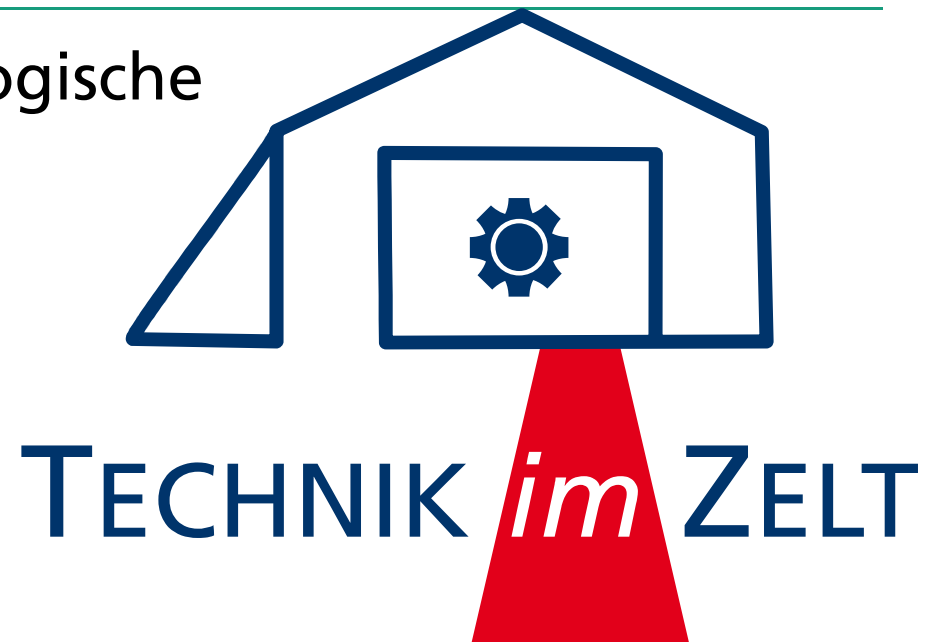

Sommersymposium 2018 am 28. Juni 2018

» Biokohle für nachhaltige und ökologische
Kreisläufe in der Europäischen
Landwirtschaft«

