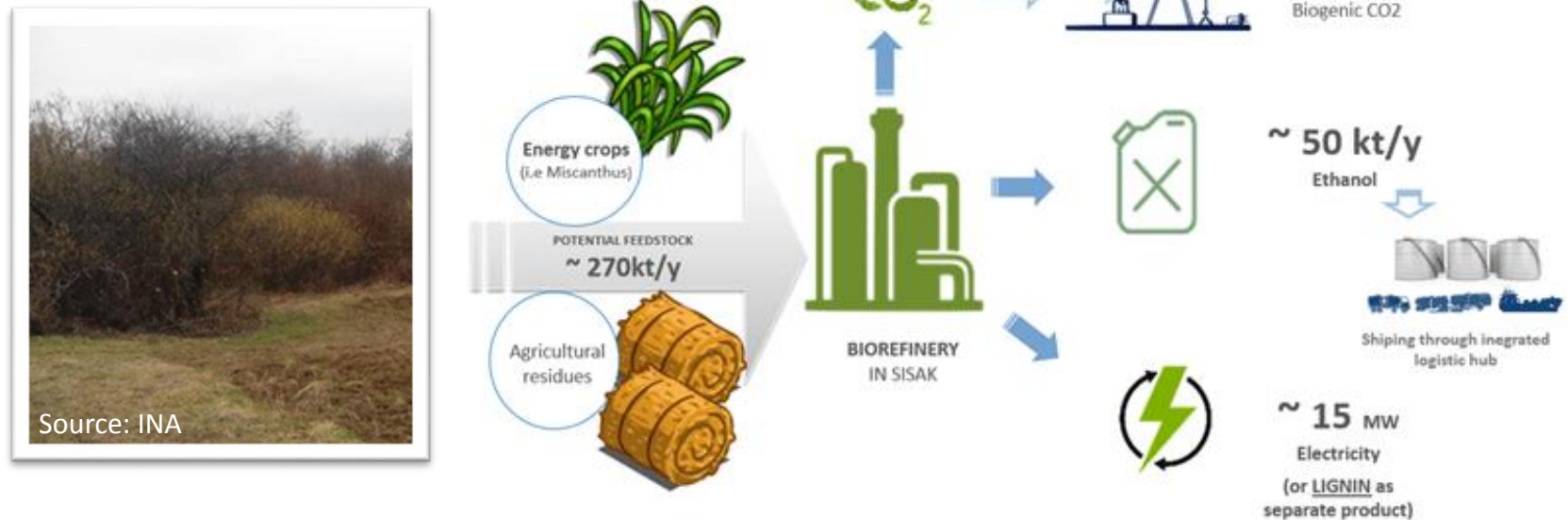
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Green Chemistry: Production of platform chemicals as building blocks for polymers

