

# **ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FOR CLOSING THE LOOP OF A BIOREFINERY FOR ORGANIC FARMING: PRODUCTION OF BIOGAS AND ORGANIC FERTILIZER FROM PROCESS RESIDUES**

**MARIA SANTAMARÍA-FERNANDEZ  
NANNA KARKOV YTTING, METTE LÜBECK  
HINRICH UELLEDAHL**

**SECTION FOR SUSTAINABLE BIOTECHNOLOGY  
AALBORG UNIVERSITY COPENHAGEN  
A.C. MEYERS VÆNGE 15, 2450 COPENHAGEN  
HU@BIO.AAU.DK, PH +45 99 40 25 85**

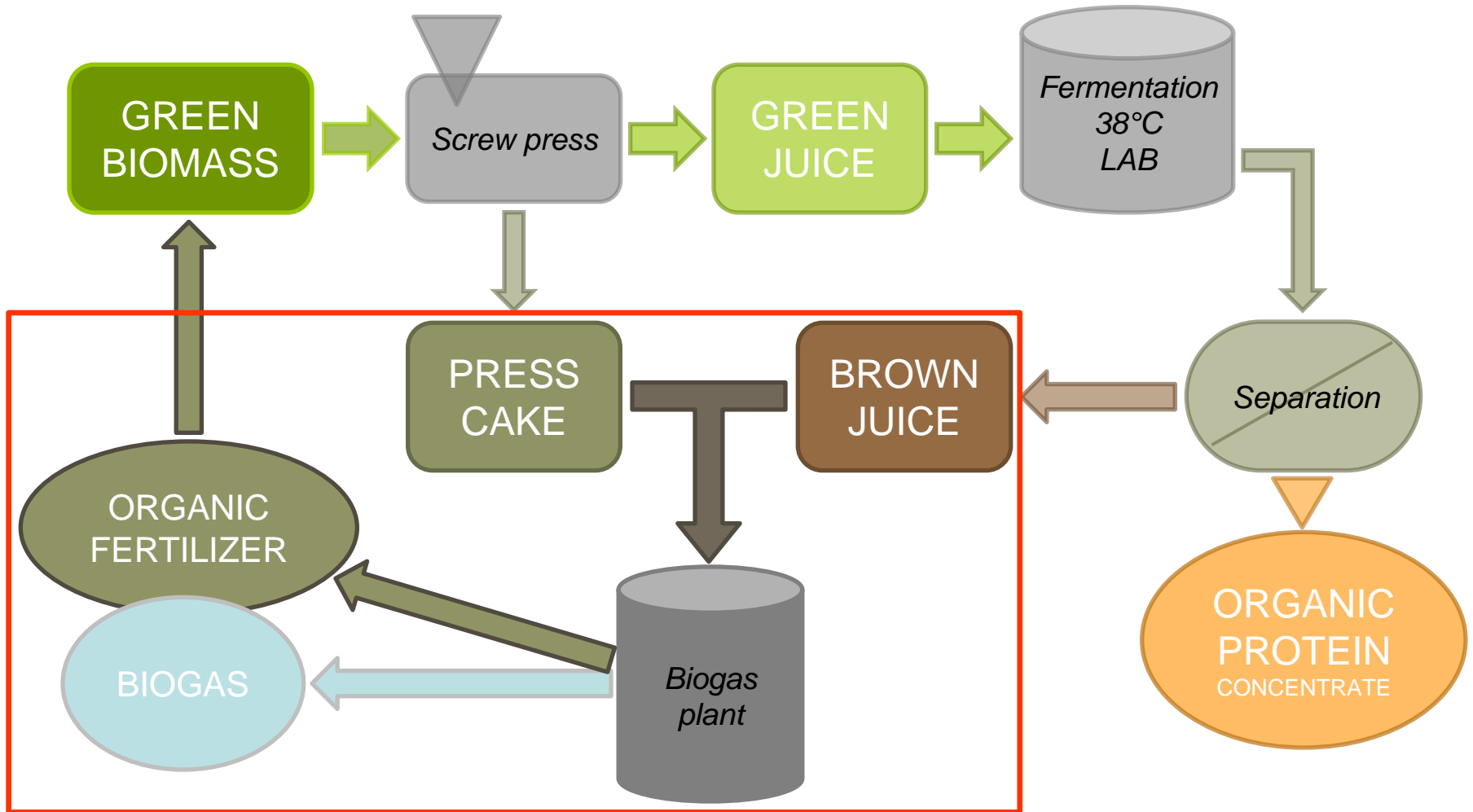


# AD and fertilizer of residues from Organofinery

## Outline

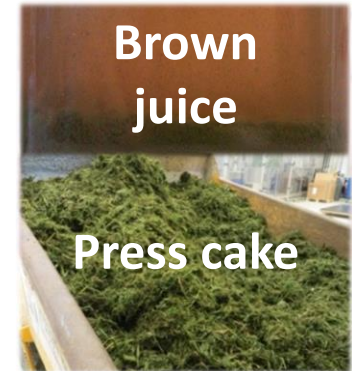
