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# Synergies between energy and material efficiency on farms

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# Food and drink industry

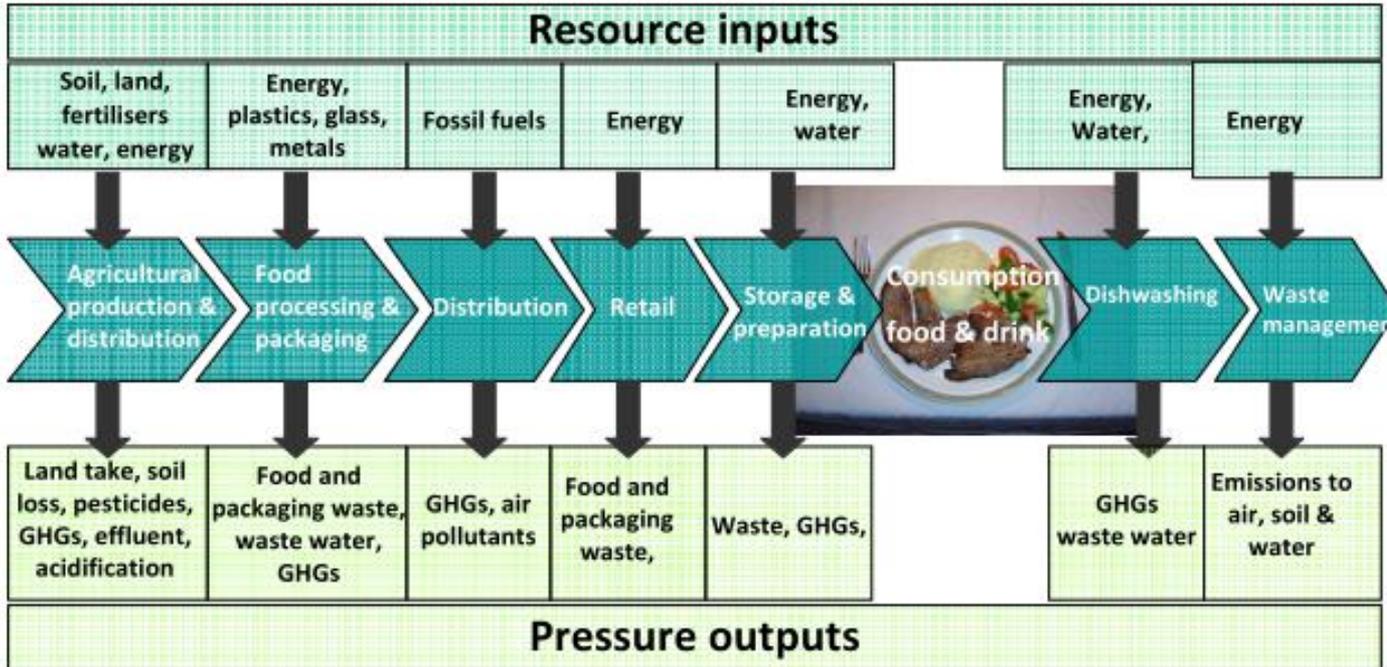
It is also one of the largest contributors to unsustainable use of natural resources, in the EU and in our global footprint. The relationship between consumption and food and drink and resource use and depletion is described in the Figure below, looking along the life-cycle. Resource depletion includes eutrophication, habitat change, climate change, water use, soil erosion and pollution<sup>103</sup>. The size of these impacts is on an upward trend. Along the whole life-cycle, consumption of food and drink in the EU causes 18% of the EU's material use<sup>104</sup>.