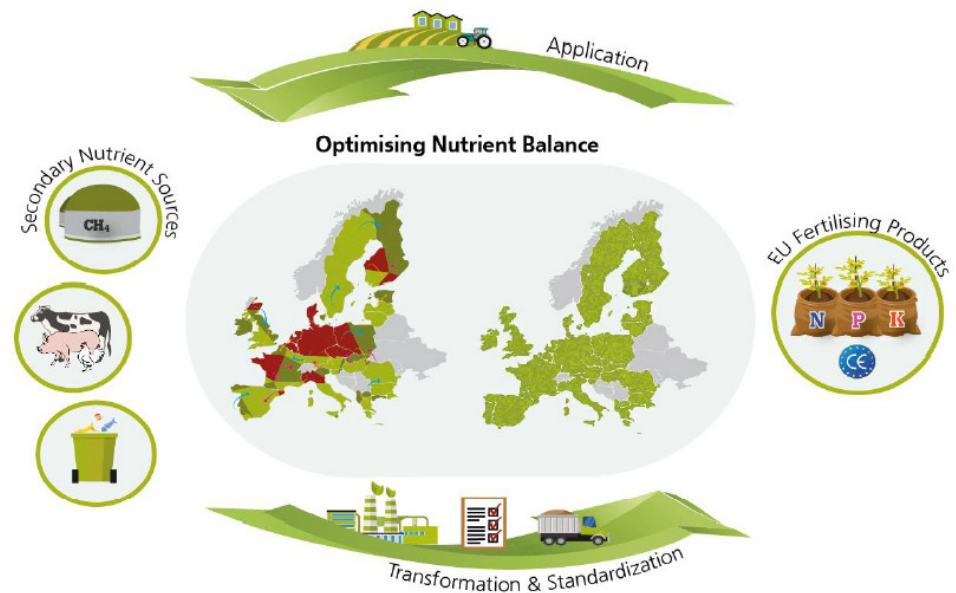
Juan-Pablo Gutierrez

Abteilung Biologische Verfahrenstechnik



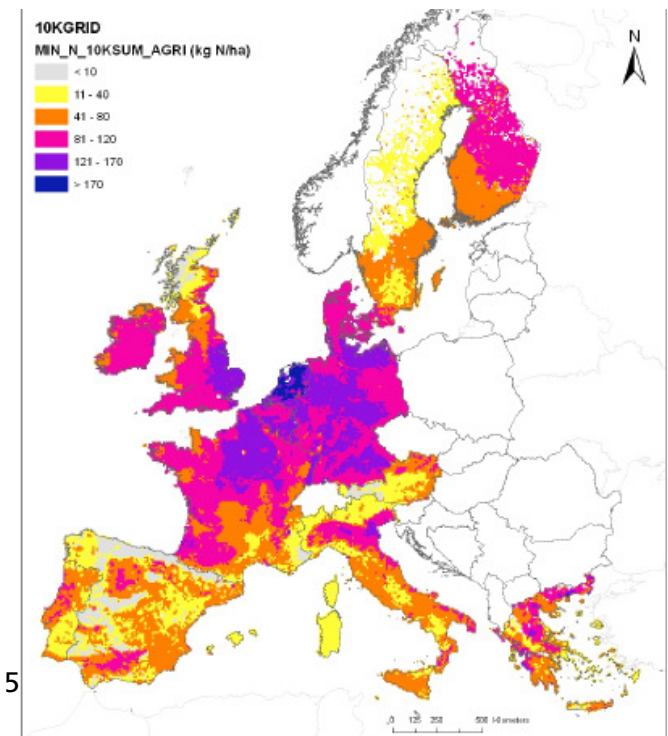
Agenda

- Fertilisers from secondary raw materials in the EU
- TCR process and Biochar
- Biochar modification for nutrient adsorption
- Agronomic performance of Biochar



Sustainable fertilisers in Europe: Actual Situation

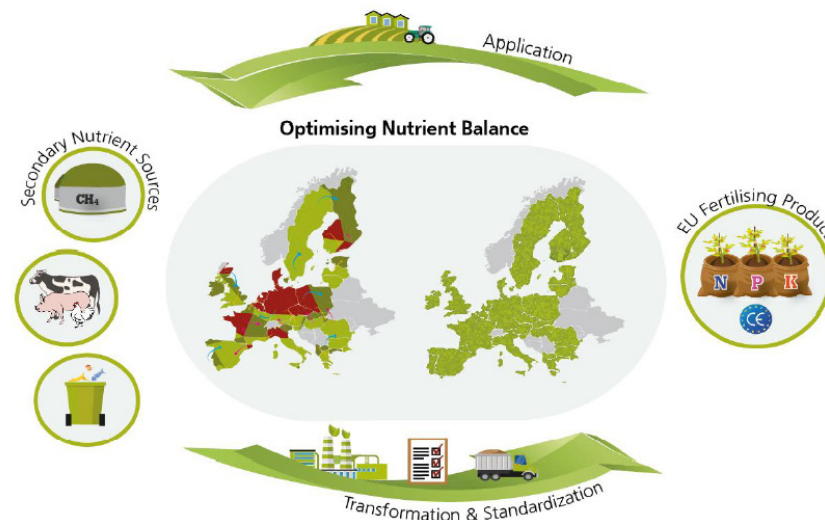
- Fertiliser demand will grow as global food production is expected to increase by 70% in 2050
- Mineral-based fertilisers (NPK) are mainly produced from fossil resources with serious drawbacks:
 - losses from 70-80% from farm to fork
 - high energy input for production
 - reliance on imports
 - eutrophication of water bodies
- Unexploited recovery potential of 9.6 Mt of N and 2.3 Mt of P