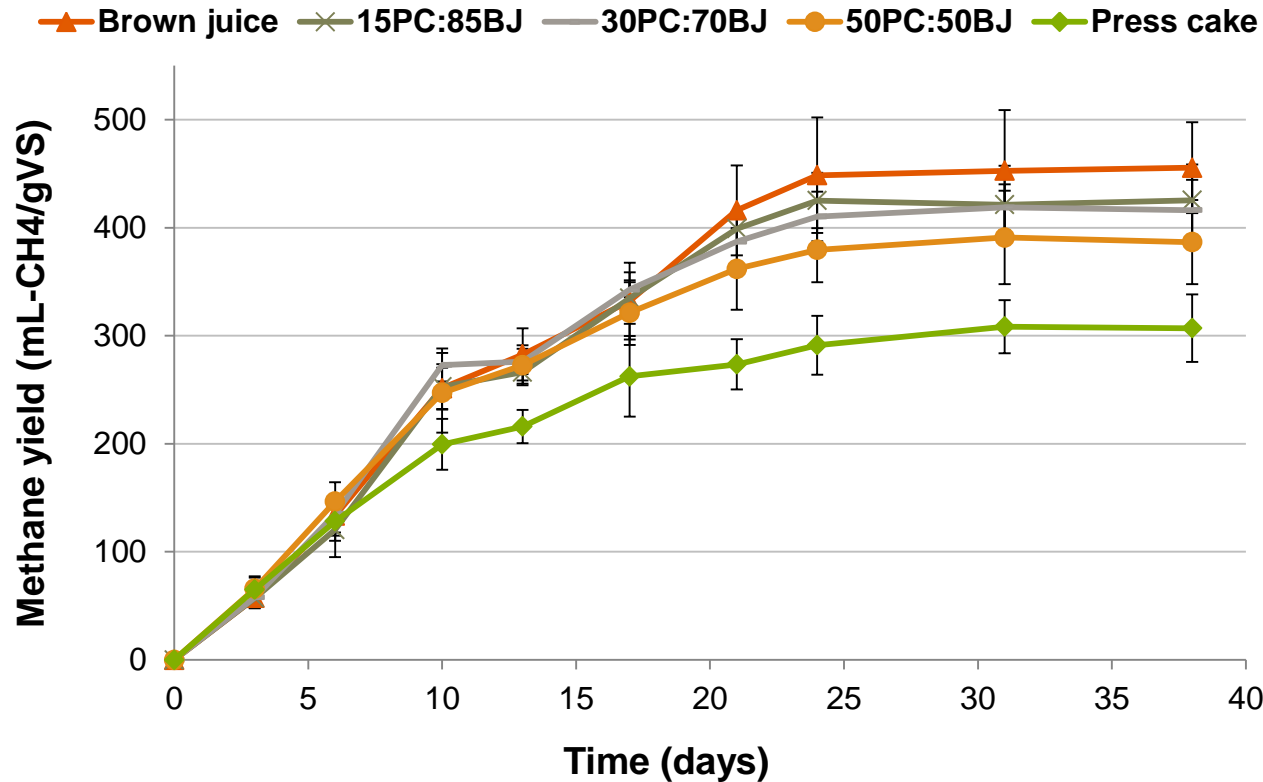
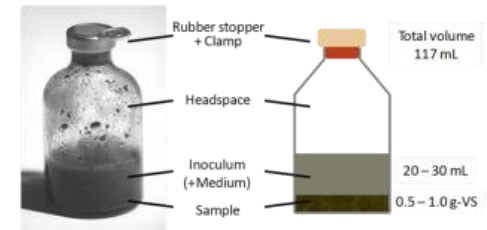
- **Organofinery** – a green biorefinery concept for organic farming.
- **Biogas production** from residues – press cake and brown juice.
- **Batch tests** of press cake and brown juice.
- **Co-digestion reactor tests** press cake + brown juice.
- **UASB reactor** for mono-digestion of brown juice.
- **Nutrient balance** for mechanical fractionation and biogas process.
- **Conclusions.**

