



European Sustainable  
Phosphorus Platform



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research and innovation  
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SMART-Plant

**ECOMONDO**  
THE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES EXPO

22<sup>a</sup> Fiera internazionale  
del recupero di materia ed energia  
e dello sviluppo sostenibile

Green & Circular Economy  
6-9 Novembre 2018  
Rimini Italy

IN CONTEMPORANEA CON  
**KEY ENERGY**

# Nutrient and water recycling through the management of manure: the case history of Lombardy Region

Gabriele Boccasile – Regione Lombardia

3rd EUROPEAN NUTRIENT EVENT @ ECOMONDO 2018

8 - 9 November 2018, Rimini, Italy

[www.smart-plant.eu/ENE3](http://www.smart-plant.eu/ENE3)






# BIOGAS PLANTS 2018

- **>400** operating





**Anaerobic Digestion**  
**as a tool**  
**(circular economy**  
**+ sustainability)**



**. . ANAEROBIC  
DIGESTION:  
Digestate (!!!)**

**+**

**Biogas (!)**



## The role of biological processes in reducing both odor impact and pathogen content during mesophilic anaerobic digestion



Valentina Orzi <sup>a</sup>, Barbara Scaglia <sup>a</sup>, Samuele Lonati <sup>a</sup>, Carlo Riva <sup>a</sup>, Gabriele Boccasile <sup>b</sup>, Giovanni Loris Alborali <sup>c</sup>, Fabrizio Adani <sup>a,d,\*</sup>

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Anaerobic digestion (AD) could produce annoyance for humans, i.e. odors and pathogens
- Because of bio-stabilization process, AD reduces potential odours production
- Biological process is responsible of pathogen reduction because of NH<sub>3</sub> production.
- Substrate competition, as well, is responsible for pathogen reduction.
- Plant characteristics and feedstock influence the results for pathogen reduction.

### ARTICLE INFO

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Toxic ammonia

### ABSTRACT

Mesophilic anaerobic digestion (MAD) produces renewable energy, but it also plays a role in reducing the impact of digestates, both by reducing odor and pathogen content. Ten full-scale biogas plants characterized by different plant designs (e.g. single digesters, parallel or serial digesters), plant powers (ranging from 180 to 999 kWe), hydraulic retention time (HRT) (ranging between 20 to 70 days) and feed mixes were monitored and odors and pathogens were observed in both ingestates and digestates. Results obtained indicated that MAD reduced odors (OU) from, on average,  $OU_{ingestate} = 99,106 \pm 149,173 \text{ OU m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  ( $n = 15$ ) to  $OU_{digestate} = 1106 \pm 771 \text{ OU m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  ( $n = 15$ ).

Pathogens were also reduced during MAD both because of ammonia production during the process and competition for substrate between pathogens and indigenous microflora, i.e. Enterobacteriaceae from  $6.85 \cdot 10^3 \pm 1.8 \cdot 10^1$  to  $1.82 \cdot 10^1 \pm 3.82 \cdot 10^1$ ; fecal Coliform from  $1.82 \cdot 10^4 \pm 9.09$  to  $2.45 \cdot 10^1 \pm 3.8 \cdot 10^1$ ; *Escherichia coli* from  $8.72 \cdot 10^3 \pm 2.4 \cdot 10^1$  to  $1.8 \cdot 10^1 \pm 2.94 \cdot 10^1$ ; *Clostridium perfringens* from  $6.4 \cdot 10^4 \pm 7.7$  to  $5.2 \cdot 10^3 \pm 8.1$  (all data are expressed as CFU g<sup>-1</sup> ww).

Plants showed different abilities to reduce pathogen indicators, depending on the pH value and toxic ammonia content.

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a reduction because of NH<sub>3</sub> production.  
e for pathogen reduction.  
: the results for pathogen reduction.

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## A B S T R A C T

Mesophilic anaerobic digestion (MAD) produces renewable energy, but it also plays a role in reducing the impact of digestates, both by reducing odor and pathogen content. Ten full scale biogas plants characterized by different plant designs (e.g. single digesters, parallel or serial digesters), plant powers (ranging from 180 to 999 kW<sub>e</sub>), hydraulic retention time (HRT) (ranging between 20 to 70 days) and feed mixes were monitored and odors and pathogens were observed in both ingestates and digestates. Results obtained indicated that MAD reduced odors (OU) from, on average,  $OU_{\text{ingestate}} = 99,106 \pm 149,173 \text{ OU m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$  ( $n = 15$ ) to  $OU_{\text{digestate}} = 1106 \pm 771 \text{ OU m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

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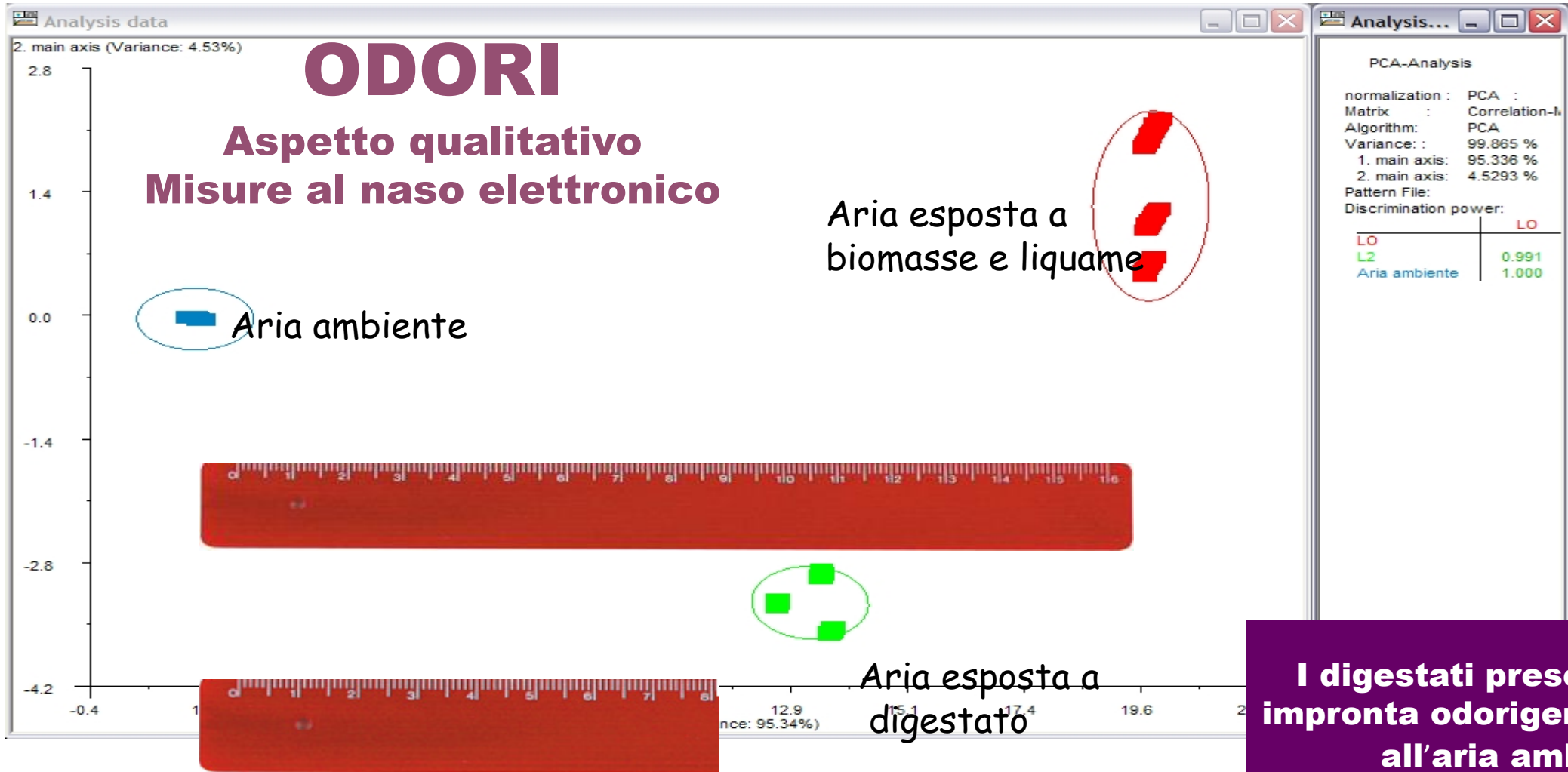
Plants showed different abilities to reduce pathogen indicators, depending on the pH value and toxic ammonia content.

