

# PYREG GmbH

A new value chain system - P rich biochars from different feedstocks

ECOFRIENDLY RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY

## PYREG GMBH - MILESTONES

Thanks to permanent innovation and continuous progress in further developments, our company has gained an excellent reputation as a pioneer & market leader in our branch.

1999  
-2009

Development of the PYREG technology at Technical University of Bingen by Dipl.-Ing. Helmut Gerber & Prof. Dr.-Ing. Winfried Sehn.

2009  
-2010

Helmut Gerber founds PYREG GmbH. The company headquarters is Dörth, close to Koblenz, Germany.

2011  
-2016

Entry of renowned investors, participation on numerous research projects, successful further development of the carbonization process.

2017  
- today

Bodo-Joachim Wendenburg joins management board; PYREG develops and manufactures - with around 30 employees - standardized carbonization units in Dörth, Germany.

# Motivation: University research projects 1999-2010

## Technische Hochschule Bingen, Thermodynamics department

### PYREG approach

Thermal, climate-friendly upcycling of a multitude of unused waste biomasses.

### Market and biomass disposability analysis

- Biomass has low energy density, transportation over longer distances causes problems (cost, emission, traffic,..)
- Biomass users (farmers, municipalities, green waste companies, waste water treatment plants, ...) are distributed over the area. (>10.000. WWTP in Germany, >15.000 green waste collection sites, >50.000 farmers)

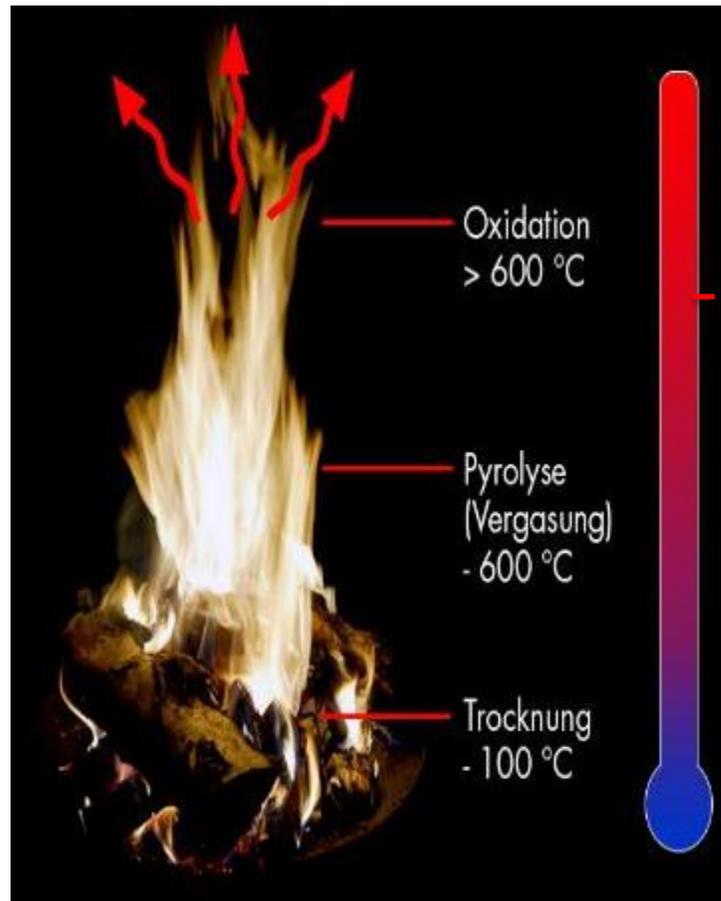
→ Decentralized approach → → rethinking common technologies

### Main development tasks

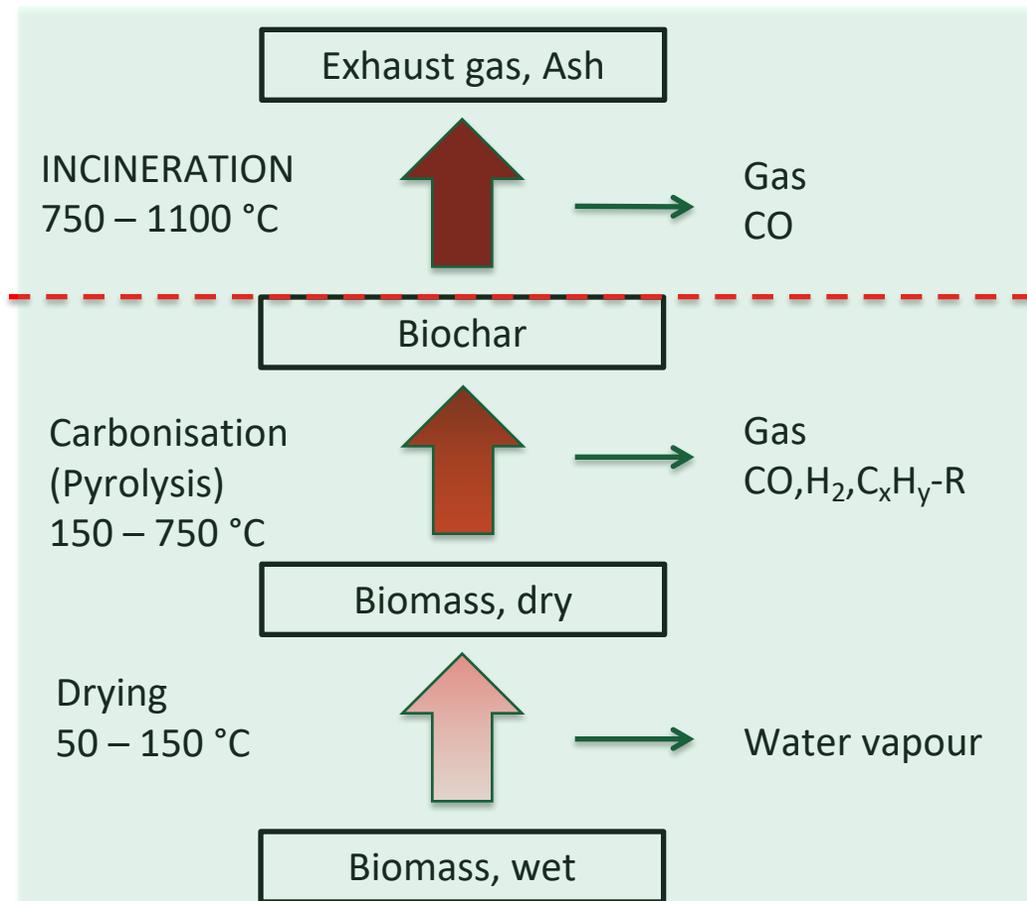
- Waste biomass contains **10-100x more problematic substances** for thermal use (nitrogen, ash, sulphur, heavy metals,..) than common woody material, and has a lower ash melting temperature. **Fulfil european waste incineration directive.**
- Use of **common** large scale **technologies** might **not** be **possible** (cost, complexity,..) and has to be reassessed.
- Decentralized approach needs easy to operate technologies **with less complexity** and investment cost than common.

