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Contribution of GRACE and MISCOMAR+ for developing the European Bioeconomy

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Biobased Resources in the Bioeconomy (340b)

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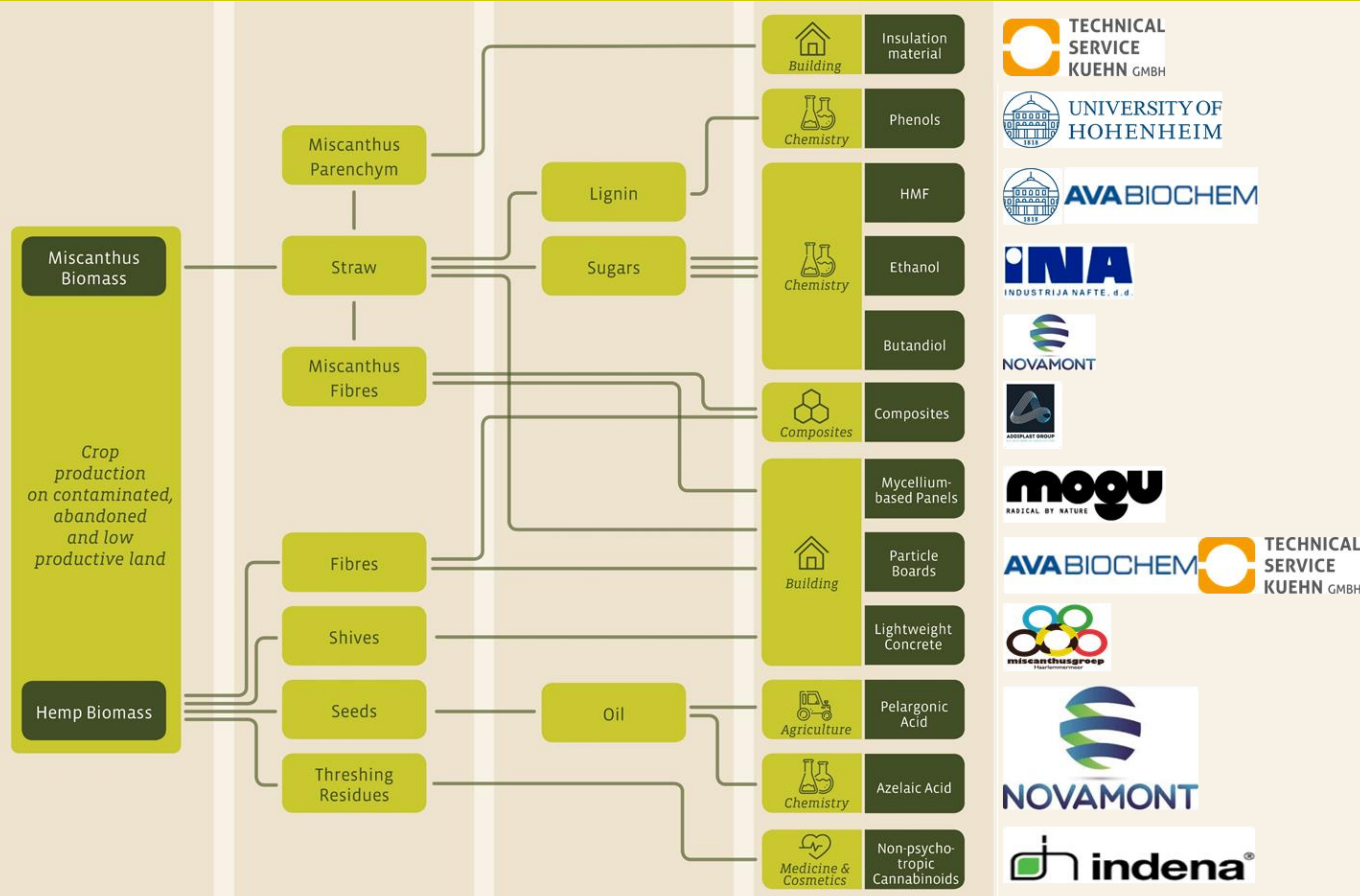
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Objectives of GRACE