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s with renewable bioenergy  
ean Union (EU) as part of a

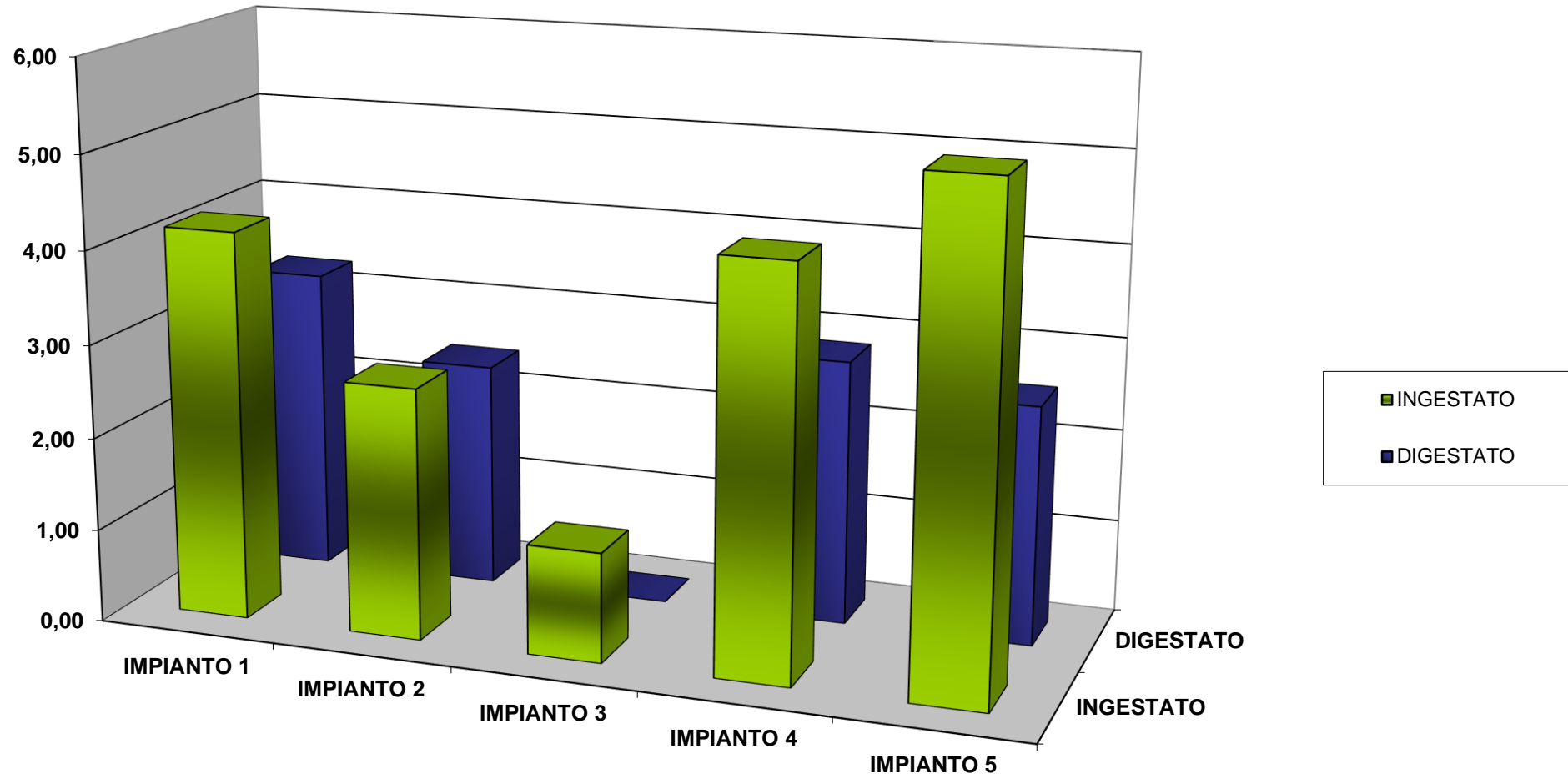
crops. Biogas production has been developed a lot in the EU in recent decades and in particular in Germany and Italy. In Italy, biogas has been developed considerably in the Lombardy Region in an agricultural context (Adani et al. 2013) because of the presence of intensive animal breeding



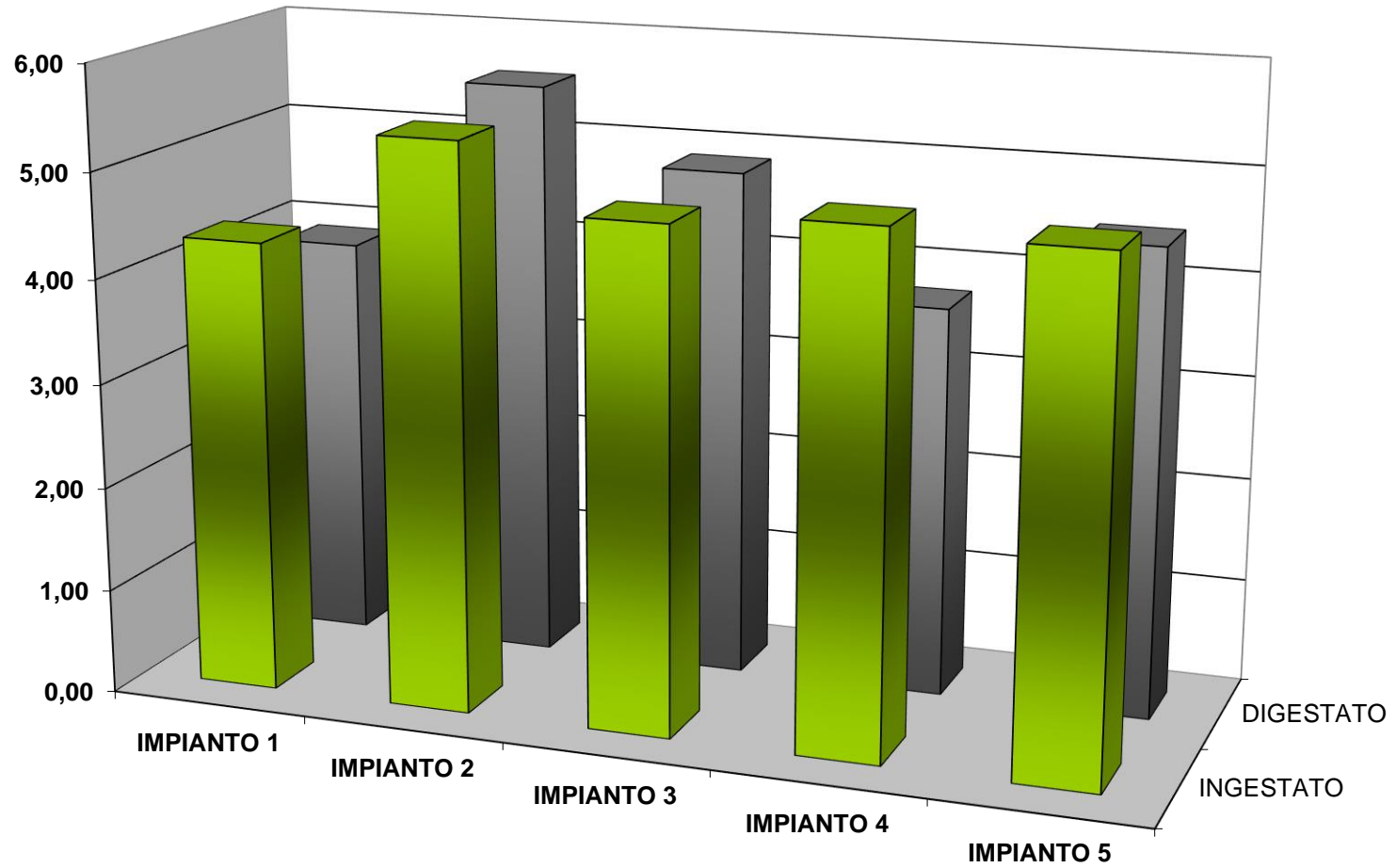
**I digestati presentano una impronta odorigena piu' vicina all'aria ambiente**



*Escherichia coli* : Log10 CFU ml



*Clostridium perfringens*: Log10 CFU ml



Gruppo Ricicla- Ist. Zooprofilattico di BS- Regione Lombardia, 2012

- Anaerobic digestion: useful biotechnology able to transform the nutrients contained into plant-available forms so that digestate can replace mineral fertilizers.
- The treatment of livestock effluents by anaerobic digestion processes can play a key role in producing fertilizers.
- AD leads to several changes in the composition of the resulting digestates for what that concern ammonia content, pH, COD, pathogens and odor emission.
- Digestates are characterized by biologically stable organic matter and ready available nutrients content (i.e.  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ )

## **Nitrogen mineralization from digestate in comparison to sewage sludge, compost and urea in a laboratory incubated soil experiment**