# PYREG process design

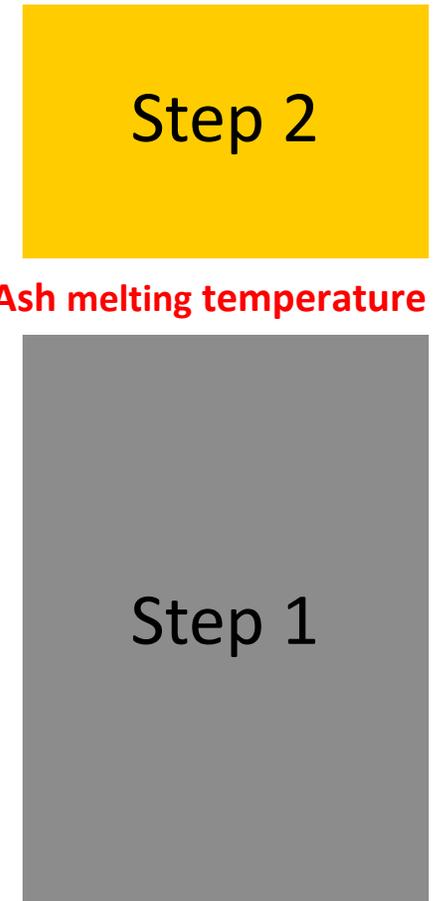
## Process principle



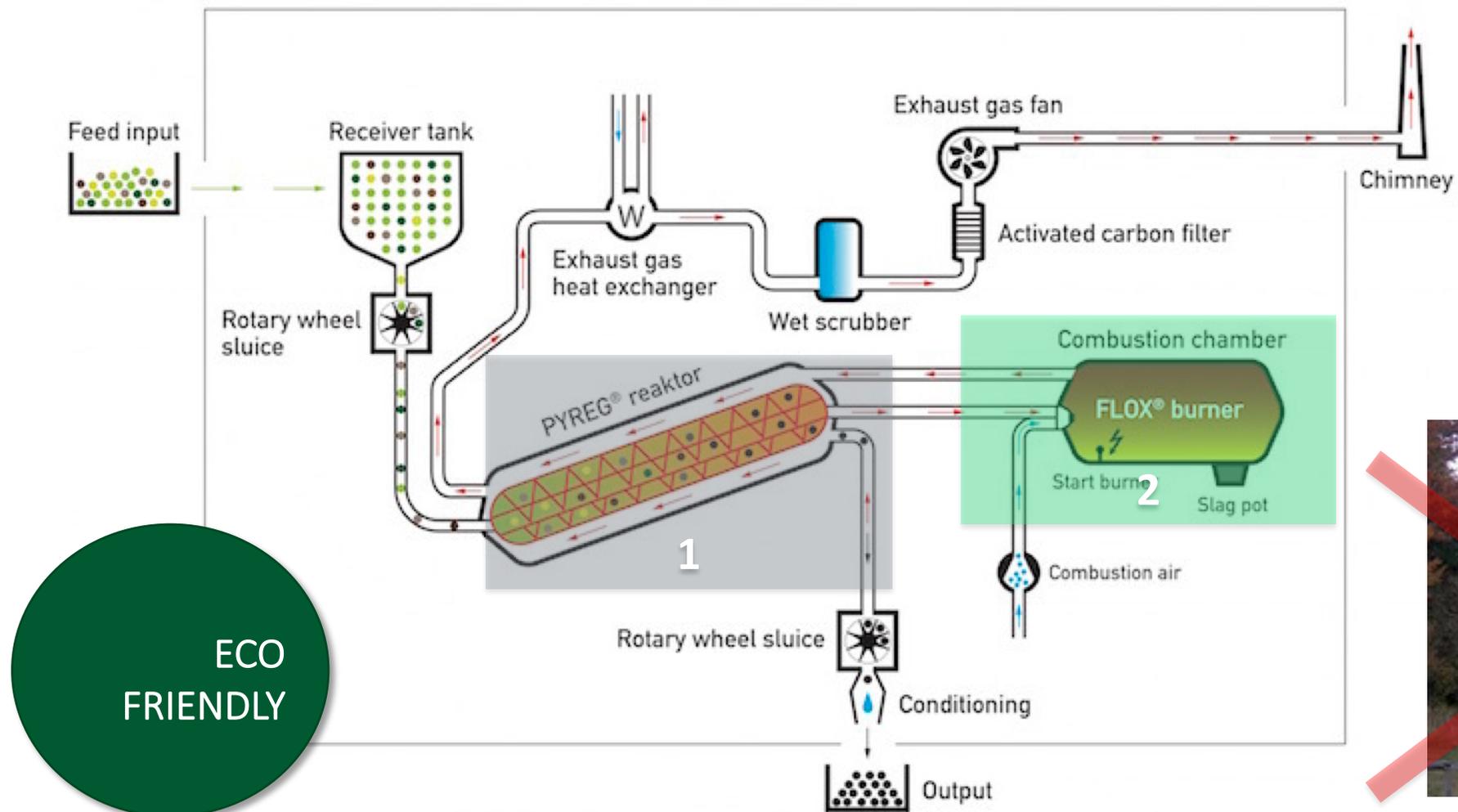
## Thermochemical description



## Abstraction

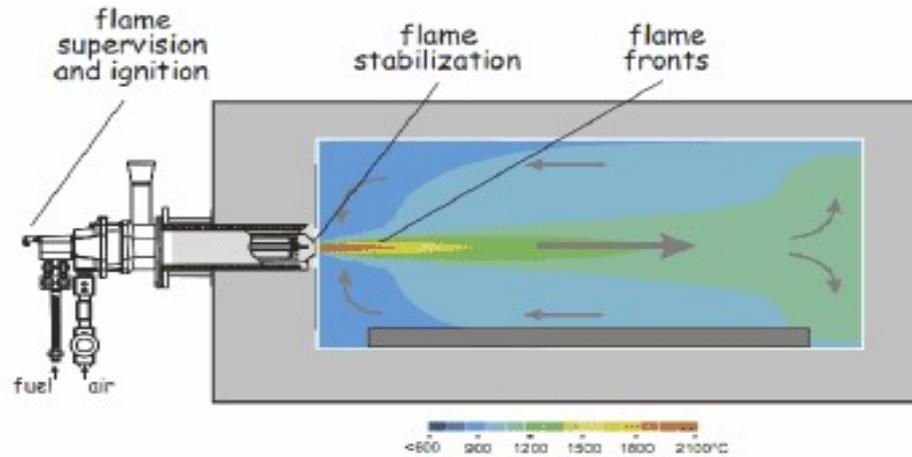


## PYREG PROCESS

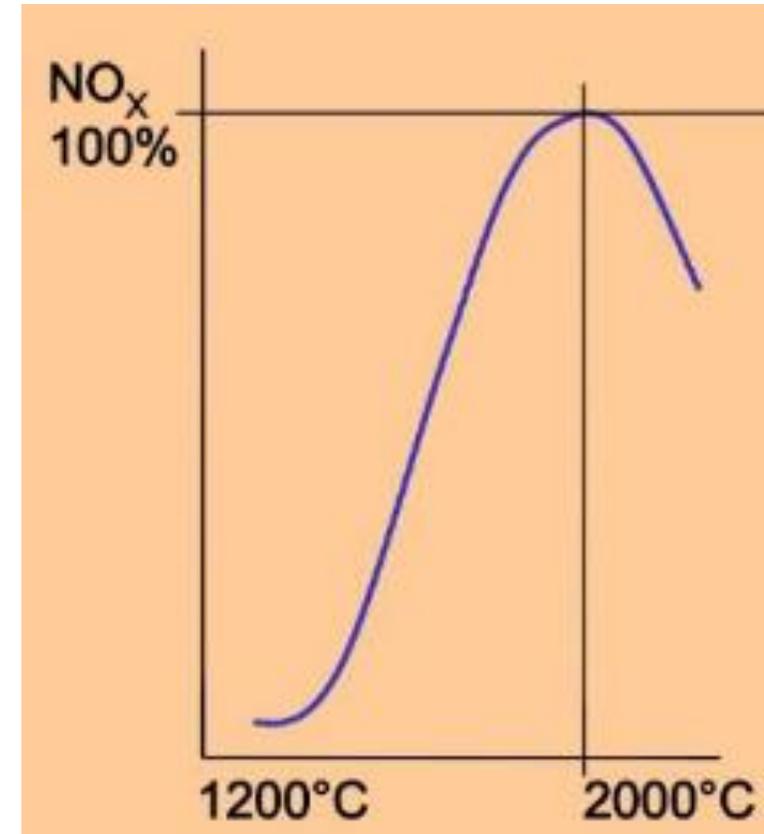
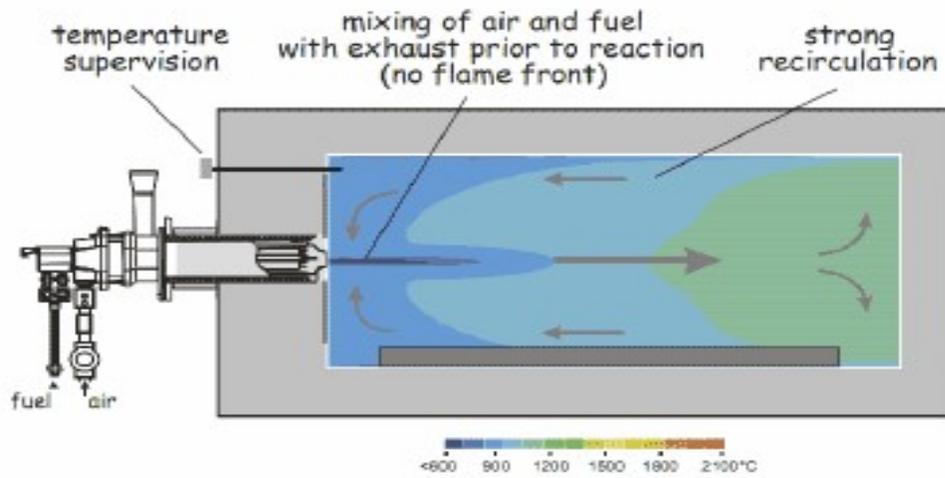