- Demonstration of 10 complete value chains at industry relevant scale
- Miscanthus and hemp production focussing on low-productive, contaminated and abandoned land
- Demonstration of large scale establishment of novel, seed-based miscanthus hybrids
- Assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts
- Participative approach - Industry panel



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Crop Production on marginal land

But: establishment on marginal land is challenging

Main challenge on marginal land:

Similar/higher costs
+ lower yield
= low economic viability

New seed-based miscanthus hybrids can help to overcome this bottleneck:

→ R&D and breeding: ripening, lodging, establishment costs

- *M. sinensis* seem suitable for maritime climates in Northwest/Central Europe
- *M. sac* x *M. sin* seem suitable for continental climates in Southeast Europe



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Establishment using film



Benefits:

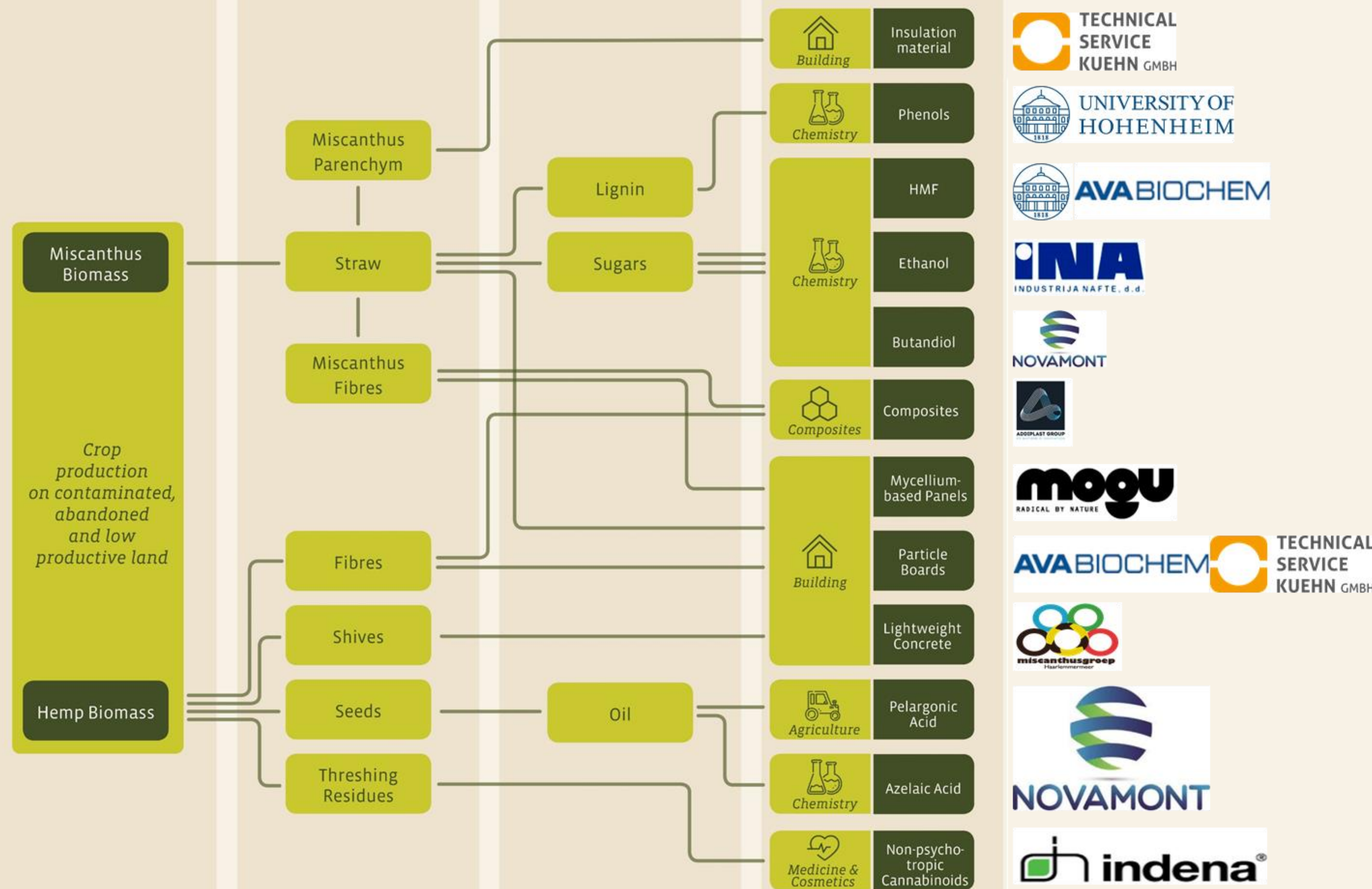
- Speeding up early growth by increasing temperature
- Reducing plant losses by keeping soil moisture
- Reducing risk of frost damages for early plantings

