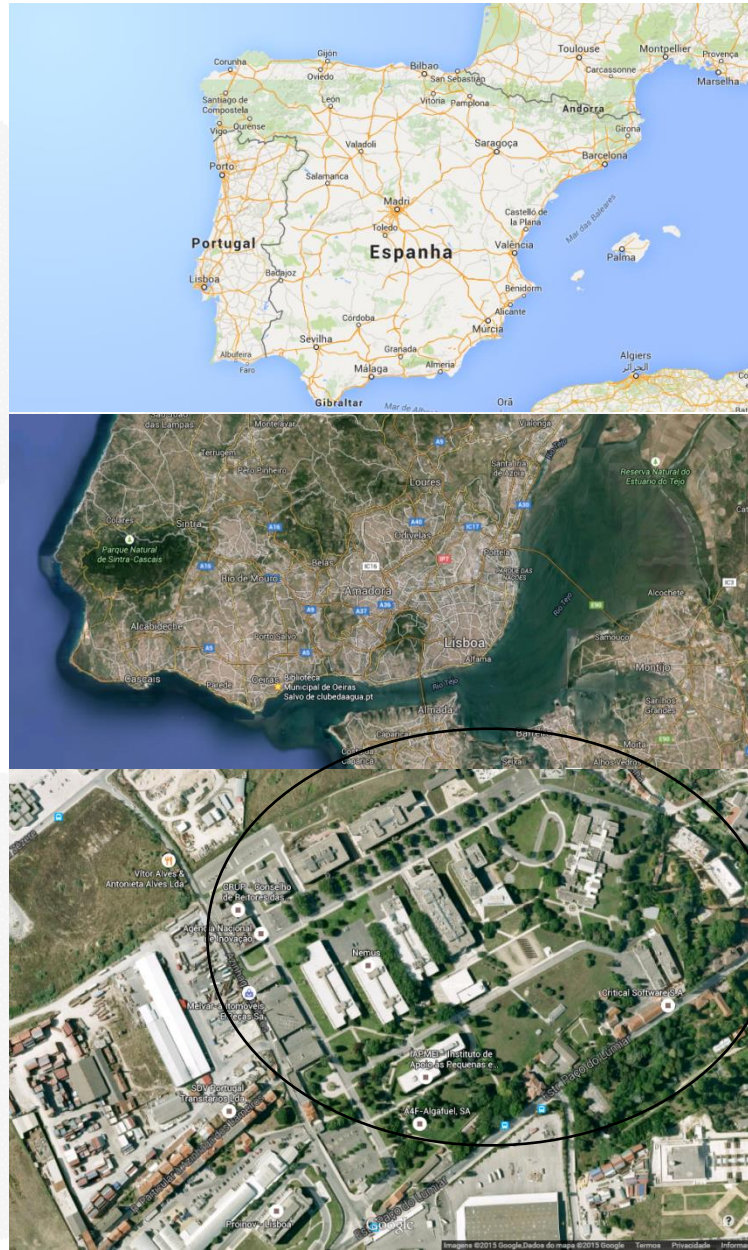


# The **Pros** and **Cons** of Upgrading Fruits & Vegetables Wastes in the Biorefinery Framework

**Luís C. Duarte**, Florbela Carvalheiro, Luísa B. Roseiro,  
Ivone Torrado, Patrícia Moniz, Cristina Oliveira, Júnia Ferreira-Alves,  
Pedro Martins, ...



# Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia

National Laboratory for Energy and Geology

[www.lneg.pt](http://www.lneg.pt)

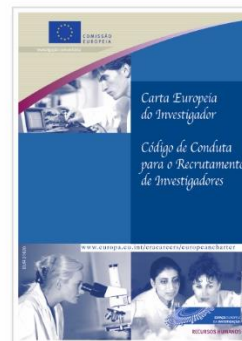


# Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia

## RH de Excelência em Investigação

Implementação dos Princípios da Carta Europeia do Investigador e do Código de Conduta para o Recrutamento de Investigadores.

Em 2010, o Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia aderiu aos princípios da Carta Europeia do Investigador e Código de Conduta para o Recrutamento de Investigadores, em 2013 recebeu o Logo de Excelência em RH de Investigação.



## Carta e Código do Investigador Europeu

### Investigador Europeu

Profissionais que trabalham na conceção ou criação de novos conhecimentos, produtos, processos, métodos, sistemas e na gestão dos projetos.

*Definição de investigador do Manual de Frascati.*

### Investigação

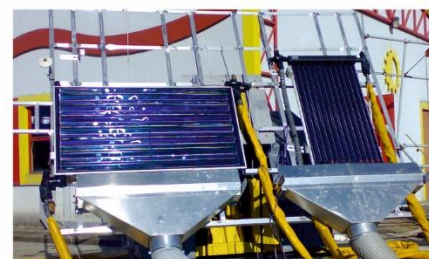
A profissão de investigador abrange todas as pessoas envolvidas em I&D em qualquer fase da carreira e independentemente da categoria profissional.

### Empregadores e Financiadores

- Condições de trabalho
- Estabilidade de emprego
- Financiamento e salários
- Desenvolvimento de carreira

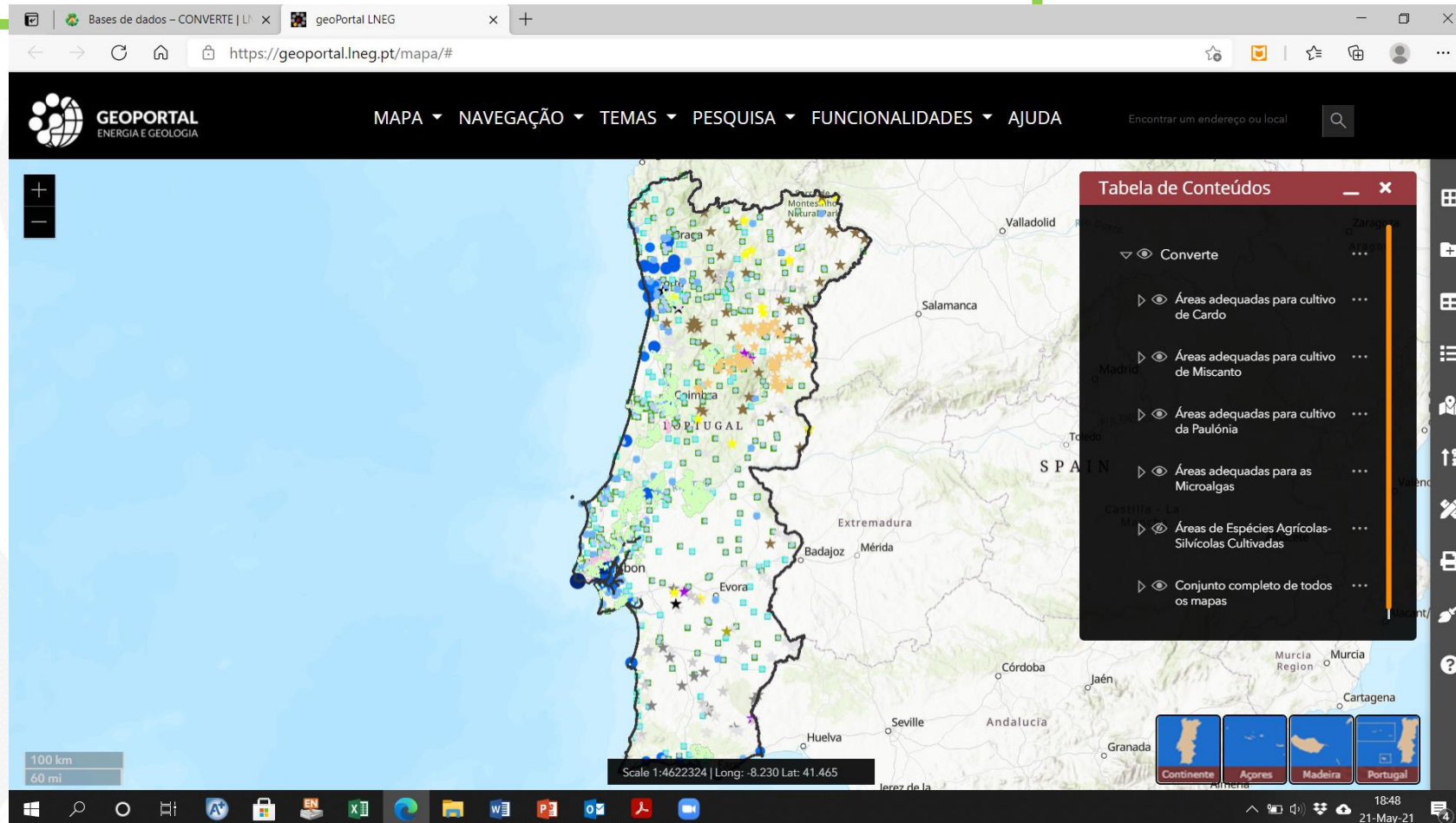
### Princípios Gerais do Investigador

- Liberdade de investigação
- Responsabilidade profissional
- Princípios éticos
- Deveres de orientação e gestão