# The OrganoFinery - From organic green biomass to protein feed, energy and fertilizer



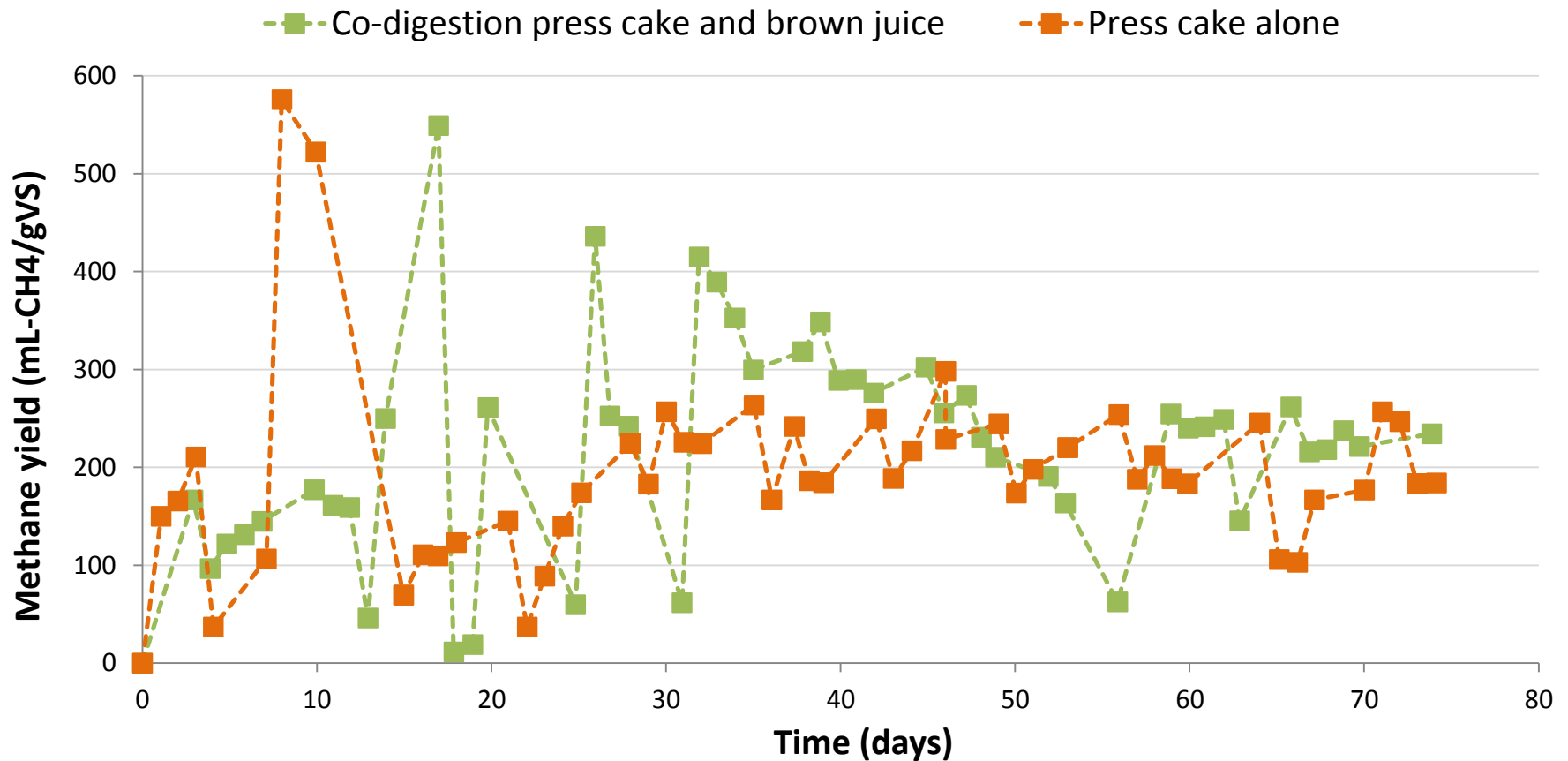
# Batch tests of press cake and brown juice