Risks:

- Plant losses due to overheating (late planting dates)



Demonstration Cases and Sustainability Assessment



- Demonstration of biobased value chains
- Sustainability Assessment (environmental, economic, social), incl. hotspots identification
→ value chain optimization
- Business plan development and improvement

Miscanthus - Chemicals



T0



T 90
days



Butandiol, Azelaic Acid:

- Target: Production of in soil biodegradable polymers and composites for different applications, e.g. in agriculture
- Tests with 2G sugars showed general feasibility for butandiol fermentation
- Biobased polymer optimized (higher proportion of biobased resources)
- Degradability of polymer and hemp/miscanthus fiber composites proven



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Miscanthus - Chemicals

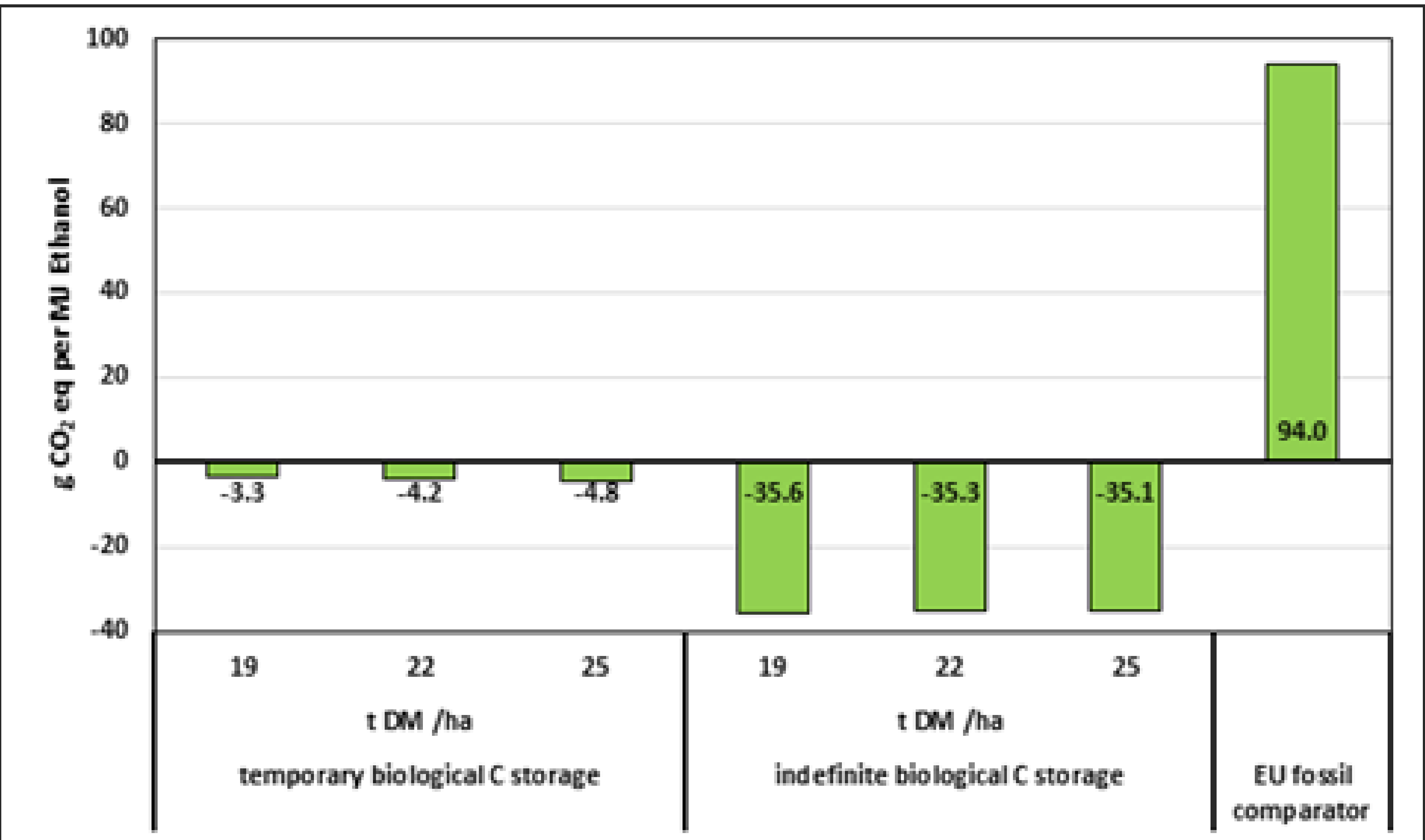
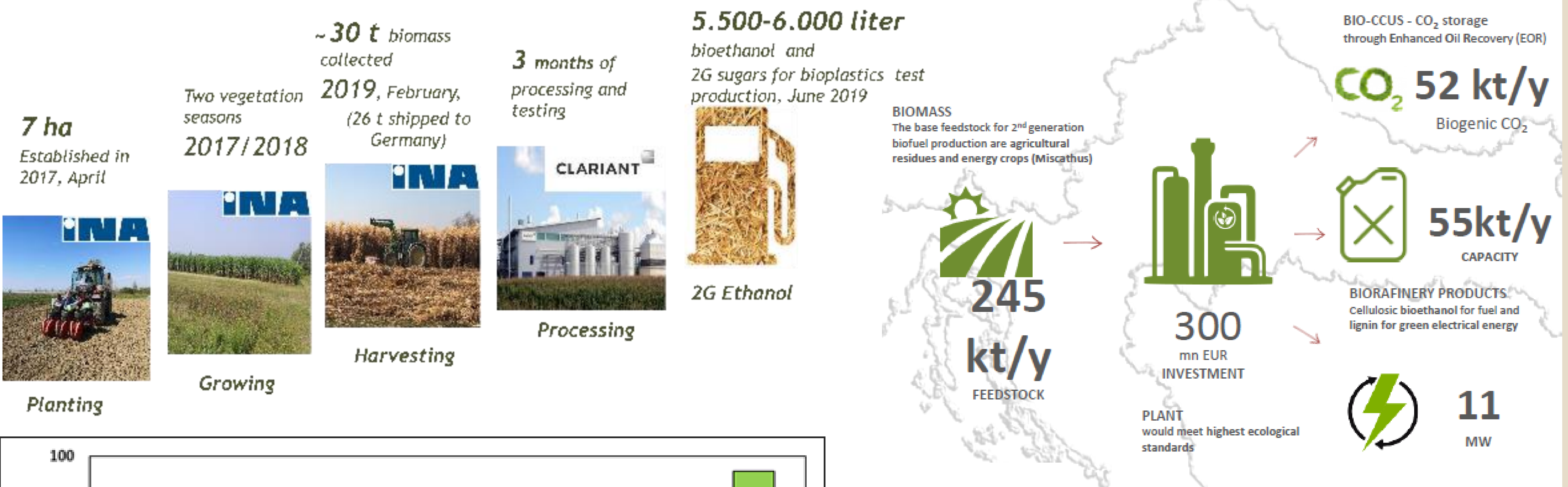


Figure 3 Global Warming Potential (GWP) per MJ (in g CO₂eq) of ethanol produced using two alternative approaches to biological carbon storage accounting: temporary and indefinite. Temporary biological C storage assumes that all carbon stored in the below-ground biomass is released after the cultivation period. Indefinite biological C storage assumes that all carbon remains indefinitely in the soil. Three yield levels are compared: 19, 22 and 25 t DM/ha, corresponding to harvestable biomass yields of 15, 18 and 21 t DM/ha.