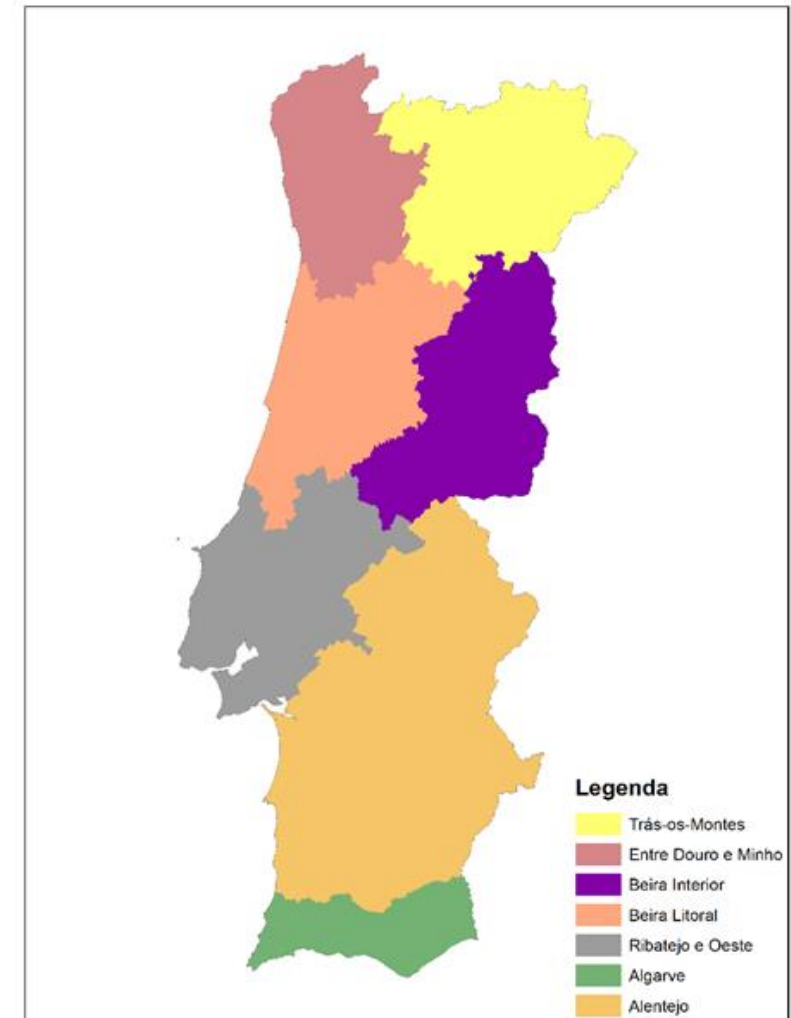


# Information resources

[geoPortal LNEG](https://geoportal.lneg.pt/): National potential for the production of energy crops