# FLOX<sup>®</sup>-INCINERATION, reducing NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to avoid secondary gas cleaning

**Conventional**



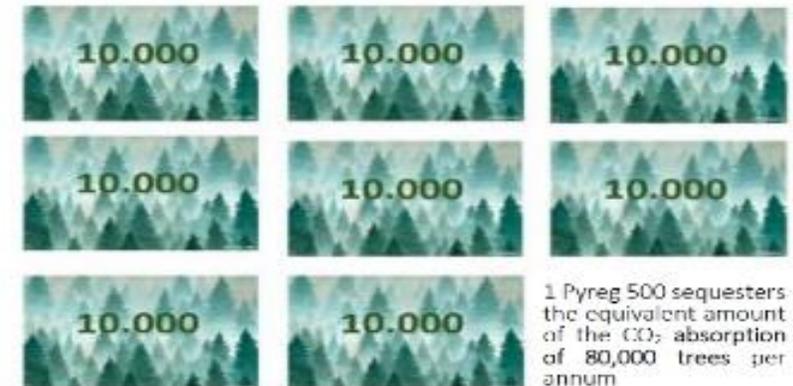
**FLOX-Burner**



Copyright: WS Wärmeprozessstechnik, BUDERUS

## PYREG-TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

- ▶ **PRODUCTION OF PREMIUM PRODUCTS:** EBC-Standard: Biochar, Feeding Char, Activated Carbon, Phosphorus-Fertilizer
- ▶ **COMPLETE REFINEMENT** of the input materials
- ▶ **INTEGRATION** in consisting local process cycles of materials and energy
- ▶ **SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES** (conservation of nutrients) and environmental protection (CO<sub>2</sub> capture & storage )
- ▶ **PROVEN TECHNOLOGY** (25 plants in operation)



## BIOMASS – KEY FIGURES P500

	BIOMASS
MAXIMUM ENERGY INPUT	500 kW
ANNUAL THROUGHPUT*	up to 1,400 t (60 - 80 % DS)
ANNUAL DS-THROUGHPUT*	800 – 1,200 t DS/a
MINIMUM ENERGY INPUT	10,000 kJ/kg OS
EXHAUST GAS CLEANING	optionally, not required
CONVERSION RATE (referring to DS)	25 - 40 %
ANNUAL OUTPUT*	up to 200 - 350 t/a
C-EFFICIENCY	about 60 %
OPERATING HOURS	up to 7,500 h/a
EXCESS THERMAL ENERGY*	up to 150 kW <sub>th</sub>
POWER CONSUMPTION	about 12 kW <sub>el</sub>

*\*Values depends on the quality of the input material (chemical and physical properties)*

**PYREKA:** Lab scale, electrically heated pyrolysis reactor

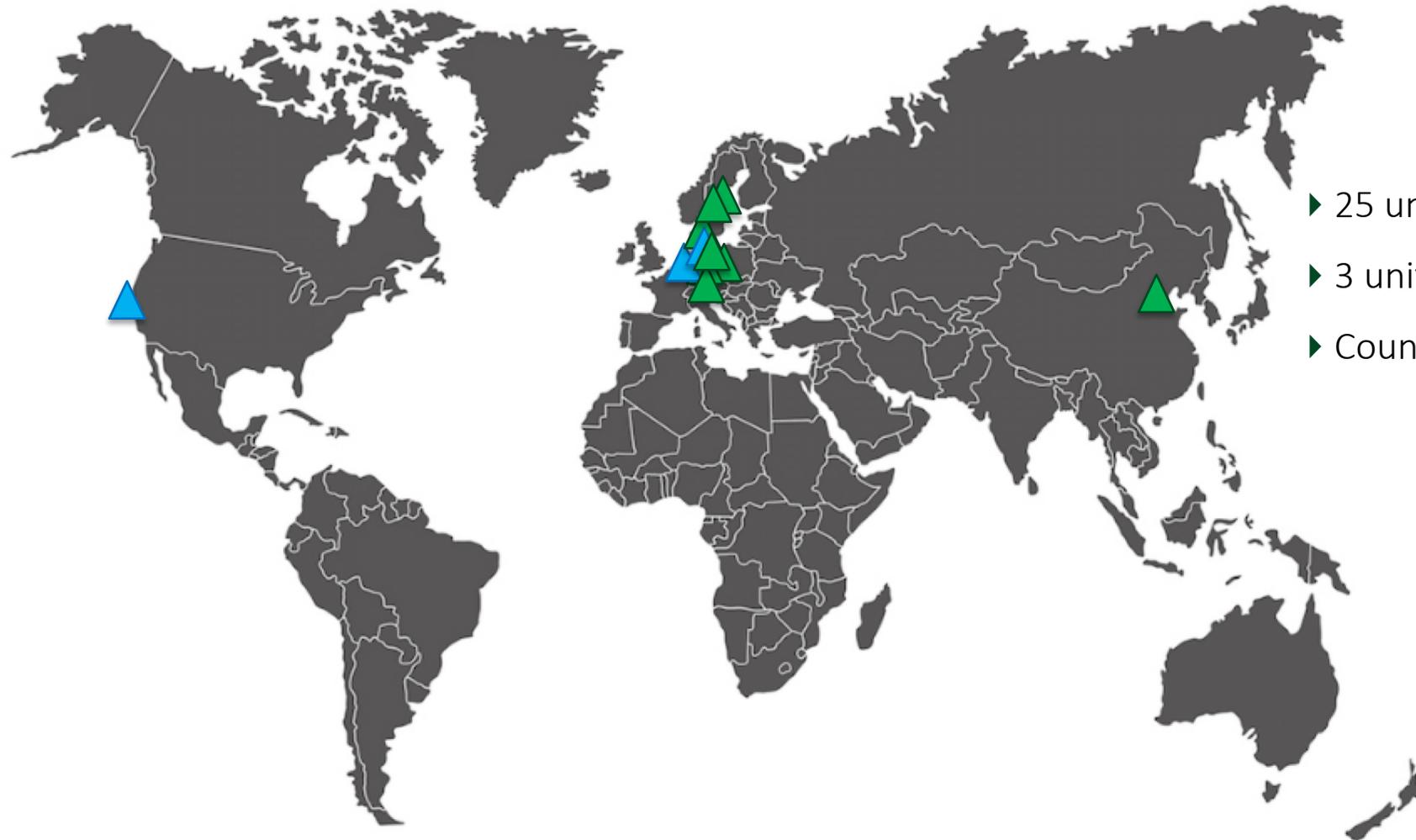
**P1500:** Available autumn 2018, Biochar output up to 1.000 tons/year.