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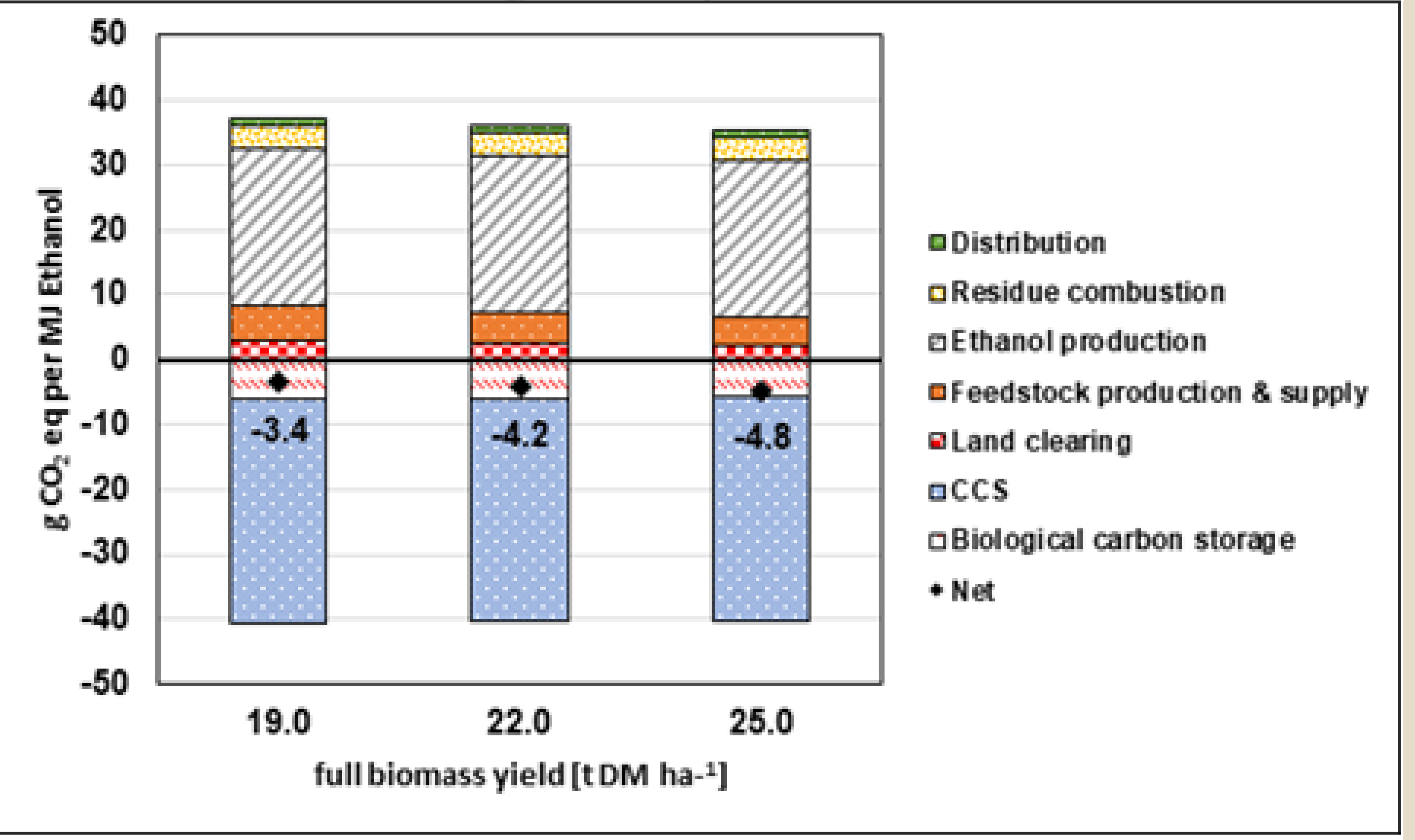


Figure S1 Global Warming Potential (GWP) per MJ (in g CO₂eq) of ethanol produced. Comparison of three yield levels: 19, 22 and 25 t DM/ha, corresponding to harvestable biomass yields of 15, 18 and 21 t DM/ha. Temporary biological C storage is assumed, i.e. all carbon stored in the below-ground biomass is released after the cultivation period.