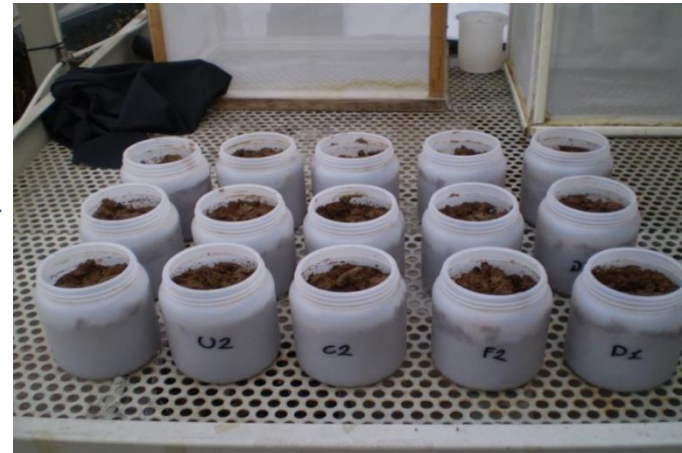
**Fulvia Tambone<sup>1\*</sup> and Fabrizio Adani<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Ricicla Group, Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie e Ambientali, Produzione, Territorio, Agroenergia, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 2, 20133 Milano, Italy

# INCUBATION TEST AT LABORATORY SCALE

- No fertilizer **T**
- Soil + Compost **C**
- Soil + sewage sludge **SS**
- Soil + Digestate **D**
- Soil + Urea **U**

90 days, T 25°C, U 60% WHC



300 kg N ha<sup>-1</sup>

# Nitrogen balance

	<b>t ha<sup>-1</sup></b>	<b>N<sub>tot</sub></b>	<b>N-NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup></b>	<b>Efficiency</b>
			<b>kg ha<sup>-1</sup></b>	<b>%</b>
<b>C</b>	22.6	300	136	45
<b>SS</b>	24.8	300	150	53
<b>D</b>	83.3	300	262	88
<b>U</b>	0.65	300	300*	100

High organic matter mineralization rate.

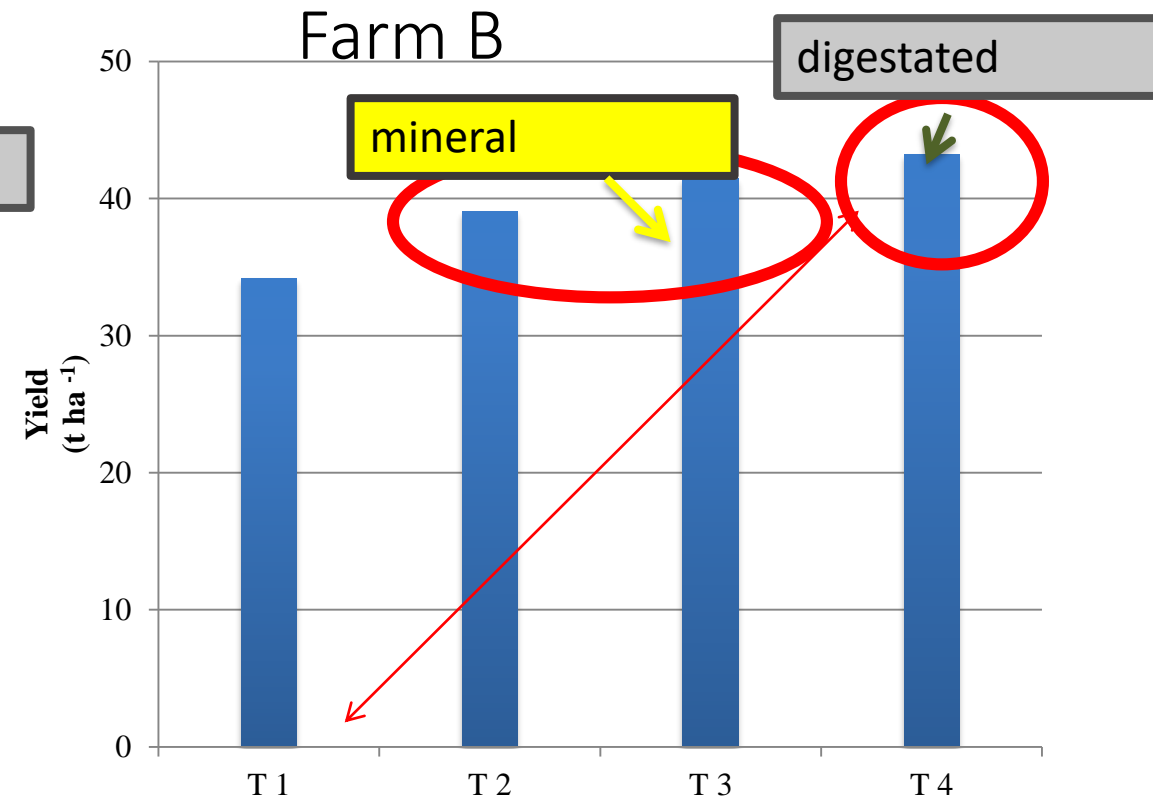
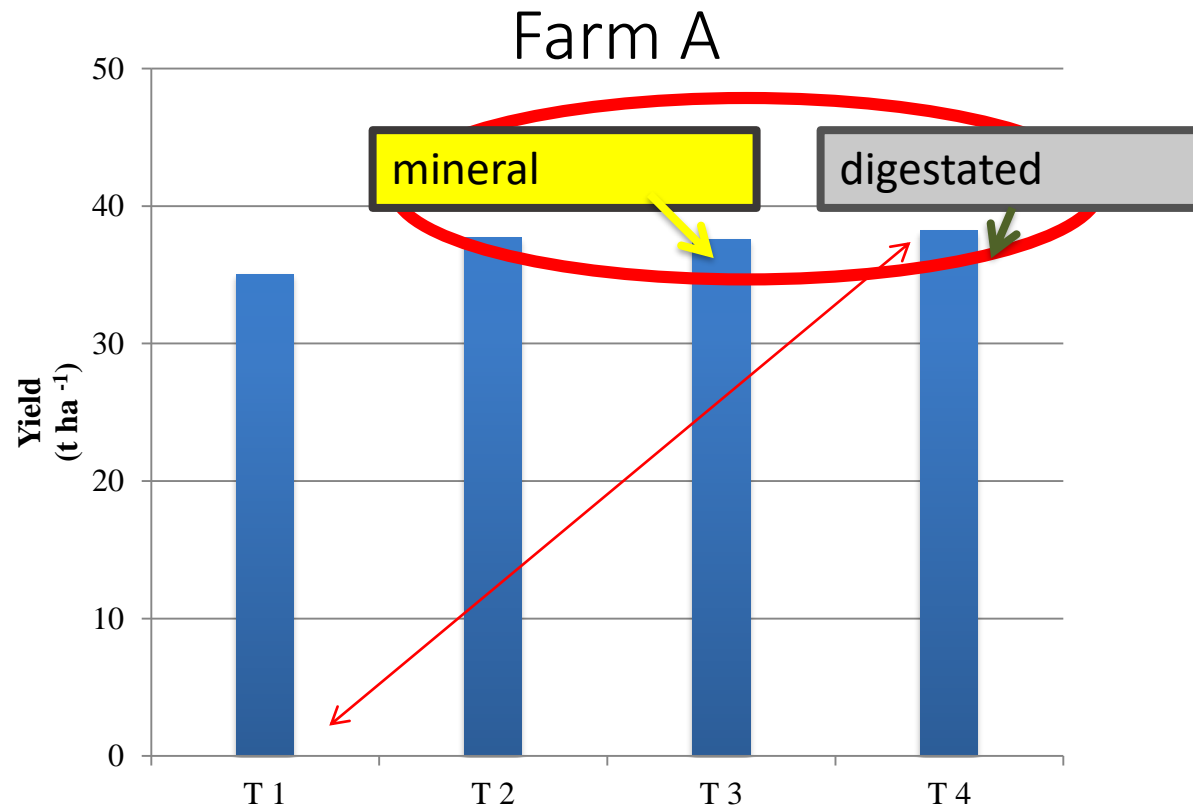
High content of N-NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

\* Assuming that all the nitrogen added by urea is mineralized

# Conclusions

- Efficiency digestate  $\cong$  urea
- Digestate  $\cong$  mineral fertilizers
  
- Necessity to consider soil and environment different characteristics and conditions
  
- Distribution Systems (injection or surface )

# Maize silage trials



**Farm A:** maize silage in the different theses  
 T1 = no fertilization – cover: no fertilization  
 T2 = superficial raw digestate - injected raw digestate  
 T3 = urea - urea  
 T4 = injected raw digestate – injected digestate liquid fraction