**A750:** Available Winter 2018, Activated Carbon production

## BIOMASS – USABLE INPUT MATERIAL

Fertilizer	Biochar					Special Applications
	Digestate	Agriculture	Forestry	Municipal Waste	Production Waste	
Sewage Sludge	Silage	Grain and Grain Waste	Wood Chips	Bush and Tree Cuttings	Nutshells	Fly Ash
Flotation Slimes	Renewable Biomass	Husks	Sawdust	Green Waste	Fruitstones	Plastics, Rubber
Liquid Manure	Foodwaste	Dung, Droppings, Manure	Wood Pellets	Landscaping Materials	Old Bread	Alu Flakes
	Organic Waste Collection Bin	Slaughterhouse Waste	Wood from Short Rotation Forestry	Screened Compost	Malt and Roasting Residues	Rinsing Slurry
		Silage waste		Organic Waste Collection Bin	Rape, Draff	Oil Contaminated Iron Slurry
		Hay, Straw	Sawn Timber		Residues from Extraction	
					Okara, Carrots	

## PYREG TECHNOLOGY – REFERENCES



- ▶ 25 units for biomass recycling ▲
- ▶ 3 units for sewage sludge treatment ▲
- ▶ Countries: AT, BE, CH, CN, DE, SE, US,

## PYREG - REFERENCES - BIOCHAR and SEWAGE SLUDGE BIOCHAR, examples

### ▶ STOCKHOLM VATTEN

- ▶ Site: Stockholm, Sweden
- ▶ In operation since 2017



### ▶ SONNENERDE GmbH

- ▶ Site: Riedlingsdorf, Austria
- ▶ In operation since 2011



### ▶ AH MEYER (ROESS NATURE GROUP)

- ▶ Site: Tianjin, China
- ▶ In operation since 2016



### ▶ WWTP ASSOCIATION LINZ-UNKEL

- ▶ Site: Unkel, Germany
- ▶ In operation since 2015

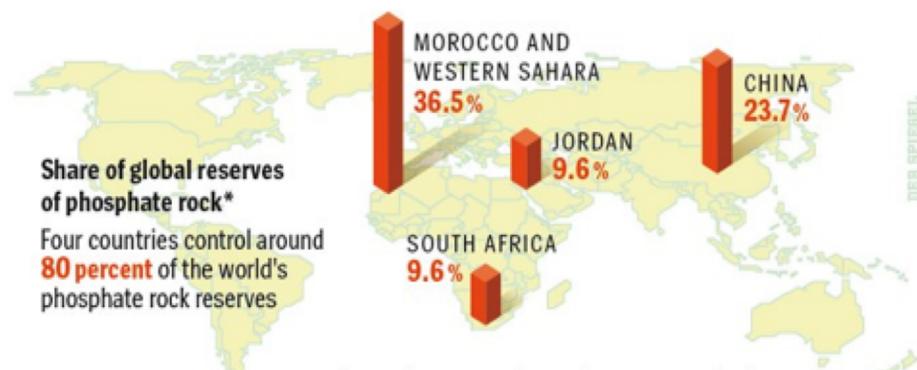
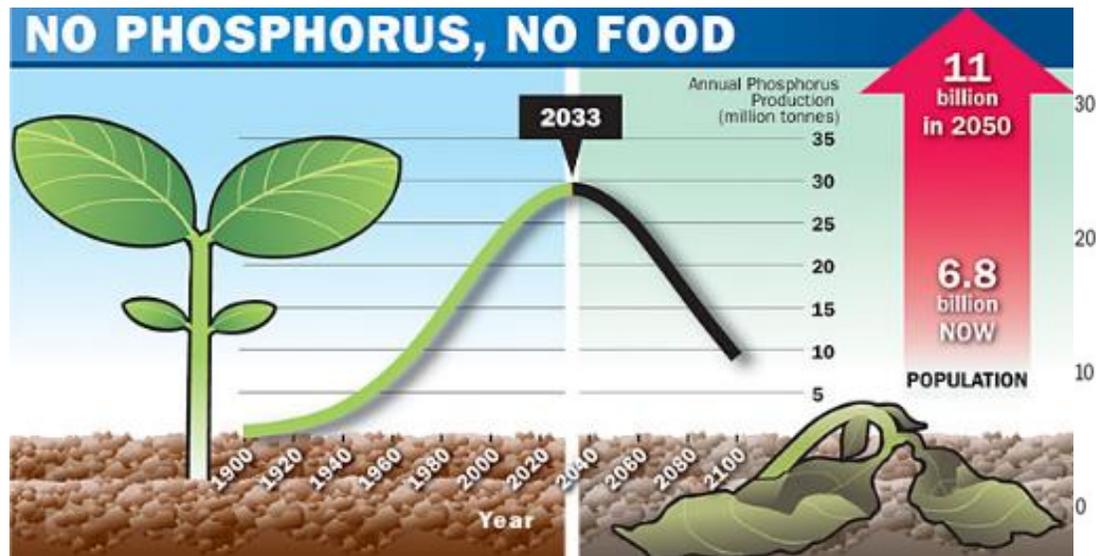
### ▶ WASTE DISPOSAL ASSOCIATION SAAR (EVS)