Miscanthus Bioethanol:

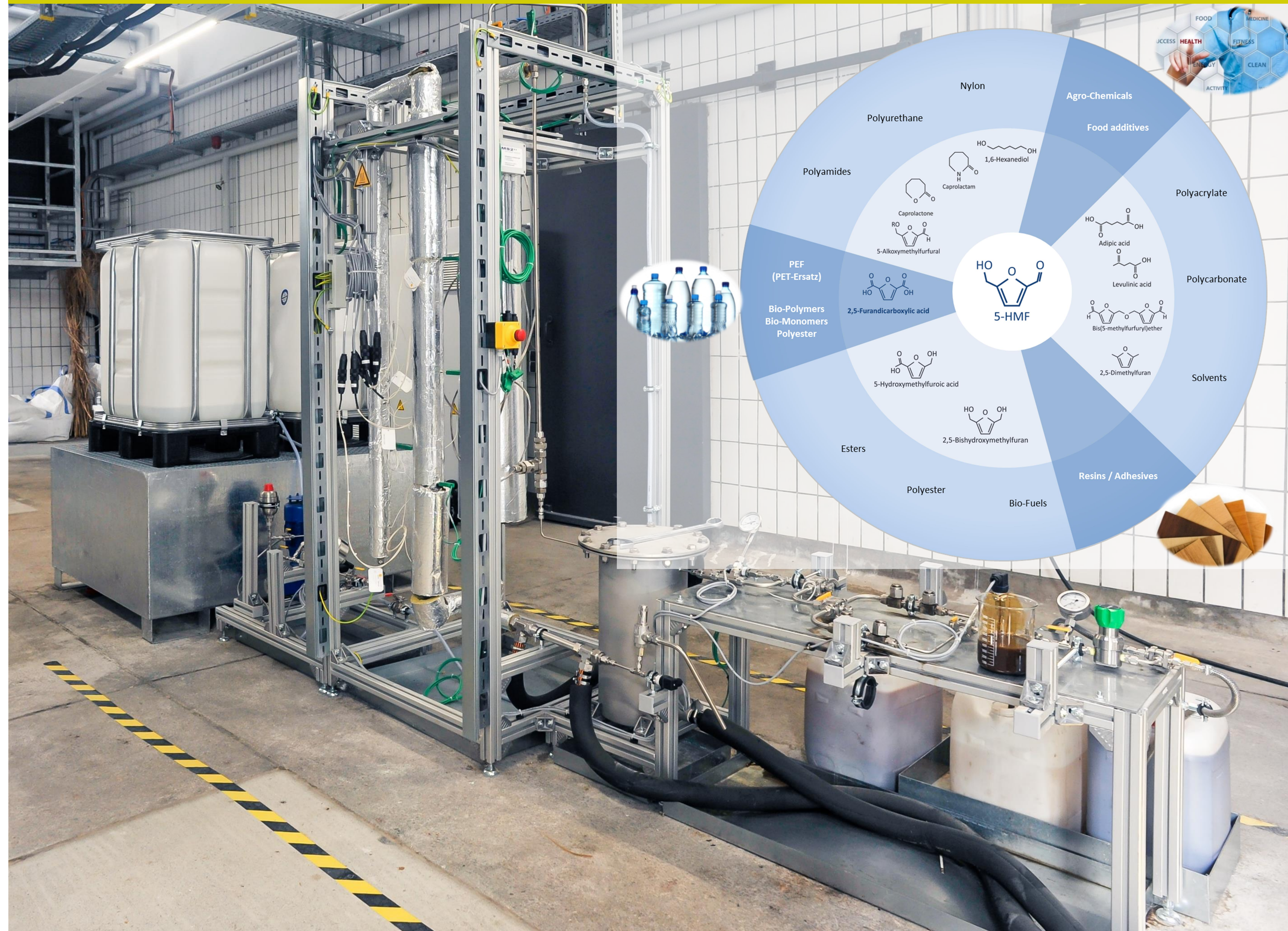
- Demonstration successfully performed; planning of full-scale plant is progressing
- Key advantages: Feedstock security, low GHG emissions and CO₂ sequestration potential (BECCS)
- EU policy in place: RED II directive
- Carbon mitigation potential >100%

Miscanthus - Chemicals



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HMF/Phenols:

- Production of HMF and Phenols from lignocellulosic material
- Pilot plant running
- Potential applications of platform chemical HMF:
 - Biobased polymers, e.g. PEF (replaces PET)
 - Biobased Resins (HMF + Phenols) replacing formaldehyde-based binders

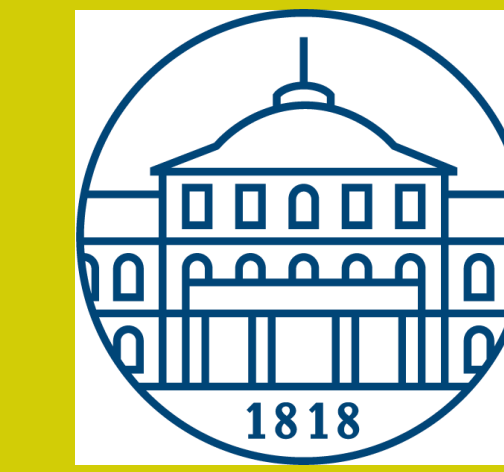


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Miscanthus - Chemicals



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Spruce Wood

Miscanthus fiber

HMF/Phenols:

- Pilot plant running
- HMF solution converted in biobased resins
- Tests with spruce wood and miscanthus fibers
- Optimization potential: Pressing time and temperature