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**Analysis associated with the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe  
Part II**



# Food and drink industry – Resource utilisation and environmental pressure



[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource\\_efficiency/](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/)

# Meat and dairy products

The greater impacts of animal products come from:

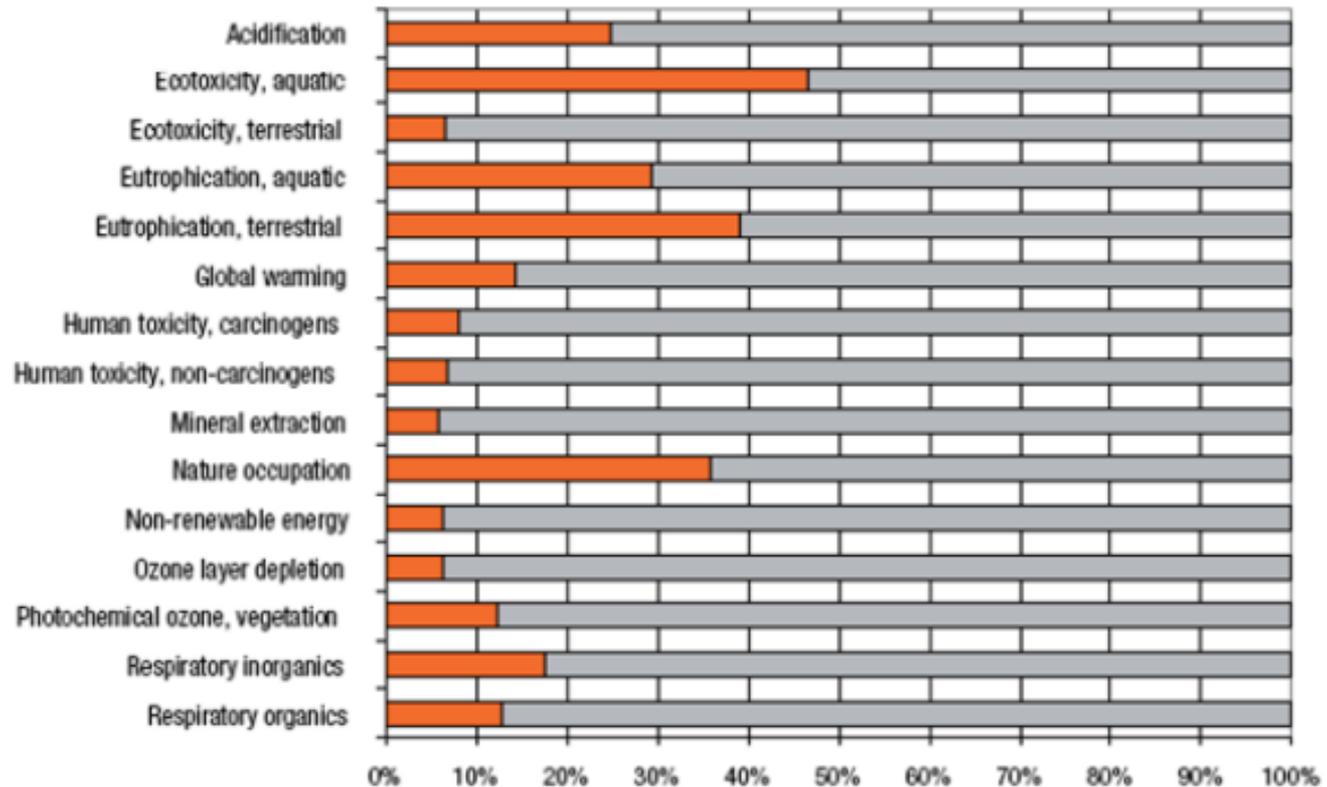
- Land degradation: The production of 1 kilogram of meat requires several kilograms of vegetable products, depending on the livestock product. As a result, the livestock sector accounts for 70 percent of all agricultural land and 30 percent of the land surface of the planet<sup>116</sup>. This magnifies agricultural impacts. In addition, the livestock sector may be the leading player in the reduction of global biodiversity through its demand on land, for example, as the major driver of deforestation, as well as of climate change. Its resource demand also leads to overfishing, sedimentation of
- Greenhouse Gas emissions: The livestock sector contributes 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent looking at life-cycle impacts<sup>119</sup>.