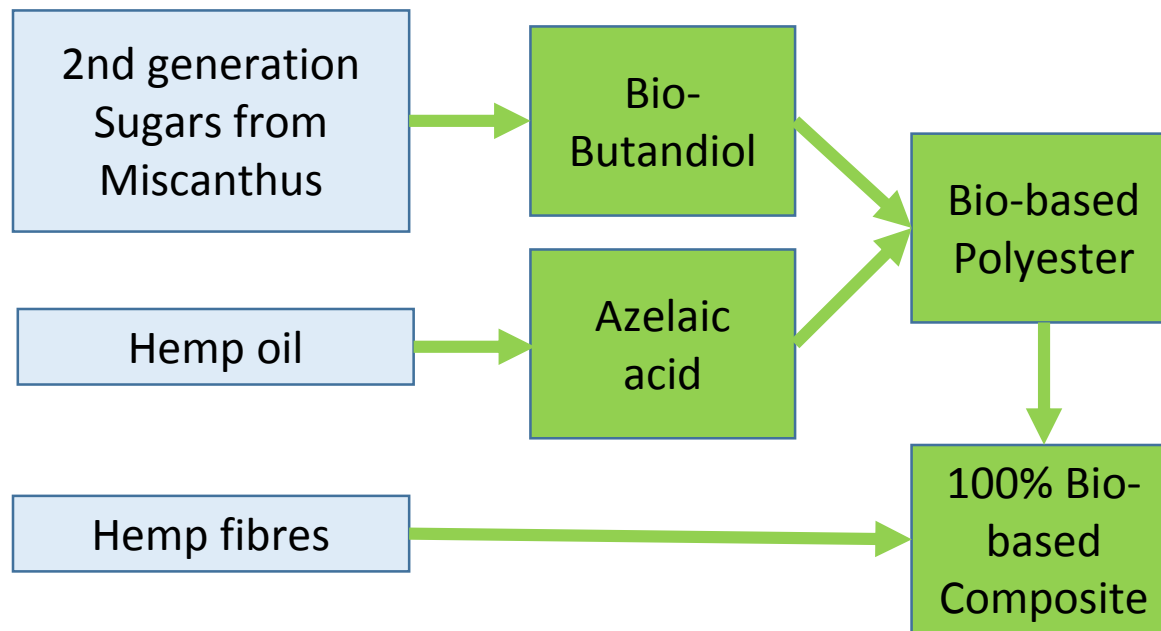


- HMF for example can be used to produce Polyethylenfuranoat (PEF) which can replace PET