Nitrogen mineral input in EU15
Grizzetti et al 2007

Sustainable fertilisers in Europe: Our Vision

- Nutrient loop closed by 2050
- Acceleration of market introduction of fertilisers from secondary sources (sewage, manure, food waste) → common European regulation, certification pathways, technological mature
- Optimised nutrient distribution between EU regions → new value chains
- Worldwide use of Biochar as soil amendment, nutrient carrier and stable carbon storage



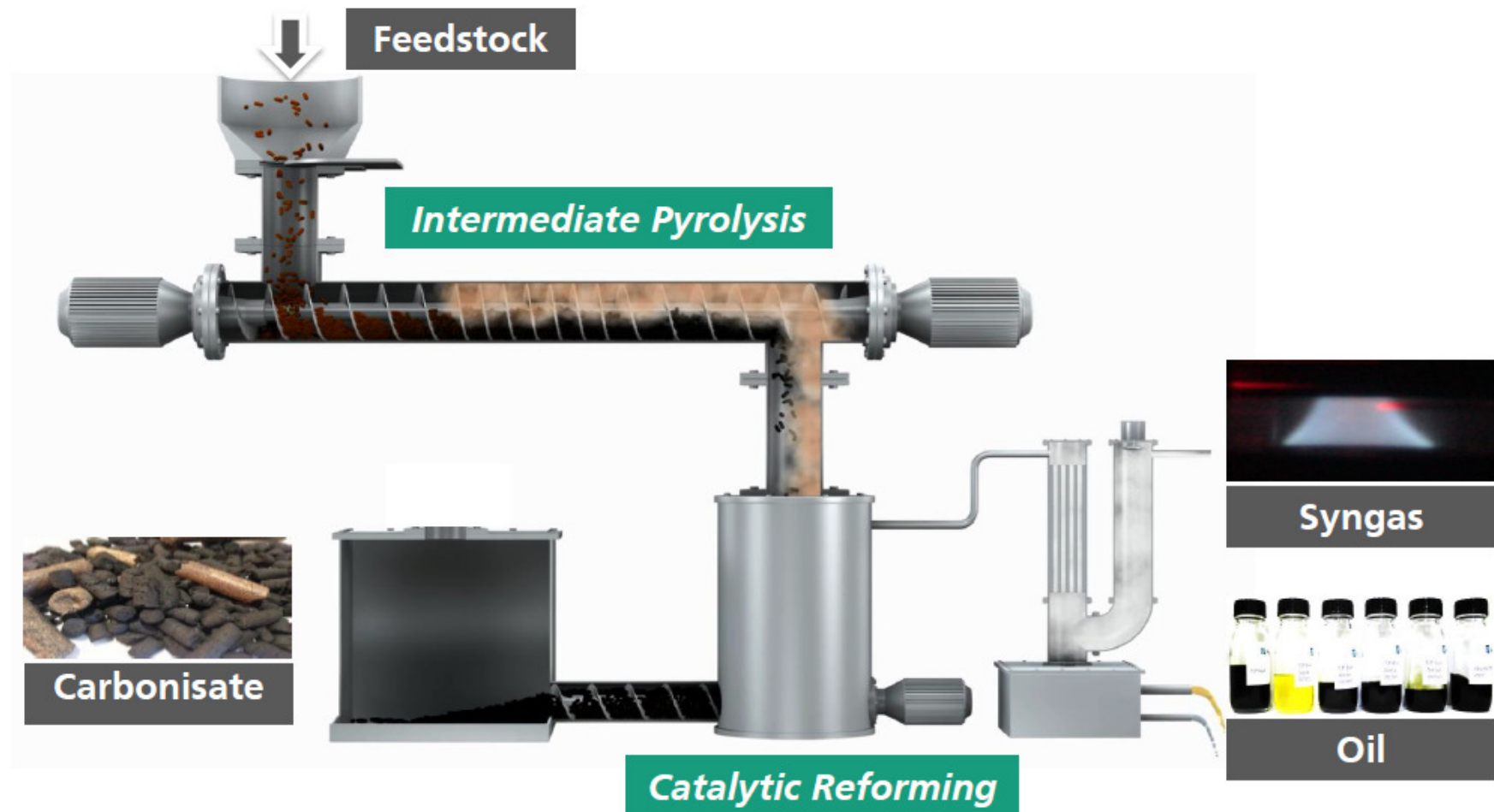
Sustainable fertilisers: EU Regulation and Certification