# Combining Geographical and Statistical Information resources





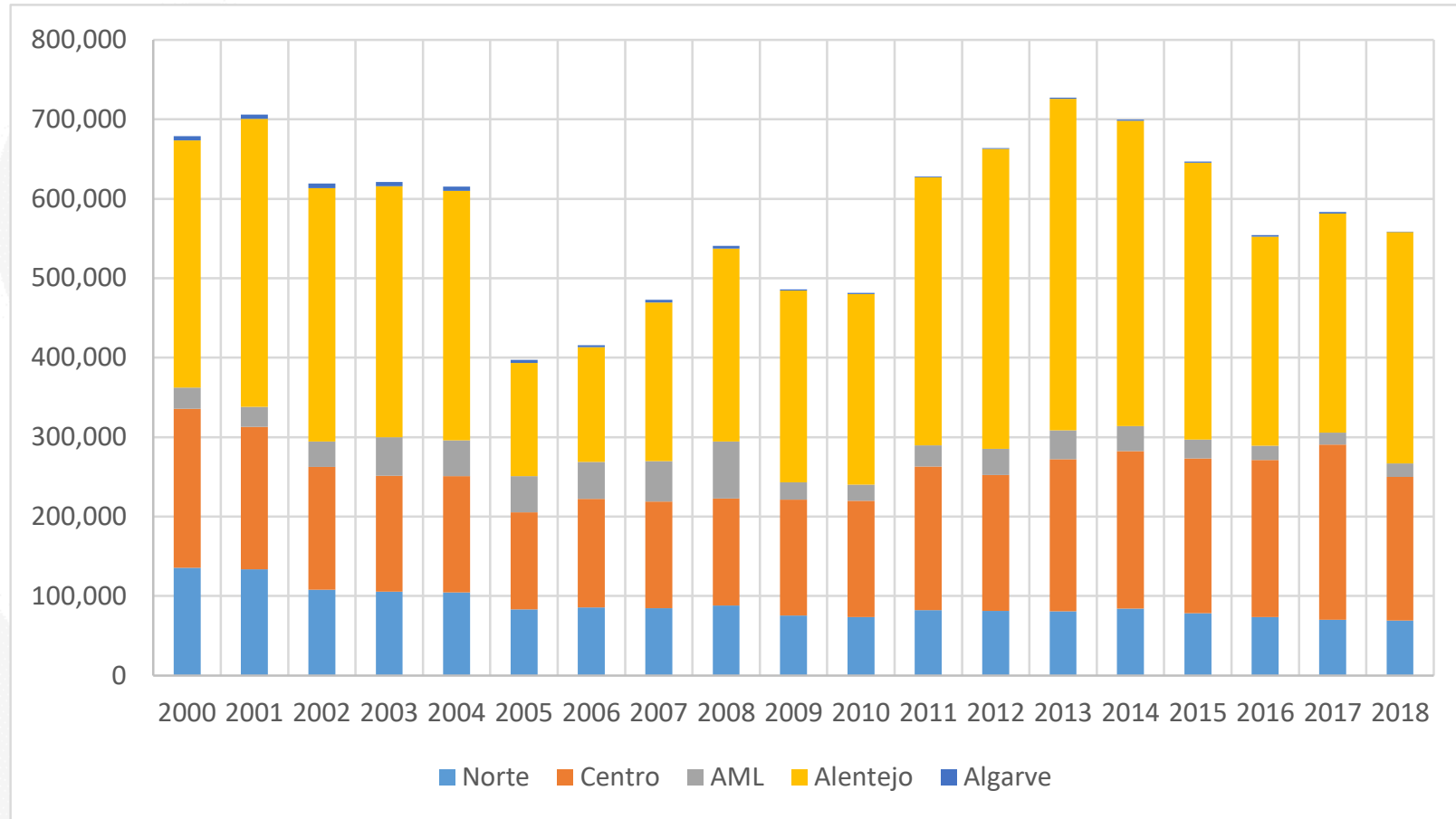


shutterstock.com • 165477674

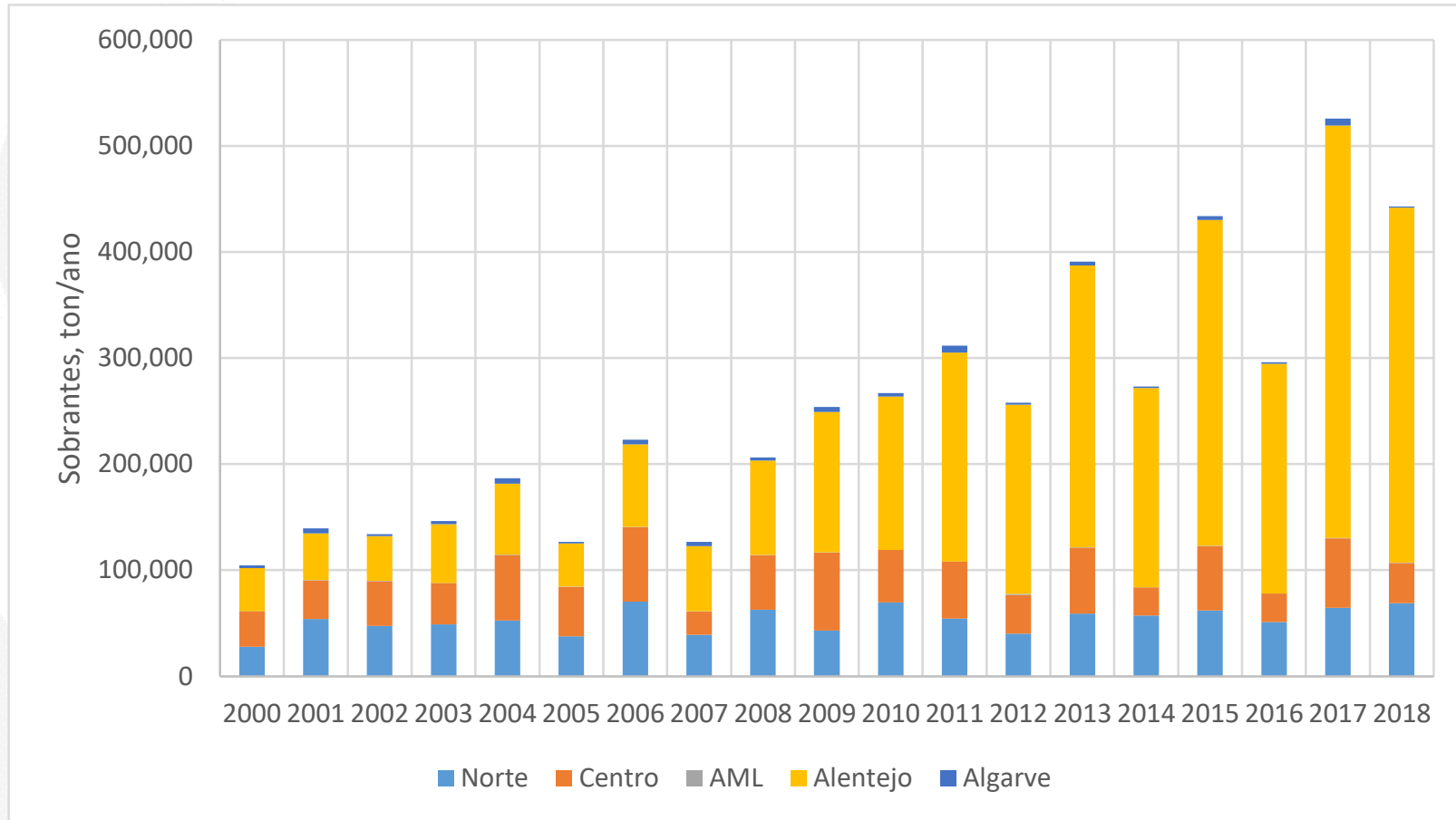


# Agricultural residues

# Corn stover

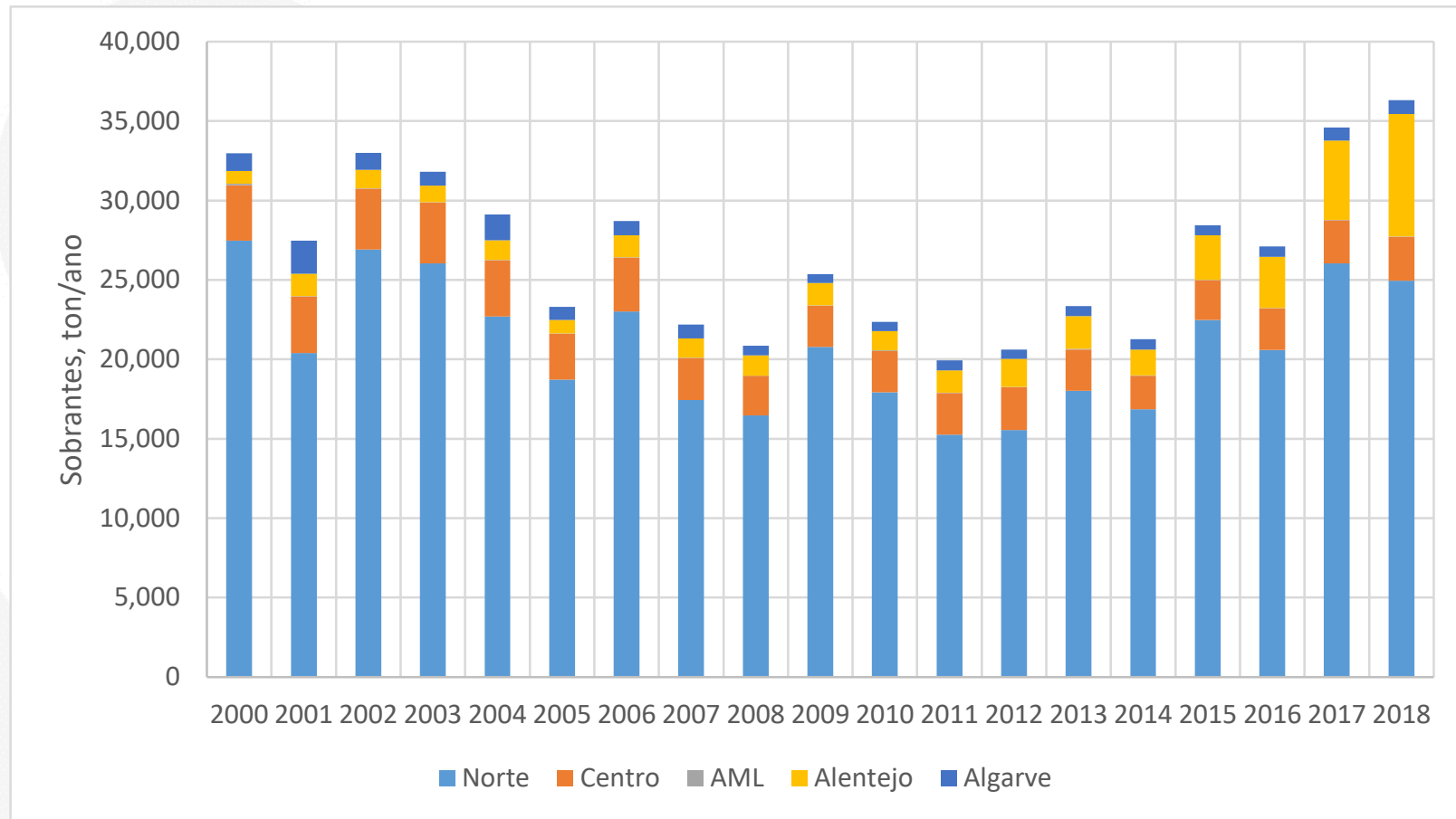


# Olive tree prunnings





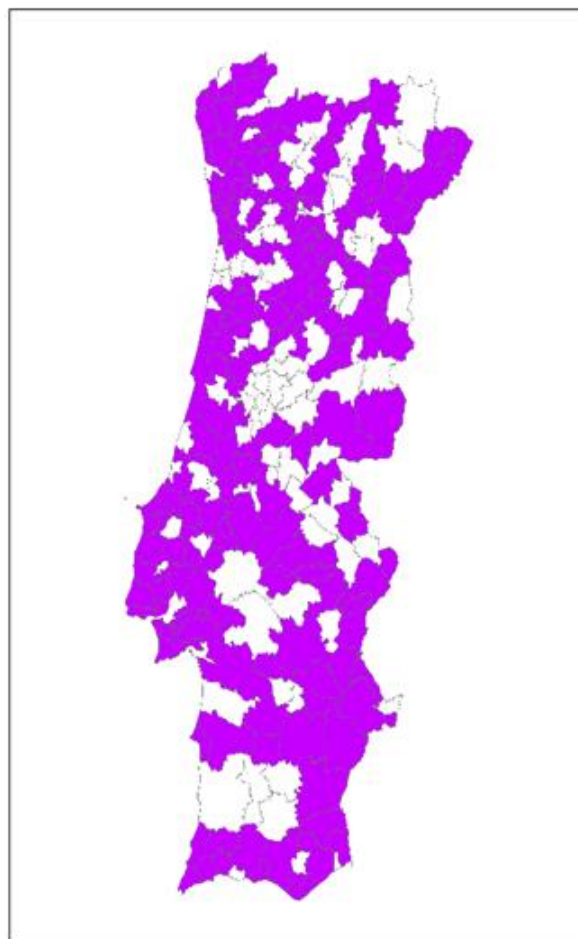
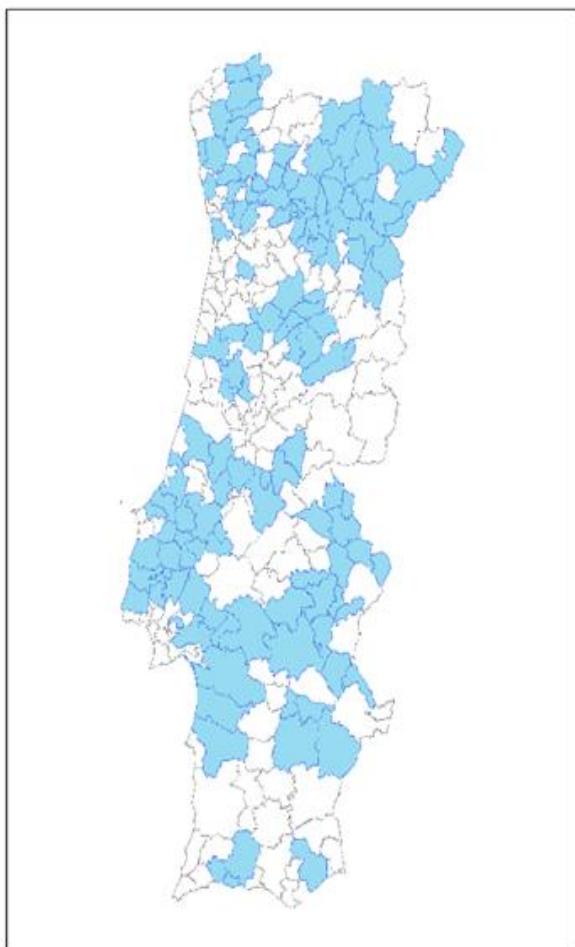
# Orchards prunnings