Green Chemistry: INA Ethanol refinery - Fuel/chemicals from abandoned land

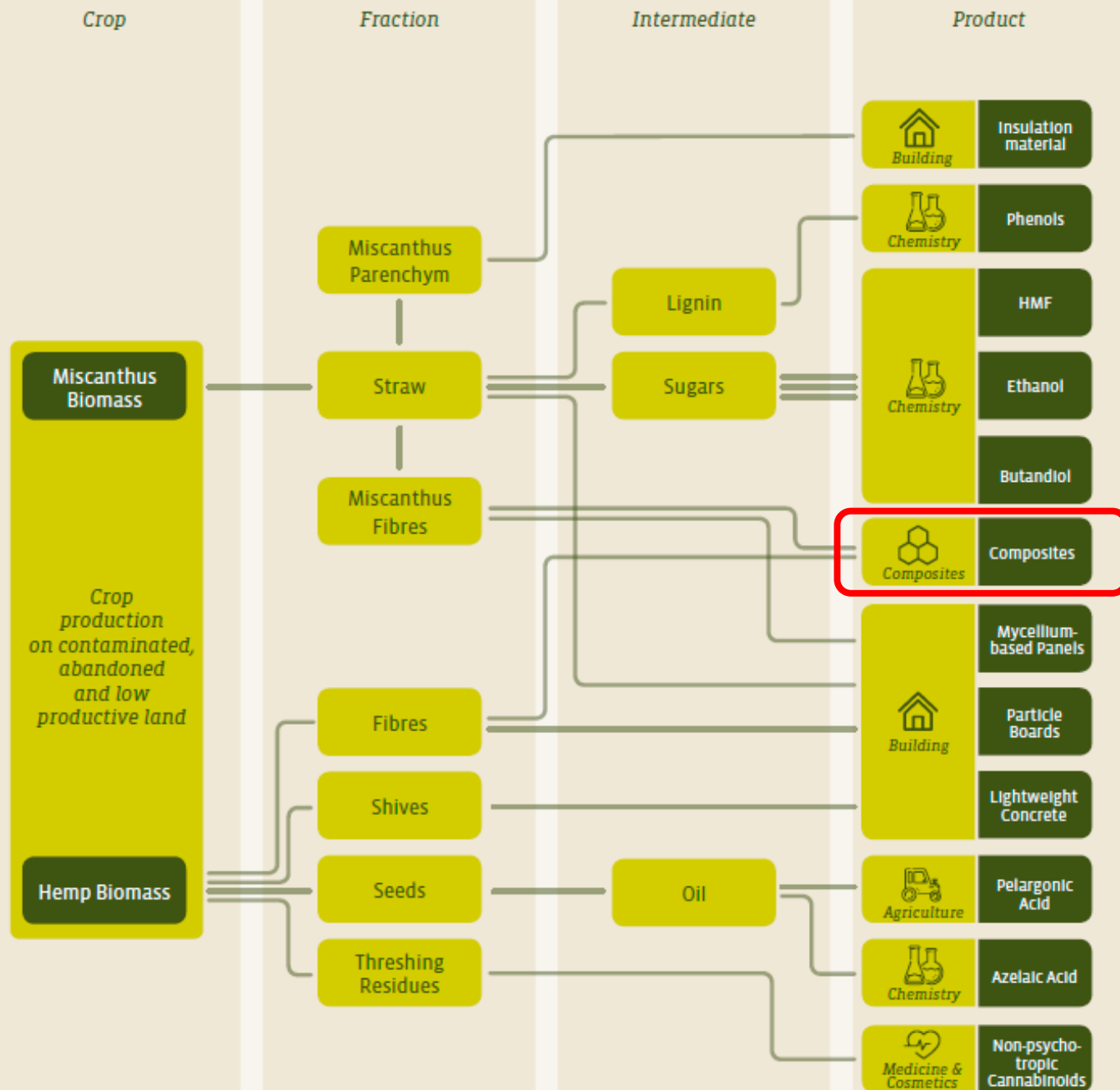


Green Chemistry: Platform chemicals for bioplastic and 100% biocompounds



- Bio-Butandiol (BDO) is an 1:1 replacement of fossil BDO
- Azelaic acid platform chemical for various chemical applications

Green fibre



g from the Bio-
ler the European
novation programme

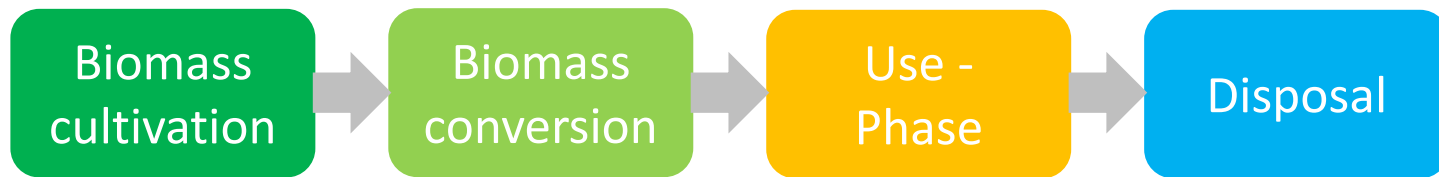
Green Composites: Reinforced with natural fibers