## Methane yield in different mixture ratios



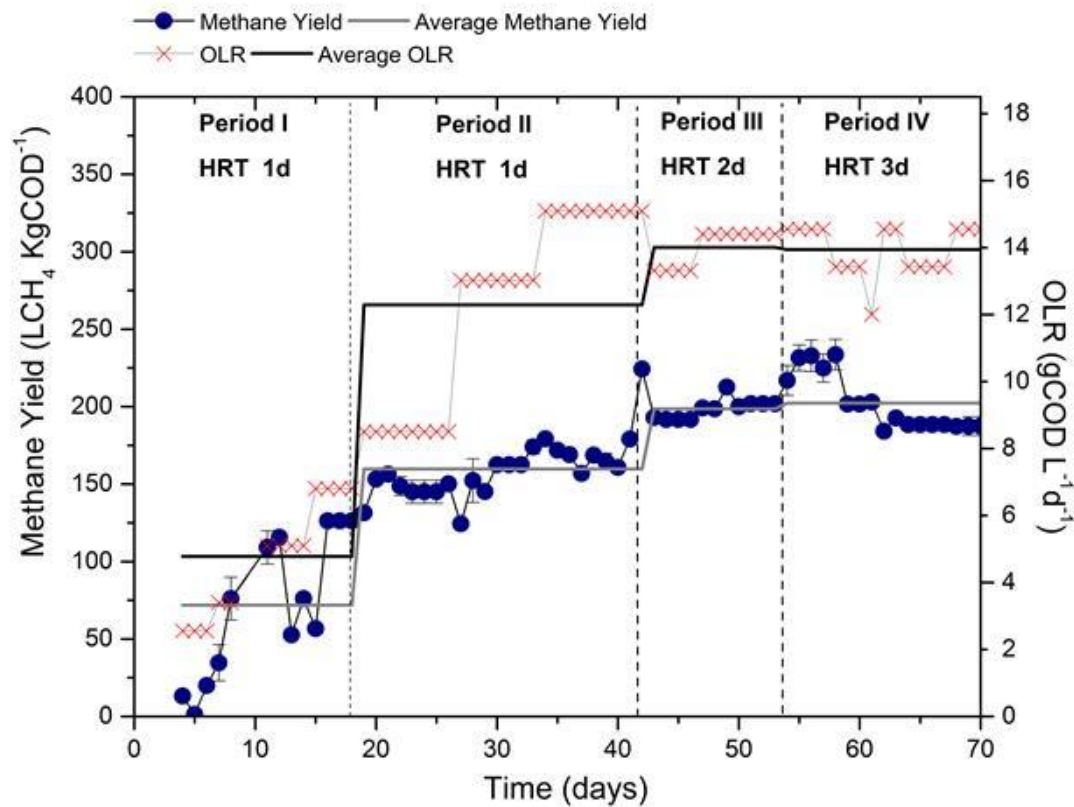
# CSTR reactor tests

Press cake and co-digestion of  
press cake and brown juice



# UASB reactor – Mono-digestion of brown juice

Brown juice, mesophilic (37°C), pH adjusted, HRT : 1-3 days



# Main results for biogas production

## Press cake (PC)



## Brown juice (BJ)



## Co-digestion PC + BJ



### Batch tests (mesophilic, after 38d)

- Methane yield was **307 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS**.