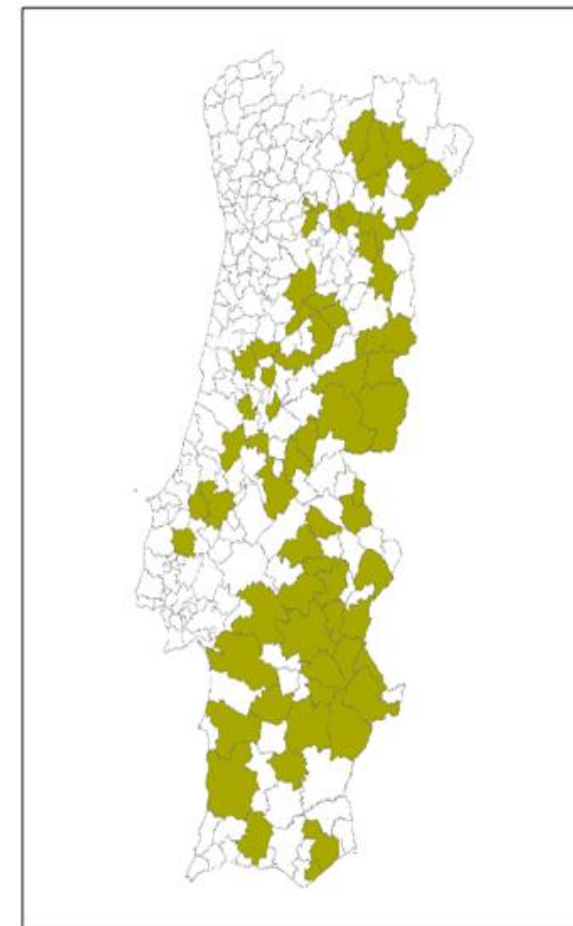
# Agro-food industrial residues





Fruits and vegetables (F&V):

- ✓ **Carob pulp**
- ✓ **Nuts shells**
- ✓ **Peach stones**
- ✓ **Tomato pomace**



Olive oil industry

- ✓ **Extracted Olive Pomace (EOP)**

- Wine sector:
- Wine lees
  - Grape pomace



# These Materials are not created equal!

Biological Nature

Chemical Composition

Structural differences

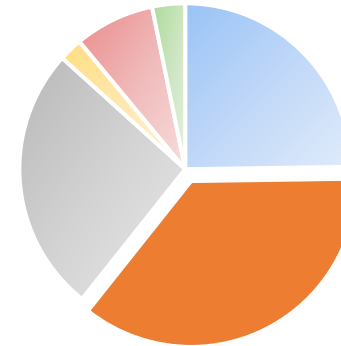
and many other factors

**DO IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY**  
on the their upgrade potential

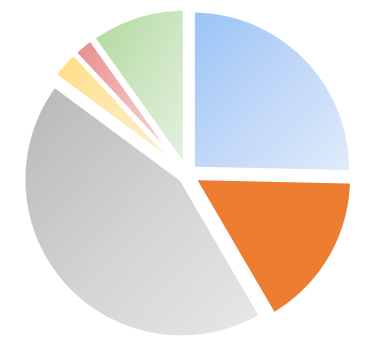
Extracted olive  
Pomace



Almond Shell



Pine nut shell



■ Glucan  
■ Klason Lignin  
■ Total extratives

■ Hemicellulose  
■ Ash  
■ Others (by difference)

# How to estimate the upgradeability of a given material?

What are the **main restrictions to its use?**

What are their  
**Strengths,  
Weaknesses,  
Opportunities and Threats?**

**When** can they be used?

**There are no easy answers to these questions, and they are often dealt with in a rather subjective and non-systematical way**