- Polypropylene composites reinforced with miscanthus and hemp fibers

GRACE – WP 5: Value Chain Assessment and Organization

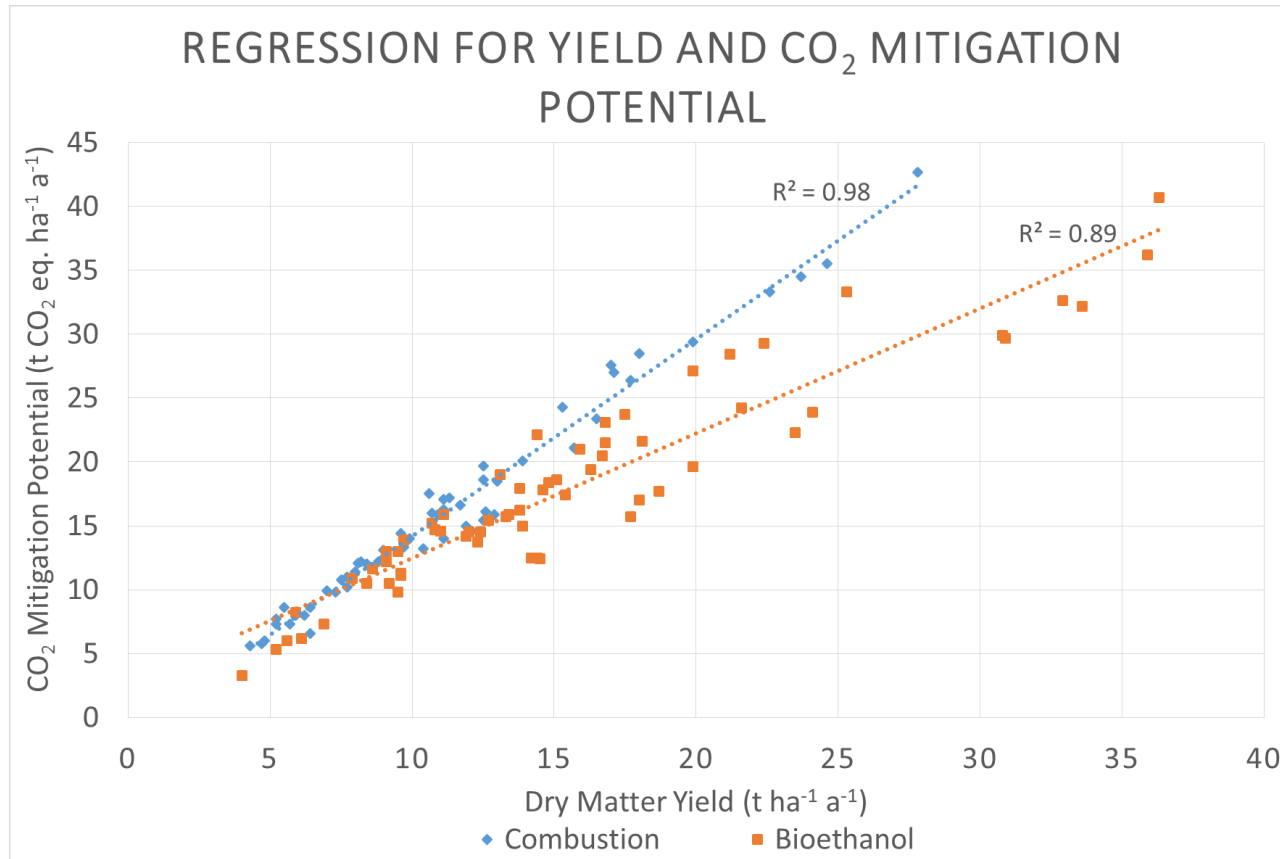
- Assessment of **environmental**, **social** and **economic** sustainability, identification of hot spots and potential for optimization