- ▶ Site: Homburg, Deutschland
- ▶ In operation since 2016

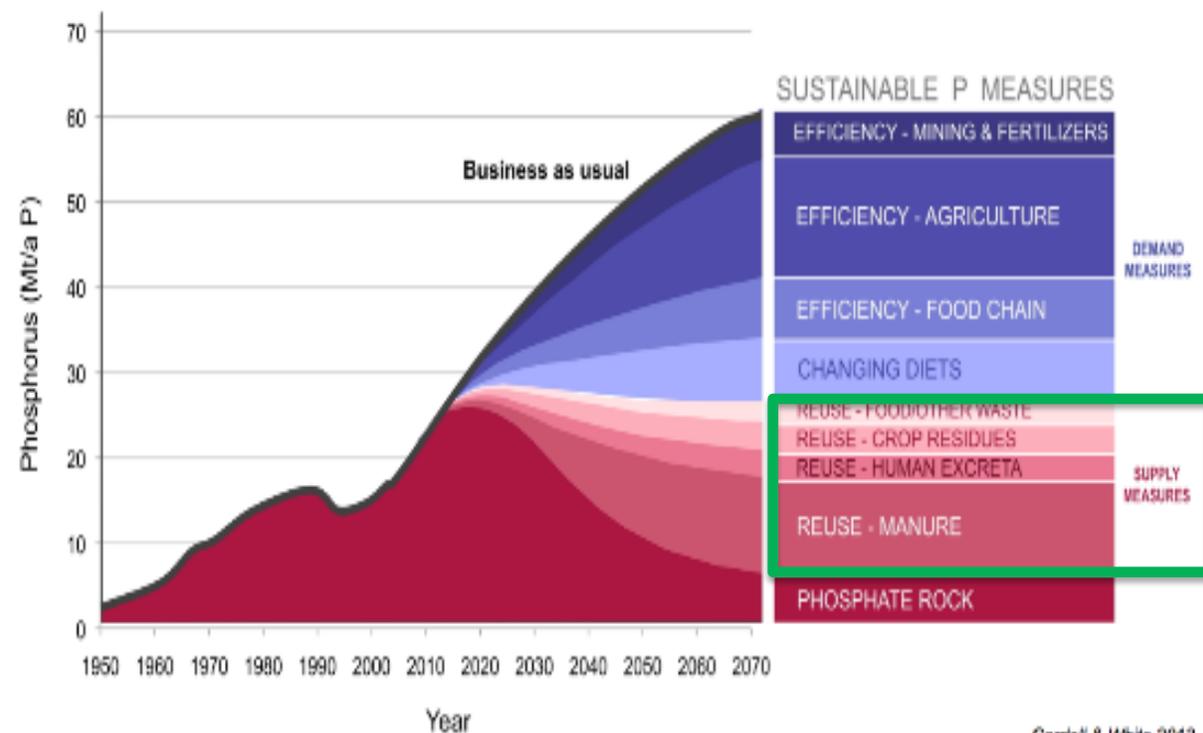
### ▶ BIOFORCETECH CORPORATION

- ▶ Site: Silicon Valley WWTP, Redwood, Cal., USA
- ▶ In operation since 2017

# SEWAGE SLUDGE BIOCHAR - WORLD PHOSPHORUS reserves limited



Isaac Asimov: „Phosphorus is lifes bottleneck“



<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/bild-690450-80337.html>

DER SPIEGEL

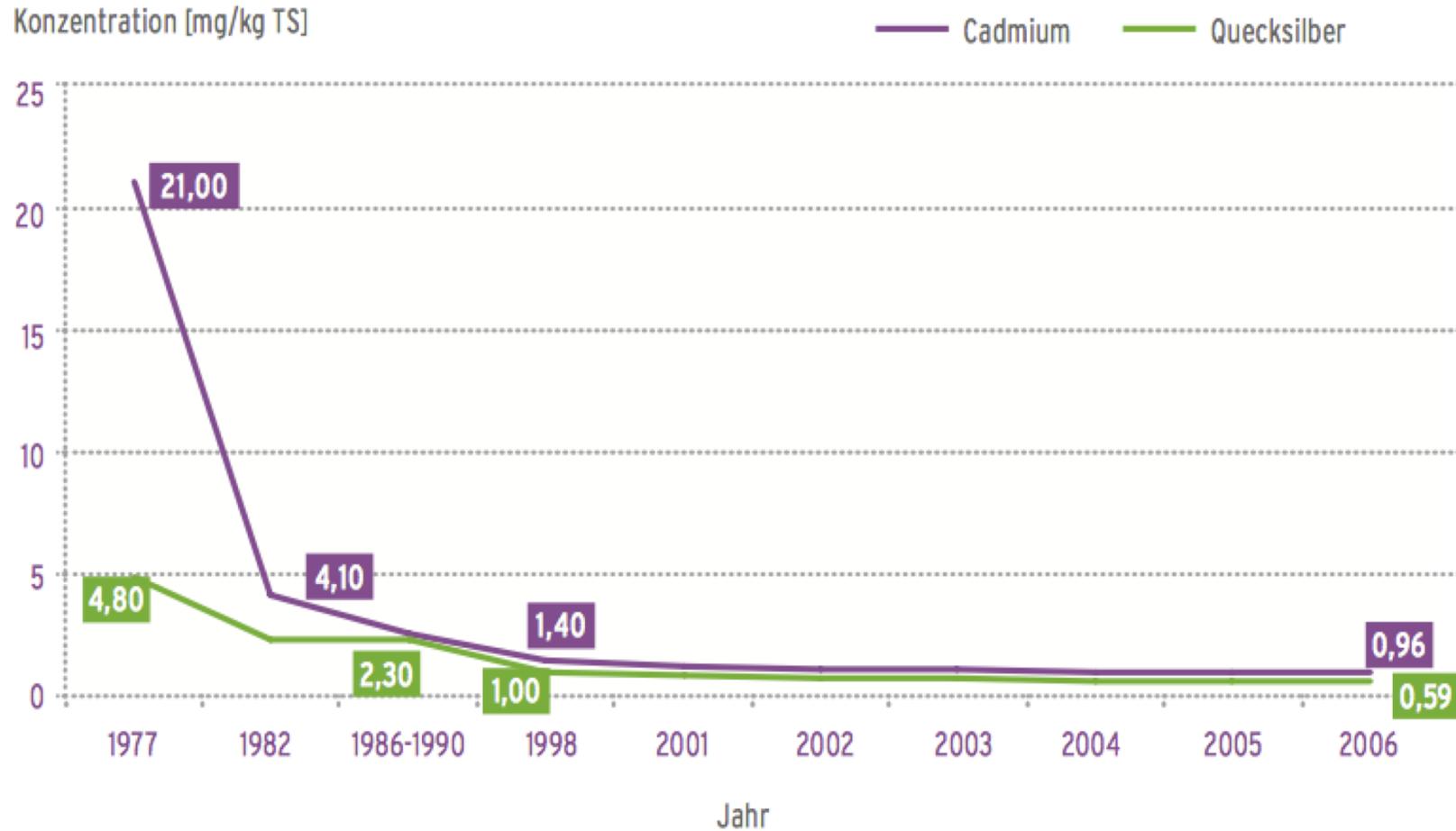
Cardell & White 2013

## CADMIUM CONTAMINATION of phosphorus rock

Lagerstätten	Cd-Gehalt (mg/kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	Lagerstätten-Typ
Südafrika	0,1 - 10	magmatisch
Russland	0,3 - 5	magmatisch
USA	7 - 375	sedimentär
Jordanien	12 - 28	sedimentär
Marokko	13 - 165	sedimentär
Israel	16 - 126	sedimentär
Tunesien	94	sedimentär
Senegal	161 - 336	sedimentär
Togo	164 - 179	sedimentär
andere Länder*	0,2 - 63	sedimentär/magmatisch

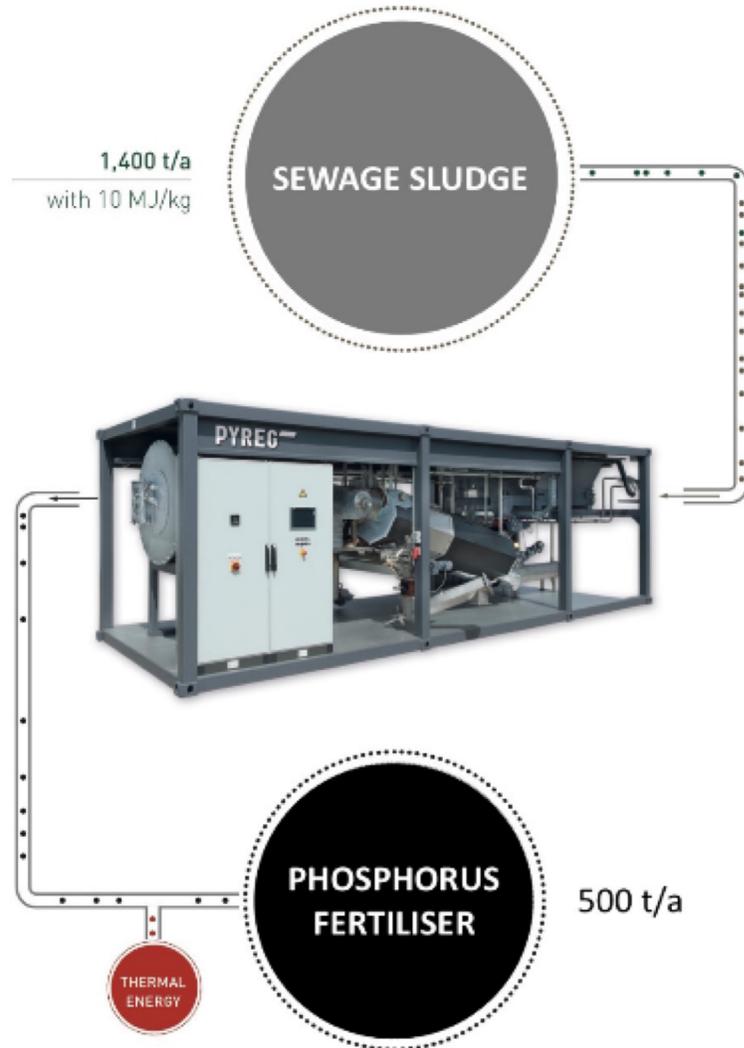
\* Algerien, Syrien, Finnland, Schweden

# HEAVY METAL CONCENTRATION in sewage sludge (Cd, Hg) Germany



Quelle: Klärschlamm Entsorgung in Deutschland, Umweltbundesamt 2013

# SEWAGE SLUDGE



## WHY USING PYREG-Technology?

1. A PYREG unit enables the WWTP operator to process the sludge directly on-site i.e. where it is produced.
2. The phosphorus fertiliser produced does not contain germs, hormones, residuals of pharmaceuticals, micro-plastics parts etc. A plant available phosphorus content of up to 20 % in the fertiliser can be achieved.
3. Transport cost can be reduced about 90 %, also Carbon Dioxide Emissions.
4. For larger sewage sludge quantities, the PYREG units can be up-scaled by a combination of additional units.
5. In the course of the running operation, supply of external energy is not necessary. Moreover up to 150 kW<sub>th</sub> may become available, to be used for dryers installed upstream.