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# Meat and dairy products



**Figure : Percentage contribution of meat and dairy products to the environmental impacts of EU-27 total consumption** (Source: B.P. Weidema et al., Environmental Improvement Potentials of Meat and Dairy Products (IMPRO), JRC, 2008)

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# Agriculture energy in Finland

## Energy

- mainly from fossil resources

- 12 TWh/a, 8 TWh oil (tractors 3.6 TWh), 2.6 TWh electricity

## High variation between farms

- TTS: electricity consumption 50-70 unit dairy farms: 40 000 – 200 000 kWh /a

## Nitrogen fertiliser production 2.1 TWh

# Bioenergy resources in EU

	2004 (Mtoe)	%	2020 (Mtoe)	%
Forest	61,5	85	75	34
Agriculture	3,5	5	97	44
Waste	7,3	10	23	11
Import			25	11
Total	72,3	100	220	100

Year 2020 AEBIOM estimation

# Biofuels for transport

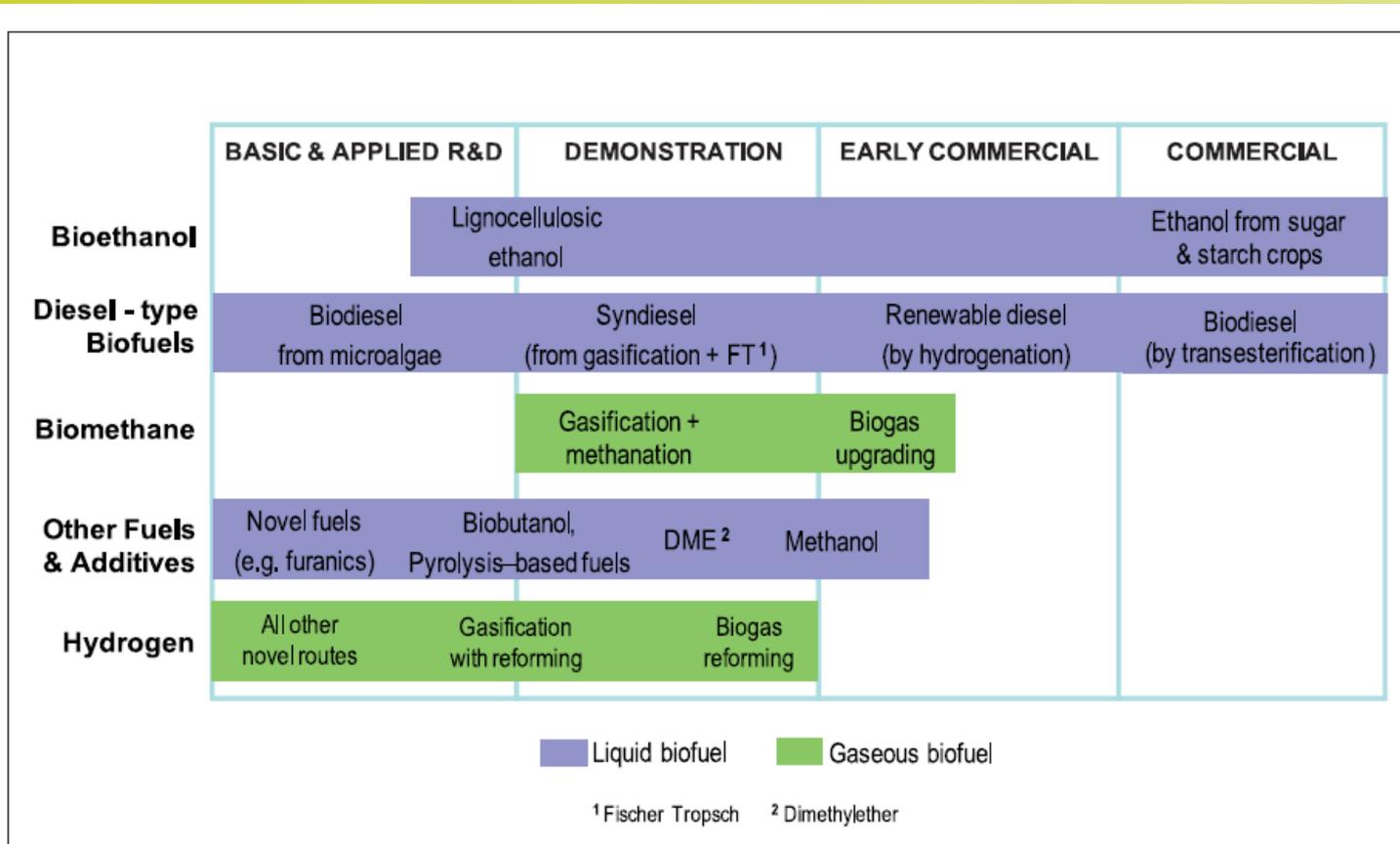
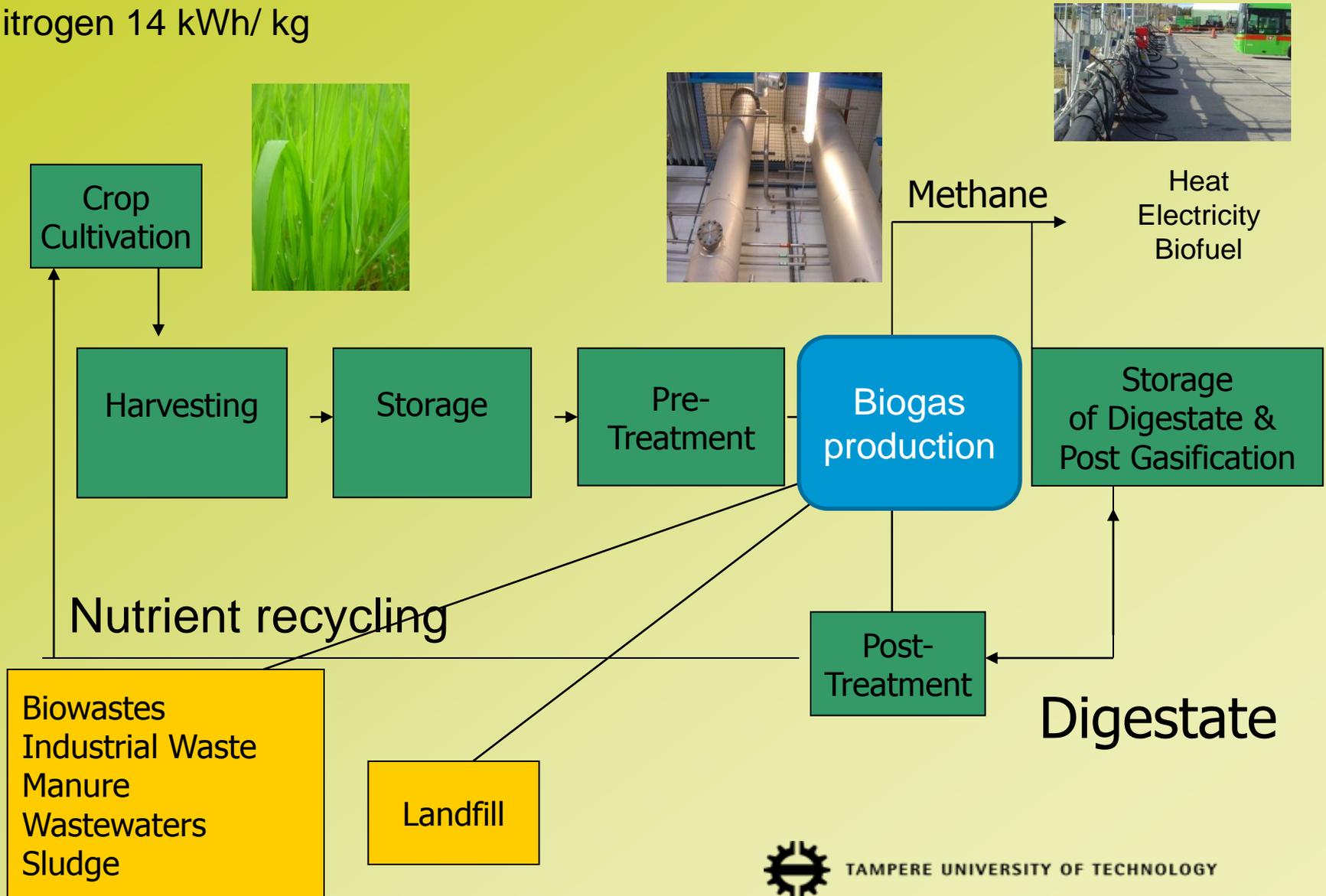