# The BVPI concept

Biotechnology  
Journal

DOI 10.1002/biot.200700183

Biotechnol. J. 2007, 2, 1556–1563

Technical Report

## Biotechnological valorization potential indicator for lignocellulosic materials

---

*Luís C. Duarte, Maria P. Esteves, Florbela Carvalheiro and Francisco M. Gírio*

INETI, Departamento de Biotecnologia, Lisboa, Portugal

**Upgrade potential can be modeled as a function of 4 main criteria**



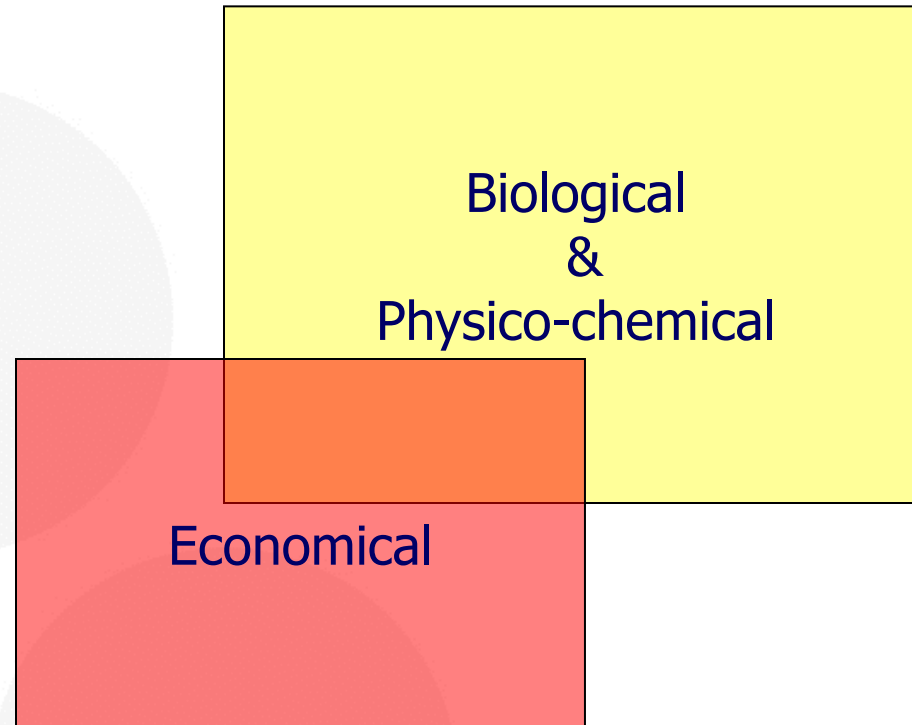
# The BVPI Concept

## 4 Main Evaluation criteria

Biological  
&  
Physico-chemical

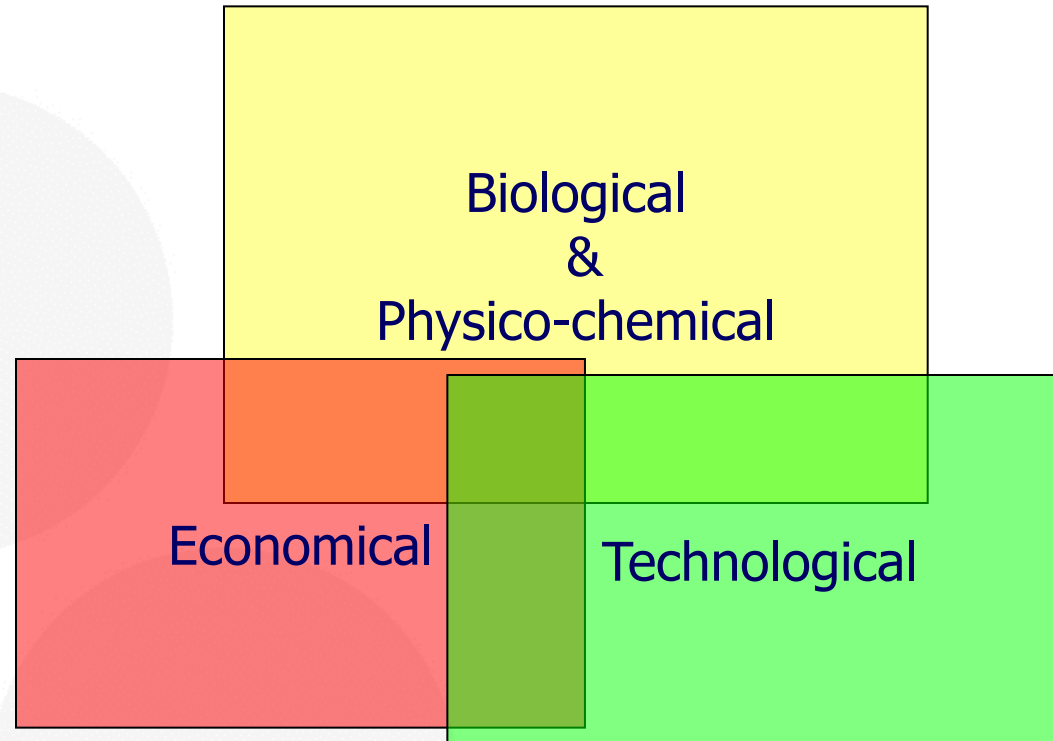
# The BVPI Concept

## 4 Main Evaluation criteria



# The BVPI Concept

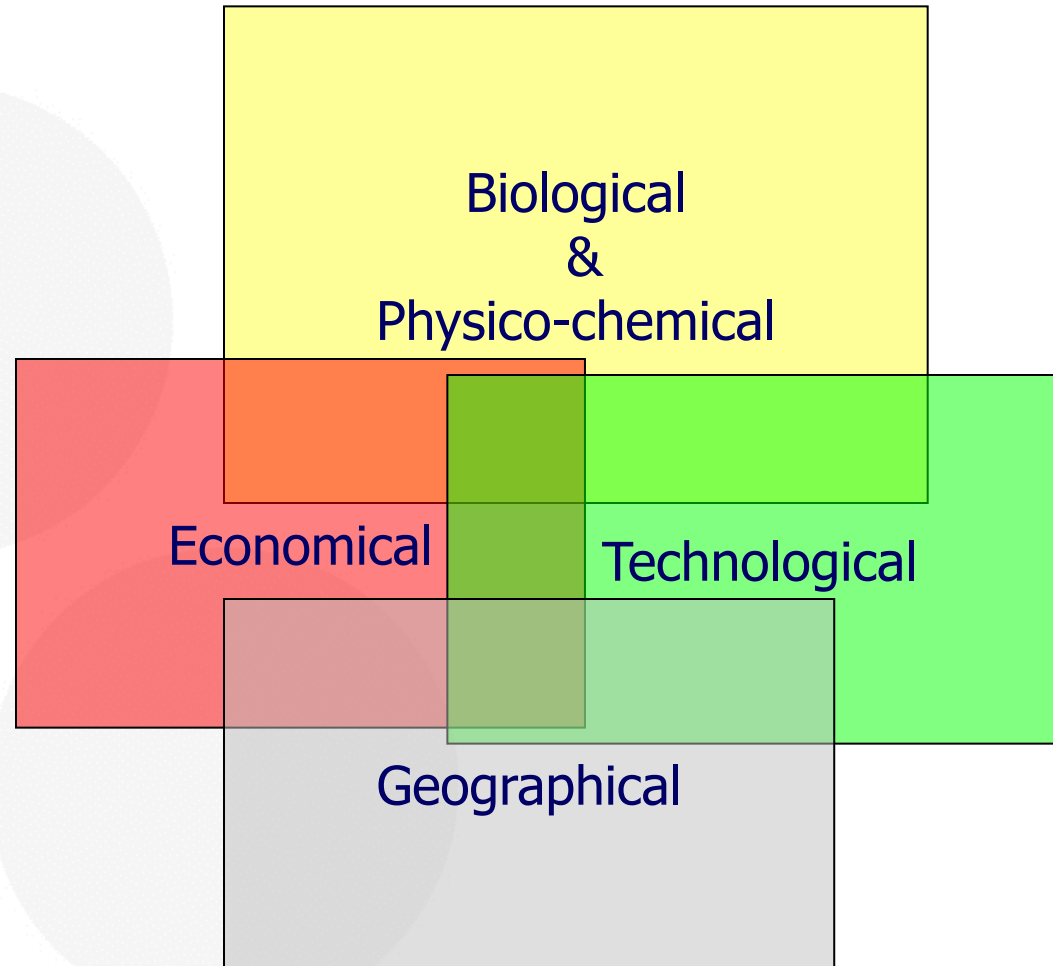
## 4 Main Evaluation criteria





# The BVPI Concept

## 4 Main Evaluation criteria



# The BVPI Rating

**Within each factor, the Lignocellulosic material under study is given a score ( $S_i$ ) from**

**0  
(Undesirable characteristic)**

**To**

**3  
(Strong Positive Impact)**

# Biological and physico-chemical factors grid

Factors	Criterion	Score
Biological nature	<b>Herbaceous</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Softwoods</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Hardwoods</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Mix</b>	<b>0</b>
Macromolecular composition (main or relevant fraction)	<b>Mono-, disaccharides or starch</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Hemicellulose (C6)</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Hemicellulose (C5)</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Cellulose</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Protein/Other</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Lignin</b>	<b>0</b>
Water content (%)	<b>&lt; 15</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>&lt; 40</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>40-80</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>&gt; 80</b>	<b>0</b>
Physical characteristics	<b>Soft and high density materials</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Soft and low density materials</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Hard and high density materials</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Hard and low density materials</b>	<b>0</b>



# Economical factors grid

Factors	Criterion	Score
Seasonality (available during...)	All year	3
	< 9 months	2
	< 6 months	1
	< 3 months	0
Economic value (€/t)	< 0	3
	0-40	2
	40-120	1
	> 120	0
Market dependency	High	3
	Medium	2
	Low	1
	Null	0

# Technological factors grid

Factors	Criterion	Score
Currently applied technology/destination	<b>None</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Energy</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Recycling/upgrade</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Reutilization</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Industrial feedstock</b>	<b>0</b>
Development stage of the Biorefinery processing technology	<b>Mature</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Demonstration</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Development</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Null</b>	<b>0</b>

# Geographical factors Grid

Geographical factors classification grid

Factors	Criterion	Score
Total available quantities (current or potential) (t/year)	> 80 000,0	3
	< 80 000,0	2
	< 24 000,0	1
	< 8 000,0	0
Geographical concentration (t / (year Region))	> 80 000,0	3
	< 80 000,0	2
	< 24 000,0	1
	< 8 000,0	0
Political or legal constrains (Situation concerning upgrading)	Compulsory/strongly supported	3
	Supported/Subsidized	2
	Neutral	1
	Prohibit	0

# The BVPI Concept

## Computation

$$BVPI = \sum_{i=1}^{i=12} S_i$$

No weighting

No scaling

0

36





# The BVPI Evaluation results

Order	Material	Biological nature	Macromolecular composition	Water content	Physical characteristics	Seasonality	Economic value	Market dependency	Current technology / destination	Development stage of upgrade technology	Available quantities (actual)	Geographical concentration	Political or legal constraints	BVPI
1	Rice husks	3	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	26
2	Brewery's spent grain	3	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	1	25
3	Carob pulp	1	3	3	3	3	0	3	1	1	2	2	1	23
4	Tomato pomace	3	1	1	2	0	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	21
5	De-alcoholized grape bagasse	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	21
6	Extracted olive bagasse	1	1	3	3	3	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	21
7	Grape stalks	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	19
8	De-alcoholized wine lees	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	19
9	Pine nut shells	2	1	3	1	3	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	18
10	Rice bran	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	18
11	Rice middlings	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	18
12	Rice greens	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	18
13	Olive bagasse	1	0	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	3	2	1	17
14	Citrus peels	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	17
15	Grape seeds	1	0	3	2	2	2	3	0	1	0	1	1	16
16	Malt dust	3	0	3	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	16
17	Almond shells	1	1	3	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	15
18	Nuts shells	1	1	3	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	15
19	Fruit pulp	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	15
20	Malt culms	3	0	3	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	15
21	Grape bagasse	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	10
22	Wine lees	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	10