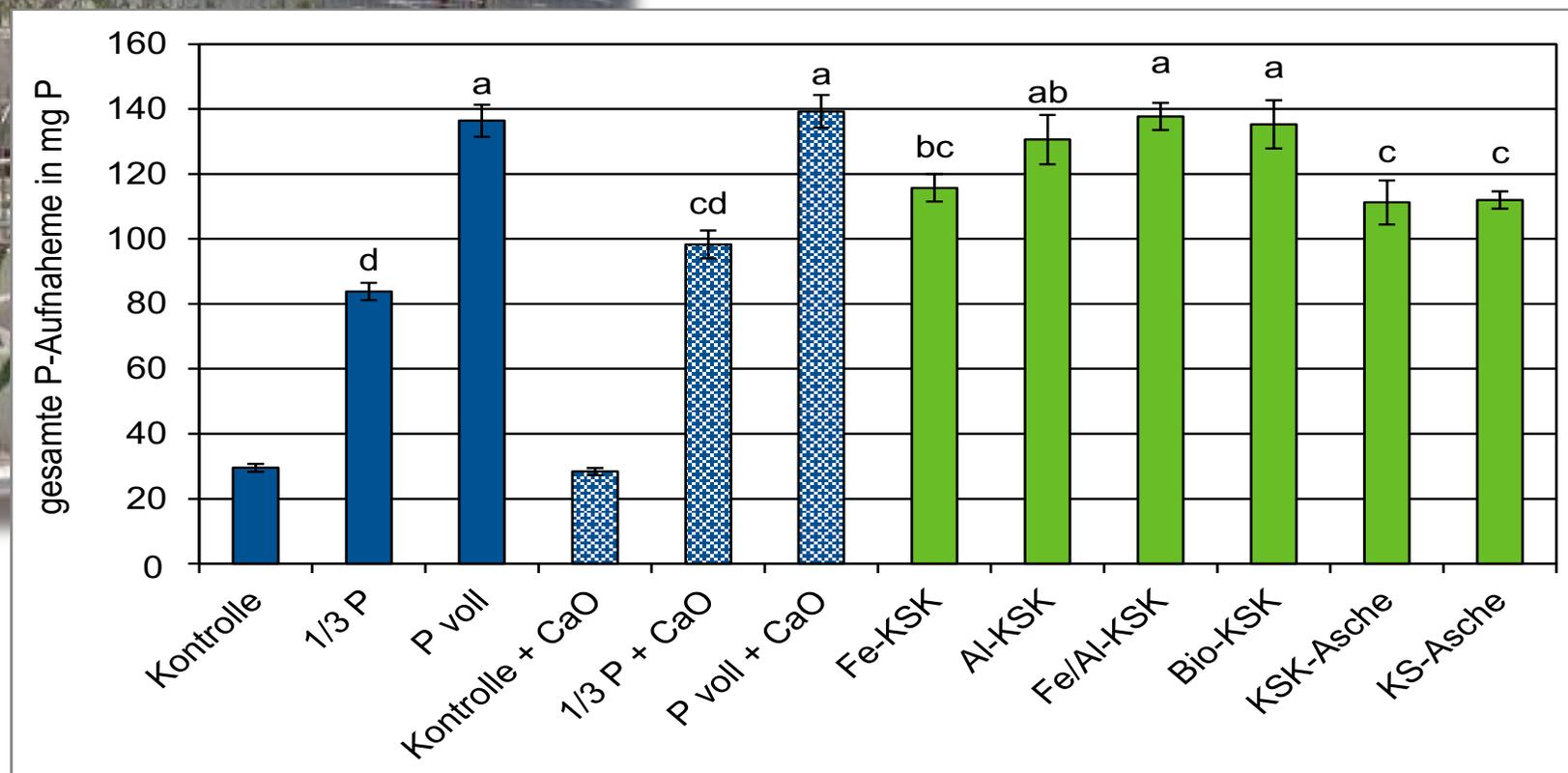
## Phosphorus-rich Biochars: Waste water treatment plant Unkel, Germany