- New European Fertiliser Regulation (under revision)
 - 7 Product Function Categories (PFC) including organic fertilisers, inorganic fertilisers, soil improvers and bio-stimulants
 - Shortcomings: exclusion of bio-waste materials as well as garden and park waste; contradictions on definition of waste; limit of 20 mgPb/kg excludes bio-waste and compost
- Certification for new fertilising products
 - Standardisation of European fertilisers through CENs (*Comité Européen de Normalisation*)
 - Joint Research Centres (JRC) working groups on Struvite, Biochar and Ashes (STRUBIAS)
 - International initiative 4 per 1000 for carbon storage in the soil



Source: www.thepairlamentmagazine.eu

TCR Process



TCR Process: Input materials

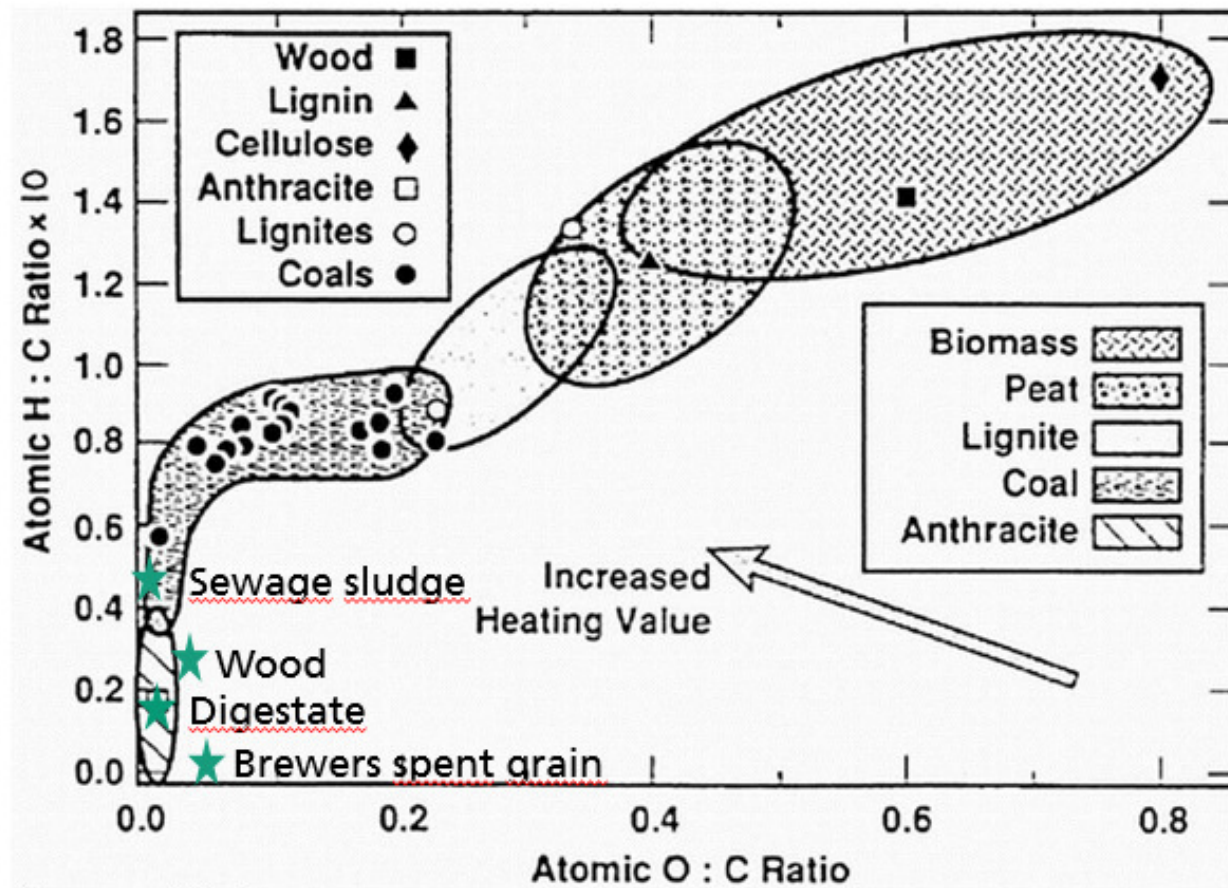


TCR-Biochar properties

C	25.0 wt.-%	C	41.6 wt.-%	C	48.6 wt.-%	C	45.0 wt.-%
H	4.3 wt.-%	H	5.1 wt.-%	H	6.9 wt.-%	H	6.4 wt.-%