**Farm B:** maize silage in the different theses  
 T1 = no fertilization - localized fertilization  
 T2 = Superficial raw digestate- localized fertilization  
 T3 = urea - localized fertilization  
 T4 = Injected raw digestate - localized fertilization





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75  
ANNI



Green & Circular Economy  
6-9 Novembre 2018  
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KEY ENERGY



2015

Progetto Post NERØ  
Gruppo Ricicla UniMi DISAA

Caravaggio BG



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SMART-Plant

Italian Phosphorus  
Platform

75  
ANNI



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KEY ENERGY



2015

Progetto Post NERØ  
Gruppo Ricicla UniMi DISAA

Caravaggio BG



2015

Progetto Post NERØ  
Gruppo Ricicla UniMI DISAA

Caravaggio BG

**in line with the  
provisions of the  
Nitrate Directive**

**2015**

Progetto Post NERØ

Gruppo Ricicla UniMi DISAA



**NOT in line with the  
provisions of the  
Nitrate Directive**

**Caravaggio BG**



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



## Short-term experiments in using digestate products as substitutes for mineral (N) fertilizer: Agronomic performance, odours, and ammonia emission impacts



C. Riva<sup>a</sup>, V. Orzi<sup>a</sup>, M. Carozzi<sup>b</sup>, M. Acutis<sup>b</sup>, G. Boccasile<sup>c</sup>, S. Lonati<sup>a</sup>, F. Tambone<sup>a</sup>, G. D'Imporzano<sup>a</sup>, F. Adani<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Gruppo Ricicla, Lab. Agricoltura e Ambiente, DiSAA, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 2, 20133 Milano, Italy

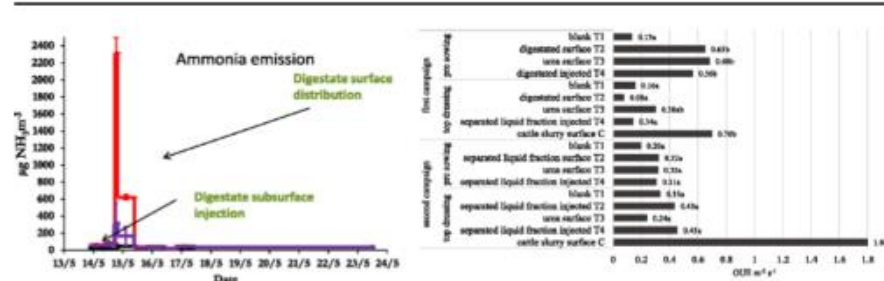
<sup>b</sup> DiSAA, sez. Agronomia, Università degli Studi di Milano, Via Celoria 2, 20133 Milano, Italy

<sup>c</sup> DG Agricoltura, Regione Lombardia, Piazza Lombardia, Milano, Italy

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Anaerobic digestion produced useful fertilizers, i.e. the digestate.
- Digestate misuses led to odours and ammonia impacts.
- Pre-sowing and topdressing use of digestate substituted completely N-fertilizers.
- Subsurface injection of digestate reduced greatly odour and NH<sub>3</sub> emissions.
- Digestate use allowed producing maize silage as well as using urea.

### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT





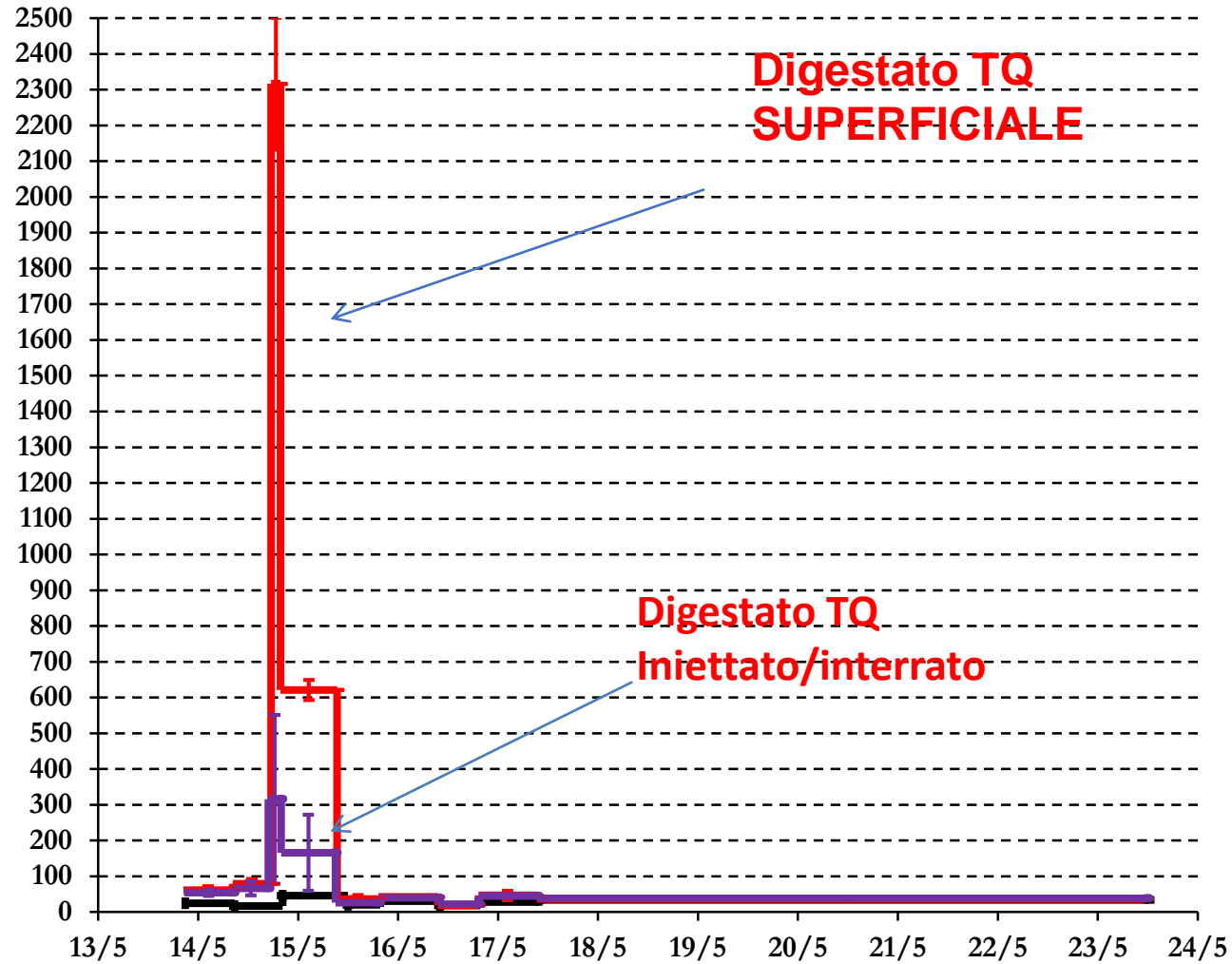
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## A B S T R A C T

Anaerobic digestion produces a biologically stable and high-value fertilizer product, the digestate, which can be used as an alternative to mineral fertilizers on crops. However, misuse of digestate can lead to annoyance for the public (odours) and to environmental problems such as nitrate leaching and ammonia emissions into the air. Full field experimental data are needed to support the use of digestate in agriculture, promoting its correct management. In this work, short-term experiments were performed to substitute mineral N fertilizers (urea) with digestate and products derived from it to the crop silage maize. Digestate and the liquid fraction of digestate were applied to soil at pre-sowing and as topdressing fertilizers in comparison with urea, both by surface application and subsurface injection during the cropping seasons 2012 and 2013. After each fertilizer application, both odours and ammonia emissions were measured, giving data about digestate and derived products' impacts. The AD products could substitute for urea without reducing crop yields, apart from the surface application of AD-derived fertilizers. Digestate and derived products, because of high biological stability acquired during the AD, had greatly reduced olfactometry impact, above all when they were injected into soils (82–88% less odours than the untreated biomass, i.e. cattle slurry). Ammonia emission data indicated, as expected, that the correct use of digestate and derived products required their injection into the soil avoiding, ammonia volatilization

# NH<sub>3</sub>

# digestato PRE-SEMINA



- BKG - media µg NH<sub>3</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>
- Tesi 2 - media µg NH<sub>3</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>
- Tesi 4 - media µg NH<sub>3</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>



Carozzi, Riva, Acutis , Tambnoe, Adani Progetto NERØ, 2012

**MORE EFFICIENCY**



**LESS NITROGEN**



Proposal by **GRUPPO RICICLA** and Regione Lombardia:

## Liquid fraction = fertilizer if:

<b>Efficient management + efficient separation</b>	<b>N-NH<sub>4</sub> &gt; 70-80%</b>
<b>Efficient use by plants</b>	<b>90%</b>

### **Efficient digestion:**

- Biological stability
- Sanitary aspects
- N<sub>tot</sub> content
- N- NH<sub>4</sub> content

### **Utilization efficiency:**

- N dosed following crop budget
- Covered storage tanks
- Application by injection, immediate incorporation or localized fertigation

Proposal by **GRUPPO RICICLA** and Regione Lombardia:

Liquid fraction = fertilizer

if:

Efficient management + efficient	NH <sub>4</sub> -8%
Efficient	20%

**COMPARABLE  
DIGESTATE**

**Efficient digestion:**

- Biological stability
- Sanitary aspects
- N<sub>tot</sub> content
- N- NH<sub>4</sub> content

**Utilization efficiency:**

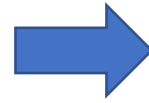
- N dosed following crop budget
- Covered storage tanks
- Application by injection, immediate incorporation or localized fertigation





**Organic Manure for Urban  
Farmers**

- The recovery of biomasses' nutrients becomes a process to produce fertilizers.