## Main advantages:

- No significant Seasonality
- Quantities: Ok

## Main restrictions:

- Macromolecular composition,
- Underdeveloped Technology,
- Lack of national political support

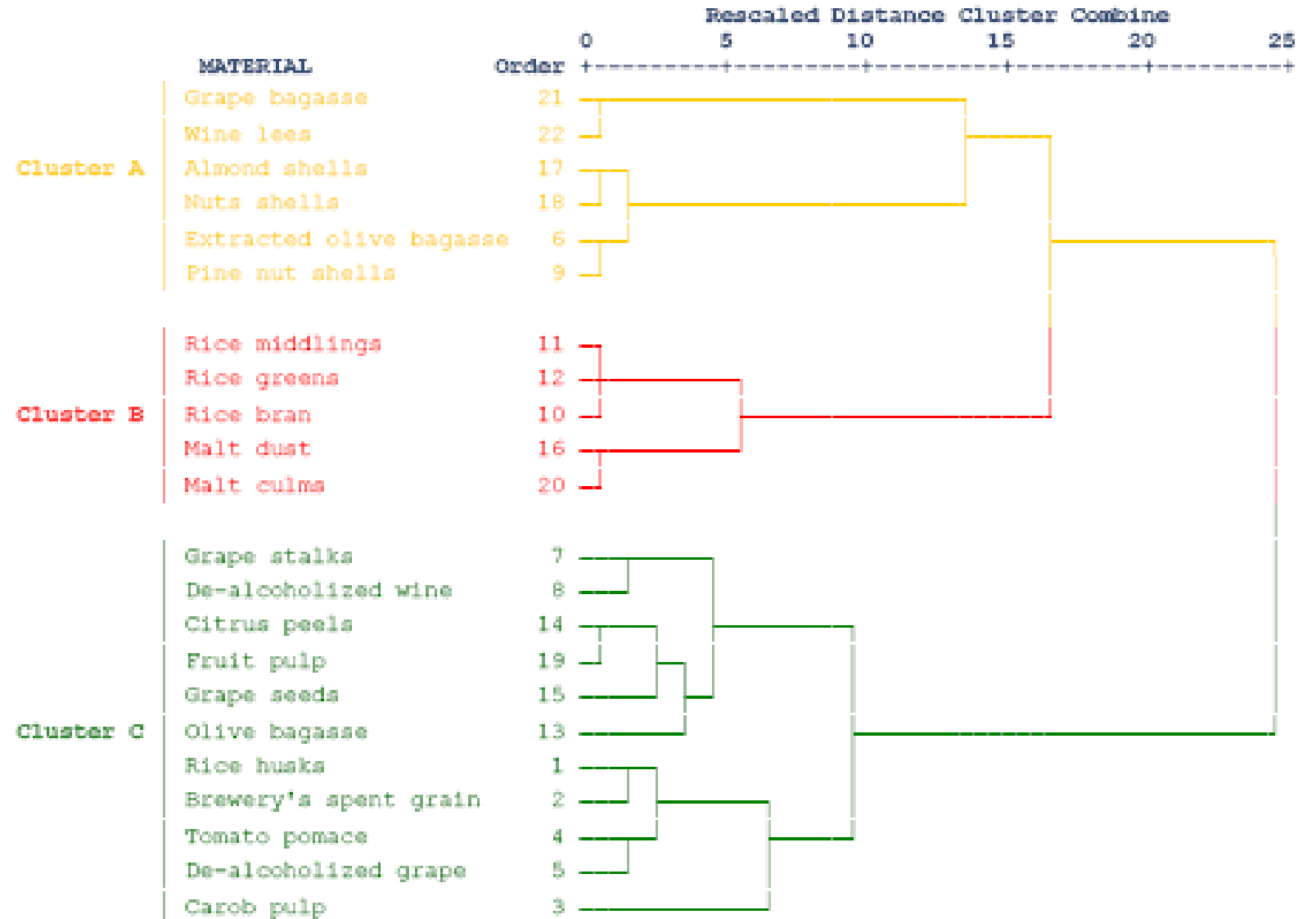
# The BVPI Analysis

## 3 Main groups

- Feedstock for the Biorefinery Thermochemical Platform

- Agro-industrial CO-PRODUCTS (Uninteresting for the Biorefinery)

- Feedstock for the Biorefinery Biochemical Platform



# The “ideal” feedstock:

## Carob Pulp



- High (40-50%) sugar (Sucrose, Fru and Glc) content
- Significant amountSD: >> 40.000.000 kg/yr
- Highly geographically concentrated (Algarve)
- No seasonality problems (easy storage)
- Favorable policies (carob plantation is being subsidized)

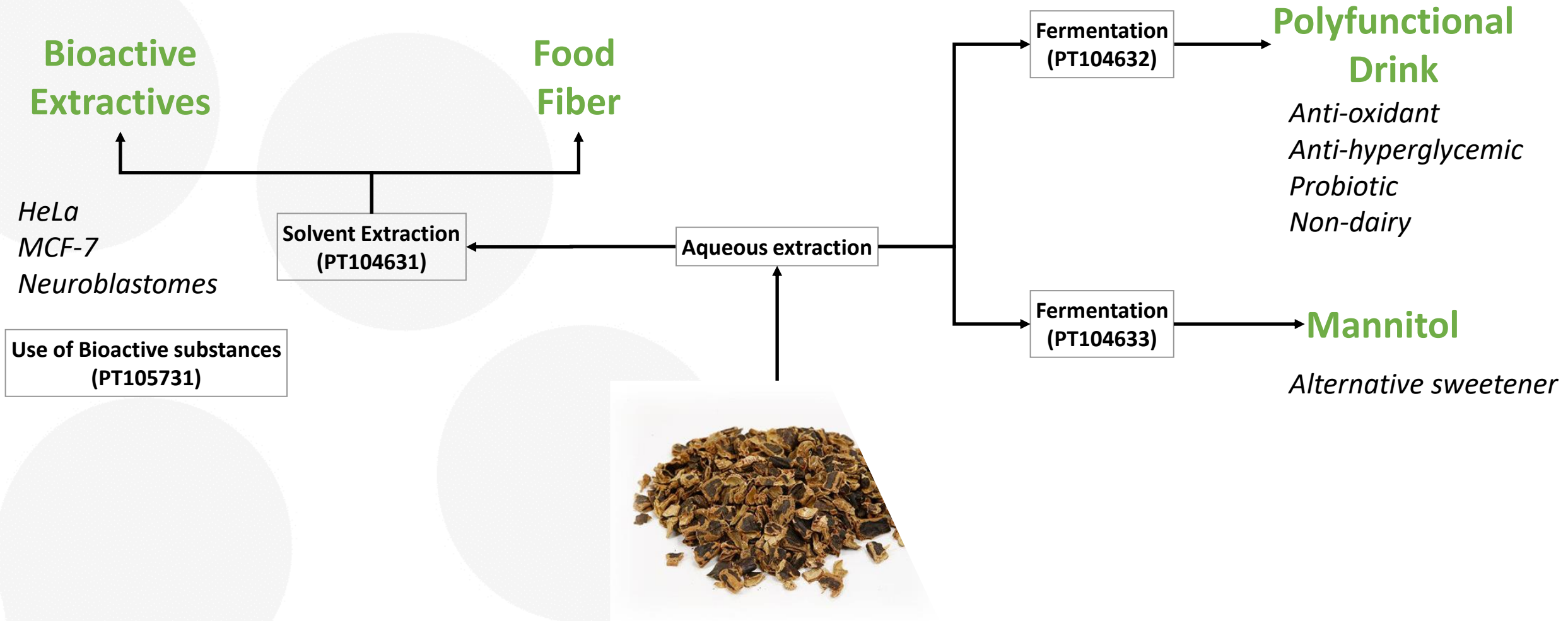
Price...