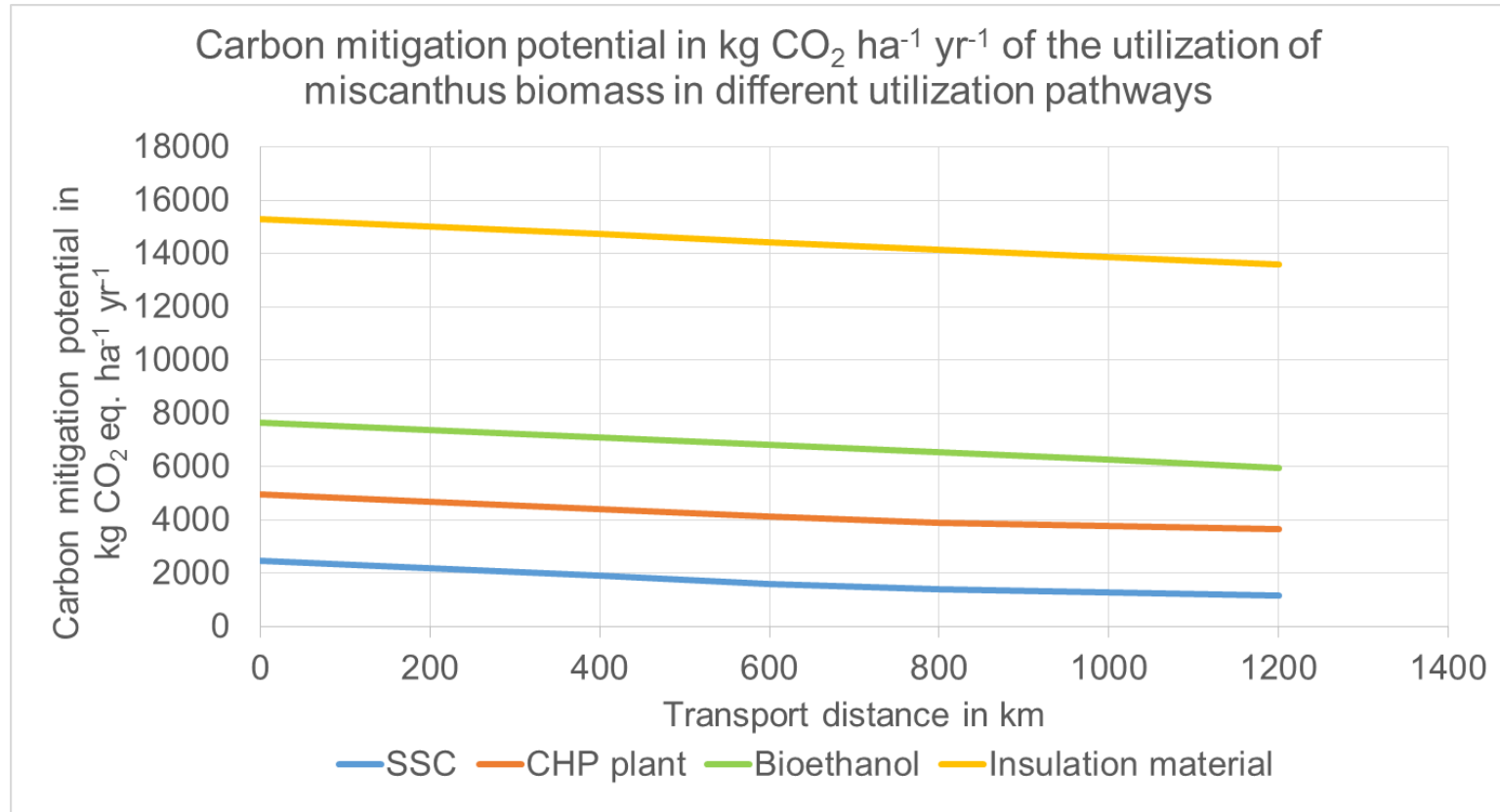
———— Value Chain —————→



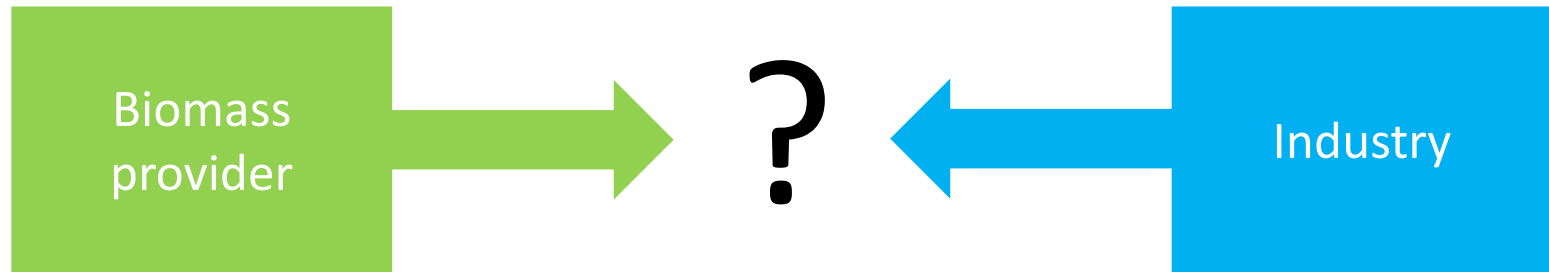
GRACE – Value Chain Assessment



GRACE – Value Chain Assessment



GRACE – Value Chain Organization



Why grow miscanthus
when there is no
demand?

Why develop miscanthus-
based products/processes
when there is no sufficient
biomass supply?



Problem: Missing market for miscanthus!

GRACE – WP 6: Demo-to-market strategy

Industry Panel:

- ✓ Interested Industry, SME and farmers can join
- ✓ Access to biomass for own tests (novel miscanthus varieties, hemp)
- ✓ „to bring together the actors (e.g. industry and farmers) along value chains“
- ✓ Create markets for biomass and bio-based products
- ✓ Increase the outreach of the project

 **Interested?**





Thank you for
your attention!



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