

La sostanza organica naturale, fattore chiave per la sostenibilità

(Riccardo Spaccini)



Caffè Scientifico 18 Settembre 2024



Full Professor Agricultural Chemistry (SSD AGRI-06/B)
DIA-UNINA

Director NMR Research Center CERMANU

Research activities:

SOM management, SOC dynamic

Biomasses recycling, NOM-plant interaction

Bioactive compounds (biostimulant & biocontrol)

Teaching: Organic Fertilizers and Plant Biostimulants

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Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9828-1992>



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A significant extension of the agricultural lands worldwide is moderately or severely degraded, and nearly 2 billion hectares – an area twice the size of China – is seriously degraded, sometimes irreversibly (*FAO Sustainable Soil/Land Management for Climate-Smart Agriculture*)

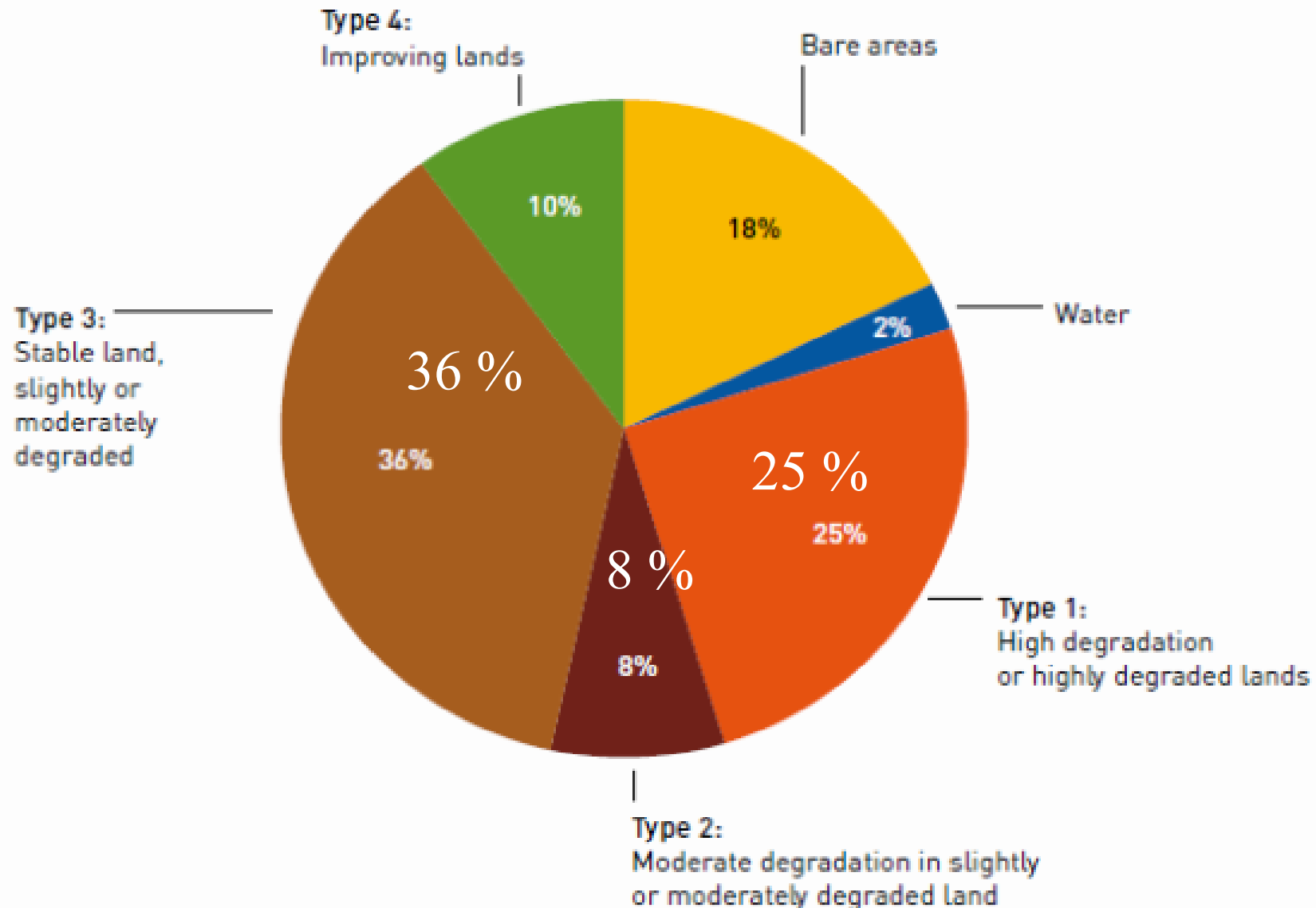
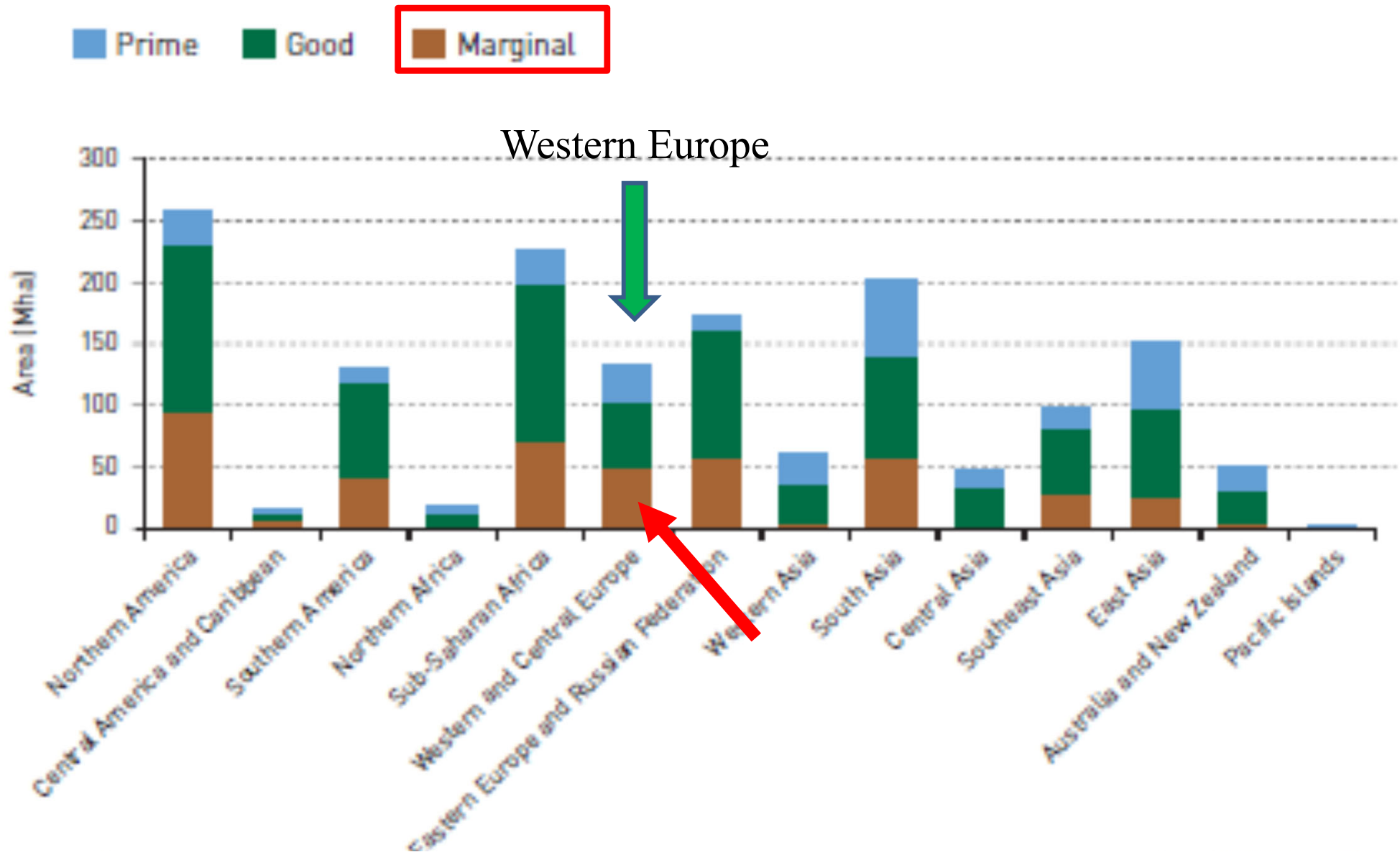


Figure 6: Status and trends in global land degradation



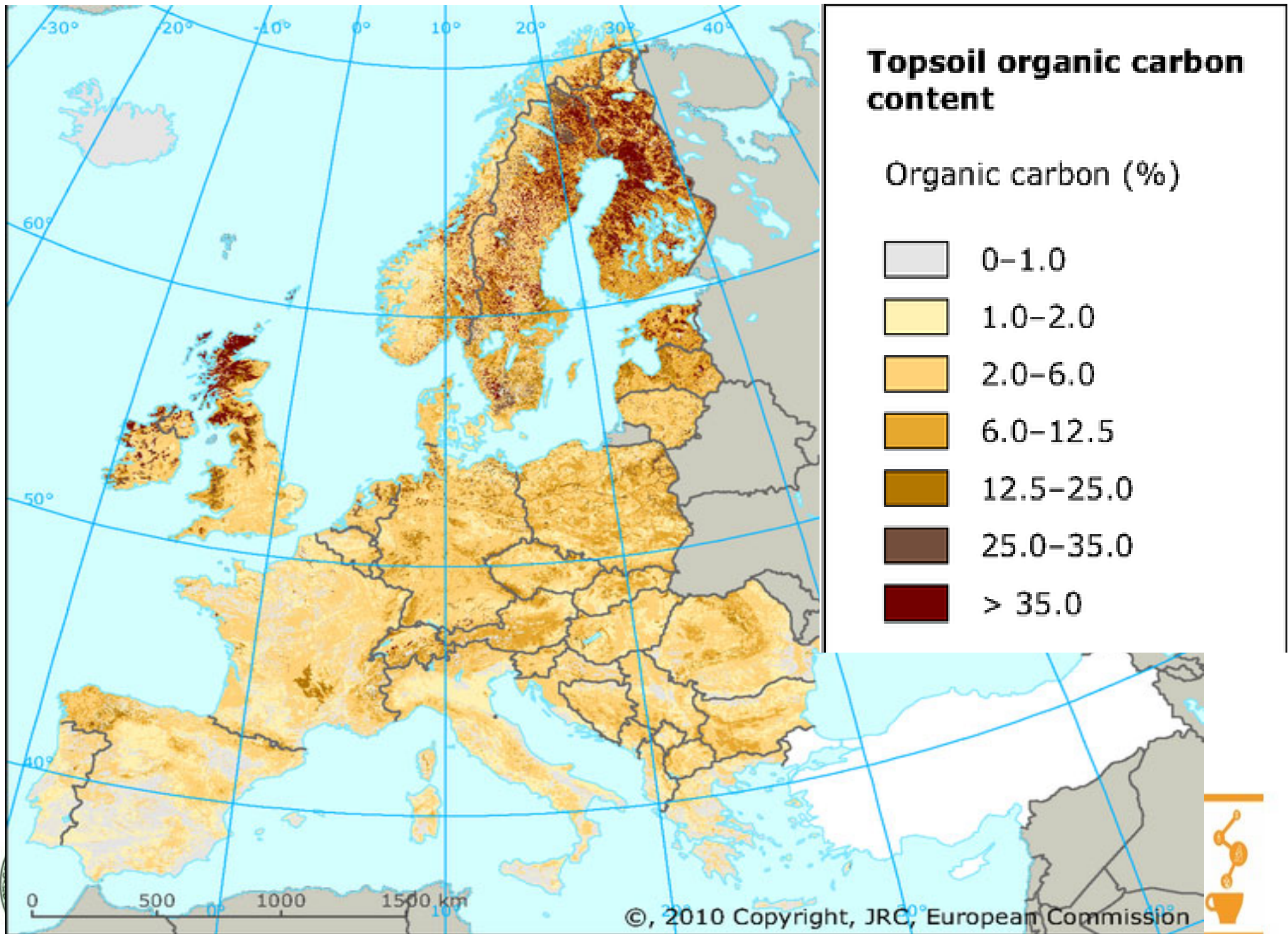
FIGURE 1.3: TOTAL EXTENT OF CULTIVATED LAND BY LAND SUITABILITY CATEGORY FOR EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION



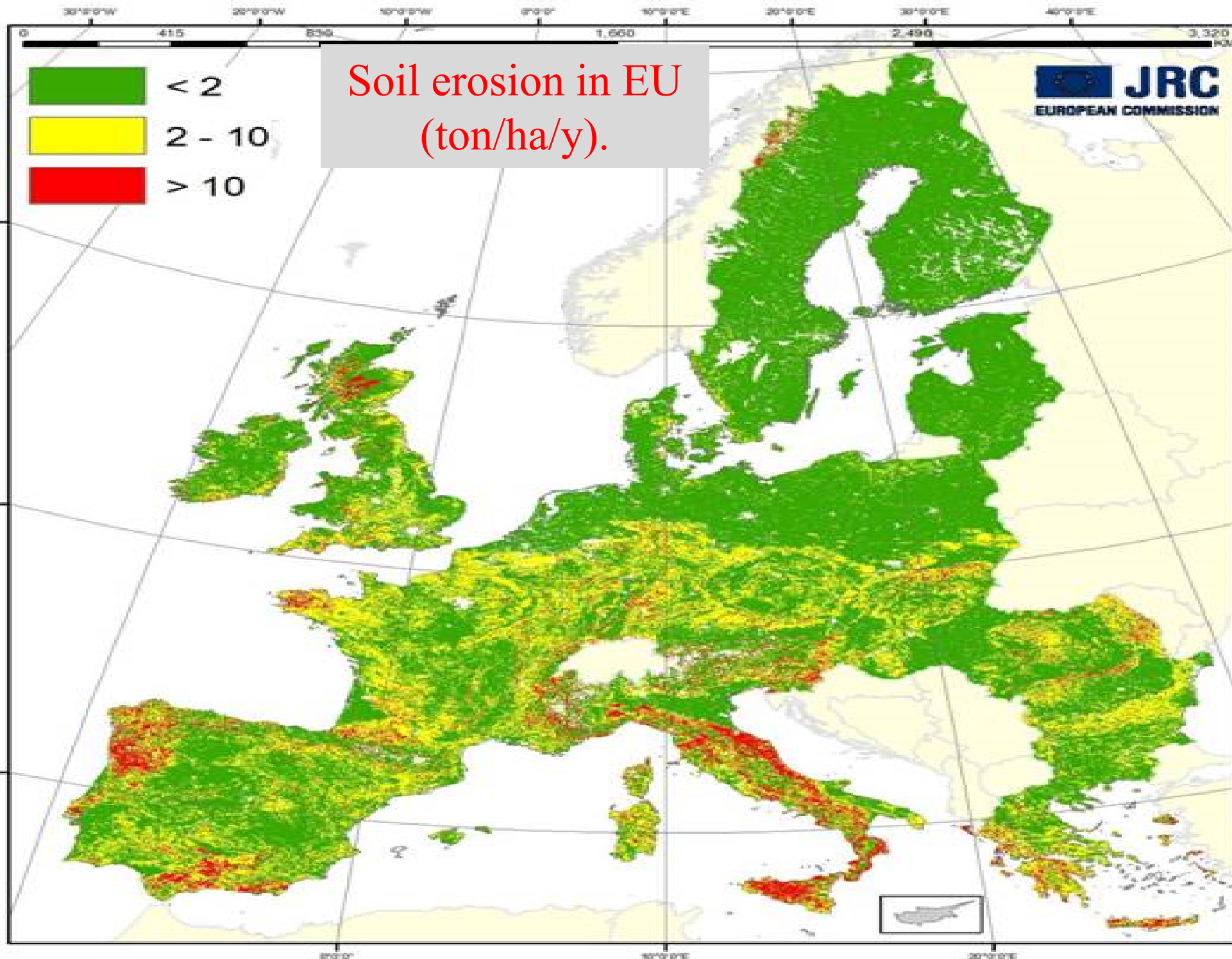
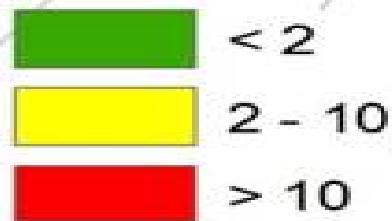
Western Europe

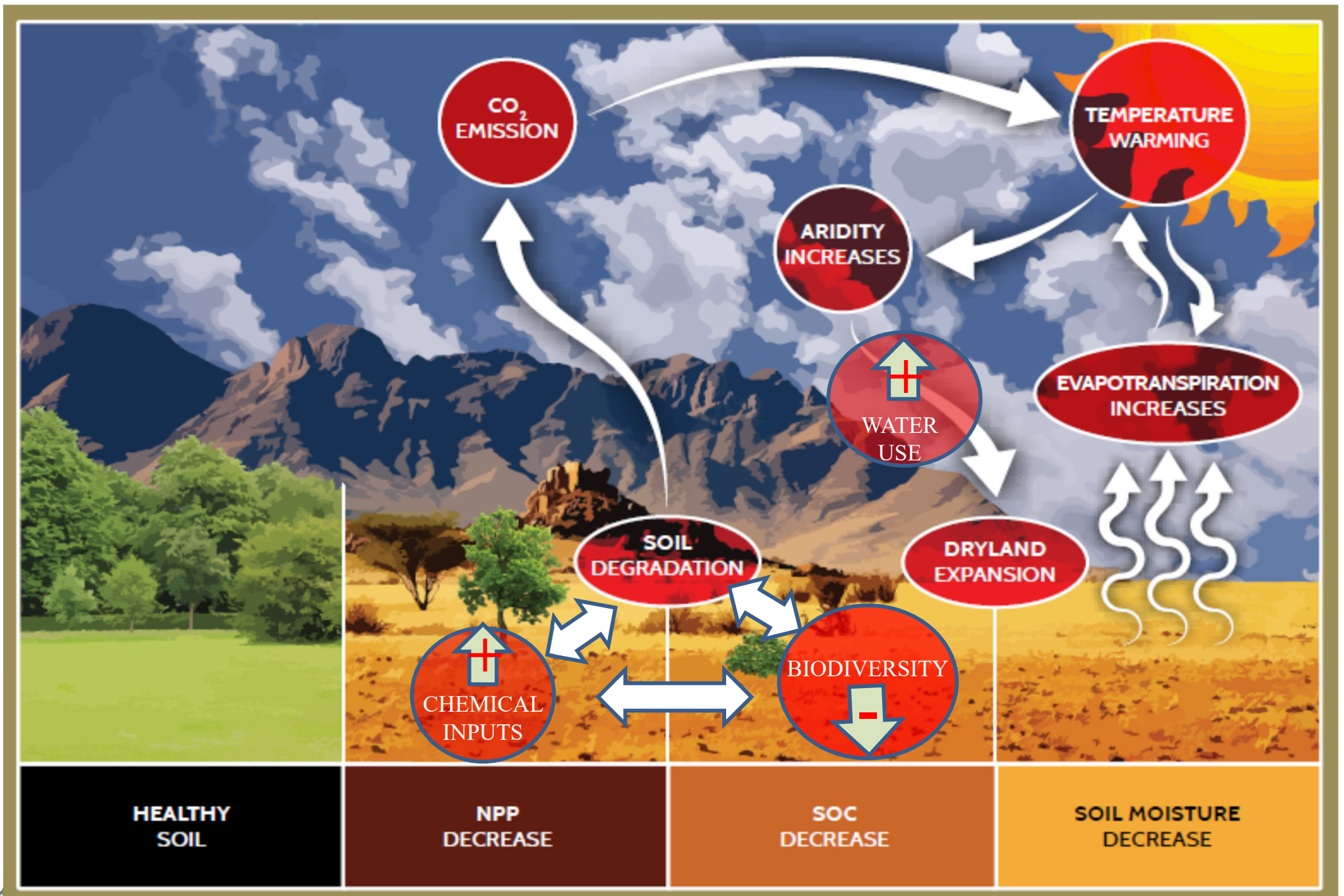


(The State of the World's LandResources for Food and Agriculture FAO 2016)



Soil erosion in EU
(ton/ha/y).