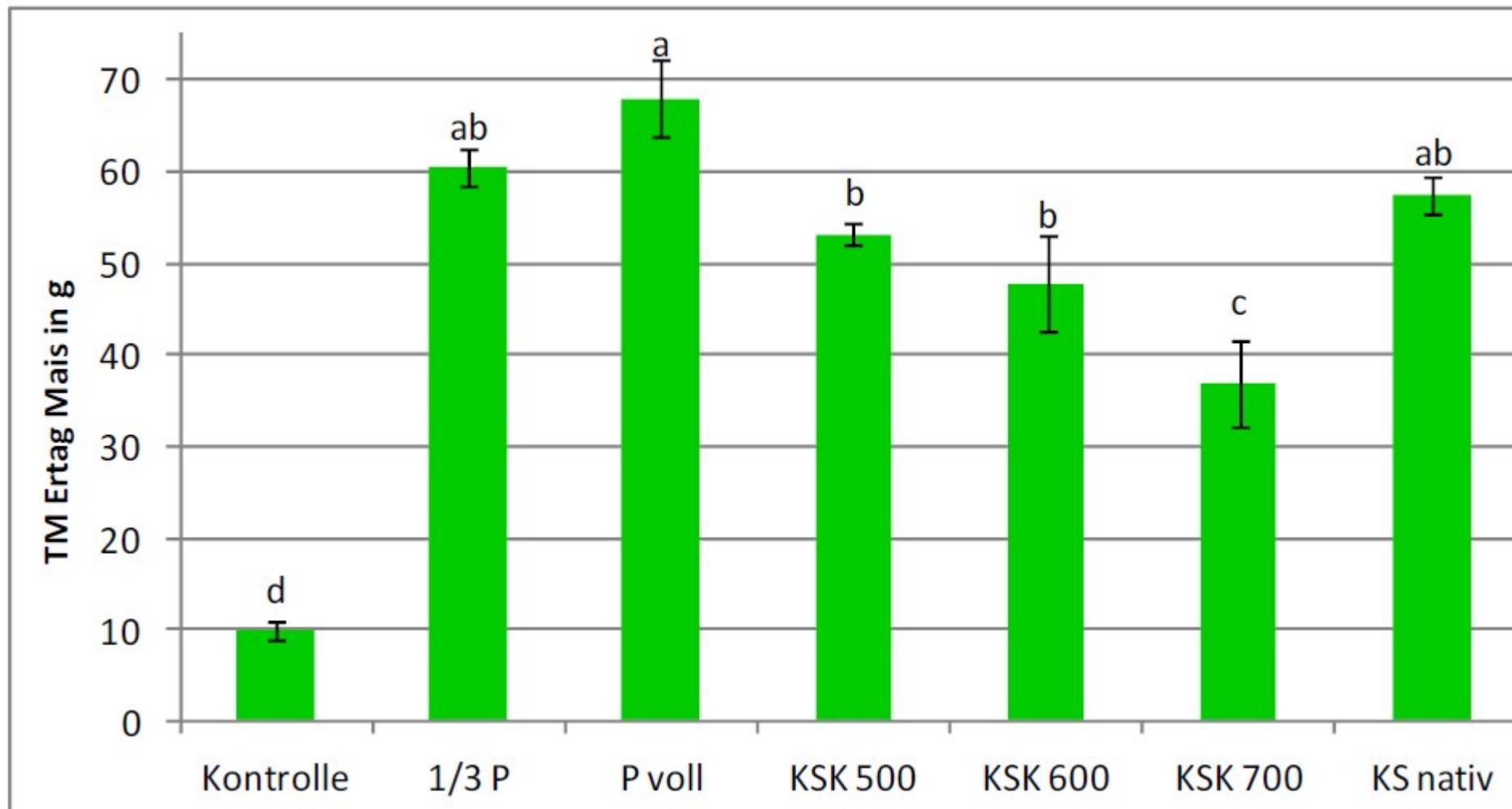


## Approval of fertilizing effect: Bingen University, Giessen University 2014

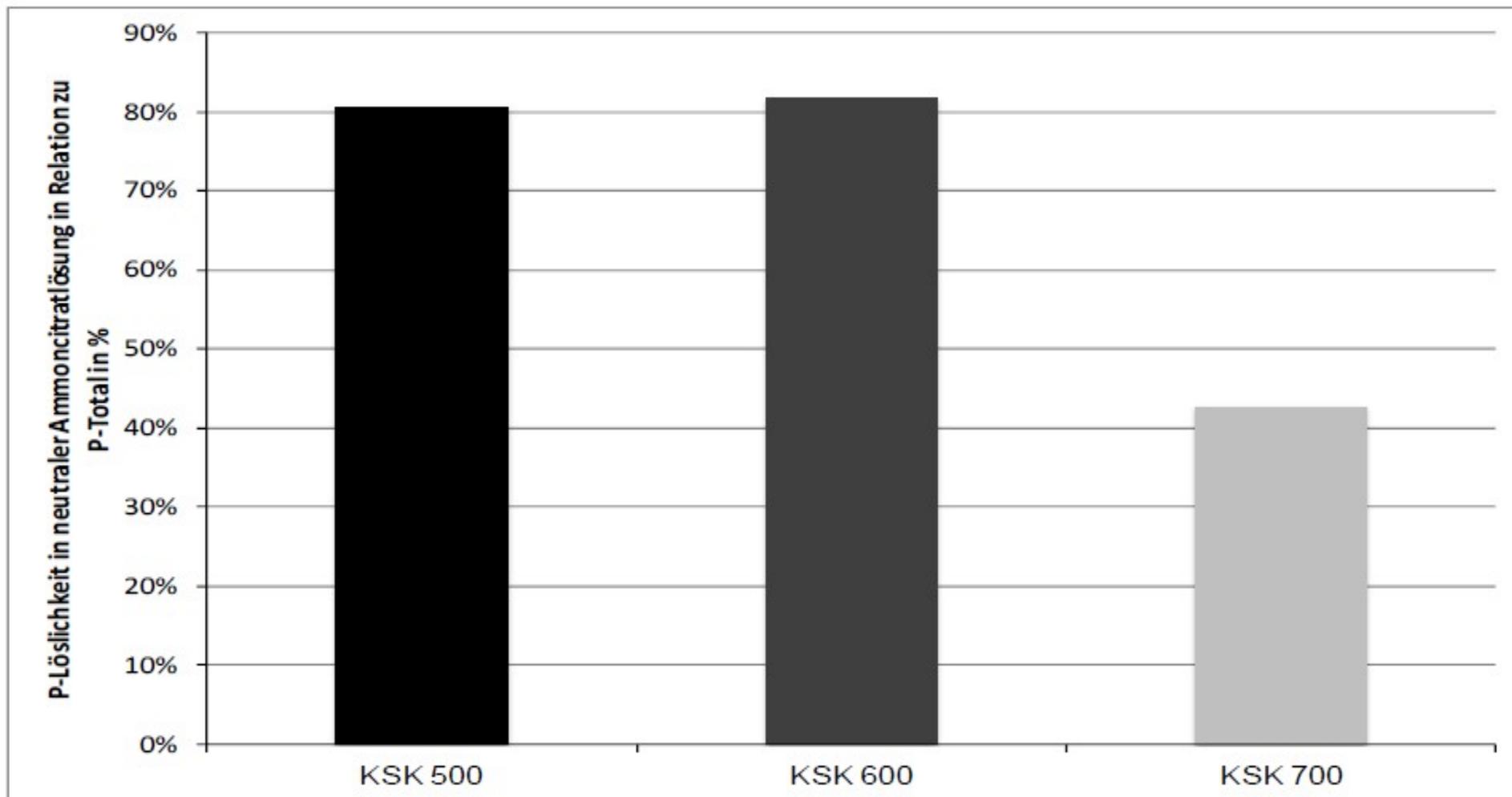
Sewage Sludge Biochar: Kick-Brauckmann-Gefäßversuch TH-Bingen 2014; Mindermann, B., Friedrich, K., Appel, T.



Crop mass, pot trial maize (Wald, L. 2017, University Bingen)



P-solubility, sewage sludge biochar with carbonisation temperatures (500°C, 600°C, 700°C)



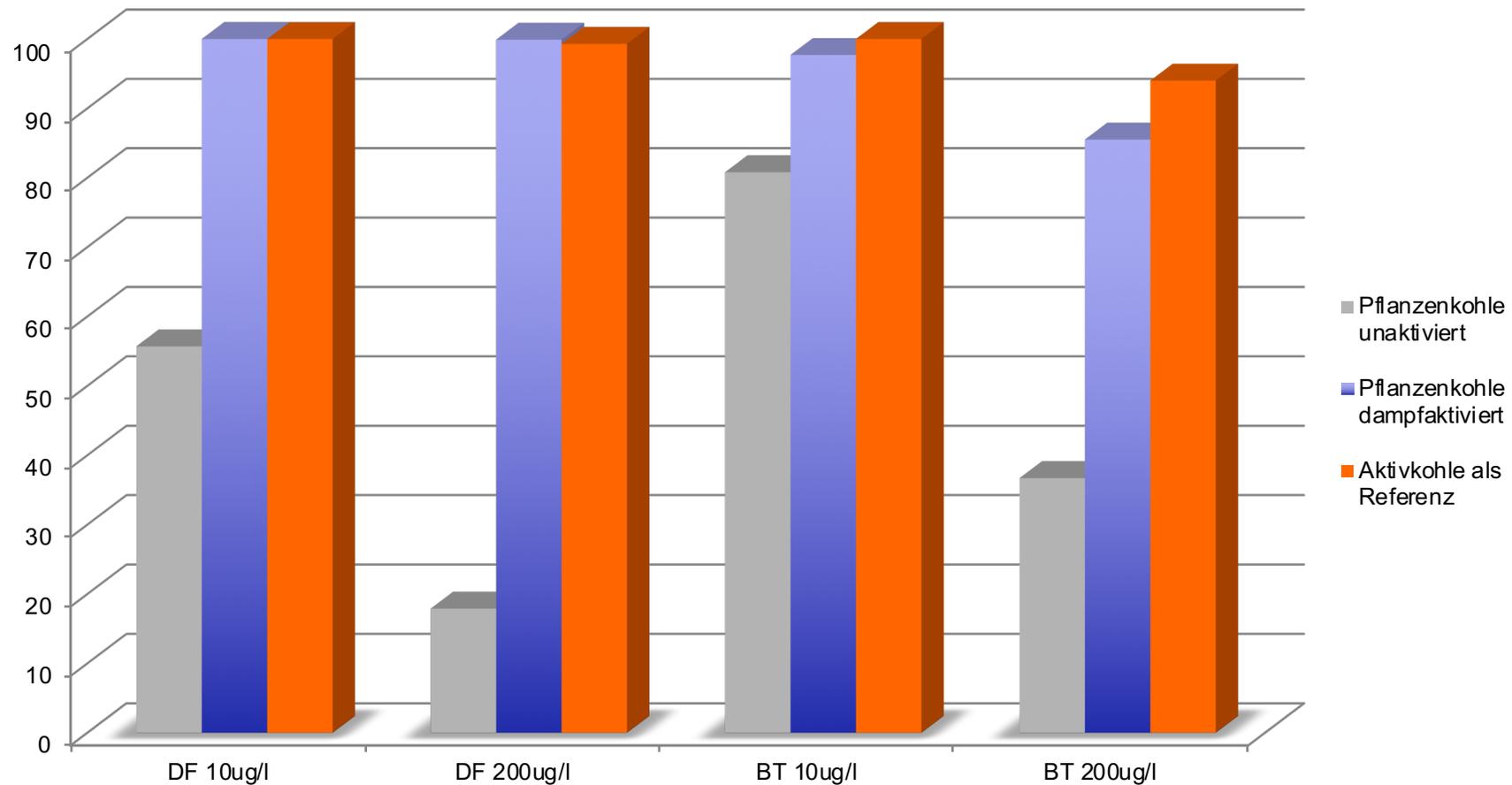
## BIOCHAR FERTILISER legislation, a long way .....

- ▶ 2012 German Fertiliser legislation changed: Biochar Fertiliser allows Biochar >80% Carbon only as fertilizer.
- ▶ 2013 Ministry of Environment state RLP accepts sewage sludge based biochar as „Mineralic Phosphate fertiliser“ (refusing it one year later).
- ▶ 2014 Ministry of Environment Saarland accepts sewage sludge based biochar as fertiliser in the sewage sludge directive (refused later).
- ▶ 2015 Ministry of Environment state NRW accepts sewage sludge based fertiliser as „Organic Mineralic Fertiliser (refused later).
- ▶ 2015 PYREG launches a petition for a biochar fertiliser ammendment at the **German National Ministry of Agriculture**.
- ▶ 2017 PYREG and Partners changed the **german sewage sludge directive**, PYREG is accepted as phosphorus recovery method.
- ▶ Since then: Ongoing consideration with the Ministries in Germany and **European Union**,
- ▶ Consolidated European fertilizer legislation awaited 2021.