**FERTILIZERS<sup>®</sup>**  
**RENEWABLE**

**Un aiuto può derivare dalla revisione di norme nazionali ed europee, rimuovendo le barriere amministrative oggi presenti e valorizzando percorsi di economia circolare che coinvolgano a pieno titolo anche il settore zootecnico, riconoscendo il valore degli effluenti di allevamento**



**JRC**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**.. SAFE-MANURE  
Programme**

.....not only re-use in the farm.....but

.....farmer became fertilizers producer



# ... production of mineral fertilizers from digested manure



MANERBIO BS



**MANERBIO BS**



MANERBIO BS



MANERBIO BS



MANERBIO BS



MANERBIO BS



MANERBIO BS

- 
- The background image shows an industrial site at night. On the left, there are several large, cylindrical storage tanks illuminated by overhead lights. To the right, a large structure is covered with a green tarp. The overall scene is dark, with the primary light source being the industrial lighting.
- **2009-2011 set up**
  - **2012 operating**
  - **60 mc/day digestate**
  - **30 /40 t/month ammonium sulphate**





**MANERBIO BS**

**2018**



**MANERBIO BS**  
**2018**



VIETATO  
L'ACCESO



MANERBIO BS

2018



Untreated

After ultrafiltration

After reverse osmosi

**...volumes  
reduction**

**+ chemical fertilizers**



➤ **2009-2010 set up**

➤ **2011 operating**

➤ **50 mc/day digestato**

➤ **7 t/month ammonium**

**sulphate**



➤ **2009-2011 set up**

➤ **2012 operating**

➤ **100 mc/day digestate**

➤ **30 /40 t/month ammonium sulphate**



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**DANGER**  
HIGH PRESSURE  
MAX. PRESSURE  
1000 PSI.

1/4"  
+GF+  
PVC1

2400000111 011 111



A grey PVC pipe with a blue handle valve is shown pouring water into a clear plastic cup. The pipe is mounted on a white wall. The cup is placed on a metal grate. The water is clear and is being poured from the pipe into the cup. The background shows a white wall and a metal grate.

**.. UP TO 70%**  
**delivered to surface water**



B

fo

VIPITENO BZ

2017



OB IMPIANTI  
SN M-6161

OB IMPIANTI  
SN M-6162

**OB**  
IMPIANTI  
SLURLESS 3x100 for  
BIOGAS WIPITAL

OB SNC IMPIANTI  
SN M-6163

OB SNC IMPIANTI  
SN M-6163

SERBATOIO T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS Alimento Primo Stadio RO1  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1 Feed  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1

SERBATOIO T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS Alimento Primo Stadio RO1  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1 Feed  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1

Alimento Primo Stadio RO1 Feed

SERBATOIO T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS Alimento Primo Stadio RO1  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1 Feed  
TANK T-11011 - OB-SLURLESS First Stage RO1