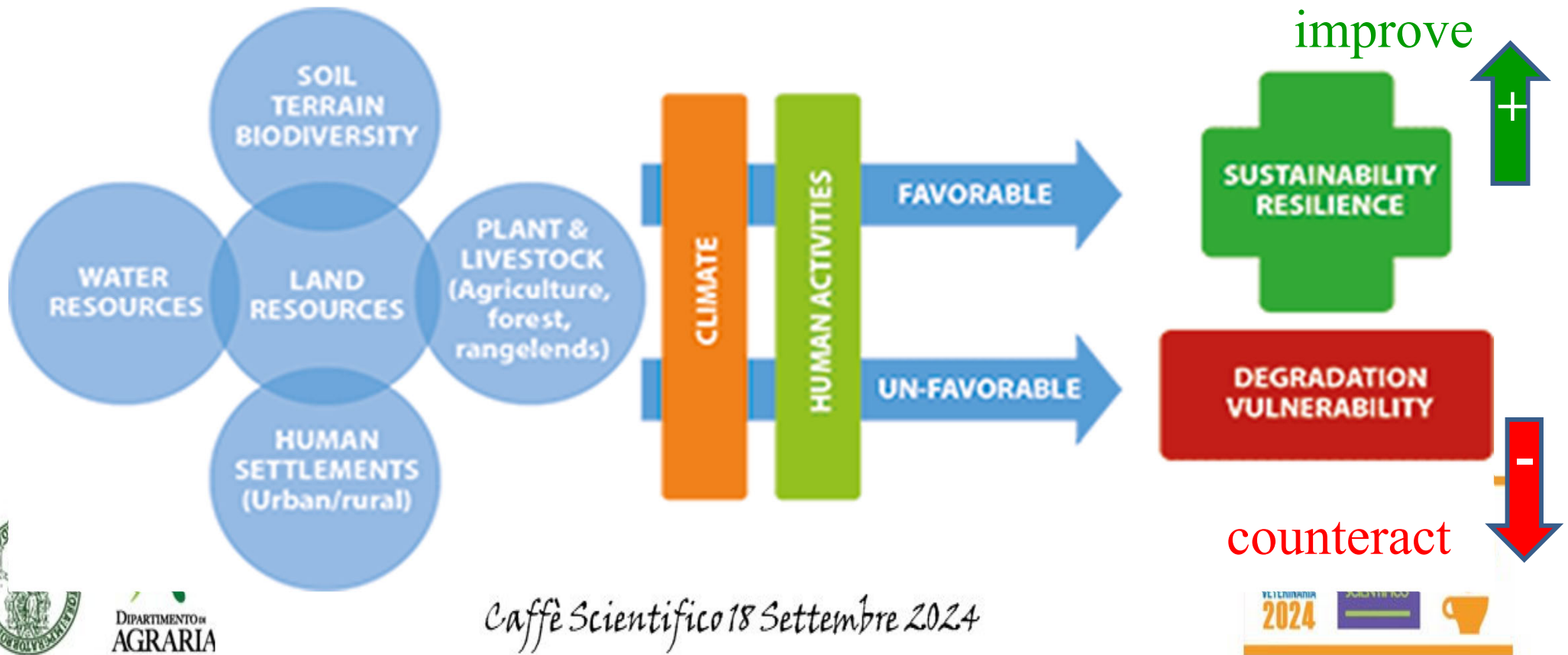




(SOC the hidden potential FAO 2017 - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6937e.pdf%20>)



The progressive degradation of agroecosystems has promoted an increasing effort to promote the “*adoption of land-use systems that through appropriate management practices enable land users to maximize the economic and social benefits from the land while maintaining or enhancing the ecological support functions of the land resources*” (FAO Sustainable Soil/Land Management for Climate-Smart Agriculture)



an important role is assigned to the natural organic matter

Soil organic matter is crucial to soil health, fertility and ecosystem services, including food production – making its preservation and restoration essential for sustainable development.

FAO 2017 Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-organic-carbon-symposium/en/>

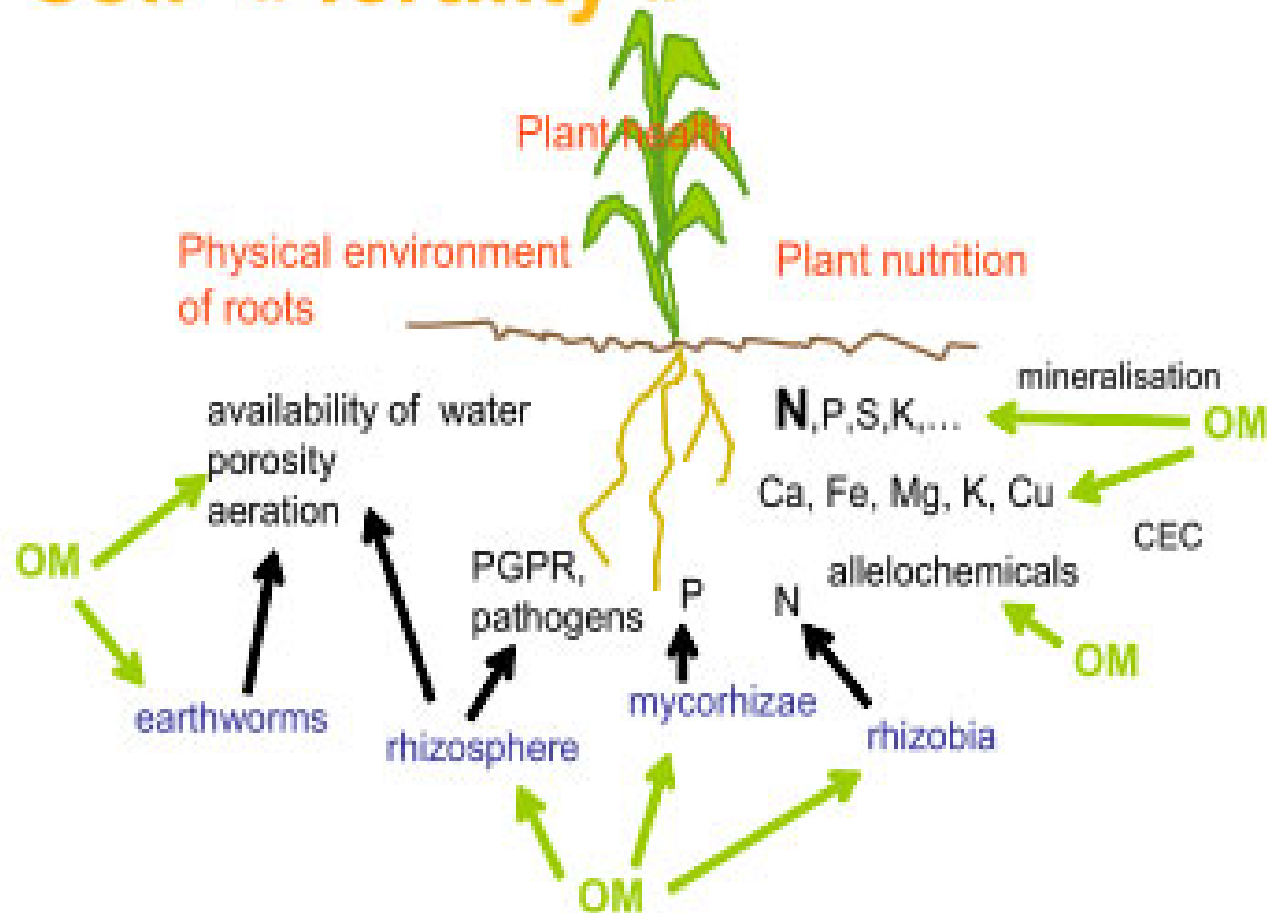


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The soil organic matter (SOM) play a key role for maintenance of the different environmental, productive and biological tasks of agro-ecosystems

Sustain food production : soil « fertility »



Stabilise soil structure

- better infiltration
- better trafficability



Increase of water holding capacity in soils

reduction of climatic impacts



Decrease of soil loss

reduction of erodability



Increase of soil warming

to enhance crop production in spring



Increase of soil activity

- better soil structure
- higher delivery potential for nutrients



Facilitate soil cultivation

reduction of fossil fuels



Phytosanitary effects

reduction of soilborne plant disease

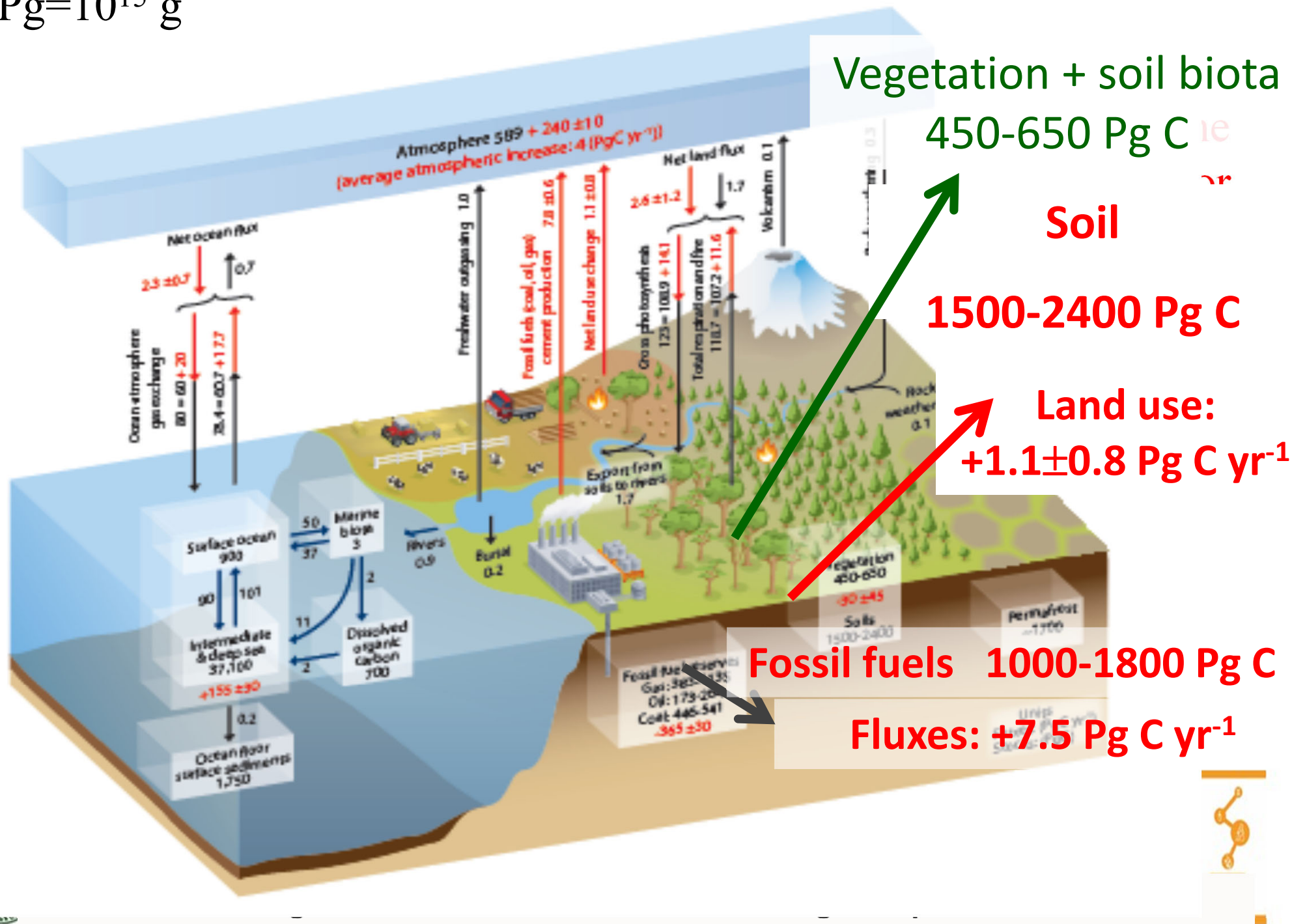


Increase of potential to save nutrients

increase of the nutrient delivery potential

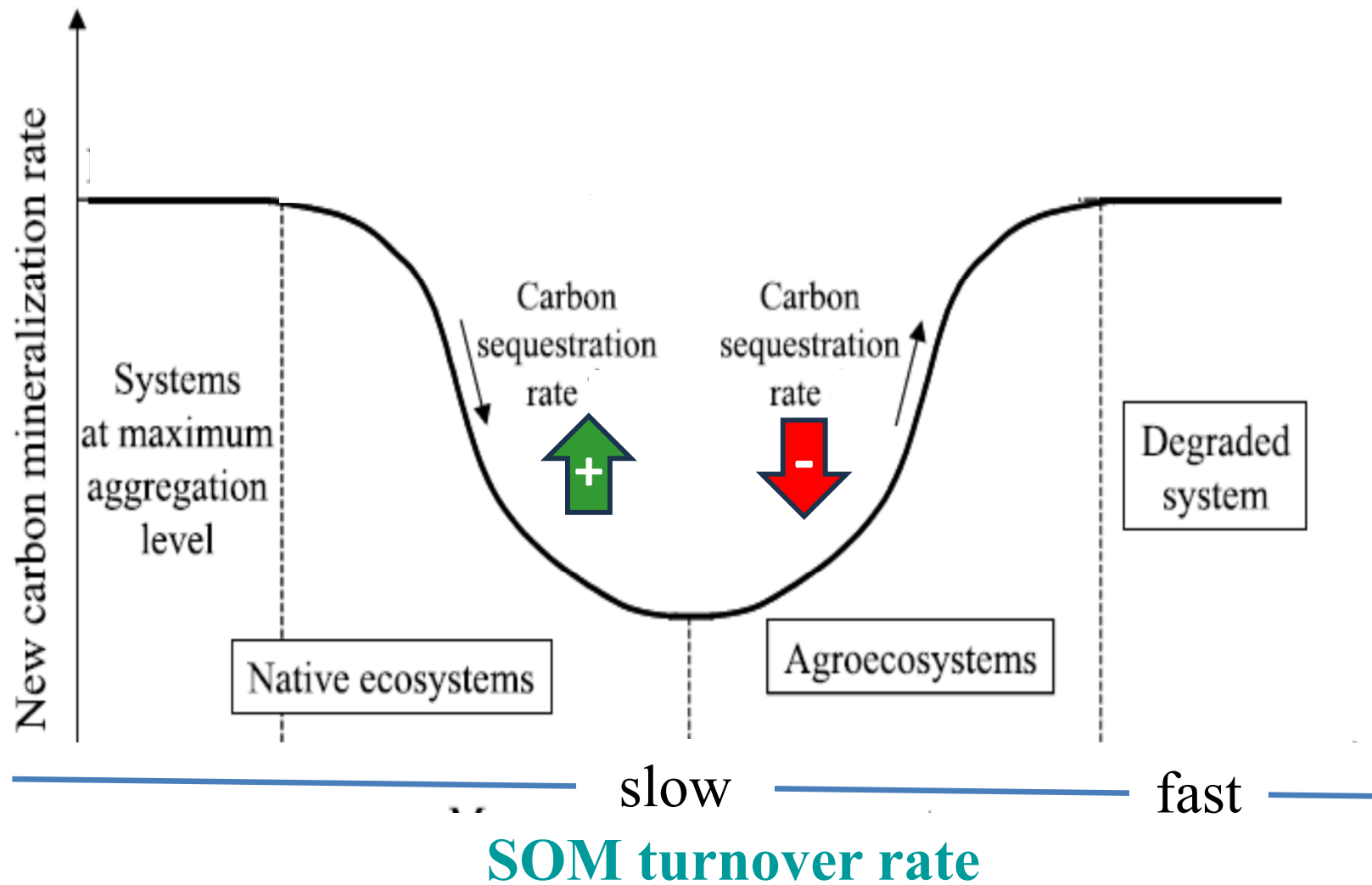


$Pg=10^{15} \text{ g}$





Contribution of SOC to the Sustainable Development Goals.
(SOC the hidden potential FAO 2017)