- Methane yield was **456 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS**.

- Methane yield was **426 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS** for the 15%PC:85%BJ mix.

### Reactor tests

- **CSTR, HRT = 20d**, TS-adjusted by H<sub>2</sub>O
- Stable process
- Average methane yield was **202 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS**.

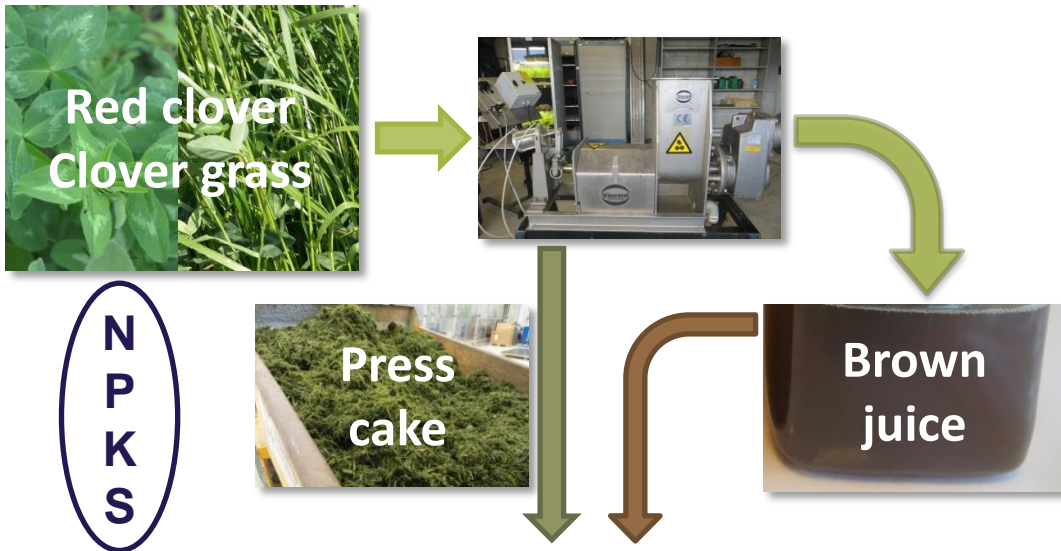
- **UASB, HRT = 3d**, pH-adjusted
- Stable process
- Average methane yield was **307 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS**.

- **CSTR, HRT = 20d**, no adjustment
- Stable process
- Average methane yield was **236 mL-CH<sub>4</sub>/g-VS**.