**VIPITENO BZ**  
**2017**



OB IMPLANT  
SN M-612

OB SNC IMPLANT  
SN M-612

OB SNC IMPLANT  
SN M-612

OB IMPLANT  
SN M-612

VIPITENO BZ  
2017



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01 Feed  
ufe R

SERBATOIO T  
TANK T-10  
TANK T

**VIPITENO BZ**

**2017**

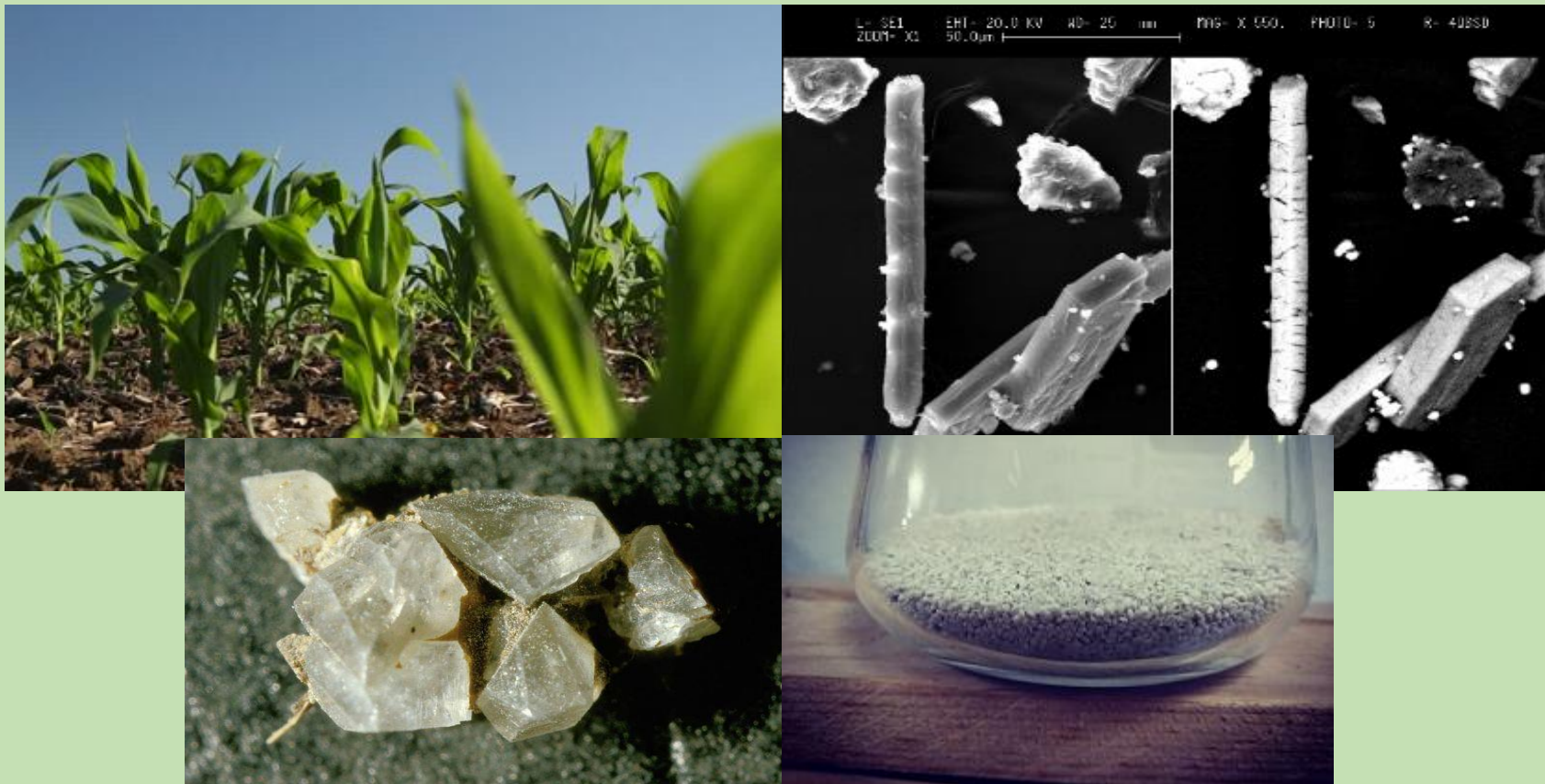


VIPITENO BZ

2017

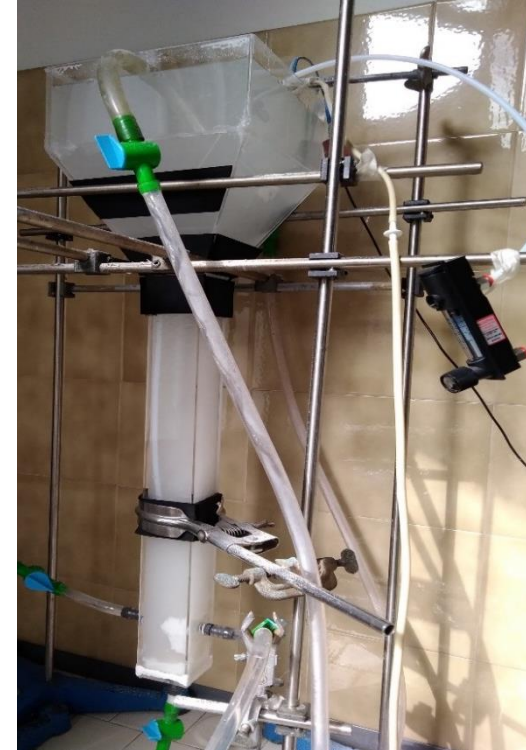
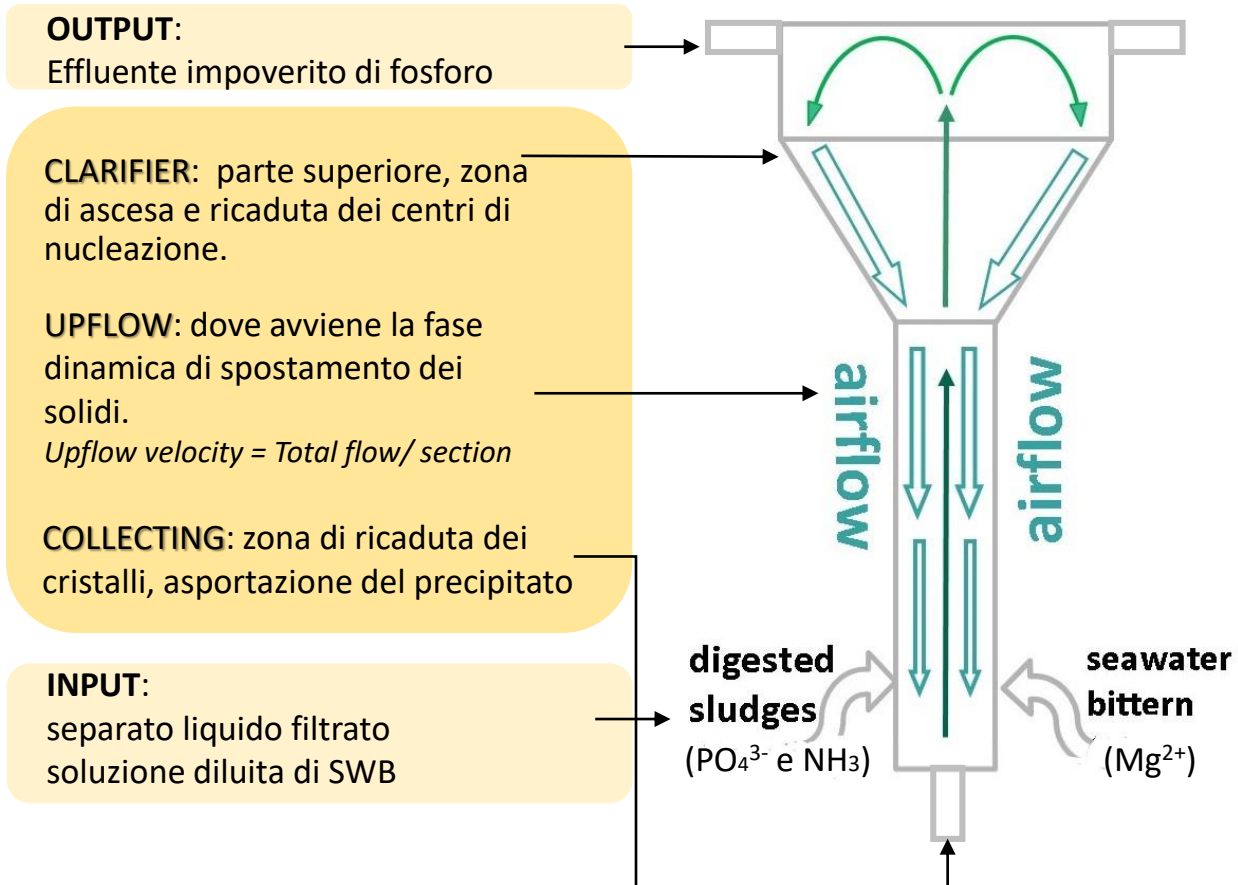


## Phosphorus recovery from the liquid fraction of digestates by crystallization of struvite



S. Zangarini, T. Pepè Sciarria, F. Tambone, F. Adani Gruppo Ricicla UniMi DISAA

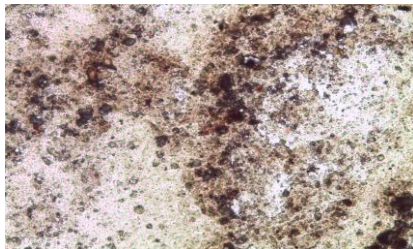
# Crystallization operating scheme



# crystallizer test scheme

Test 1

pH = 9.5  
 $\text{Mg}^{2+}:\text{PO}_4^{3-} = 1.8:1$   
flusso aria= 0.5 L min  
ST = **3.3%**



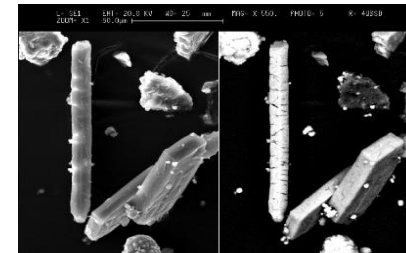
Test 2  
Test 2.1

pH = 9.5  
 $\text{Mg}^{2+}:\text{PO}_4^{3-} = 2:1$   
flusso aria= 0.5 L min  
ST = 3.3 – **4.5%**



Test 3  
Test 3.1

pH = 9.5  
 $\text{Mg}^{2+}:\text{PO}_4^{3-} = 3:1$   
flusso aria= 0.5 L min  
ST = 3.3 – **4.5%**



# Results

Test 1

## PARAMETRI

pH = 9.5

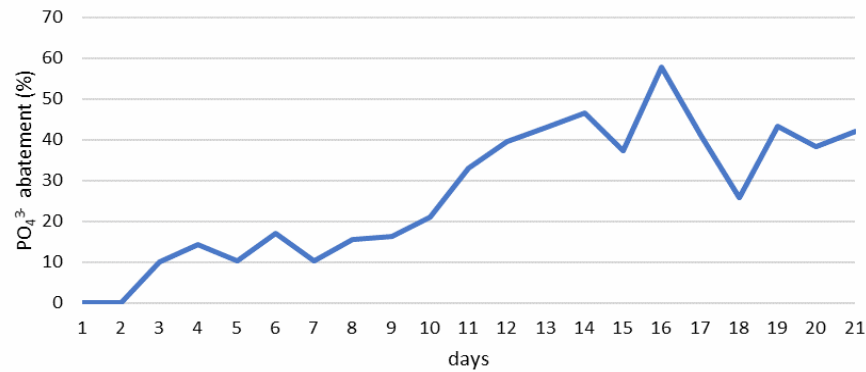
Flusso d'aria = 0.5 L/min

Mg<sup>2+</sup>:PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> = 1.8:1

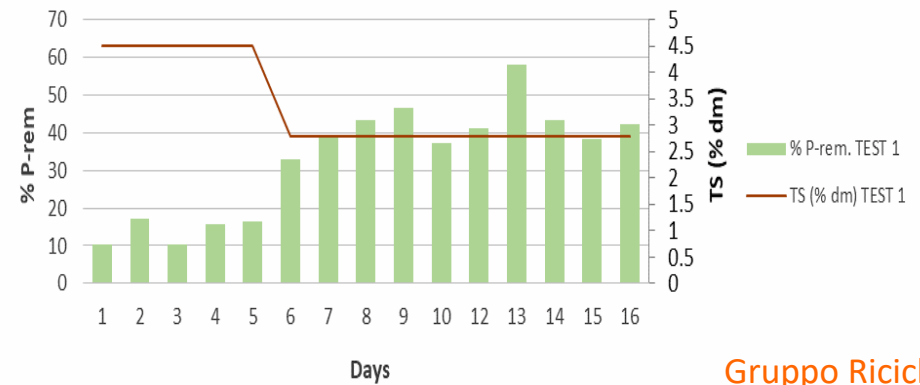
ST = 3.3%

P reduction : 60%

abbattimento PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> - TEST 1 (%)