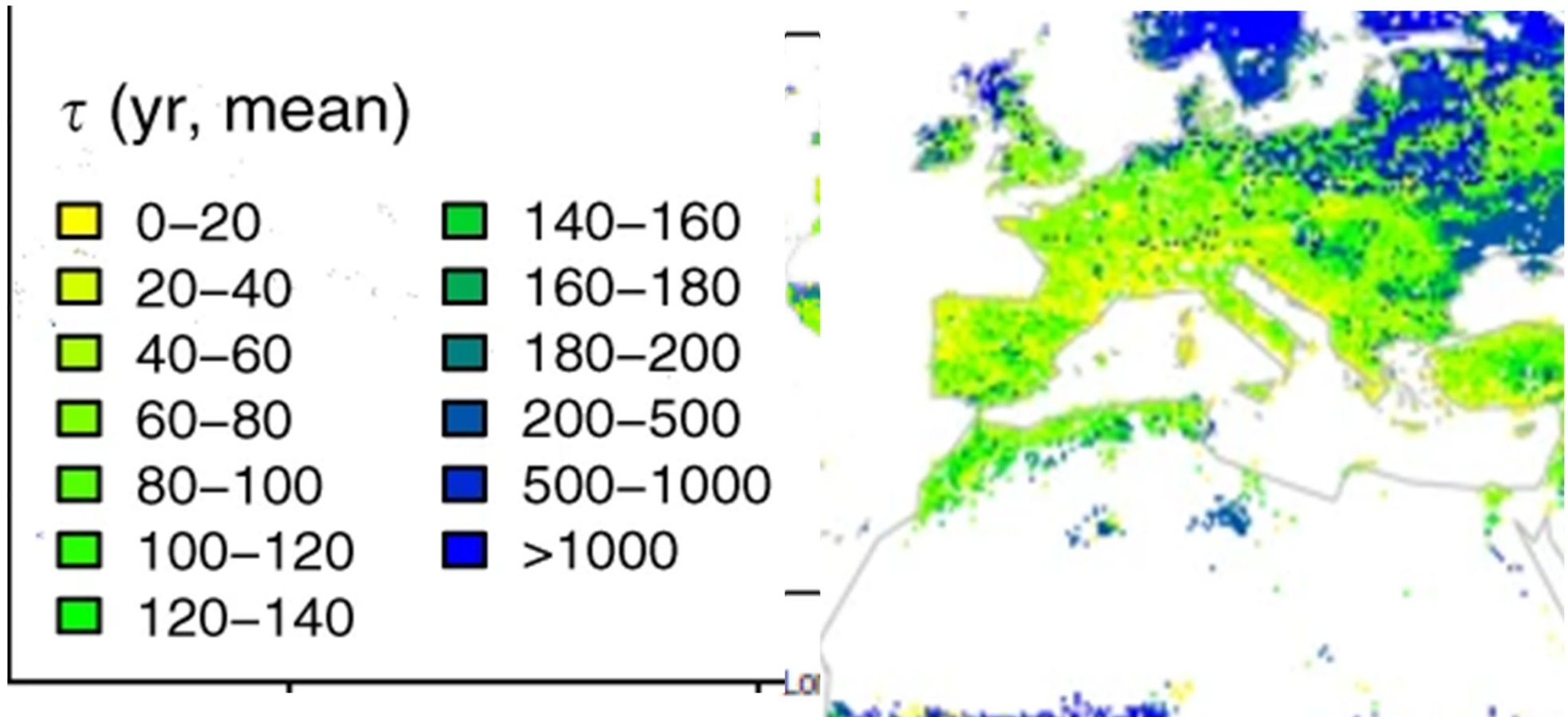


(from Six et al., STR 2004)

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Spatial pattern of subsoil organic carbon turnover of subsoil (0.3–1m)

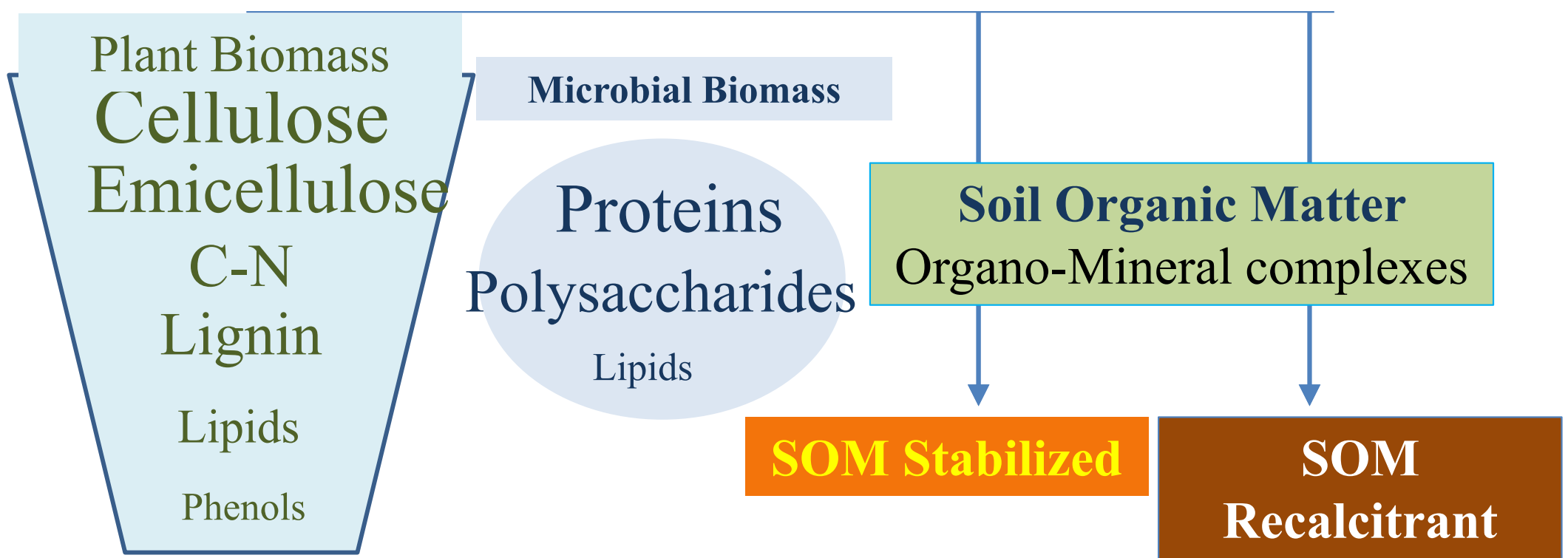


(Zhongkui et al., 2019 Nature communication doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-11597-9)

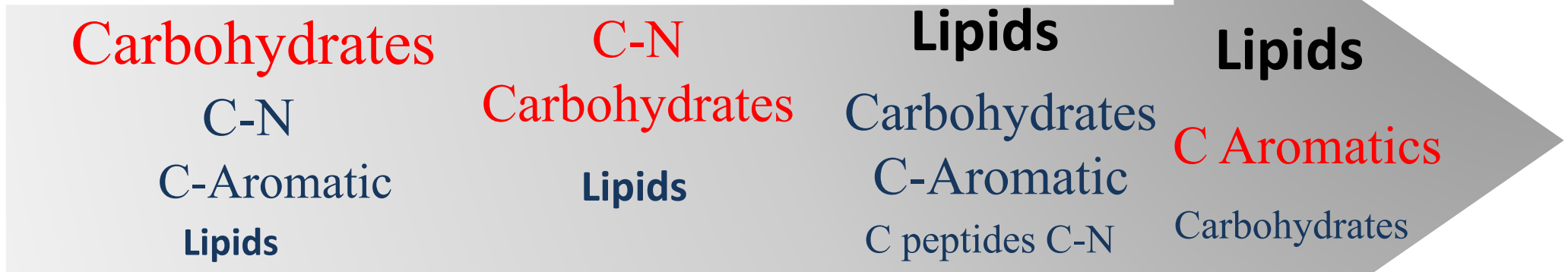


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Stabilization



Molecular composition (**not only C/N ratio**)



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Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Soil Biology & Biochemistry

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/soilbio



Litter quality assessed by solid state ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy predicts decay rate better than C/N and Lignin/N ratios

Giuliano Bonanomi^{a,*}, Guido Incerti^a, Francesco Giannino^b, Antonio Mingo^a, Virginia Lanzotti^c, Stefano Mazzoleni^a

Plant Soil (2019) 441:129–146

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-019-04099-6>

REGULAR ARTICLE

Predicting nitrogen mineralization from organic amendments: beyond C/N ratio by ^{13}C -CPMAS NMR approach

Giuliano Bonanomi[✉] • Tushar C. Sarker • Maurizio Zotti • Gaspare Cesarano • Emilia Allevato • Stefano Mazzoleni



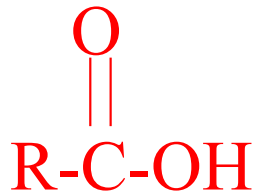
D
A



^{13}C solid state NMR spectra of green compost

**Polysaccharides
(cellulose)**

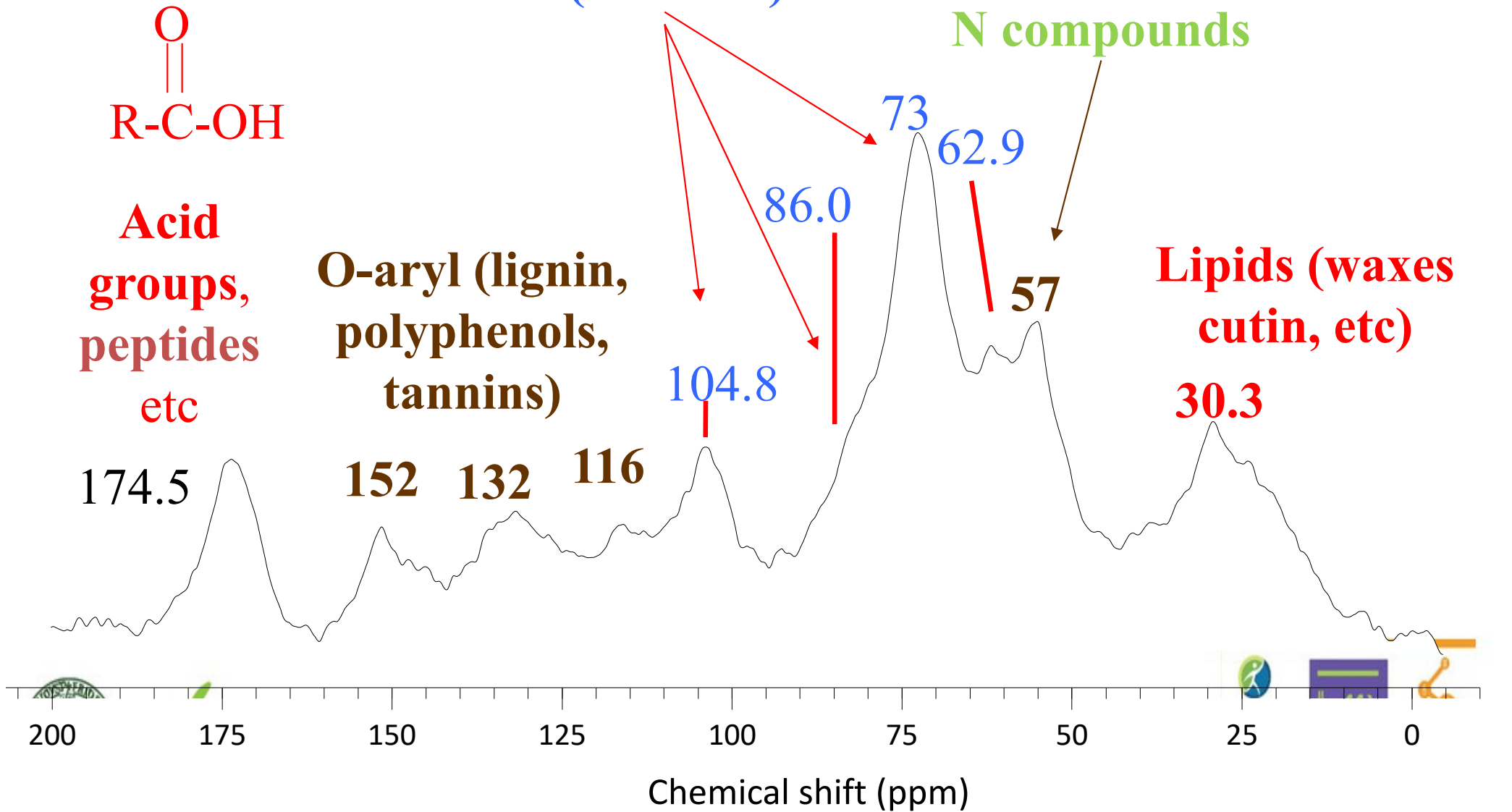
**Lignin and/or
N compounds**



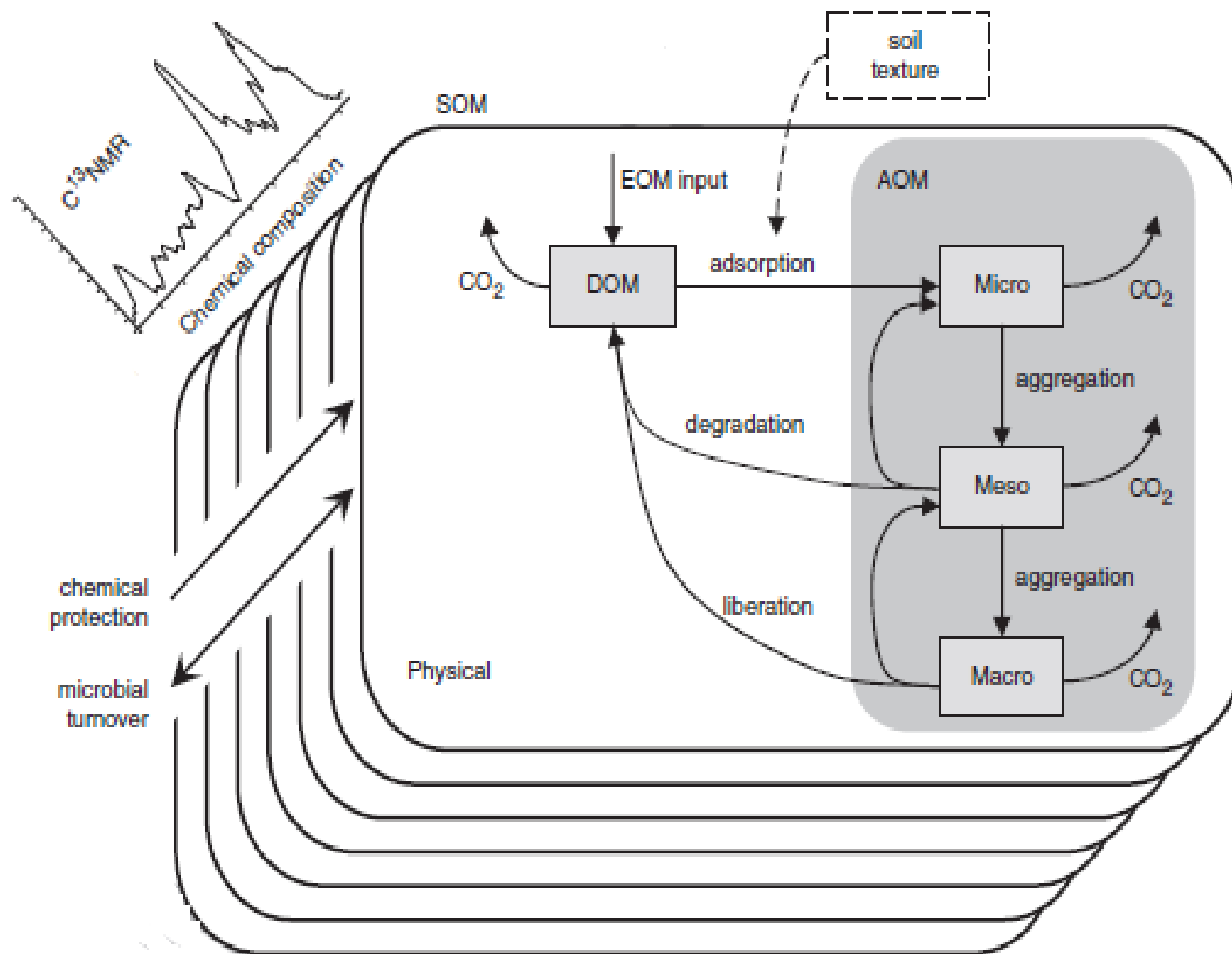
**Acid
groups,
peptides
etc**

**O-aryl (lignin,
polyphenols,
tannins)**

**Lipids (waxes
cutin, etc)**



Soil Organic Matter Dynamics (SOMDY)



REGULAR ARTICLE

OMDY: a new model of organic matter decomposition based on biomolecular content as assessed by ^{13}C -CPMAS-NMR

Guido Incerti • Giuliano Bonanomi • Francesco Giannino • Fabrizio Carteni •
Riccardo Spaccini • Pierluigi Mazzei • Alessandro Piccolo • Stefano Mazzoleni

Soil Biology and Biochemistry 117 (2018) 175–184

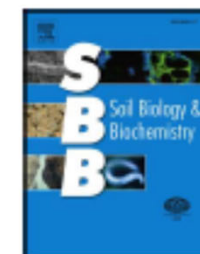


ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Soil Biology and Biochemistry

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/soilbio



Linking organic matter chemistry with soil aggregate stability: Insight from ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy



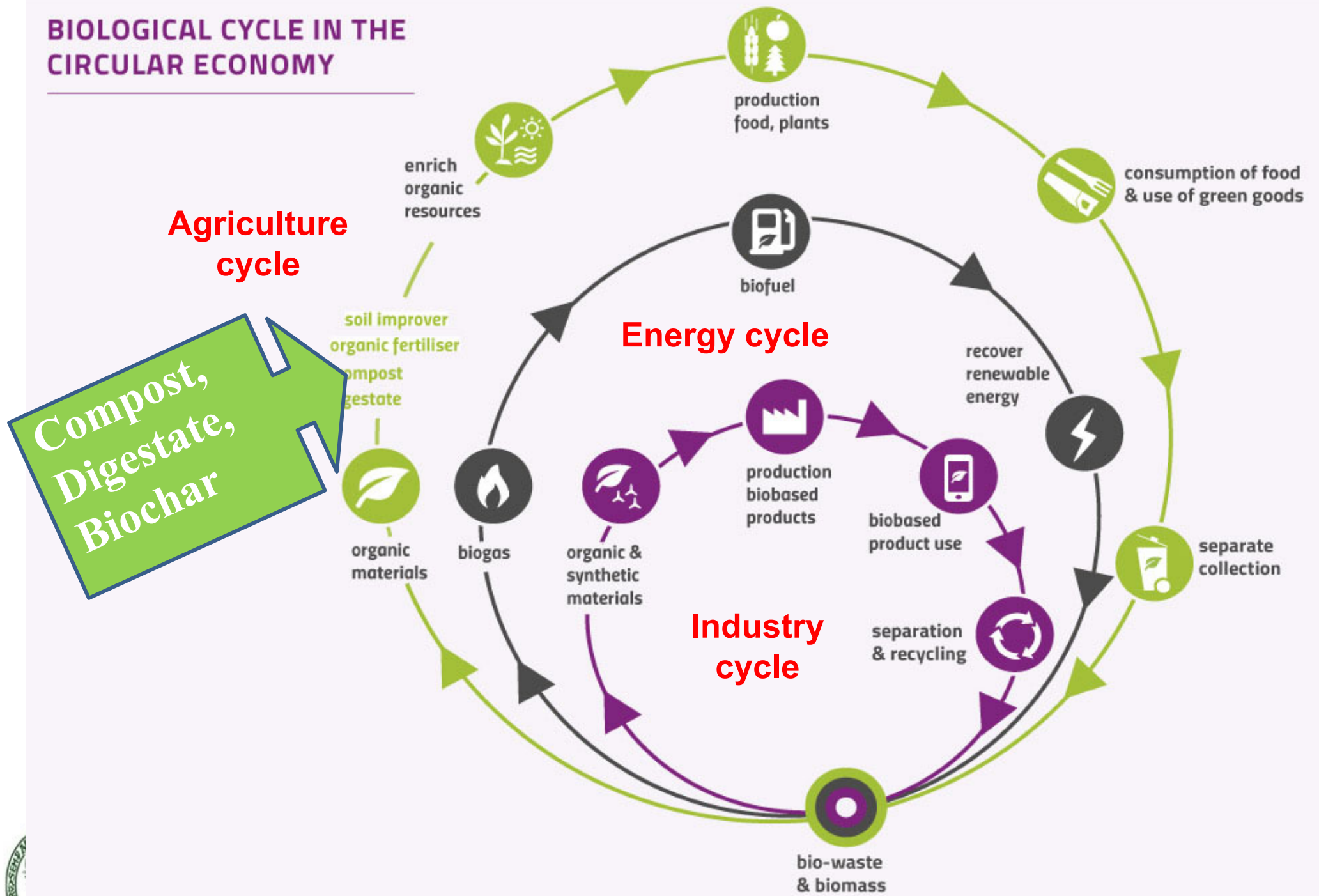
Tushar C. Sarker^{a,*}, Guido Incerti^b, Riccardo Spaccini^c, Alessandro Piccolo^c, Stefano Mazzoleni^a, Giuliano Bonanomi^a



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BIOLOGICAL CYCLE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY





AGRITECH Spoke 8 - Circular economy in agriculture through waste valorization and recycling

task 8.3.2.: Valorisation and biological regeneration of wastes as resources for organic fertilizers/amendments to improve carbon storage and soil quality

Dept. of Agricultural Sciences – University of Napoli Federico II

Bonanomi Giuliano (AGR/12), Fagnano Massimo (AGR/02), Fiorentino Nunzio (AGR/02), Pindozi Stefania (AGR/10), Scotto Di Perta Ester (AGR/10), Spaccini Riccardo (AGR/13)

Preliminary test on pilot composting system (**CNR-ISAFOM Perugia**) to optimize the best mixing aimed at the production organic fertilisers based on the combination of **biochar** with organic feedstocks (**buffalo manure, digestate, olive-mill waste**)



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AGRITECH SPOKE 8

Meeting task 8.3.2.: Valorisation and biological regeneration of wastes as resources, organic fertilizers, or amendments to improve carbon storage and soil quality



Trial #1 – Buffalo manure & biochar -

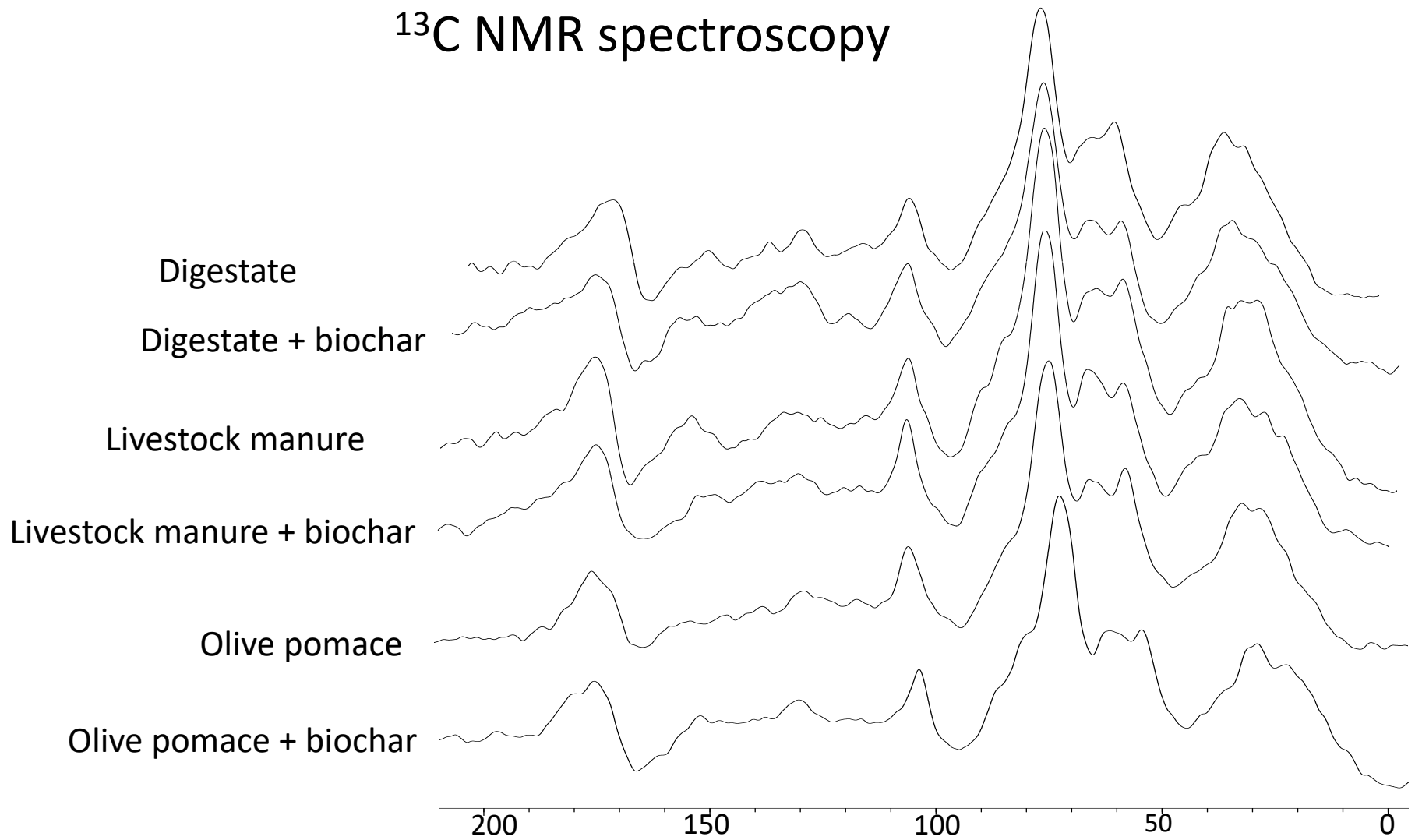
Spoke 8 - Circular economy in agriculture through waste valorization and recycling



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^{13}C NMR spectroscopy



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AGRITECH SPOKE 8

Meeting task 8.3.2.: Valorisation and biological regeneration of wastes as resources, organic fertilizers, or amendments to improve carbon storage and soil quality

Co-Composting of agro-industrial by-products and biochar

Amendment applied at four 4 rates of N fertilization:
100% compost, 33%compost-66% urea, 66% compost
33%urea, 2 Ton/Ha compost

- C1: Livestock manure compost
- C2: Livestock manure+biochar comp
- C3: Livestock digestate compost
- C4: Livestock digestate+biochar com
- C5: Olive pomace compost
- C6: Olive pomace+biochar compost



- CTRL N-: non-amended control
- CTRL N+: 100% urea

DESIGN: Completely randomized:

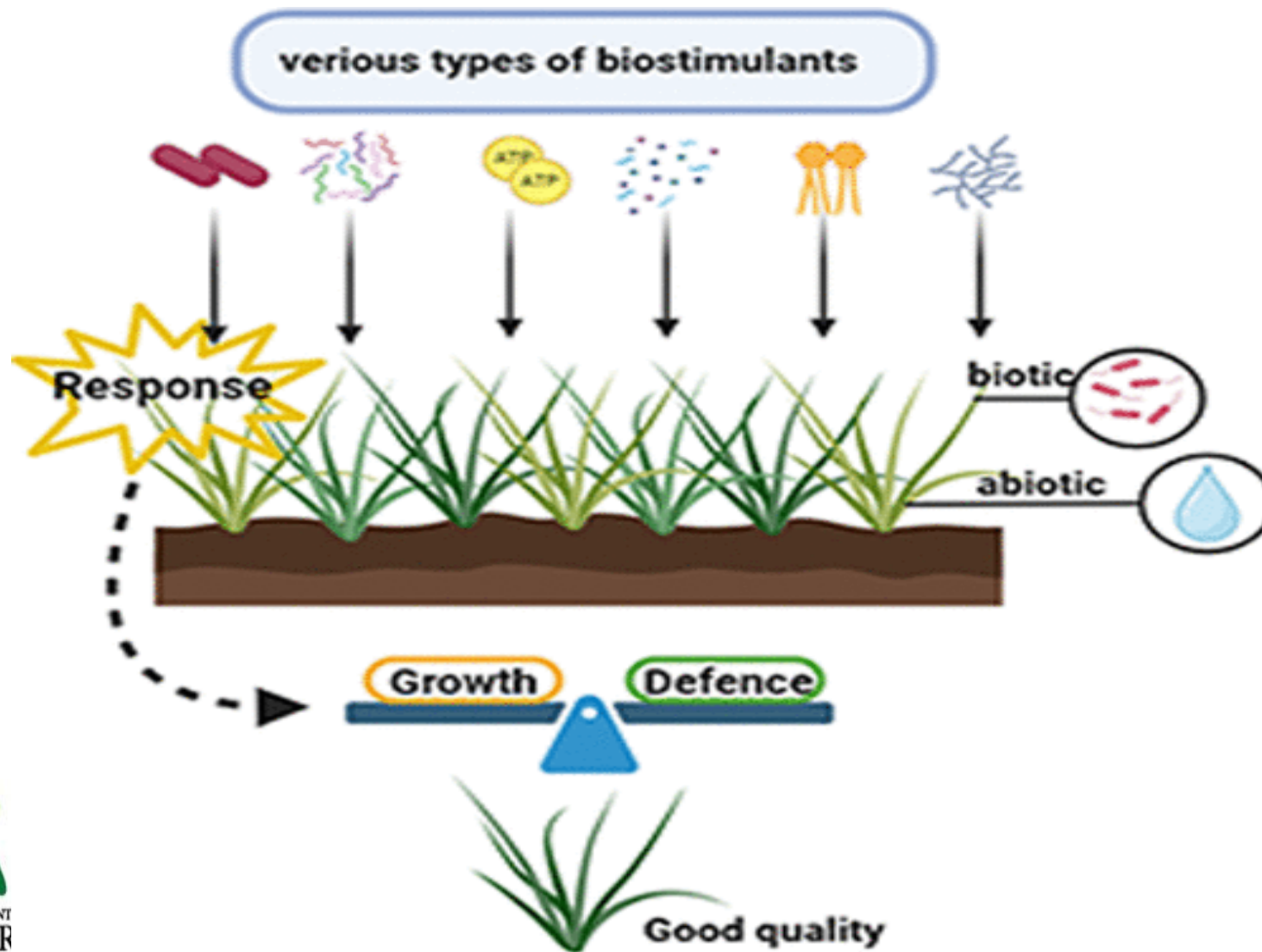
- **2 Crops:** Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), wild rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*)
- **4 Urea rates** x **6 compost types**
- **3 replicates**



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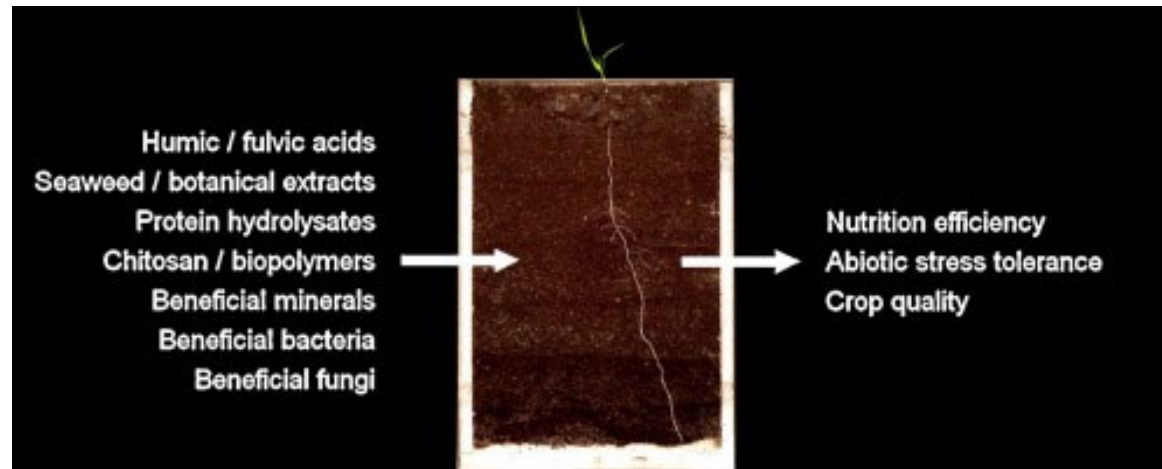


Besides the basic influence on soil fertility the research activities have pointed out that the **NOM** play a role as **mediating agent** in the **soil-plant-microbial interaction** thereby acting as natural **biostimulants for plant development**



A plant biostimulant is any substance or microorganism applied to plants with the aim to enhance nutrition efficiency, abiotic stress tolerance and/or crop quality traits, regardless of nutrients content.

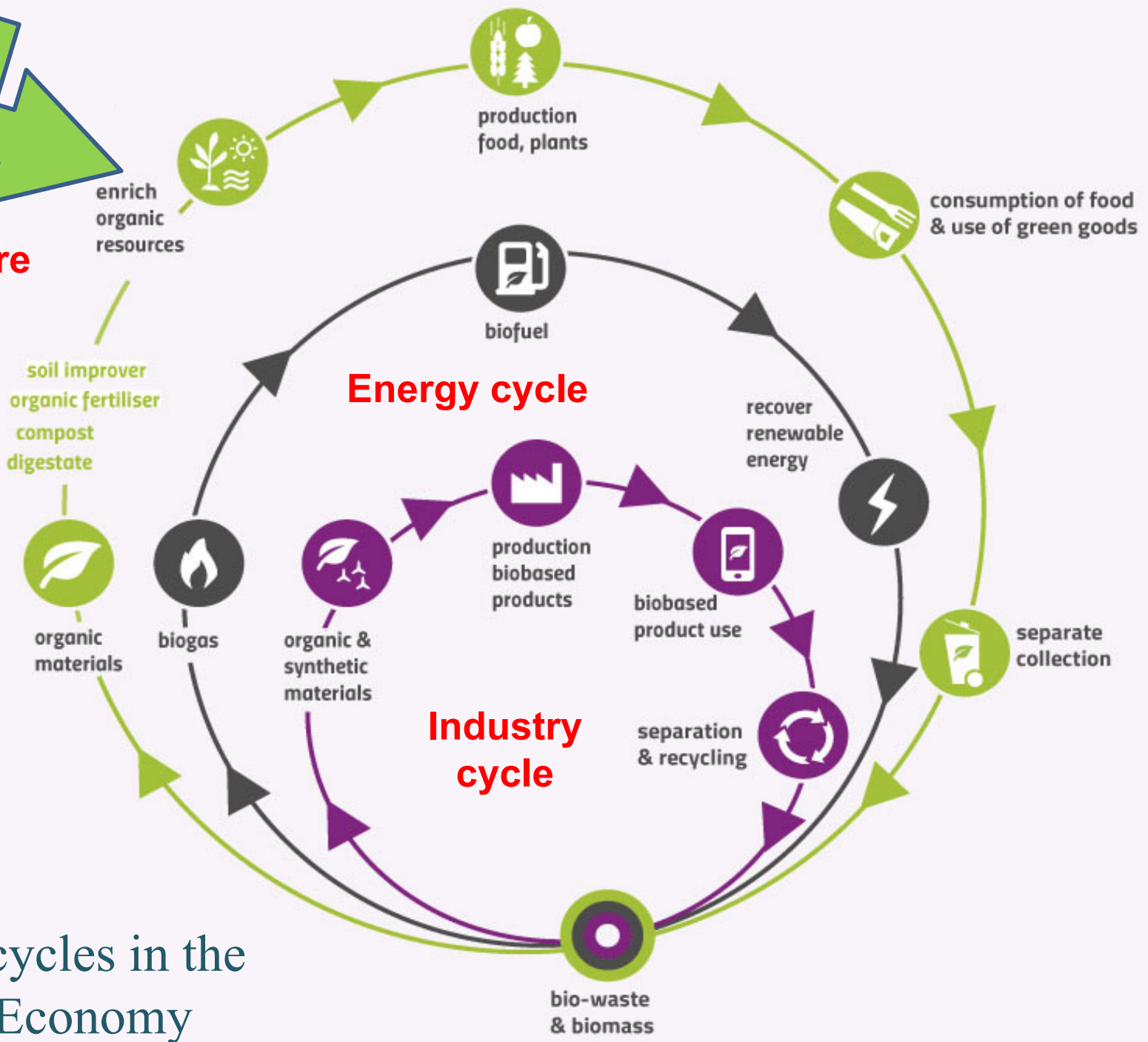
(Du Jardin 2015 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2015.09.021>)