N	3.6 wt.-%	N	1.6 wt.-%	N	4.3 wt.-%	N	0.1 wt.-%
S	0.9 wt.-%	S	0.3 wt.-%	S	0.5 wt.-%	S	0.1 wt.-%
O*	19.7 wt.-%	O*	31.6 wt.-%	O*	36.2 wt.-%	O*	47.8 wt.-%
Ash	46.5 wt.-%	Ash	8.7 wt.-%	Ash	3.5 wt.-%	Ash	0.6 wt.-%
LHV 8.1 MJ/kg		LHV 15.8 MJ/kg		LHV 20.5 MJ/kg		LHV 17.8 MJ/kg	
Sewage sludge		Digestate		Brewer's spent grain		Wood	
C	22.1 wt.-%	C	64.0 wt.-%	C	72.6 wt.-%	C	89.8 wt.-%
H	0.9 wt.-%	H	1.0 wt.-%	H	0.1 wt.-%	H	2.2 wt.-%
N	2.0 wt.-%	N	1.4 wt.-%	N	4.6 wt.-%	N	0.3 wt.-%
S	1.0 wt.-%	S	0.5 wt.-%	S	0.4 wt.-%	S	0.1 wt.-%
O*	0.0 wt.-%	O*	1.1 wt.-%	O*	4.8 wt.-%	O*	4.5 wt.-%
Ash	74.0 wt.-%	Ash	32.0 wt.-%	Ash	17.5 wt.-%	Ash	3.1 wt.-%
LHV 8.2 MJ/kg		LHV 23 MJ/kg		LHV 26 MJ/kg		LHV 34.4 MJ/kg	

TCR-Biochar properties

Van Krevelen Diagram



Source: www.intechopen.com

TCR-Biochar modification for N adsorption

- Goal: adsorption of N-ions (NO_3^- , NH_4^+) from the aqueous phase

- Modifications for NH_4^+ adsorption:

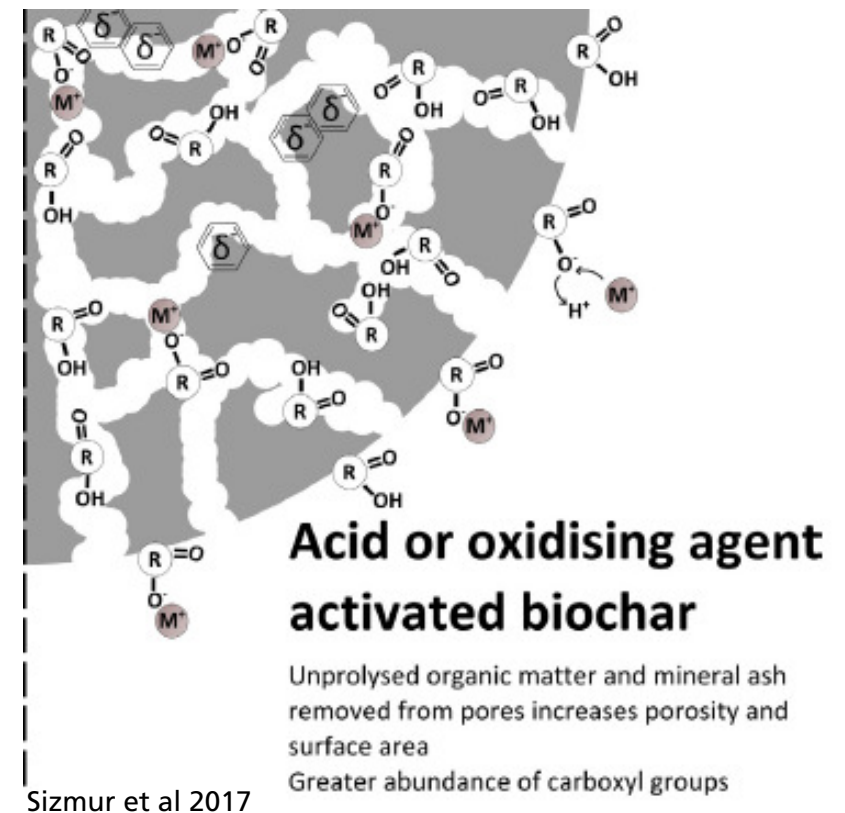
- Acid activation HNO_3
- Alkaline activation
- Steam activation

- Modifications for NO_3^- adsorption:

- Thermal activation
- Impregnation with transition metals (i.e. Zn, La)

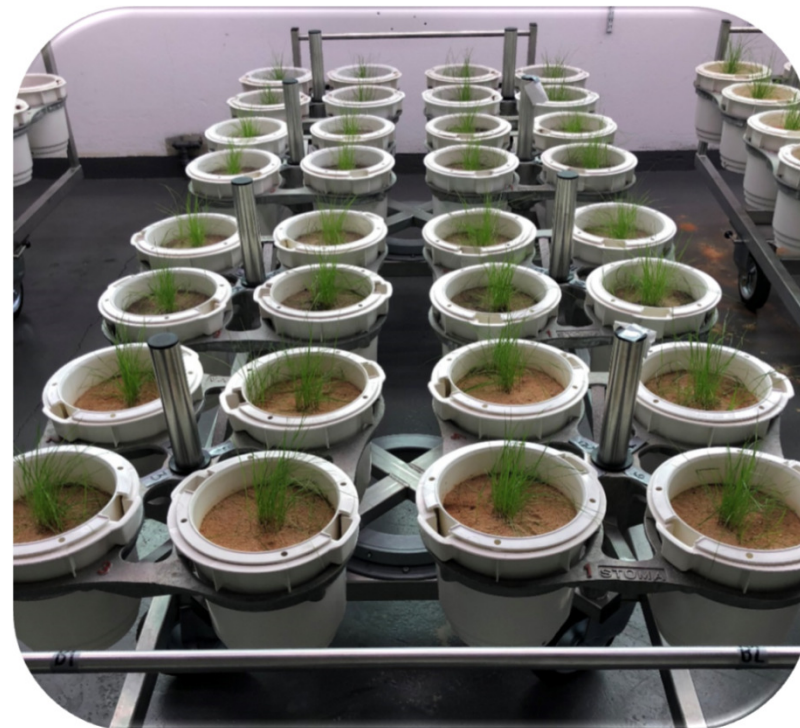
- Achieved adsorption performance

- 1-2 mg/g for both ions NH_4^+ and NO_3^-



Agronomic performance of Biochar

- Pot trial equipment with capacity of 96 pots, light system, scaling system, collection of drain/leakage flows. Additional grinders and mixer unit for substrate preparation.



Thank you for your attention!



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