TEST1: P rimozione - ST



# Results

Test 2

## PARAMETRI

pH = 9.5

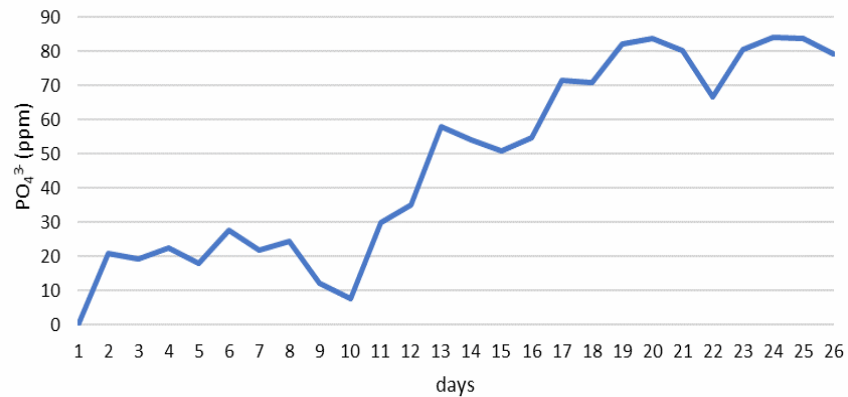
Flusso d'aria = 0.5 L/min

Mg<sup>2+</sup>:PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> = 2:1

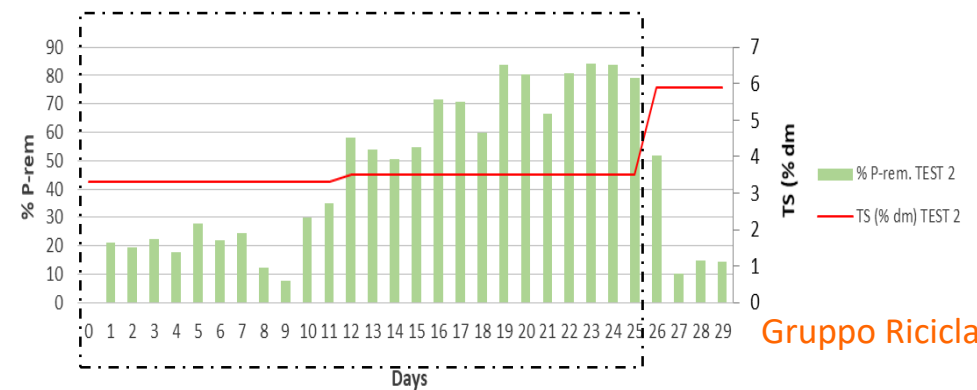
ST = 3.3%

P reduction: 85%

abbattimento PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> - TEST 2 (%)



TEST2: P rimozione - ST



# Results

Test 2.1

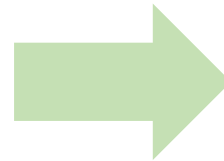
## PARAMETRI

pH = 9.5

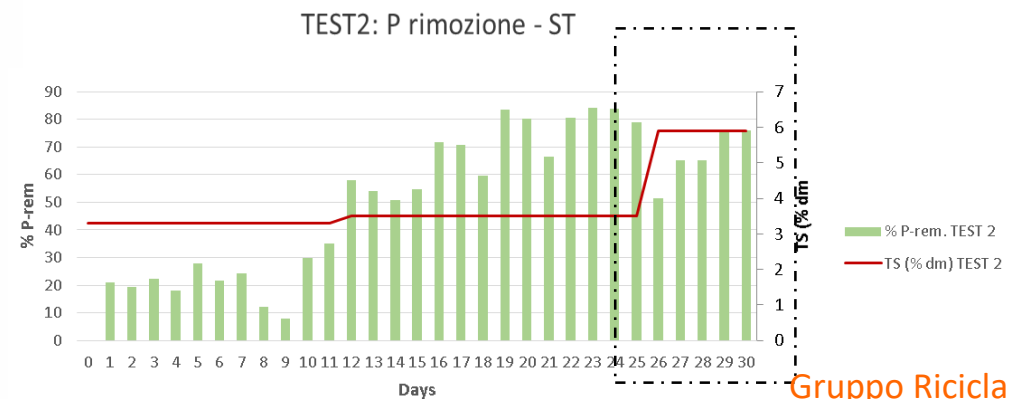
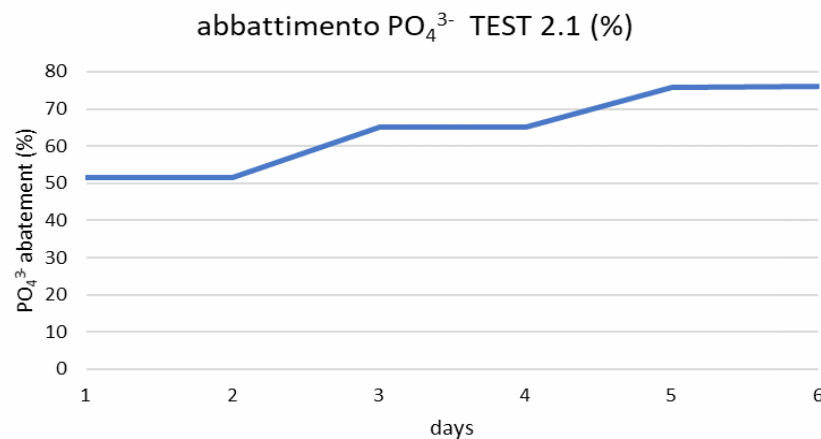
Flusso d'aria = 0.5 L/min

Mg<sup>2+</sup>:PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> = 2:1

ST = 4.5 %



P reduction: 76 %



# Results

Test 3

## PARAMETRI

pH = 9.5

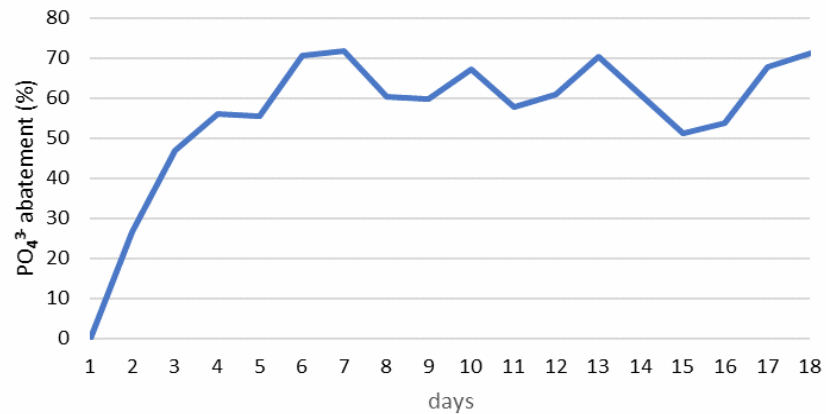
Flusso d'aria = 0.5 L/min

Mg<sup>2+</sup>:PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> = 3:1

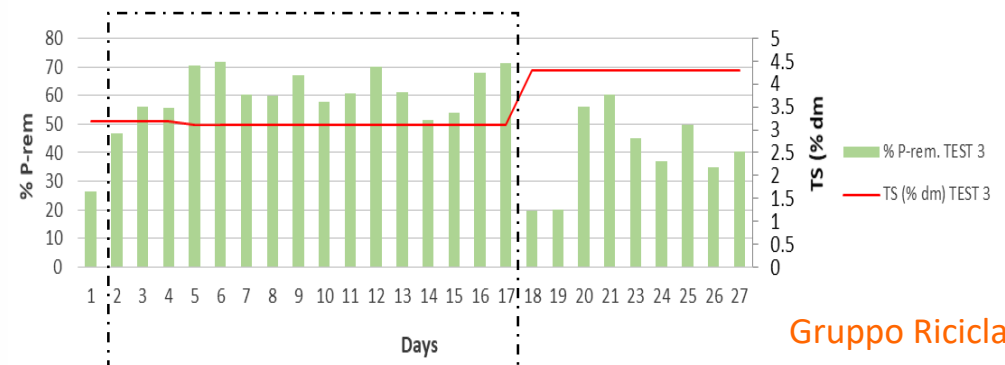
ST = 3.3 %

P abbattuto: 72 %

abbattimento PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> - TEST 3 (%)