- root mass, branching, elongation of lateral roots
 - efficiency of nutrient uptakes (N, P)
 - shoot developement
- hormone-like, stimulate biochemical and transcriptional activities
 - photosynthetic activity
 - yield (quantity and quality)
- improved resilience to deseases and environmentals stresses

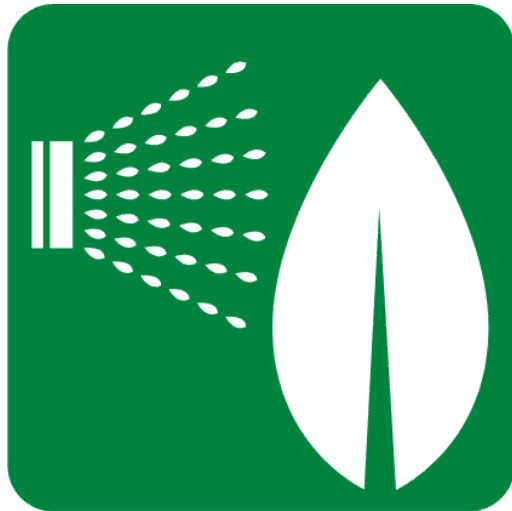
Humic acids,
compost tea,
protein
hydrolyses

**Agriculture
cycle**



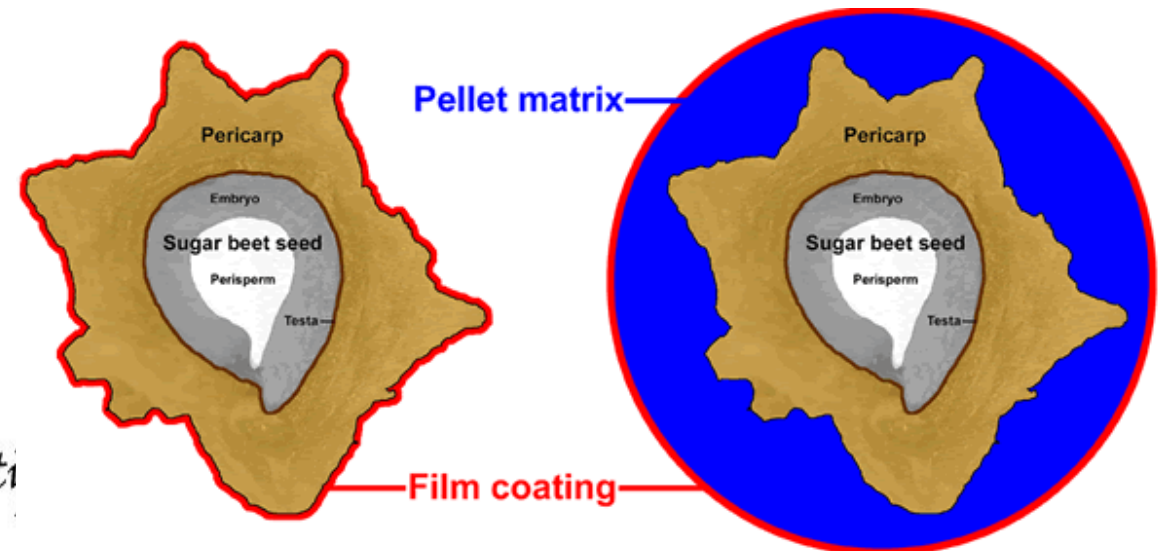
Biological cycles in the
Circular Economy

Rhizospheric application (Furrow distribution fertirrigation)



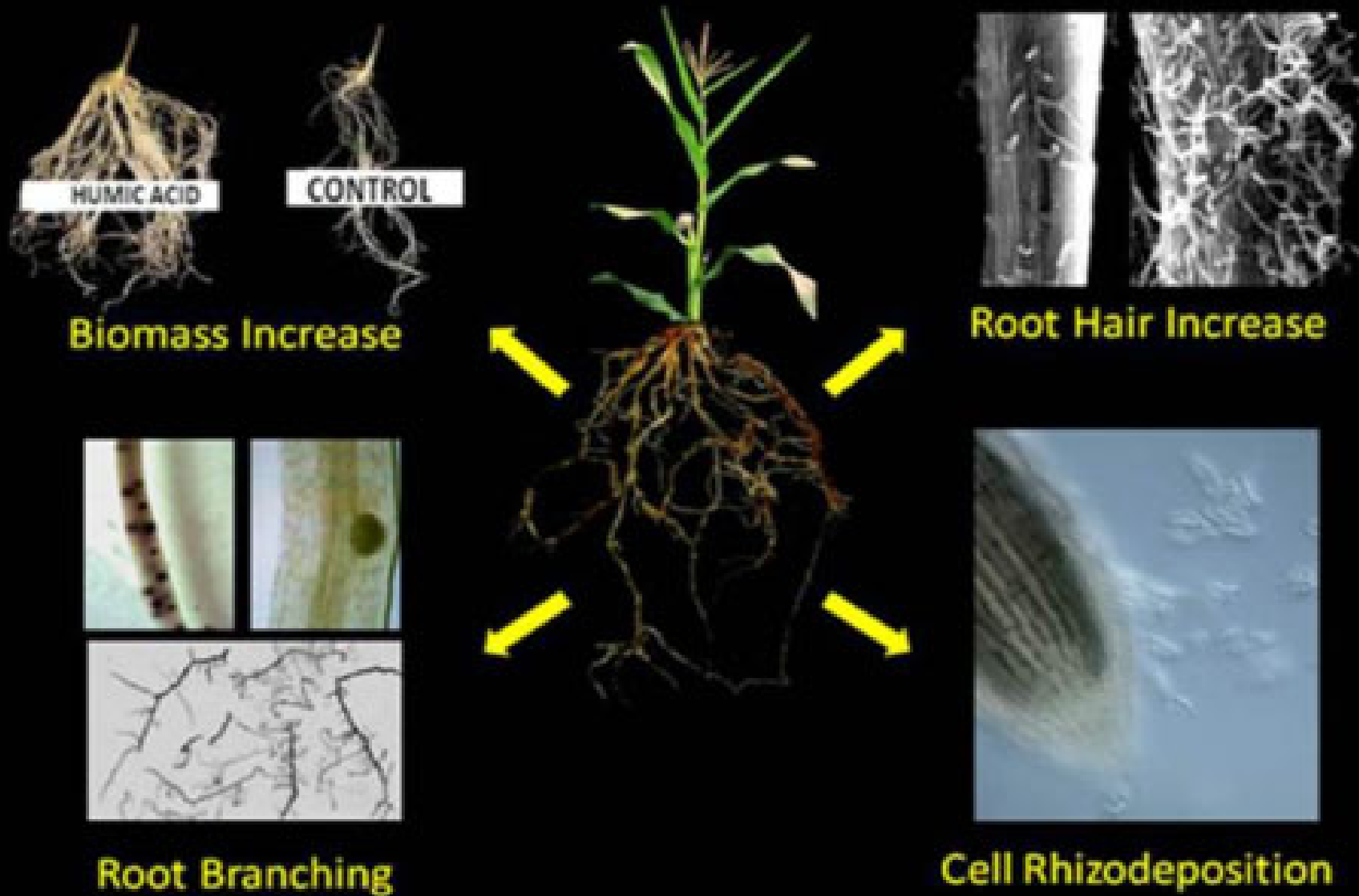
Foliar application

Seed treatments



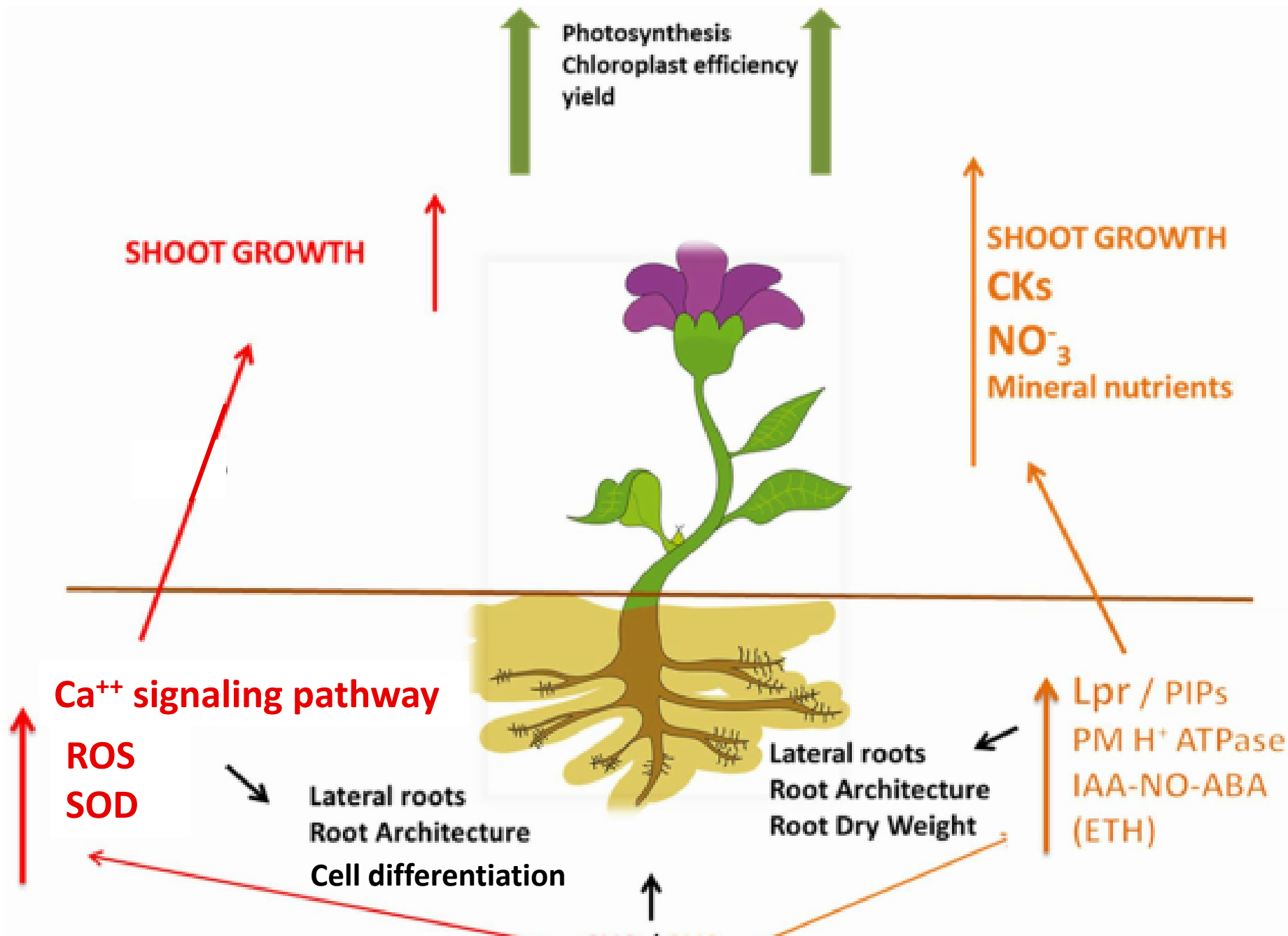
Caffè Scienti

Anatomical Root Traits Influenced by Humic Substances



(from *Canellas and Olivares 2014, 10.1186/2196-5641-1-3*)

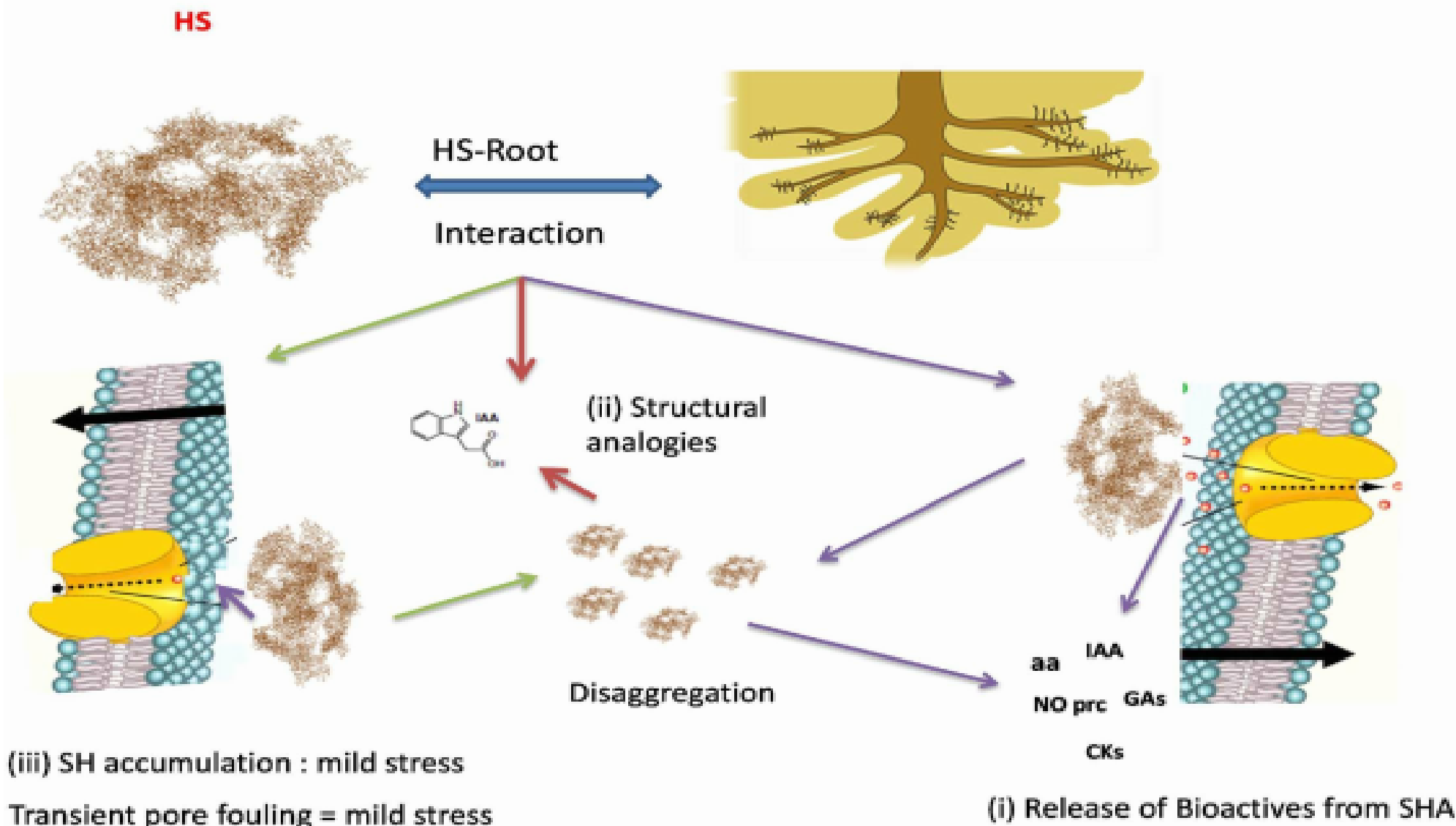




Root-shoot signalling pathways involved in the promoting action of biostimulants

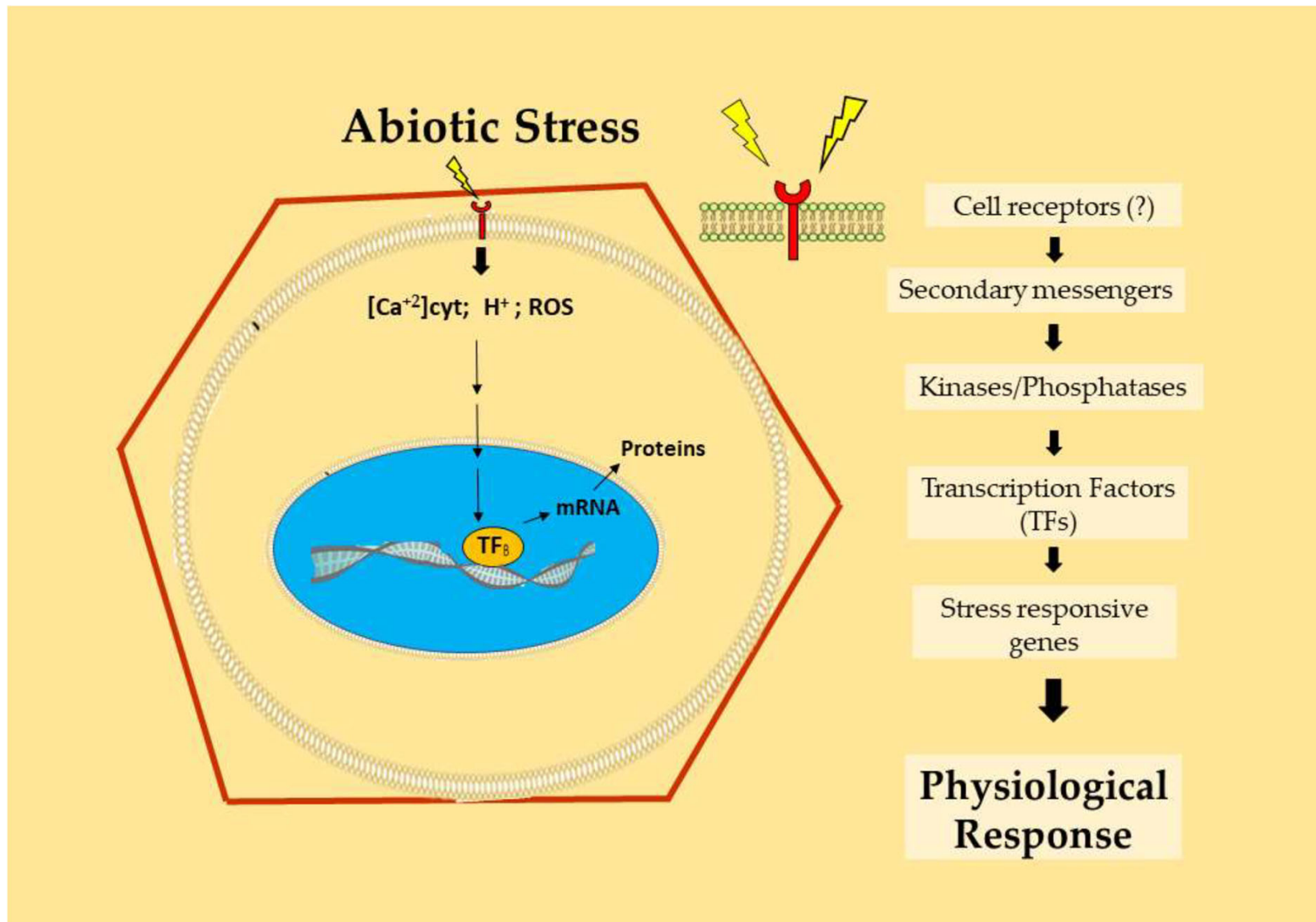


Hypotheses on the primary action of HS at root surface



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(from Jindo et al., 2020 *Interaction between Humic Substances and Plant Hormones for Phosphorous Acquisition* Agronomy, 10, 640; doi:10.3390/agronomy10050640)