Figure 5. Development status of the main technologies to produce biofuels for transport from biomass. Source: E4tech, 2009.

# Methane from Manure, Wastes and Energy Crops



Nitrogen 14 kWh/ kg



# Biogas upgrading and fuelling

- high GHG reductions
- several upgrading technologies
- capacity 500-2000 m<sup>3</sup>/h



# Farm scale biogas

- manure digestion
- biogas utilisation
  - CHP, upgrading to biomethane
- digestate utilisation

## Complementary RE

- forest bioenergy
- thermal, solar, wind



# Farm-scale biogas plant - MTT

## 300 m<sup>3</sup> post-digestion tank

- CSTR (one mixer)
- Gas hood on top
- Automated digestate pumping to storage tanks (200 m pipeline)

## 300 m<sup>3</sup> reactor

- CSTR (two mixers, gas mixing possible)
- Operational temperature +20...+55 °C
- Automated manure pumping from 100 m<sup>3</sup> pre-storage tank
- Gas hood on top
- Digestate by gravity to post-digestion

## Feeding screw

- For plant biomass (pre-chopped)



## Technical space

- 60 kW CHP
- 80 kW boiler
- Biogas measurements
- Process automation and operation

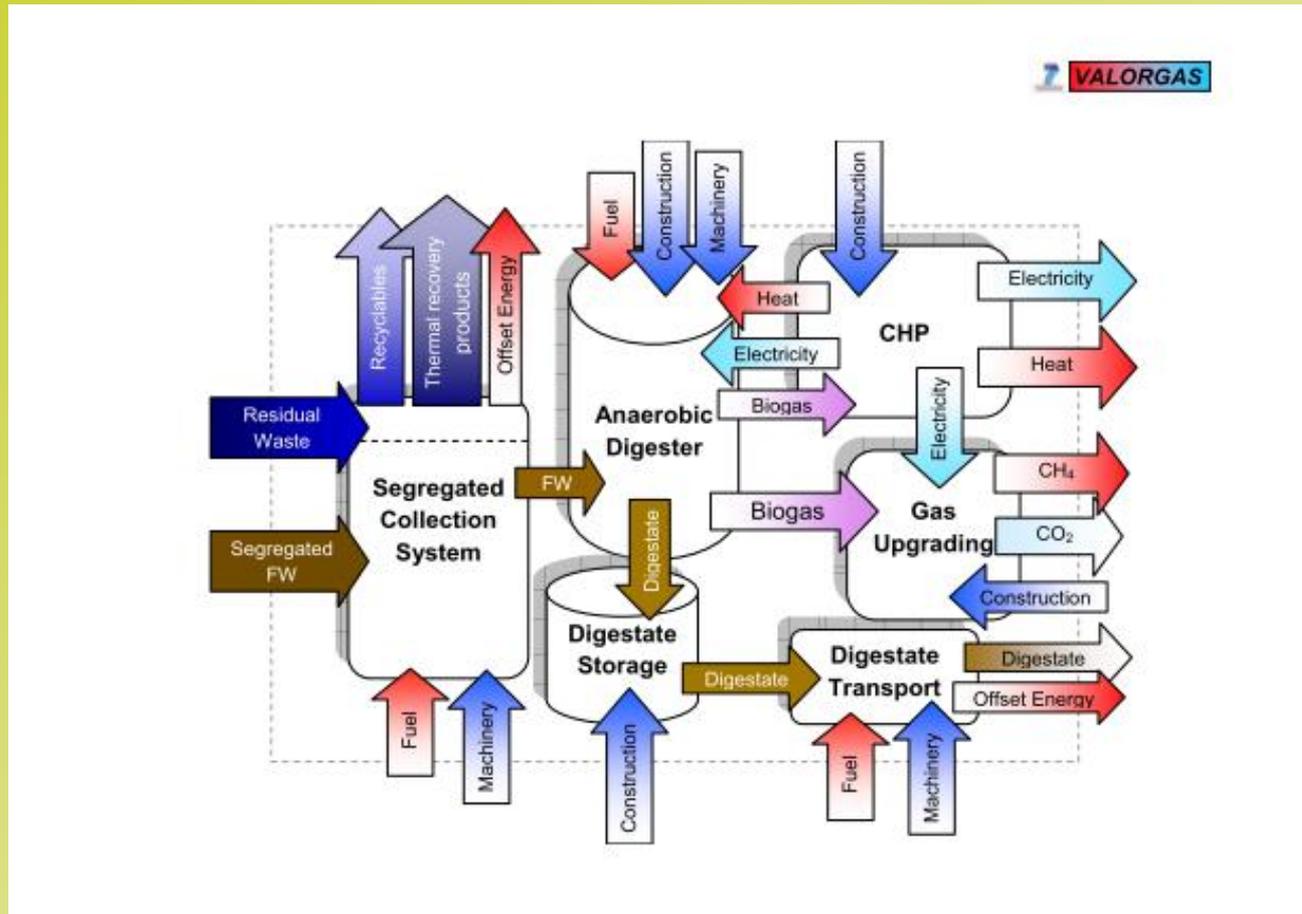


# Research with the farm-scale biogas plant

- ❑ Practical solutions for agricultural biogas plants
  - ❑ Suitable co-substrates
    - ❑ Plant biomass (e.g. grass silage, by-products from onion production, reed canary grass)
  - ❑ Operational optimisation (e.g. retention times, loading, feeding intervals, mixing)
  - ❑ Holistic management (from manure collection in cowhouse to digestate use on fields)
- ❑ Digestate as fertilizer
  - ❑ Field experiments
    - ❑ Comparisons between mineral fertilizer, raw manure, raw digestate and mechanically separated digestate
    - ❑ Grass and barley
    - ❑ Injection into soil
    - ❑ Practical training for technical staff