Miscanthus - Composites

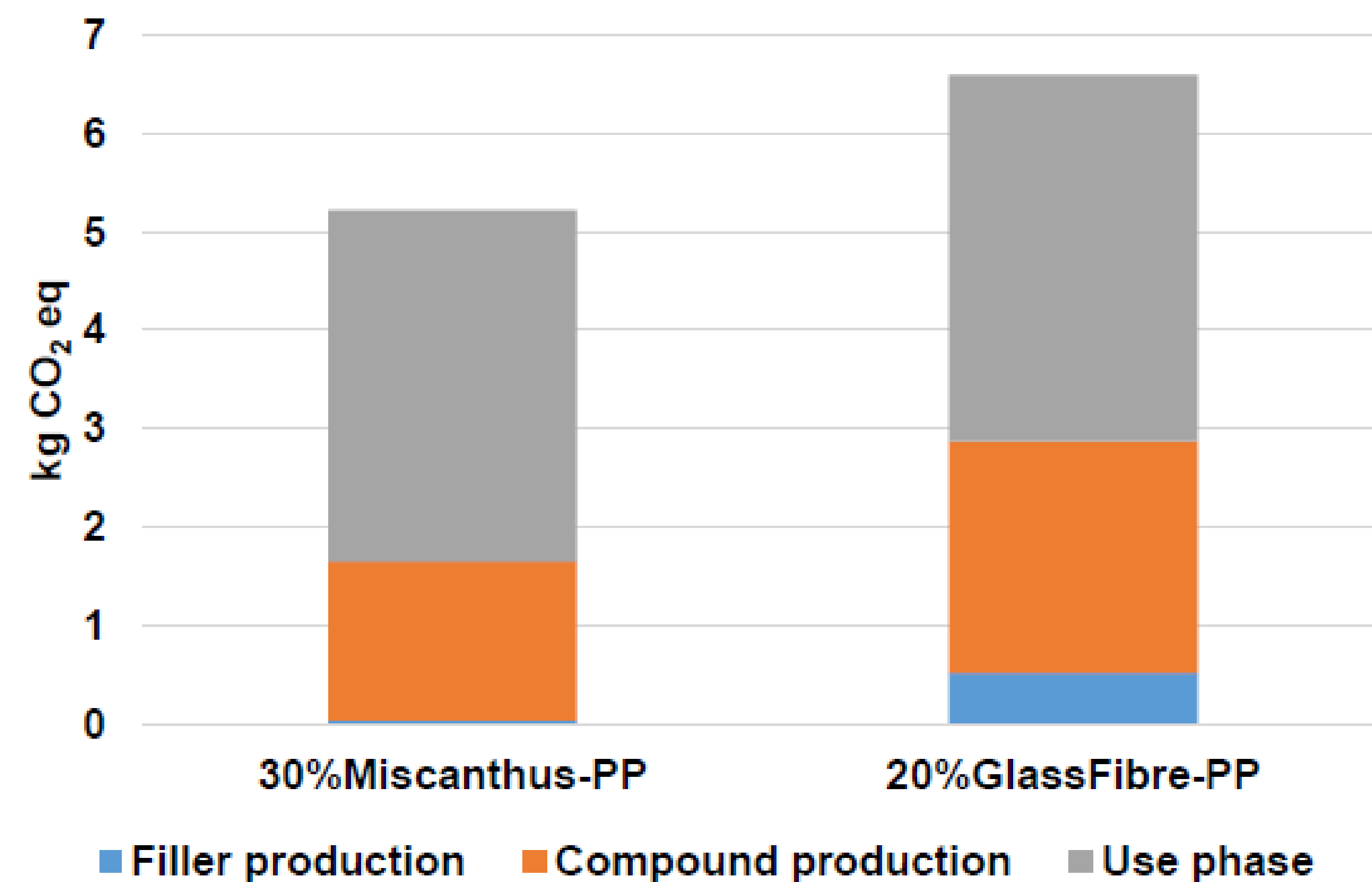


Figure 9 Total global warming impacts Cradle-to-gate plus use phase.

Miscanthus fiber composite for automotive sector:

- Two materials listed in the car automotive panel: Addibio® GJI 53116 (30% miscanthus fiber) and Addibio® GGI 53002 (25% recycled PP + 30% miscanthus fiber)
- 1-2 car models in the next 2-3 year; dashboard element for first model (1Q 2023)
- Key selling point: Carbon mitigation potential 20-25%
- Miscanthus fiber demand: 200 t a⁻¹ in 2025



Miscanthus - Building materials



Mycellium-based Sound absorption panels:

- Key advantages: high sound-absorption capacity, lightweight, 100% biobased and no chemicals used as binders
- Improved performance (e.g. shrinking) by using specific miscanthus fractions
- Sustainability Assessment:
 - Hotspot identified:
Energy Use during Production

Miscanthus - Building materials



Miscanthus as additive in concrete:

- Strukton Green Silence Wall meanwhile available on the market in NL

→ Large interest in such materials in NL, since national regulation is in place to reduce impact of building sector

Sustainability: Cement is main driver! Replacing cement leads to significantly lower impacts.

Fractionation for insulation material



Fraktionierung 1

Fractionation Demo plant successfully in operation!

- Fractionation provides valueable fiber fraction for other material applications (improved quality)
- Light fraction (pith) is suitable as insulation material with improved environmental sustainable compared to non-renewable products

→ Challenge: Find a market for each fraction!

Paper Based Products



- Production of paper containing 30% steam-exploded miscanthus fibers successfully demonstrated!
- *M. sinensis* seems to provide higher paper qualities
- Biomass harvest and processing is very important
 - less intensive to maintain fiber length and strength





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Remarks

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Valorization of Marginal Agricultural Land in The Bioeconomy

First published: 6 July 2021 | Last updated: 11 March 2022

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Iris Lewandowski (University of Hohenheim)

Moritz von Cossel (University of Hohenheim)

European policy makers have long recognized the socio-economic and environmental opportunities associated with increasing biomass supply and utilization, with R&D in this area starting in the early 1990s. While opportunities for biomass are large, they are complex because they cut across sectors: agriculture, energy, environment, and manufacturing. The European 'Bioeconomy' concept unifies sectors into a progressive strategy to provide solutions to current problems by translating research into commercial opportunities. Responding to the twin challenges of COVID-19 economic recovery and climate change is the announcement of a billion euro 'Green Deal'. This Deal was aimed at accelerating innovations that could transform societies from fossil-fuel based to those based on biomass – bio-economies.

[https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1757-1707.marginal-agricultural-land](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1757-1707.marginal-agricultural-land)

Miscanthus establishment

❖ Film technology only suitable for early planting dates

Miscanthus as feedstock for:

1. **Conversion into chemicals:** very basic quality requirements: dry, free of stones/contaminants, format which allows easy handling and transport; Lignin content in practice not really relevant!
2. **Direct material use:** Physical parameters highly relevant: particle size and distribution, no dust, no oversizes, fiber length and strength

Thanks for your attention!