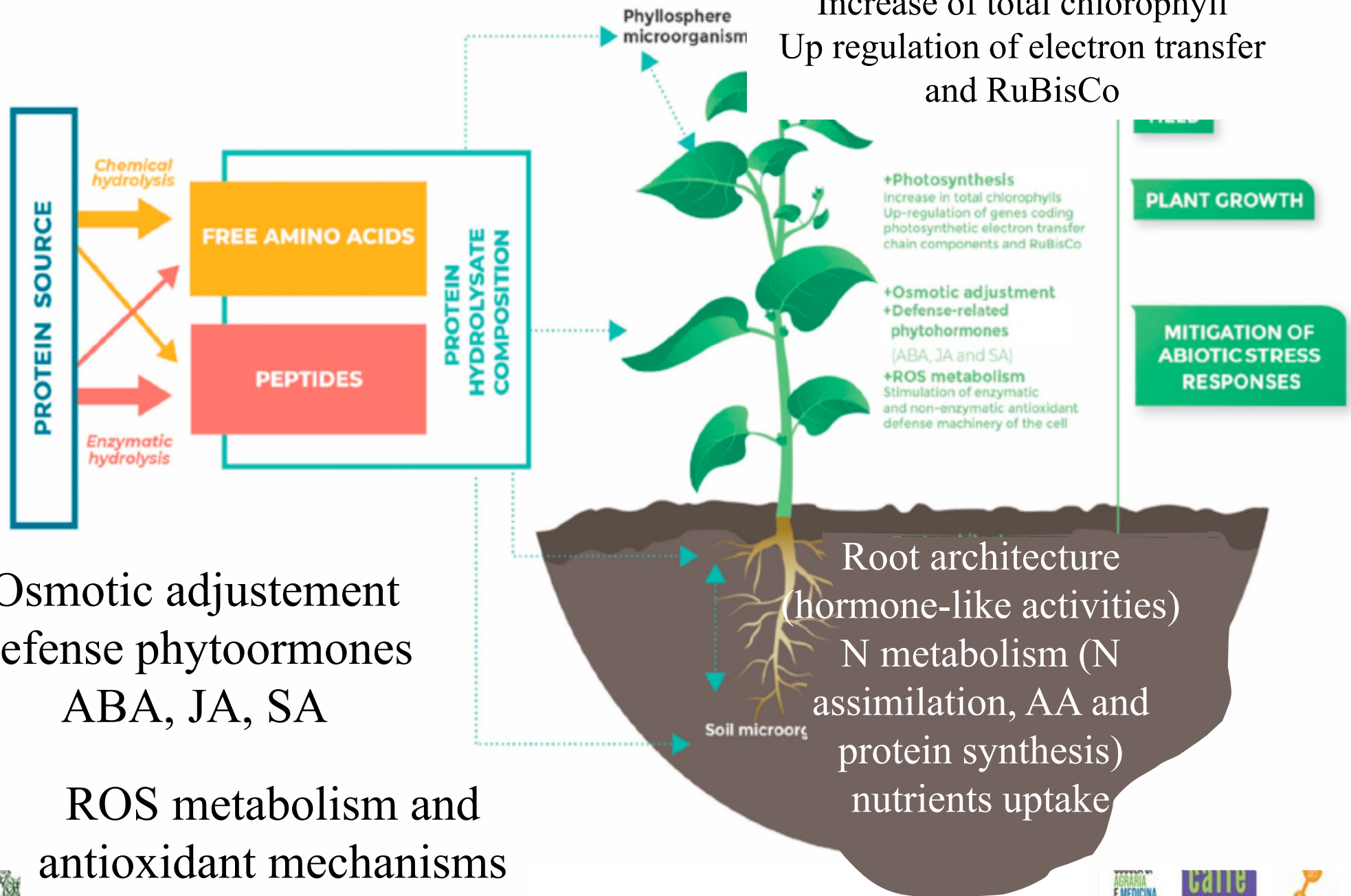


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Photosynthesis

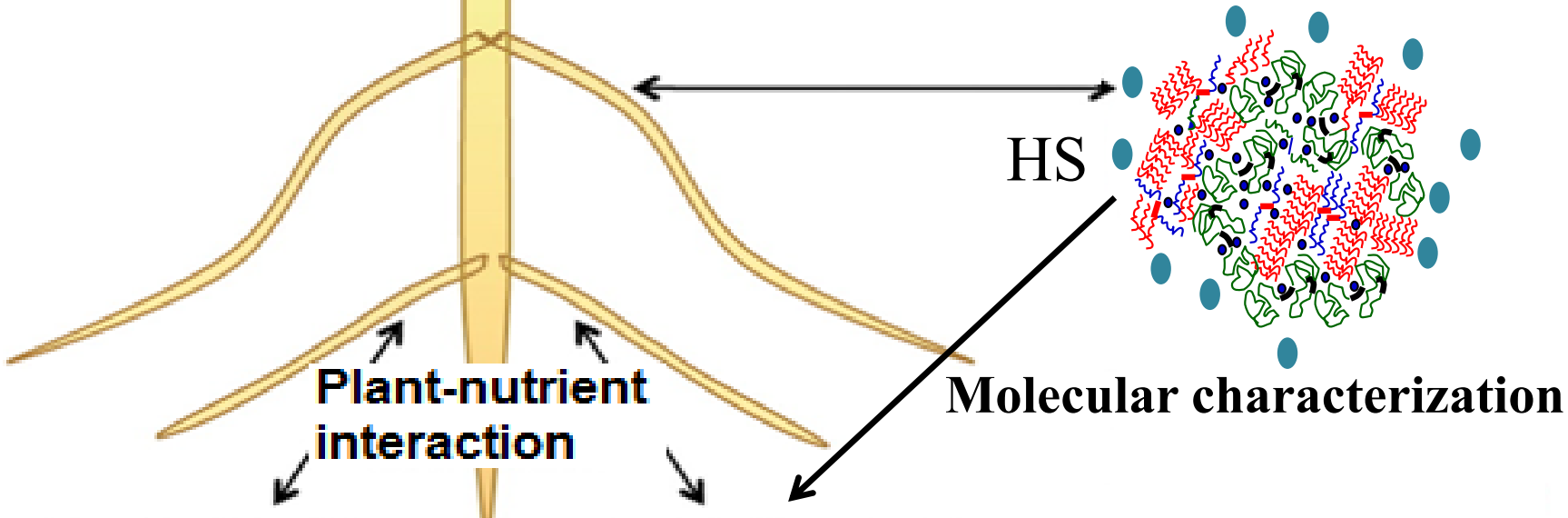
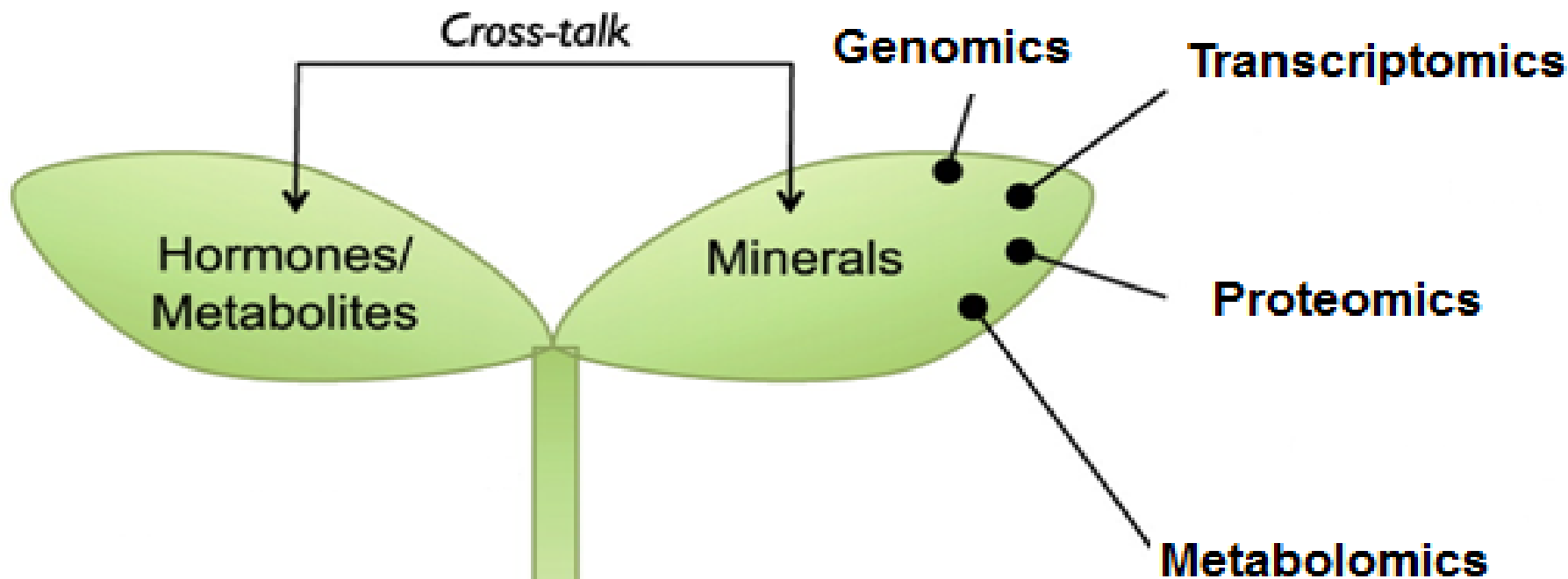
Increase of total chlorophyll
Up regulation of electron transfer
and RuBisCo



Osmotic adjustment
defense phytohormones
ABA, JA, SA

ROS metabolism and
antioxidant mechanisms





Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn, Cu

N, P, K

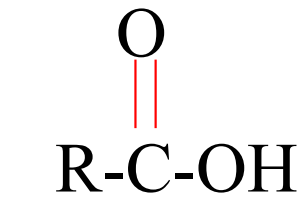
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^{13}C solid state NMR spectra of humic acid from green compost