# ValorAlfa Valorization Strategy





# UPCYCLED FOOD Definition

---

***“Upcycled foods use ingredients that otherwise *would not have gone to human consumption*, are procured and produced using *verifiable supply chains*, and *have a positive impact on the environment*.”***

Upcycled products prevent food waste by **creating New, High Quality Products out of surplus food.**



# UPCYCLED FOOD Elements

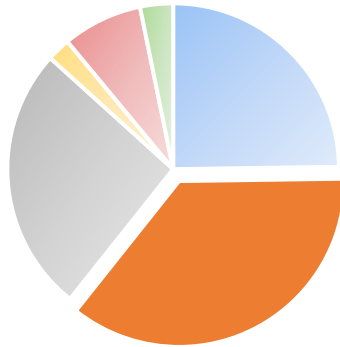
1. Upcycled foods are made from ingredients that would otherwise have ended up in a food waste destination
2. Upcycled foods are value-added products
3. Upcycled foods are for human consumption
4. Upcycled foods have an auditable supply chain
5. Upcycled foods indicate which ingredients are upcycled on their labels

# *Recalcitrant (non-edible) materials*

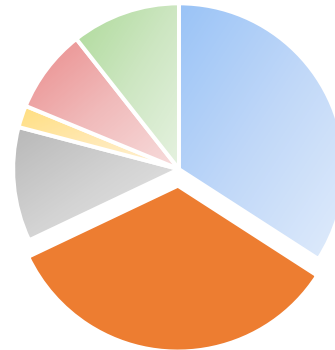
**Extracted olive  
Pomace**



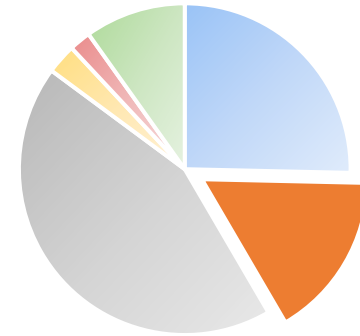
**Almond Shell**



**Corn cobs**

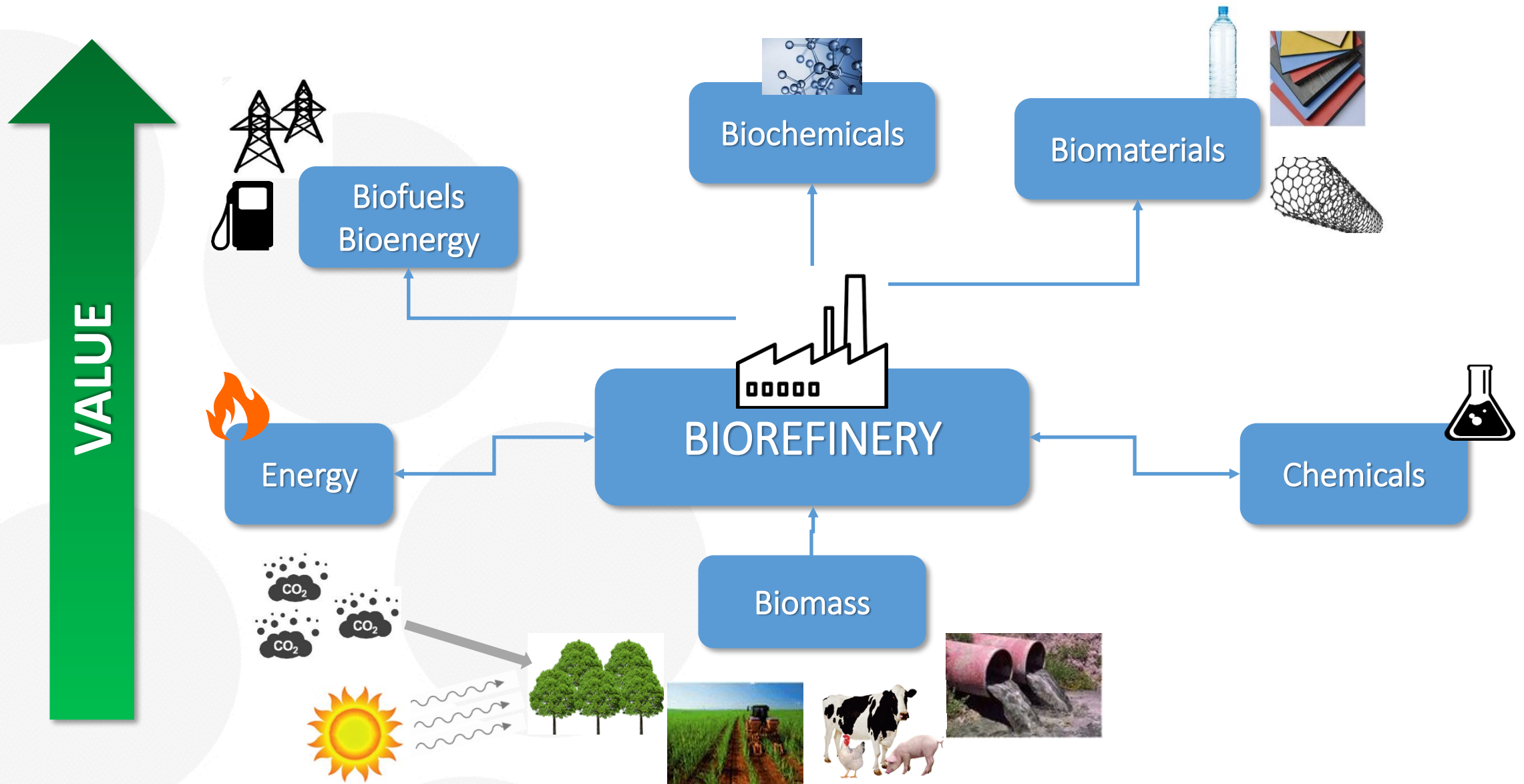


**Pine nut shell**

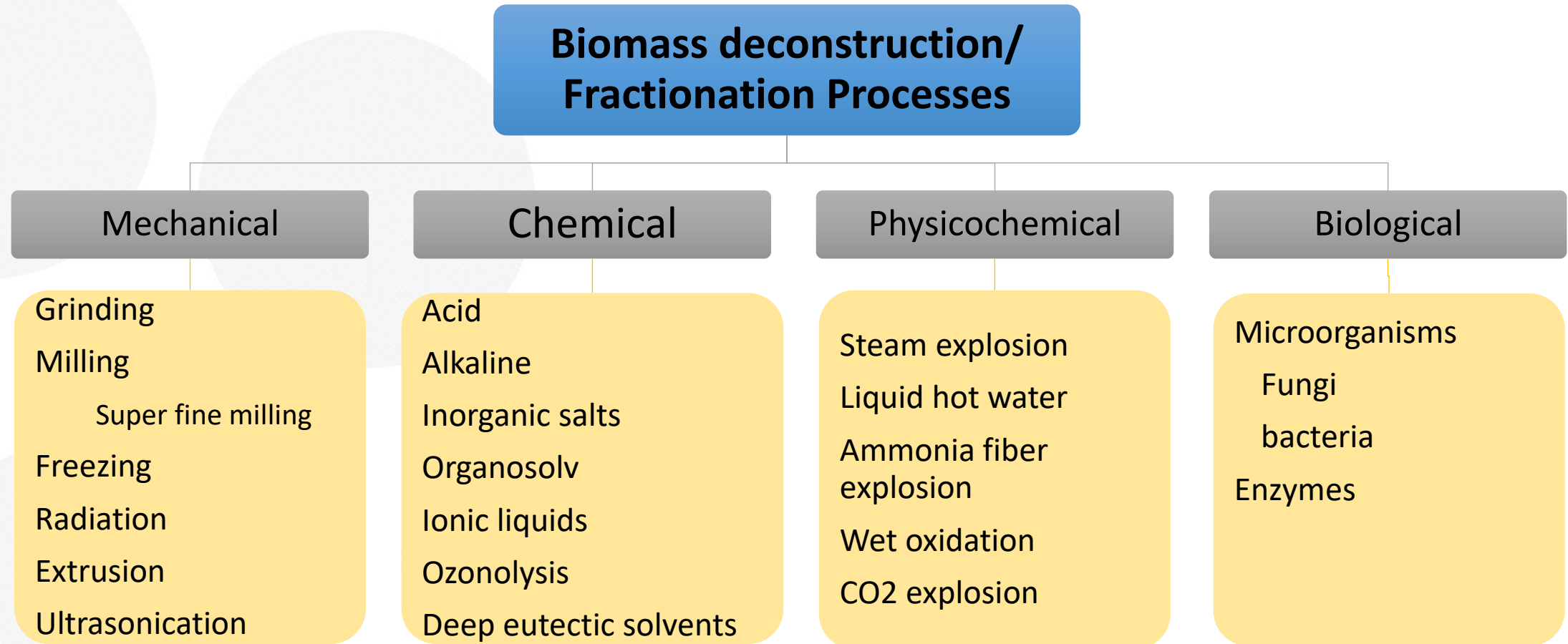




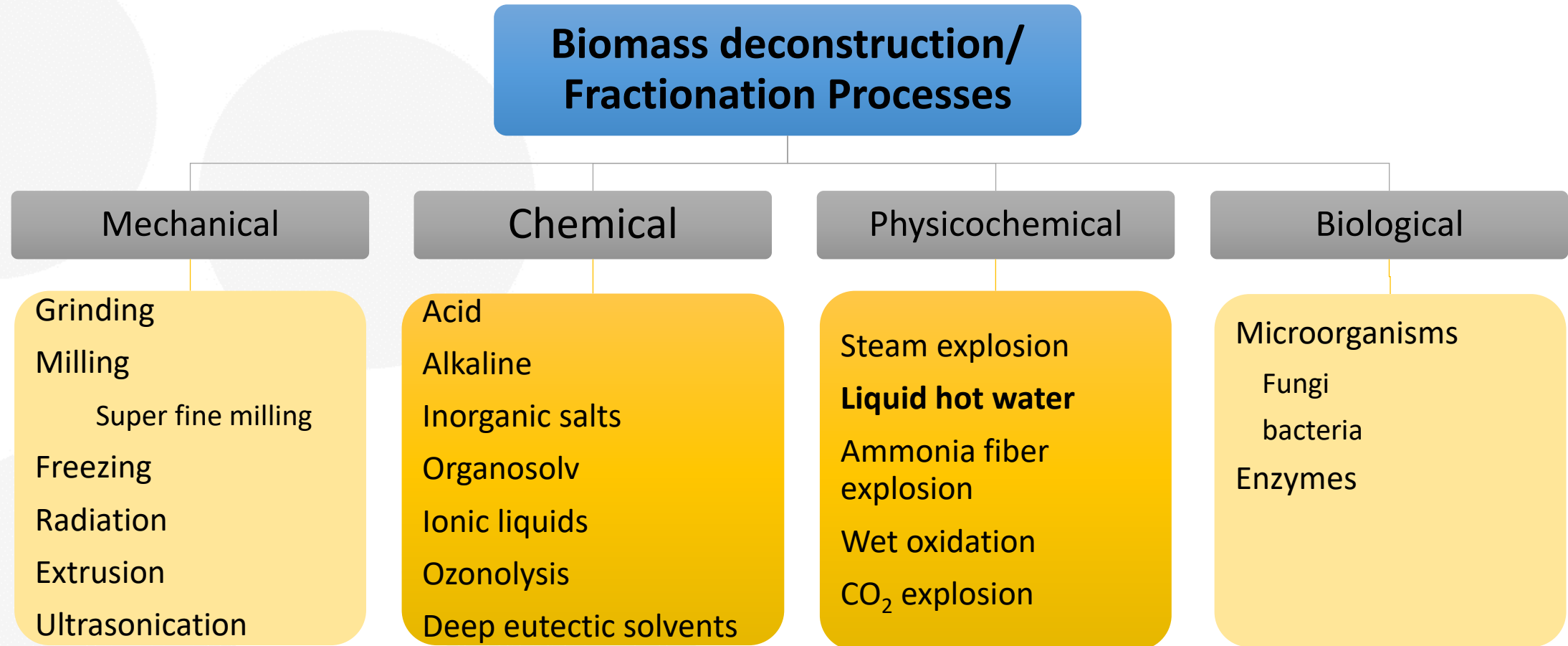
# Biorefineries



# *Fractionation process options*



# *Fractionation process options*



# Liquid hot water: Fractionation and upgrading step

## Modeling and Analysis

**Techno-economic and life-cycle assessments of small-scale biorefineries for isobutene and xylo-oligosaccharides production: a comparative study in Portugal and Chile**

## (Xylo-) Oligosaccharides



### XOS

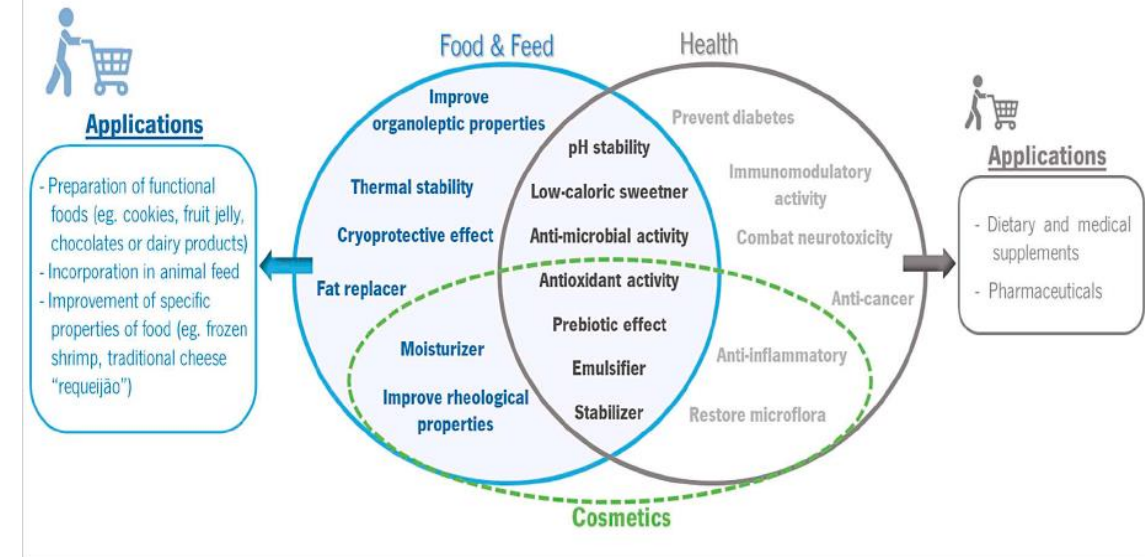