TEST3: P rimozione - ST



# Results

Test 3.1

## PARAMETRI

pH = 9.5

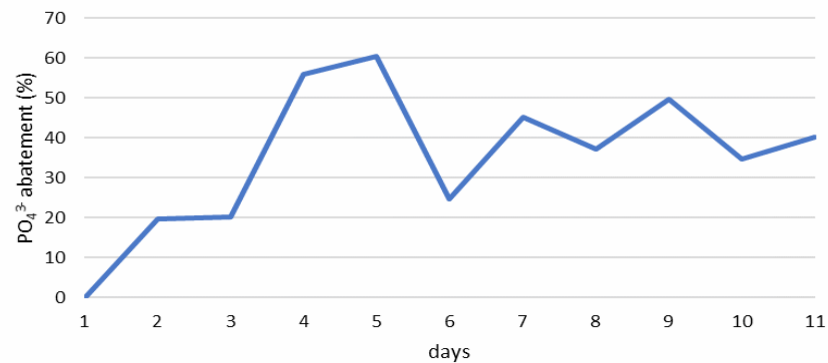
Flusso d'aria = 0.5 L/min

Mg<sup>2+</sup>:PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> = 3:1

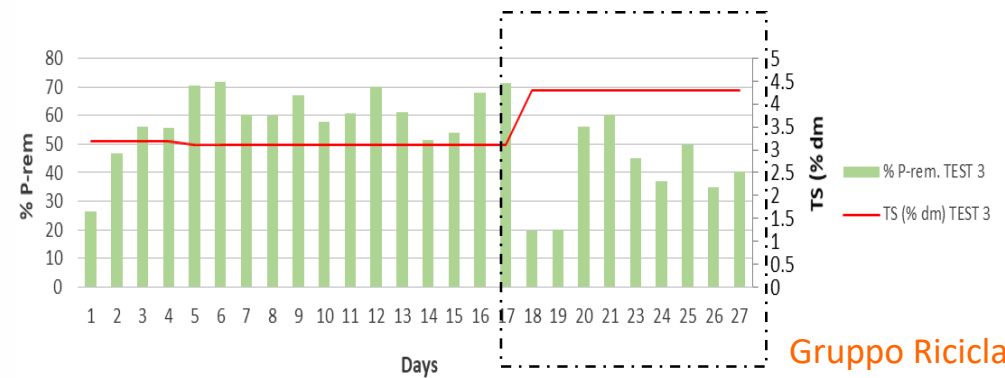
ST = 4.5 %

P abbattuto: 62 %

abbattimento PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> - TEST 3.1 (%)



TEST3: P rimozione - ST



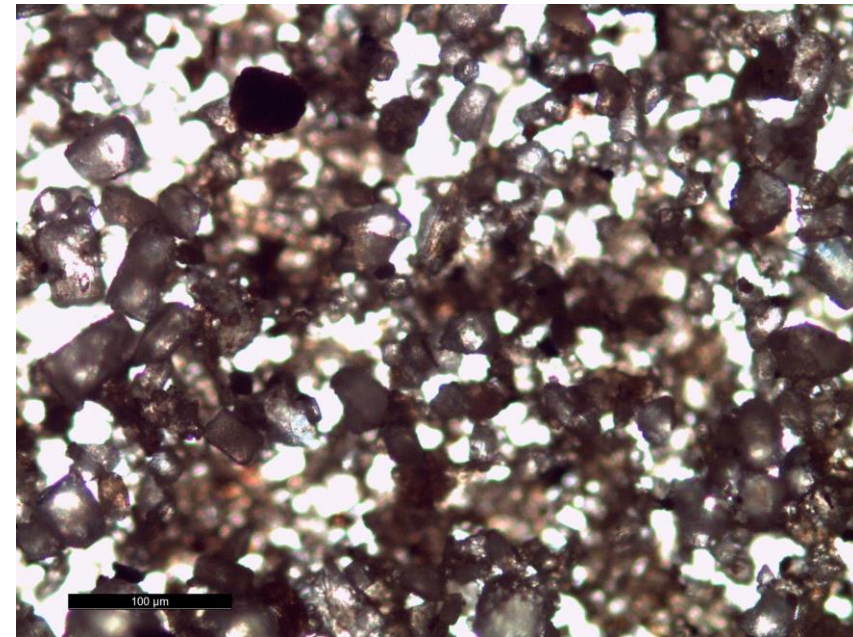
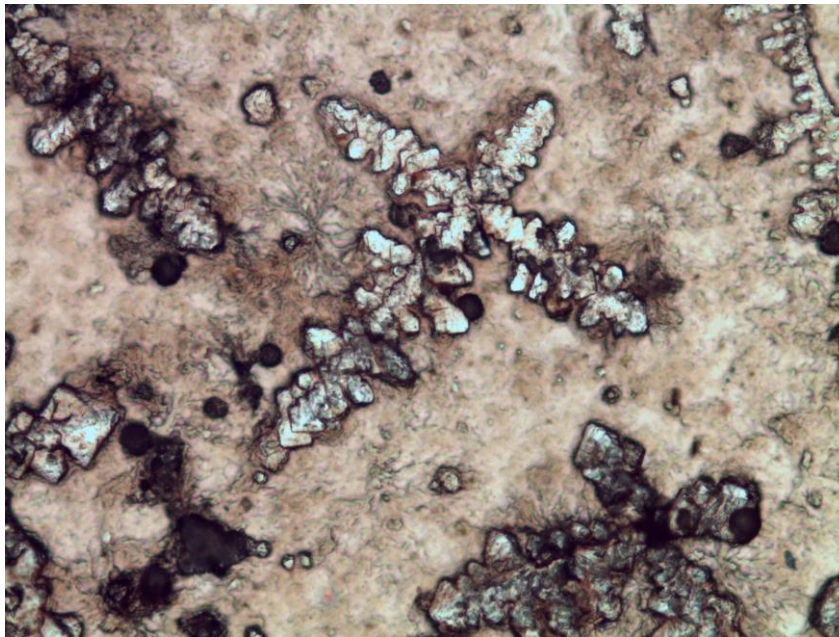


# Results

## OPTICAL MICROSCOPY ANALYSIS

Test 2 (85% reduction):

- abundance of **mineral crystals**
- Identificate **struttute** dendritiche, pennate, ramificate

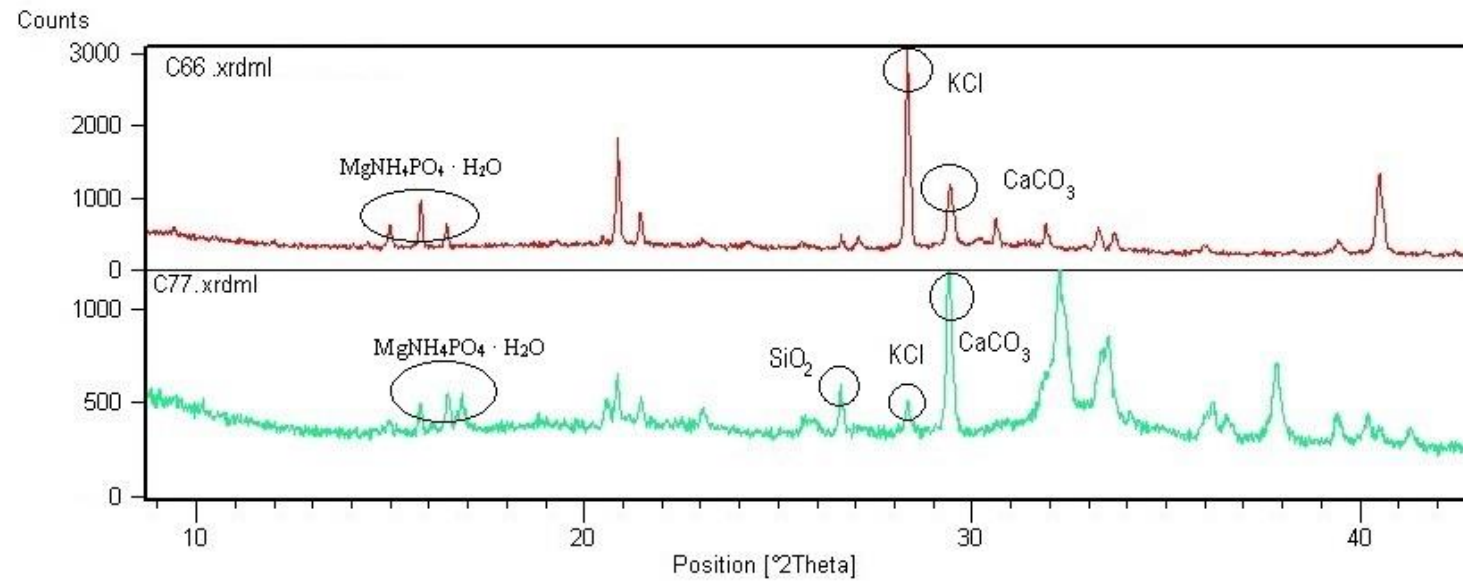


# Results

## DIFFRACTION ANALYSIS

Test 2 (85% reduction):

- mineral component identified as **struvite**



## Conclusioni e sviluppi futuri

- **Phosphorus abatement achieved** under standard conditions : **85 %**
- Phosphorus abatement achieved with **high ST content**(~4,5%) : **60-70%**
- **Seawater bittern** valid alternative to  $MgCl_2$ .
- Precipitate rich in organic carbon, phosphates, magnesium and ammonium: **renewable fertilizer to be tested**
- Possible transition from prototype to plant scale