**Polysaccharides
(cellulose)**

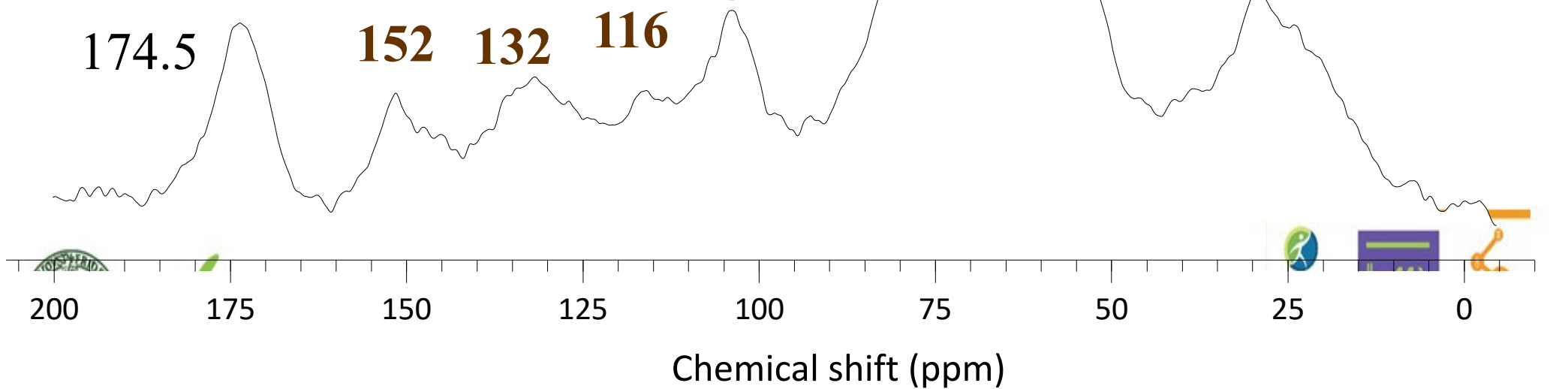
**Lignin and/or
N compounds**



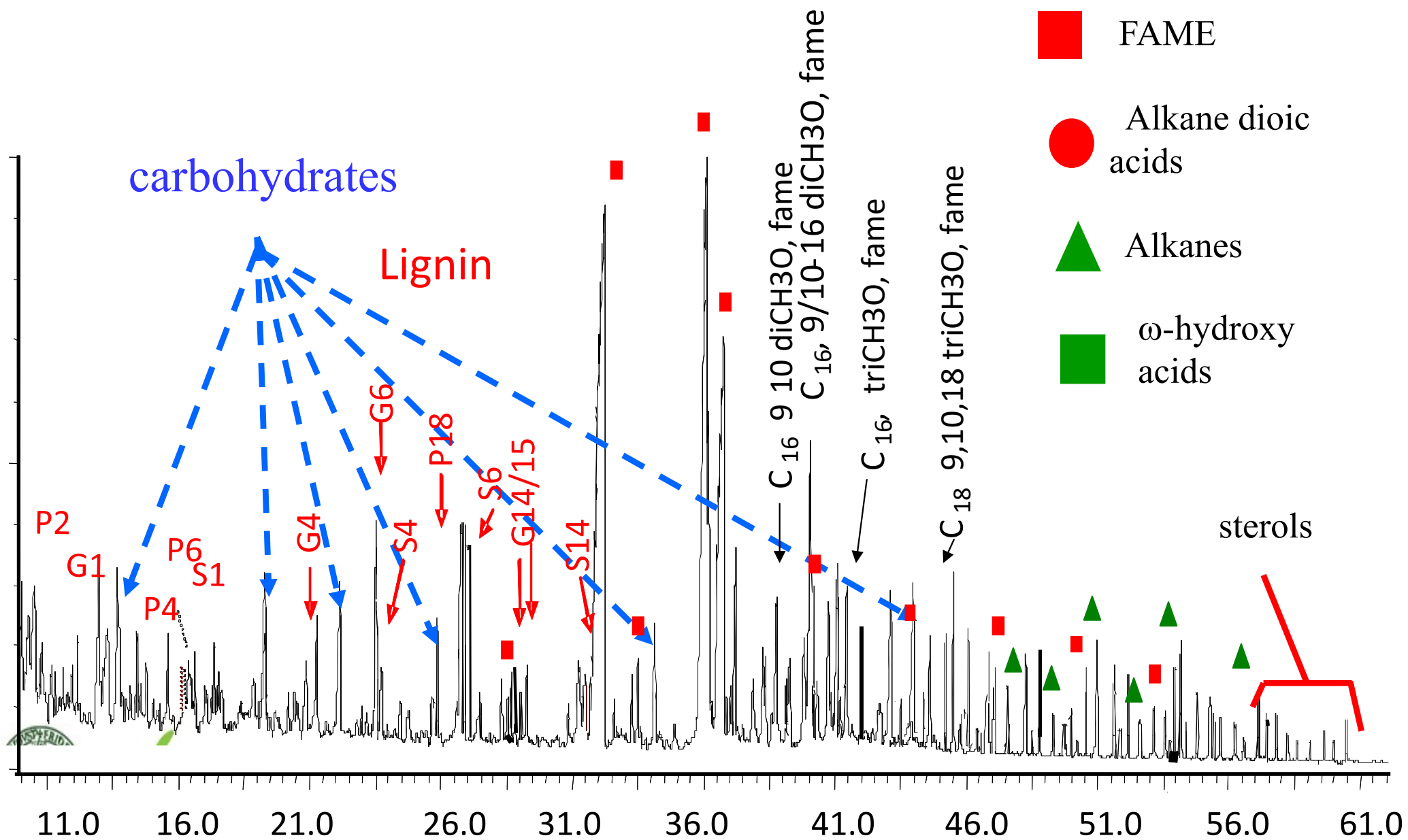
**Acid
groups,
peptides
etc**

**O-aryl (lignin,
polyphenols,
tannins)**

**Lipids (waxes
cutin, etc)**



Pyrolysis GC-MS of HS from green compost



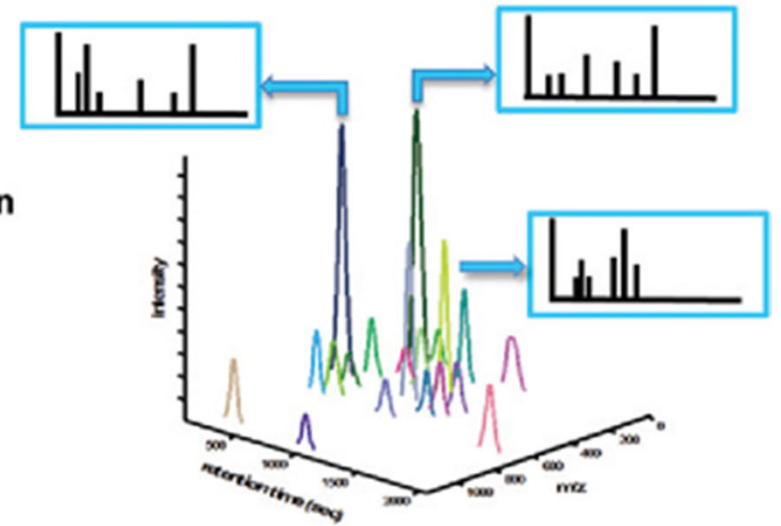


Metabolite extraction



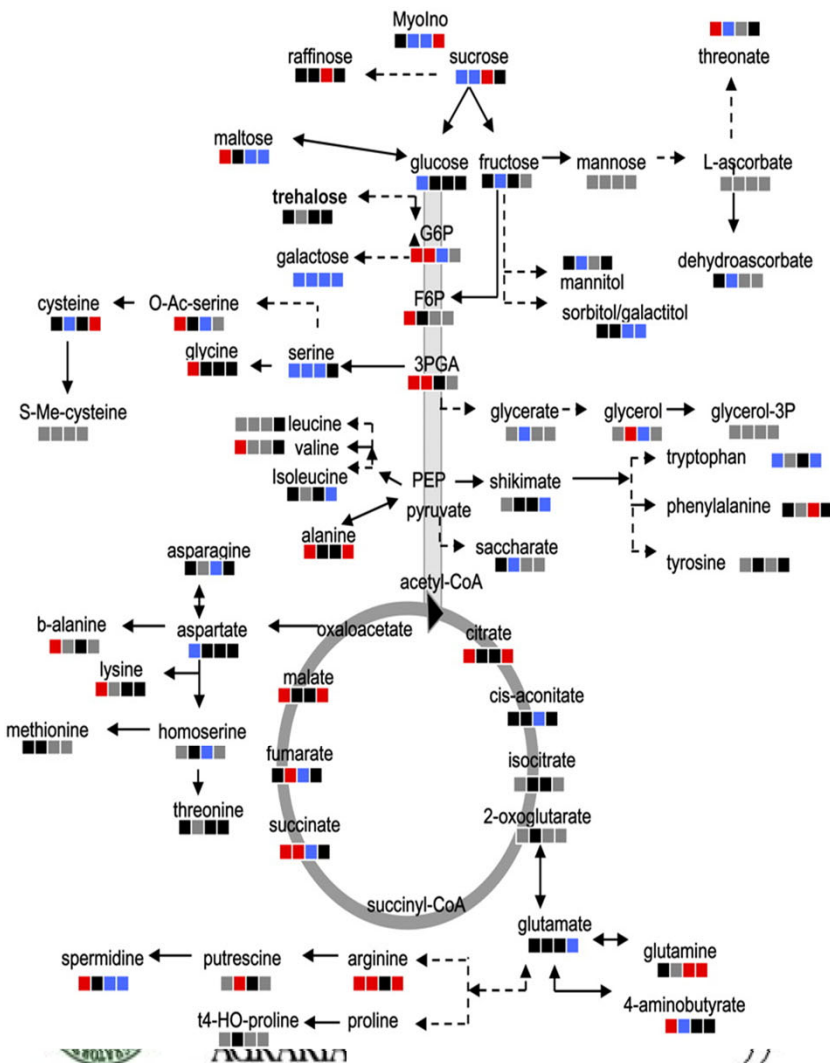
Data acquisition

Mass spectrometry



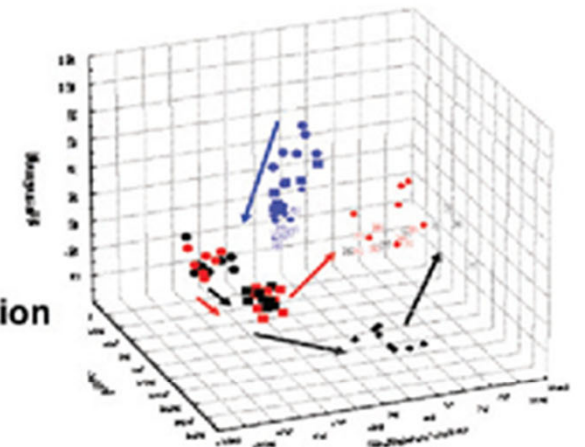
Features selection

METABOLOMIC

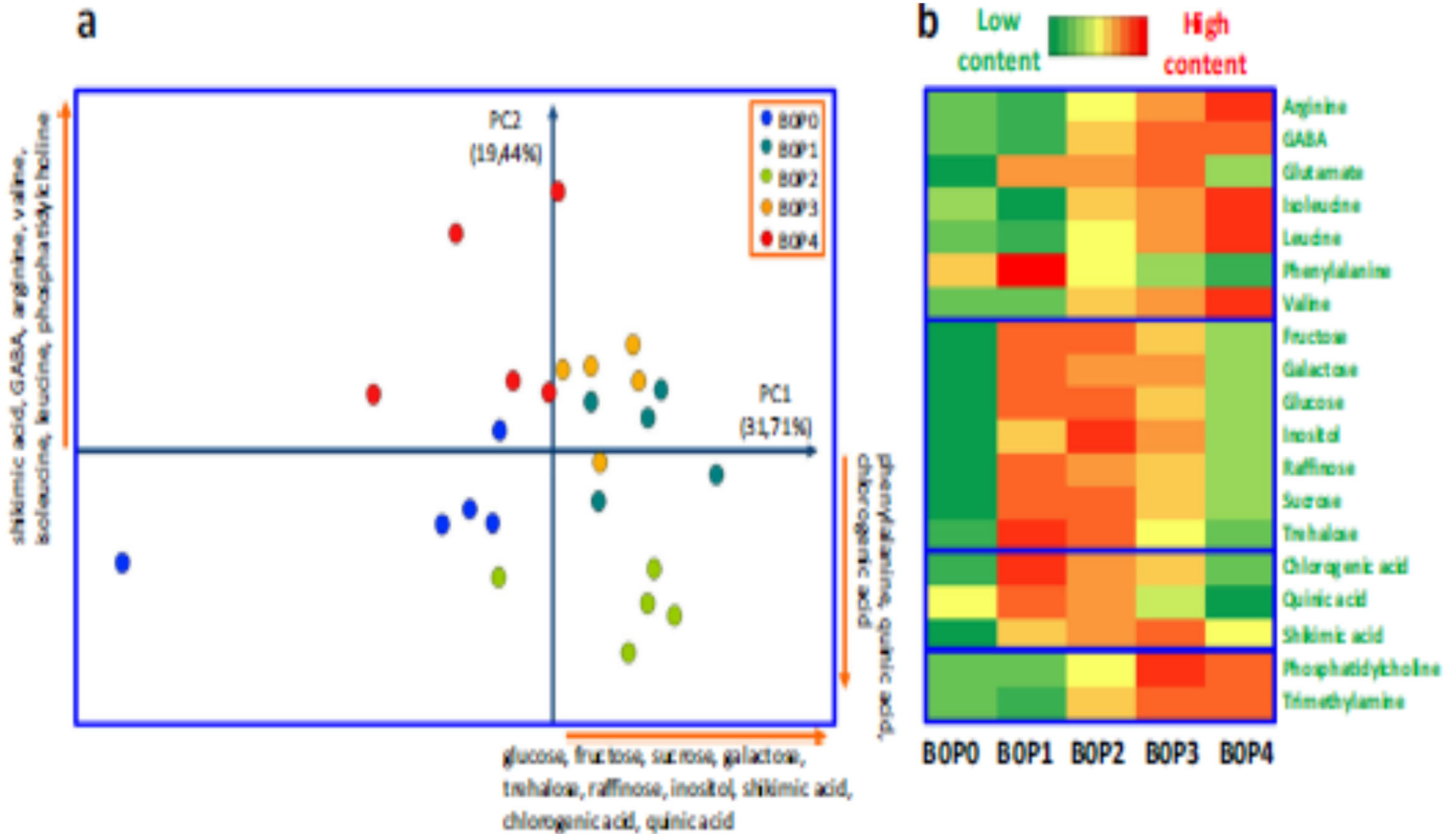


- Not significantly different
- Higher in PA2(-) genotypes
- Lower in PA2(-) genotypes
- Not detectable

Identification & quantitation of metabolites



tembre 2024



Example of PCA score plot and heatmap of discriminant variables

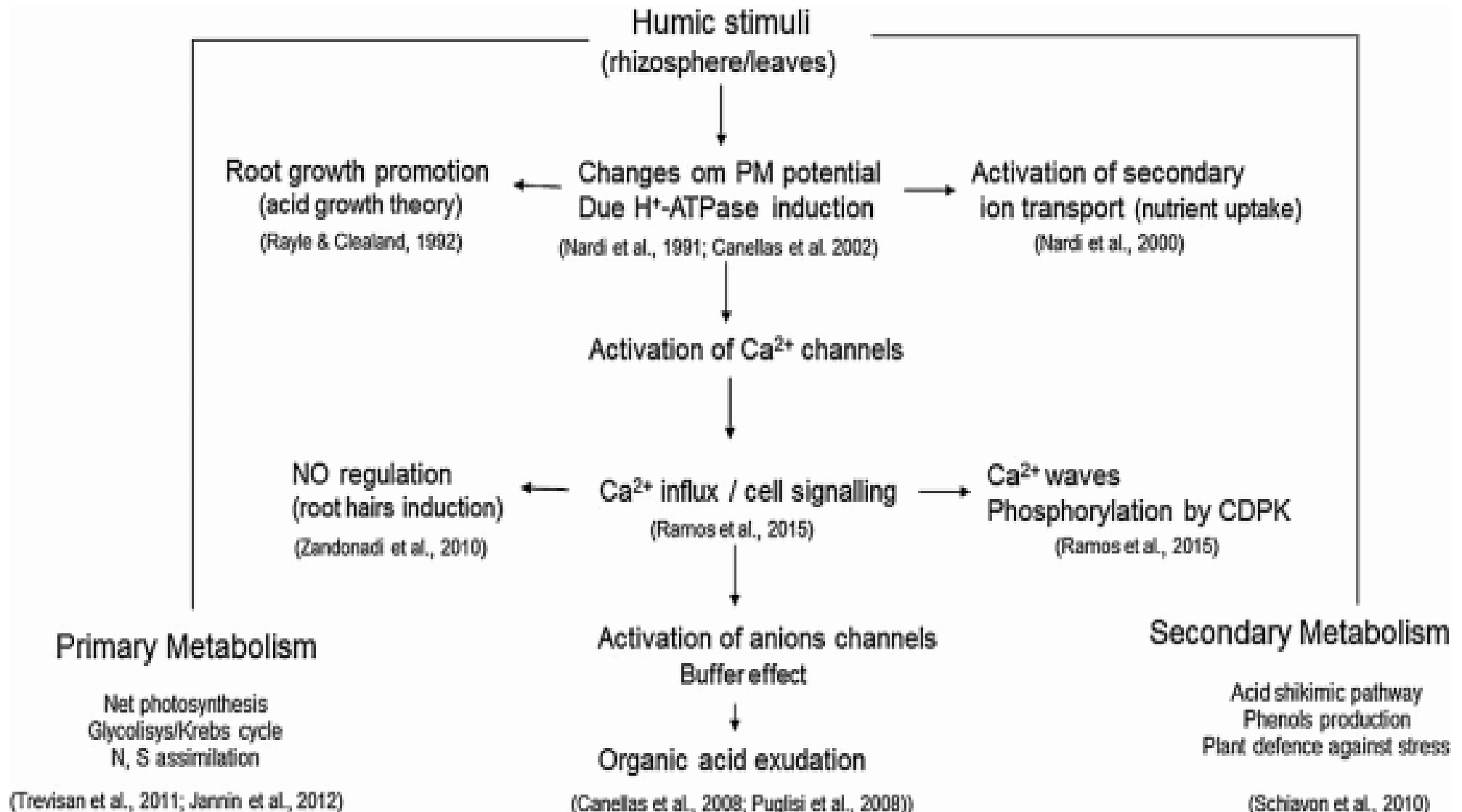


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Humic and fulvic acids as biostimulants in horticulture

Scientia Horticulturae 196 (2015) 15–27



Crop	Simplified assay description	Effects	References
Pineapple	HA from vermicompost combined with beneficial microorganisms; pot filled with soil; greenhouse experiment	Improved growth and adaptation of pineapple plantlets to the ex vitro environment	Baldotto et al. (2010)
Potato	Commercial HA and FA applied to the soil or as foliar spray; field experiment	Enhanced nutrient use efficiency, and tuber weight (by 13%) and decreased incidence of hollow heart	Suh et al. (2014)
Potato	Commercial HA applied to soil at different doses; field experiment	Increased yield from 11% to 22%.	Seyedbagheri (2010)
Strawberry	Vermicompost leachates; foliar spray; field experiment	Increased fruit yield (10–14%) and decreased incidence of grey mould	Singh et al. (2010)
Strawberry	HA commercial soluble product; foliar spray at different doses; hydroponic culture under greenhouse	Enhanced yield (33%), fruit firmness and total soluble solid percent	Farahi et al. (2013)
Strawberry	HS combined with N fertilizers; foliar spray	Enhanced fruit quality reducing the number of misshapen and rotten fruits, and increased the sugar content	Neri et al. (2002)
Strawberry	HA at different doses; foliar spray and fertigation; field experiment	Increased nutrient use efficiency	Ameri and Tehranifar (2012)
Tomato	HA and FA from compost at different doses; hydroponic culture; growth chamber	Doses–response curve for shoot and root growth of tomato seedlings; HA were more bioactive than FA	Lulakis and Petsas (1995)
Tomato and cucumber	HA from vermicompost applied to substrate; different doses; pot greenhouse experiment	Increased tomato and cucumber growth	Atiyeh et al. (2002)
Tomato	HA from vermicompost combined with beneficial microorganisms; substrate application and foliar spray; field experiment	Increased fruit yield by 44–80%; decreased incidence of <i>Phytophthora infestans</i>	Olivares et al. (2015)
Tomato	Different HA from forest soil mixed with nutrient solution; hydroponic culture	Enhanced net photosynthesis by 68–436% during the vegetative stages and increased fruit sugar content	Haghighi and Teixeira da Silva (2013)
Yellow passion fruit	HA at different doses and times of application as foliar spray	Increased root dry weight by 124% in seedlings	Cavalcante et al. (2013)

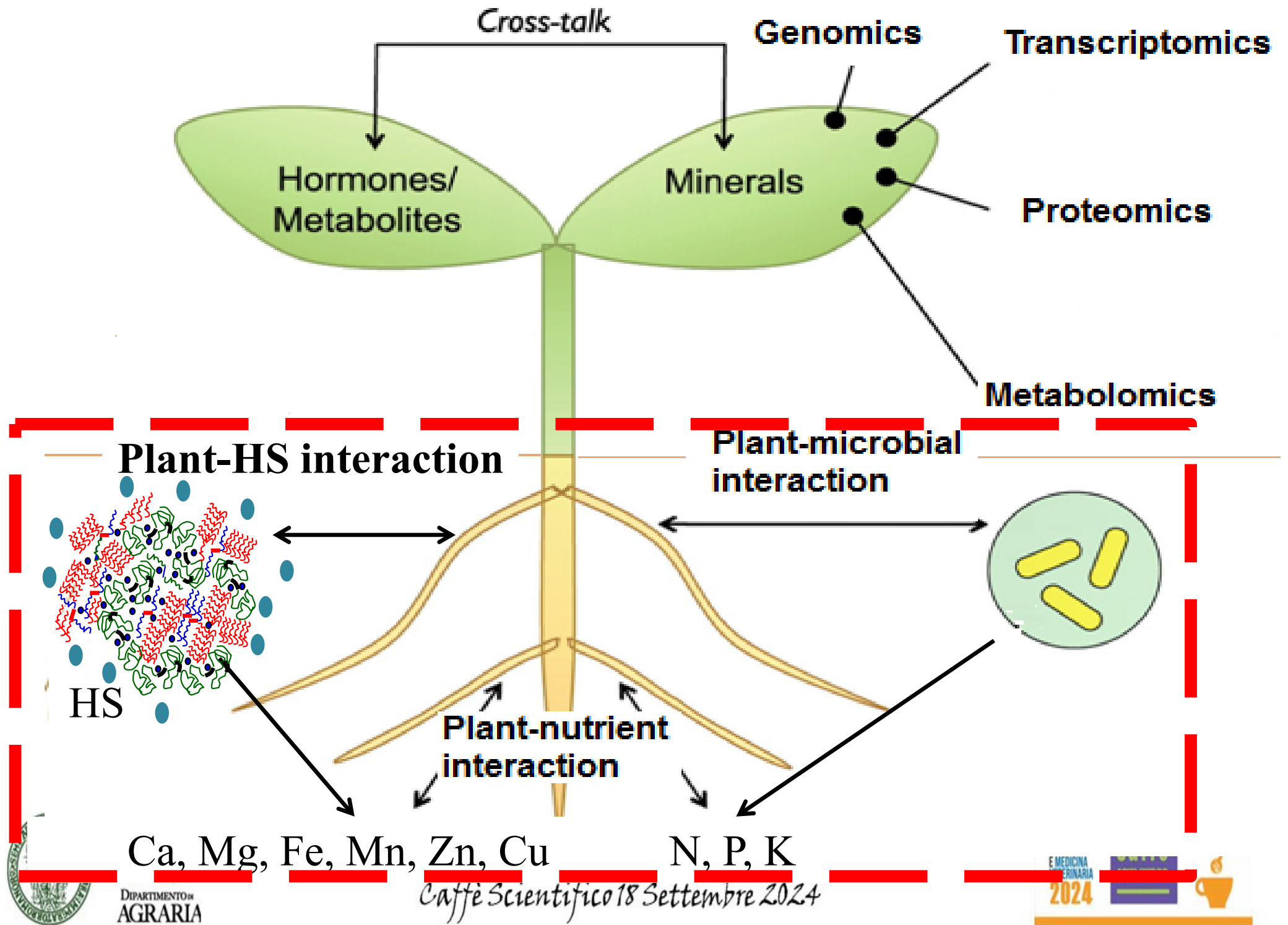


An additional valuable approach is the combination of **compost** or **humic substances** with **beneficial microorganisms** such as mycorrhiza, PGPB (Plant-Growth-Promoting-Bacteria, *N-fixing bacteria*, *P-solubilising bacteria*)