Biochar Stakeholders should work together to do more Lobbying



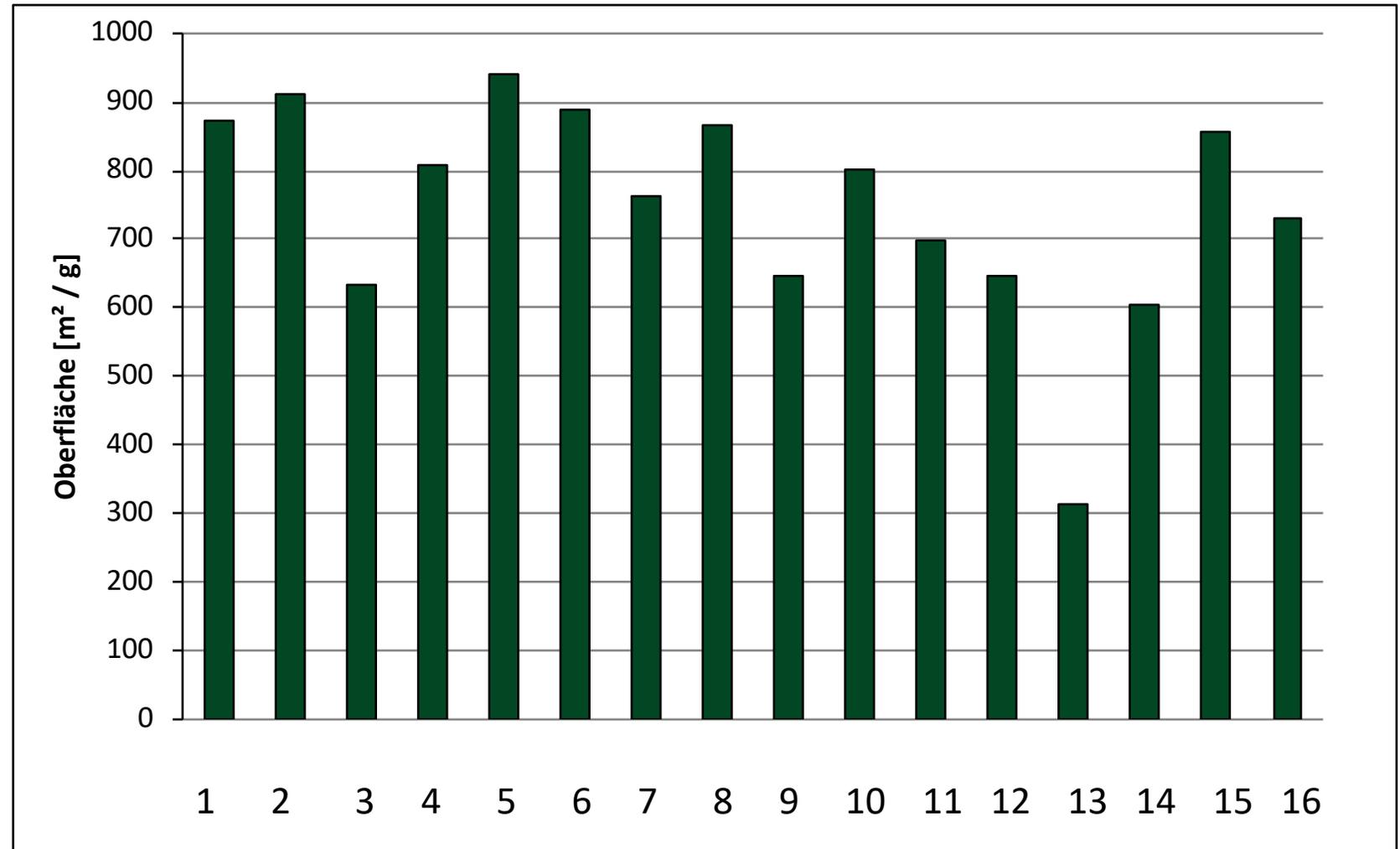
## R+D: Activated Carbon Production, water pollutants removal



A. Slijepcevic, K. Friedrich, Favre, Schmidt (2013)

DF = Diclofenac (Entzündungshemmer)  
BT = Benzotriazole (Rostschutzmittel)

## Locally available alternative feedstock for activated Carbon (2016)



## ACTIVATED CARBON production: City of Baden-Baden WWTP (2018)

- PYREG Activated Carbon: Global Markets and increasing demand
- UP to 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g surface area with PYREG clean steam activation



## R+D - ONGOING PROJECTS: Carbon fertilizer from manure (2017-2020)



Bundesanstalt für  
Landwirtschaft und Ernährung

**In former times:** Farm manure, stable and dry manure could simply be used as fertilizer in the fields.

**Nowadays:** Due to limits lowered and longer blocking periods for spreading manure, new methods of utilization are necessary.

### OUR RESEARCH PROJECTS: **CARBON FERTILIZER ON THE BASIS OF FARM MANURE**



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**OBJECTIVE:** CARBON FERTILIZER ORIGINATING FROM FARM MANURE, WITH RECUPERATION OF NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS.

.....

**PROJECT PARTNERS:** TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF BINGEN, UNIVERSITY OF GEISENHEIM, JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITY OF GIESSEN, KLASS FILTER GMBH (GERMANY)

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**PROJECT DURATION:** AUGUST OF 2017 TO OCTOBER OF 2020.

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**PROCESS INTENDED:** SEPARATION OF MANURE INTO SOLID AND LIQUID PHASE, CARBONIZATION OF NUTRITIOUS SOLID PHASE BY MEANS OF A PYREG PLANT, PELLETIZING OF CARBONIZATES TO HYGIENICALLY IMPECCABLE COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER.

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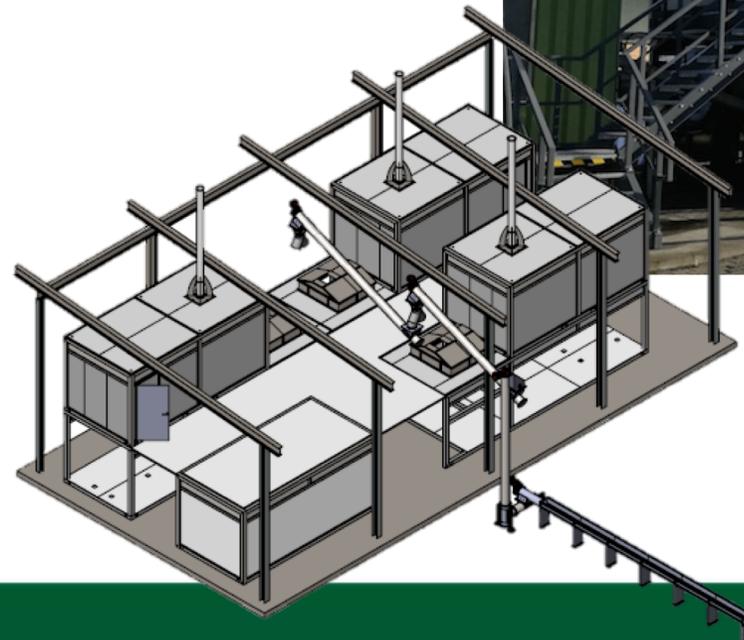
**SUPPORTED:** BY THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR ERNÄHRUNG UND LANDWIRTSCHAFT), FUNDING AMOUNT: 600,000 EURO.

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## BIOMASS – PROJECTS (2018)

- ▶ PROJÉT TITEL: Carbo 3
- ▶ PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 3 PYREG units will produce about 1.000 tons of high-quality feeding char per year. So far unique in Europe.
- ▶ Electricity production (ORC-system) and district heating system included.
- ▶ PROJECT PARTNER: NOVOCARBO
- ▶ PROJECT STATUS: In operation



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