# Nutrient recovery in press cake and brown juice

After mechanical fractionation  
Nutrient conc. x mass of PC/BJ

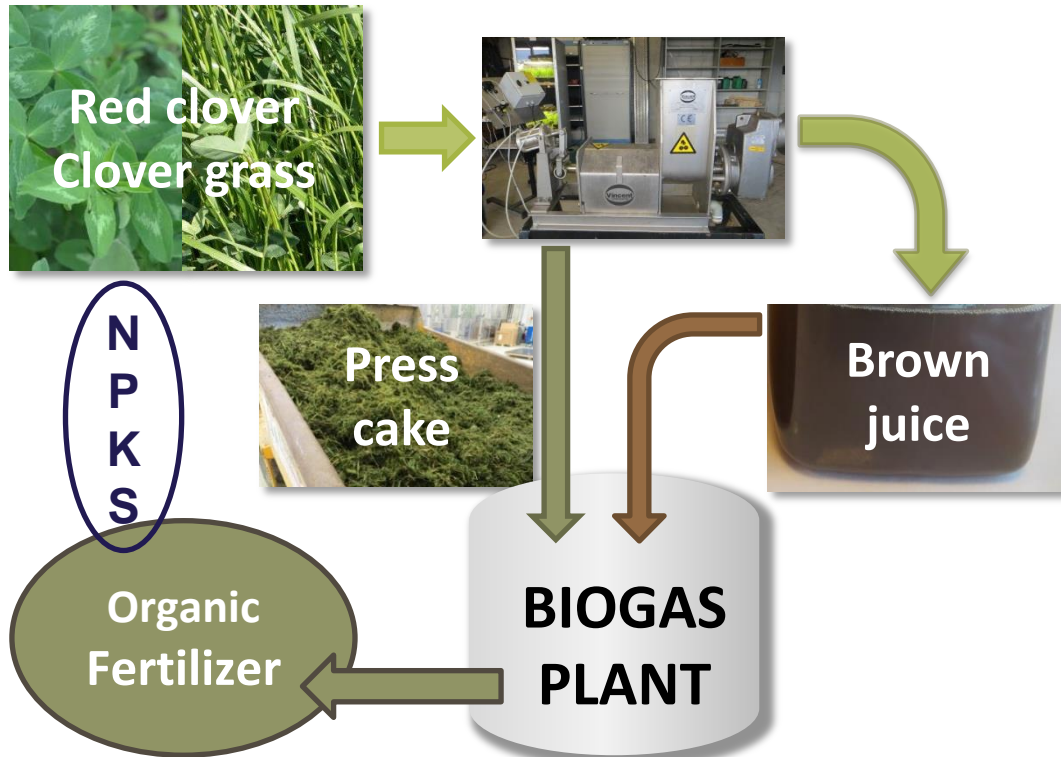


	Press cake	Brown juice
	% of input	% of input
<b>Red clover</b>		
<b>N</b>	52%	15%
<b>P</b>	53%	30%
<b>K</b>	43%	38%
<b>S</b>	52%	13%
<b>Clover grass</b>		
<b>N</b>	60%	11%
<b>P</b>	56%	27%
<b>K</b>	39%	31%
<b>S</b>	55%	26%



# Nutrient recovery in press cake and brown juice

Before and after AD process  
Co-digestion PC+BJ, or BJ alone



	AD digestate	
	g/kg	% of input
<b>Co-digestion PC+BJ, CSTR</b>		
<b>N</b>	3.42	<b>94%</b>
<b>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup></b>	2.11	<b>62 % of N</b>
<b>P</b>	1.35	<b>&gt;100%</b>
<b>K</b>	3.96	<b>99%</b>
<b>S</b>	0.52	<b>&gt;100%</b>
<b>Mono-digestion BJ, UASB</b>		
<b>N</b>	0.39	<b>68%</b>
<b>NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup></b>	0.06	<b>16% of N</b>
<b>P</b>	0.11	<b>59%</b>
<b>K</b>	2.03	<b>67%</b>
<b>S</b>	0.06	<b>56%</b>

# Conclusions

## Biogas production from residues PC and BJ:

- **42-68% of the biogas potential** is recovered in the **PC** while only **10-15%** is recovered in the **BJ**.
- Both **co-digestion of PC+BJ** and **mono-digestion of BJ** in UASB showed **stable process performance**.
- **Co-digestion of PC+BJ** in the ratio coming from the fractionation **does not need pH, nutrient or TS adjustment**.

## Nutrient recovery:

- **52-60% of N, P, S** is recovered in **PC** and **11-30%** in **BJ** while **39-42% of K** is recovered in **PC** and **31-38%** in **BJ**.
- In the **co-digestion** process a **high share of total-N** is converted into **NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>**, while this is only limited in the UASB process of BJ.
- **Nutrient conc. in digestate from mono-digestion of BJ** is **too low** for practical application on the field.

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



**AALBORG UNIVERSITY**  
DENMARK