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DIPARTIMENTO
AGRARIA



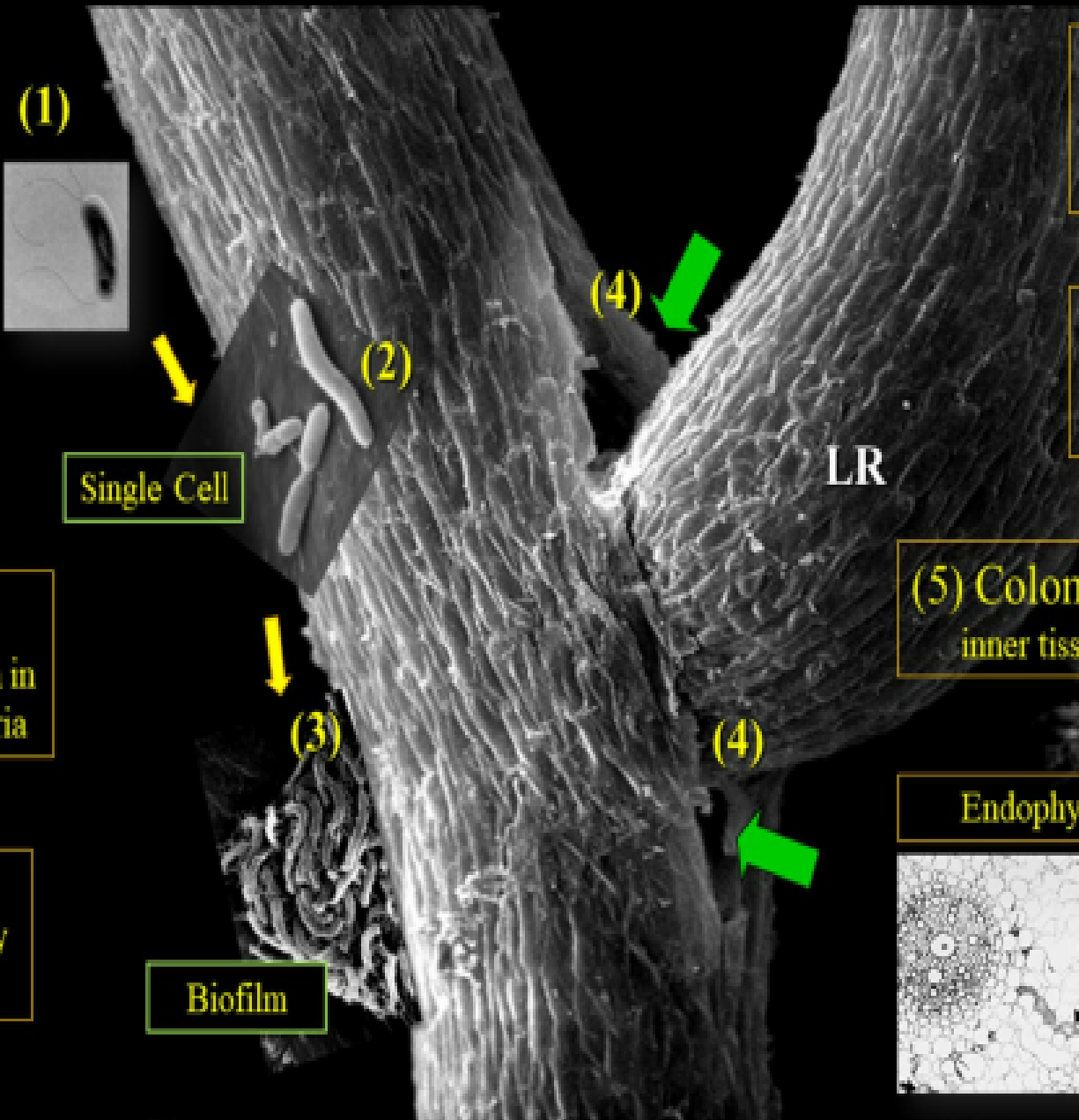
How Humic acid modulate plant-bacteria interaction ?

(1) Chemotaxis
Increase efflux of C-sources in rhizosphere

Increased rhizosphere bacteria population and chemotaxis

(2) Attachment:
Increased by HA sorption in both, cell wall and bacteria

Increase bacteria population epiphytically associated

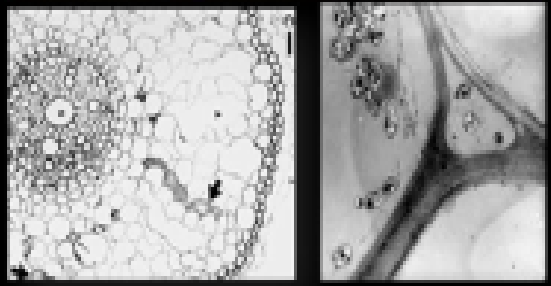


(4) Infection:
Increased lateral root (LR) numbers

Increase bacteria infection (endophytic access by LR crack)

(5) Colonization: enhanced inner tissue establishment

Endophytic establishment



Molecular characteristics of vermicompost and their relationship to preservation of inoculated nitrogen-fixing bacteria **J. Anal. Appl. Pyrol-104 (2013) 540–550**
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaap.2013.05.015>

Phosphorus speciation and high-affinity transporters are influenced by humic substance *J. Plant Nutr. Soil Sci.* 2016, 179, 206–214 [_kwsv-22grlruj243143352s0153483355;](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11335-015-3483-5)

Humic extracts of hydrochar and Amazonian Dark Earth: Molecular characteristics and effects on maize seed germination **Sci. Total Environ.708 (2020) 135000**
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135000>

Bioactivity and antimicrobial properties of chemically characterized compost teas from different green composts **Waste Management 120 (2021) 98–107**
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2020.11.013>

Evaluation of Sustainable Recycled Products to Increase the Production of Nutraceutical and Antibacterial Molecules in Basil Plants by a Combined Metabolomic Approach **Plants 2023, 12, 513**
<https://doi.org/10.3390/plants12030513>

Biostimulants Using Humic Substances and Plant-Growth-Promoting Bacteria: Effects on Cassava (*Manihot esculentus*) and Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) Yield

 **Agronomy 2023, 13, 80.** <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy13010080> 



Transforming Food Waste Into Sustainable Packaging Materials



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Pharmaceutical Industry



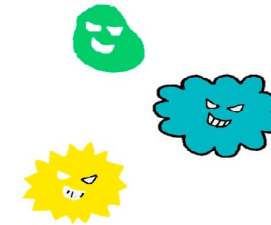
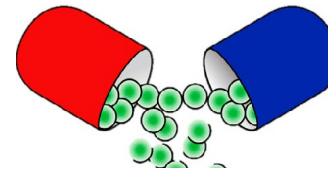
Supplements



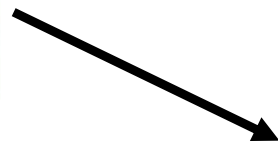
Flavoring agent in medicine



Agro-food waste



Against various diseases



Bioactive extracts



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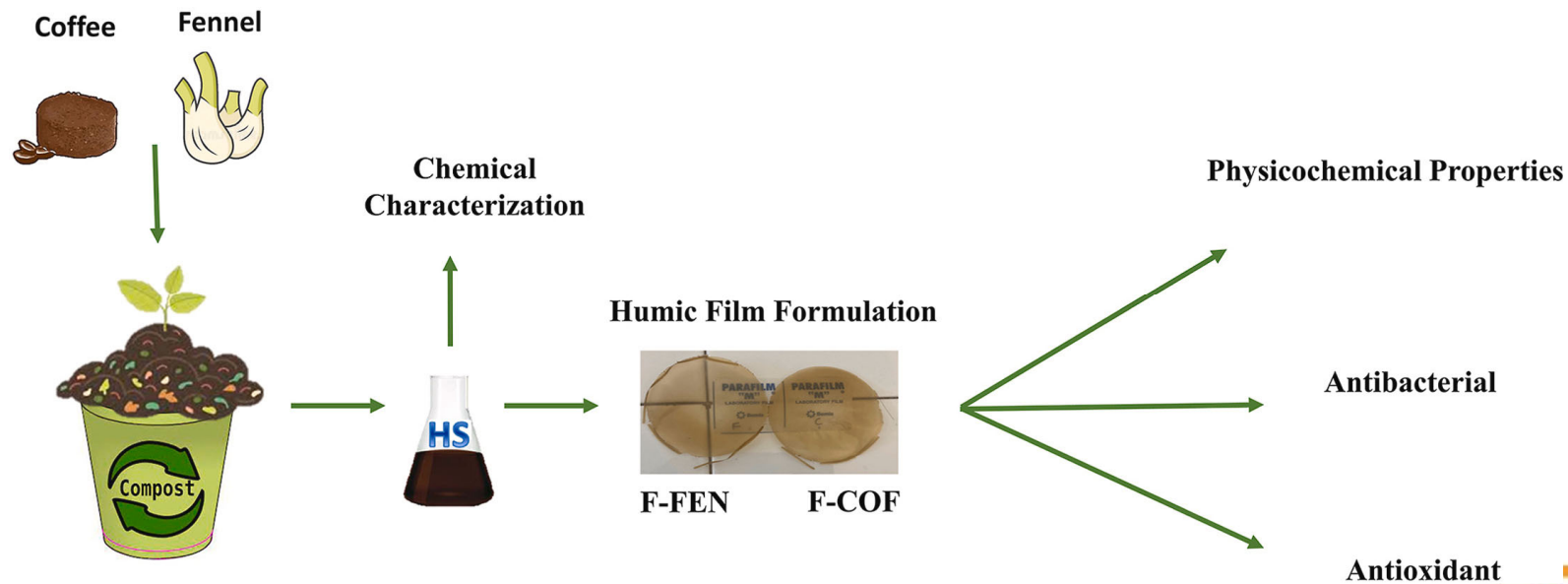




Food Bioscience 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fbio.2023.102757>

Valorization of organic biomass through the production of active biopolymer film based on sodium caseinate, guar gum, and beeswax

Mariavittoria Verrillo ^{a,b,1}, Muhammad Rehan Khan ^{a,*,1}, Stefania Volpe ^a, Riccardo Spaccini ^{a,b}, Elena Torrieri ^a



Caffè Scientifico 18 Settembre 2024





Biomacromolecules 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.biomac.3c00143>

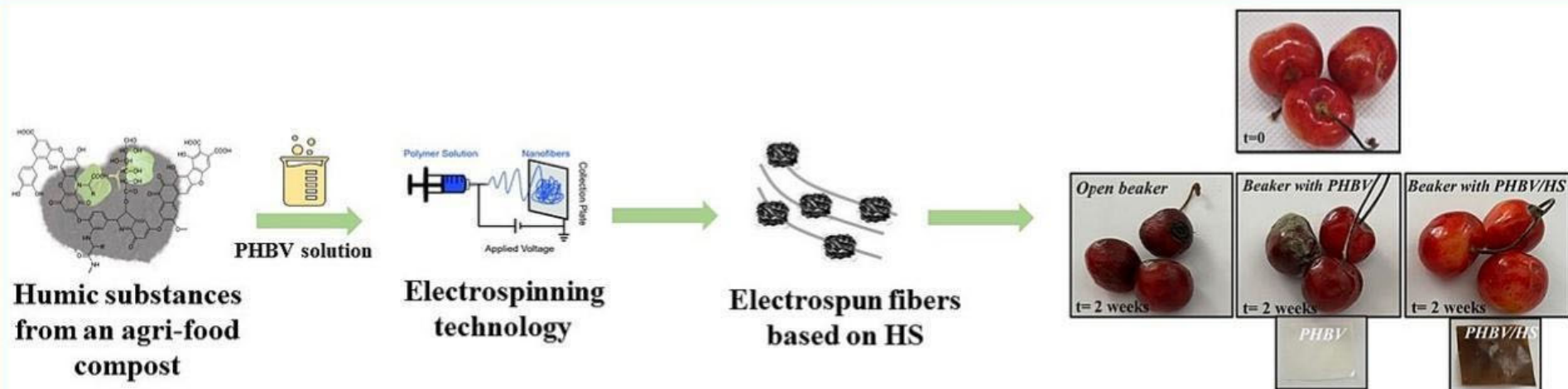
Waste to Wealth Approach: Improved Antimicrobial Properties in Bioactive Hydrogels through Humic Substance–Gelatin Chemical Conjugation

Virginia Venezia, Mariavittoria Verrillo, Pietro Renato Avallone, Brigida Silvestri, Silvana Cangemi, Rossana Pasquino, Nino Grizzuti, Riccardo Spaccini,* and Giuseppina Luciani*

Inter. J. of Biological Macromolecules doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2024.130210

Electrospun films incorporating humic substances of application interest in sustainable active food packaging

Virginia Venezia^{a,b,*}, Cristina Prieto^c, Mariavittoria Verrillo^d, Mattia Grumi^c, Brigida Silvestri^e, Giuseppe Vitiello^{a,f}, Giuseppina Luciani^{a,**}, Jose M. Lagaron^c



Antioxidant, antimicrobial and antifungal food packaging materials

PLoS ONE 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0281631>

Humic substances from composted fennel residues control the inflammation induced by *Helicobacter pylori* infection in AGS cells

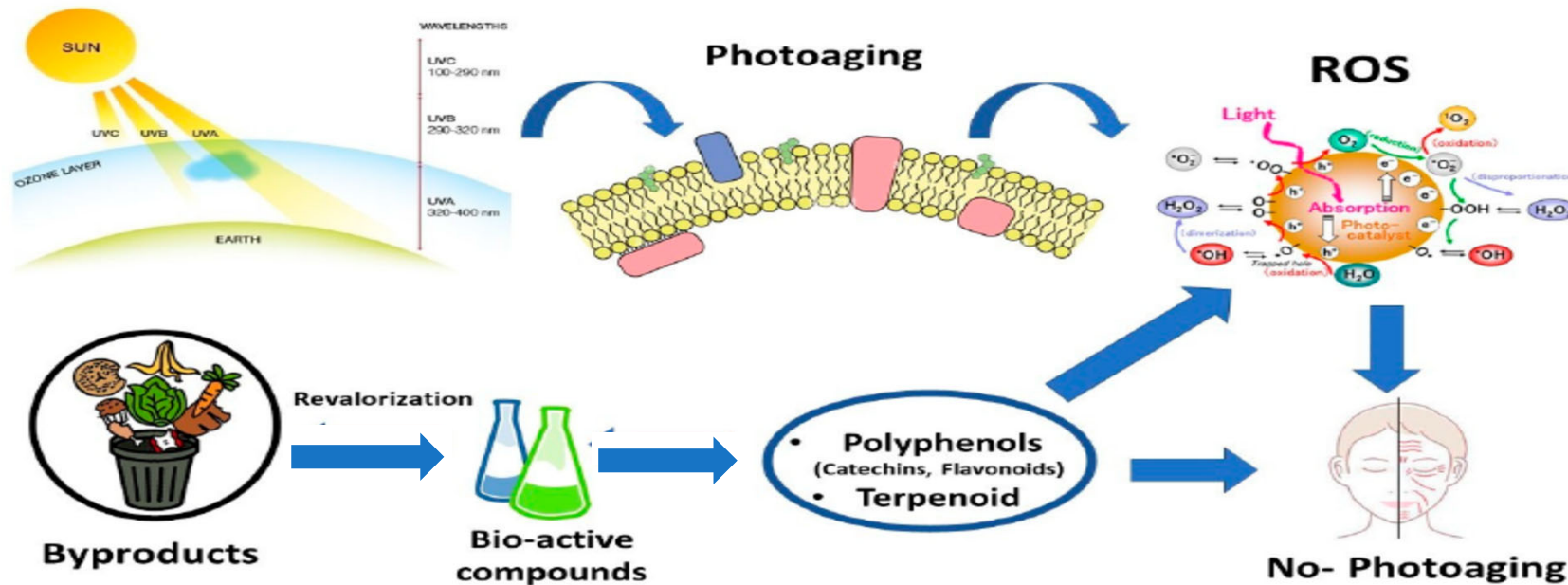
Mariavittoria Verrillo^{1,2}, Paola Cuomo^{2*}, Angela Michela Immacolata Montone³, Davide Savy², Riccardo Spaccini^{1,2}, Rosanna Capparelli^{1,2*}

Plants 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants12040840>

Review

Use of Natural Agents and Agrifood Wastes for the Treatment of Skin Photoaging

Melania Parisi¹, Mariavittoria Verrillo^{2,3,*}, Maria Antonietta Luciano¹ ... Riccardo Spaccini^{2,3,*} and Gabriella Fabbrocini¹



Fondazione VERONESI

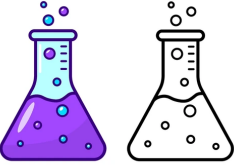
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II

Antitumorigenic activity of BIOproducts extracted by REcycled natural sources (**BIORE**)

Drug delivery, nanoformulation



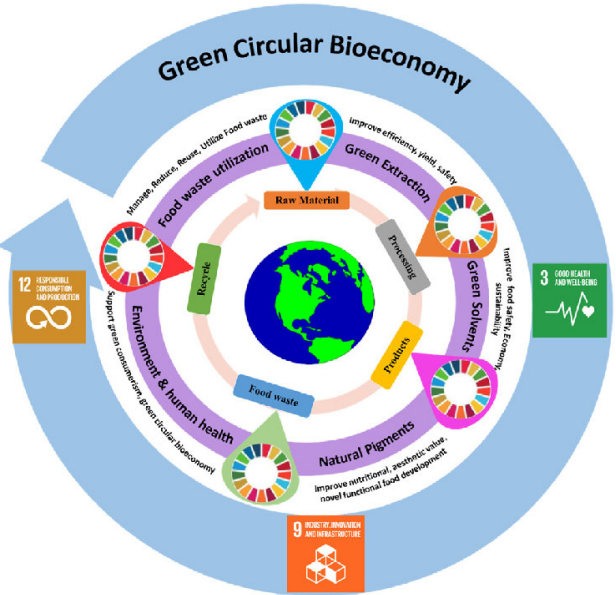
Antitumorigenic activities



Extraction and characterization of bioactive products



Valorization Agro-food wastes



Social, environmental and economic impacts



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Gli insetti, il cibo del nostro prossimo futuro**

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