# Kitchen waste to biogas & fertiliser – LCA

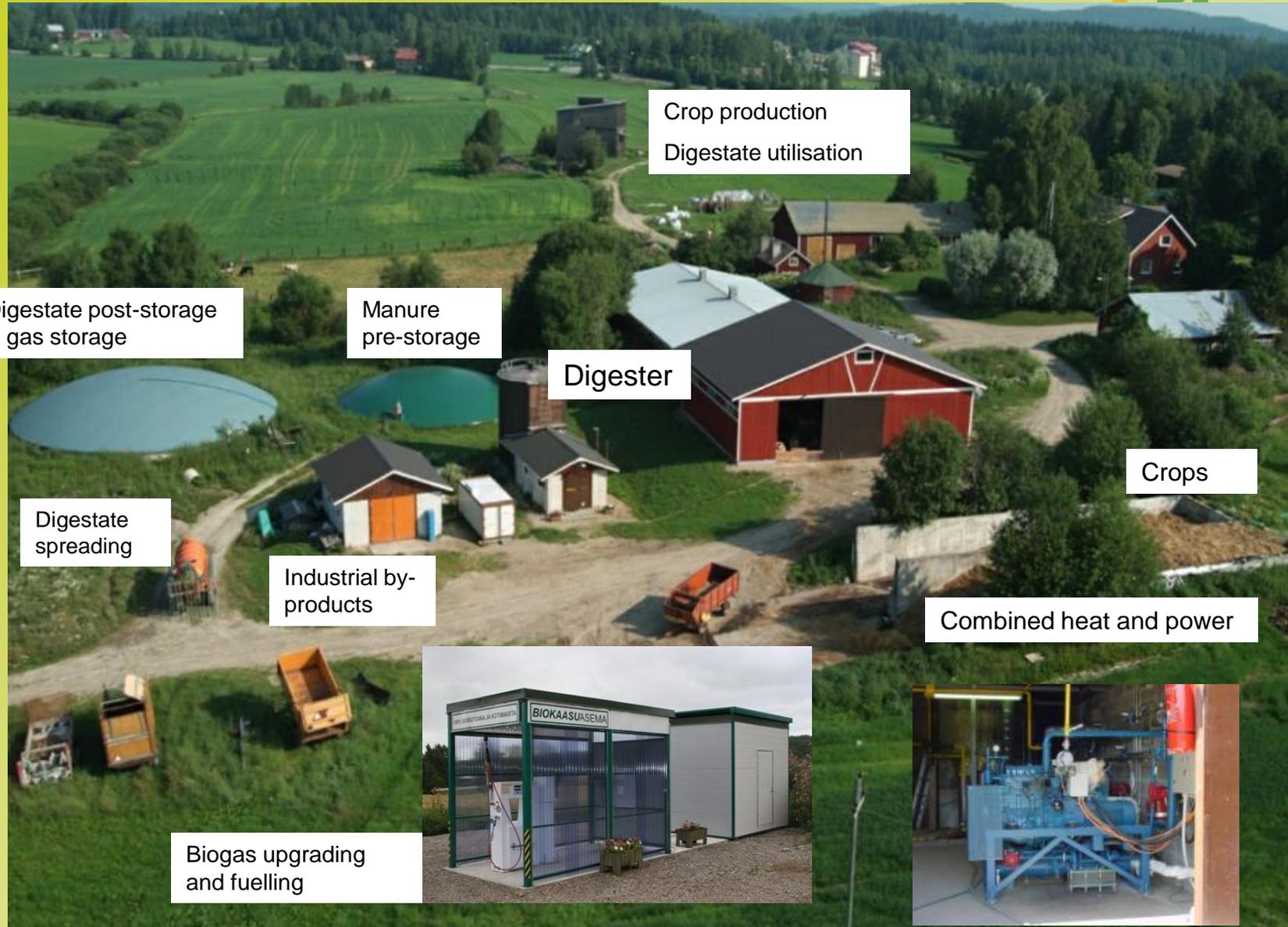


# Kitchen waste composition

% wet weight	UK <sup>a</sup>	Finland	Portugal	Italy	Ave	WRAP <sup>b</sup>
Fruit and vegetable waste	60.9	44.5	59.2	69.0	58.4	46.6
Pasta/rice/flour/cereals	1.5	0.4	0.2	12.4	3.6	2.5
Bread and bakery	9.0	3.8	3.1	2.8	4.7	13.4
Meat and fish	6.7	4.3	7.3	6.2	6.1	8.4
Dairy	1.7	2.0	0.7	1.4	1.4	3.5
Drinks (tea, coffee))	7.1	27.5	0.2	0.0	8.7	8.0
Confectionery, snacks etc	0.7	3.2	0.3	0.0	1.0	1.7
Mixed meals	12.3	6.3	29.0	1.4	12.2	12.9
Other food	0.2	8.0	0.0	6.9	3.8	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>a</sup> Data from 8 sites using all food waste categories

<sup>b</sup> Based on WRAP



# Thank you



**[www.valorgas.soton.ac.uk](http://www.valorgas.soton.ac.uk)**

**Valorisation of food waste to biogas  
Project 241334**

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