- Functional food ingredients **recognized by FDA (2019)**
- High Market Value
- But still **low market demand**

Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery  
https://doi.org/10.1007/s13399-023-05244-z

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Microwave-assisted hydrothermal processing of pine nut shells for oligosaccharide production

Ivone Torrado<sup>1,2,3</sup> • Beatriz Guapo Neves<sup>1</sup> • Maria da Conceição Fernandes<sup>1,4</sup> • Florbela Carvalheiro<sup>3</sup> • Helena Pereira<sup>2</sup> • Luís C. Duarte<sup>3</sup>



Waste Management 119 (2021) 306–314

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Waste Management

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



### Assessment of the effect of autohydrolysis treatment in banana's pseudostem pulp

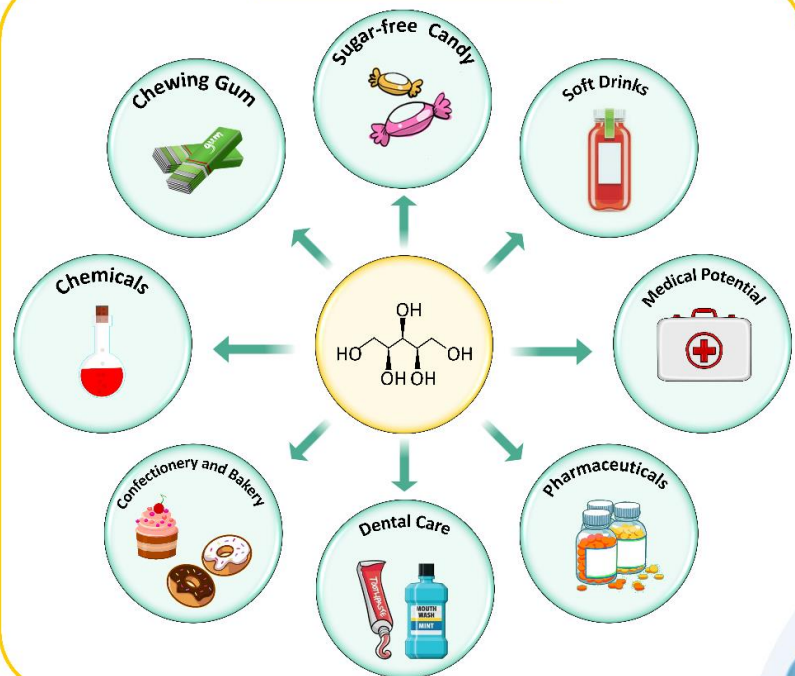
Sara Díaz<sup>a</sup>, Zaida Ortega<sup>a</sup>, Antonio N. Benítez<sup>a</sup>, Diogo Costa<sup>b</sup>, Florbela Carvalheiro<sup>b</sup>, Maria C. Fernandes<sup>c,d</sup>, Luís C. Duarte<sup>b,a</sup>





# Monosaccharides and Polyols as pivotal biorefinery products

## XYLITOL APPLICATIONS



reactions



Article

## Combination of Autohydrolysis and Catalytic Hydrolysis of Biomass for the Production of Hemicellulose Oligosaccharides and Sugars

Léa Vilcocq <sup>1,\*</sup>, Agnès Crepet <sup>2</sup>, Patrick Jame <sup>3</sup>, Florbela Carvalheiro <sup>4</sup> and Luis C. Duarte <sup>4</sup>



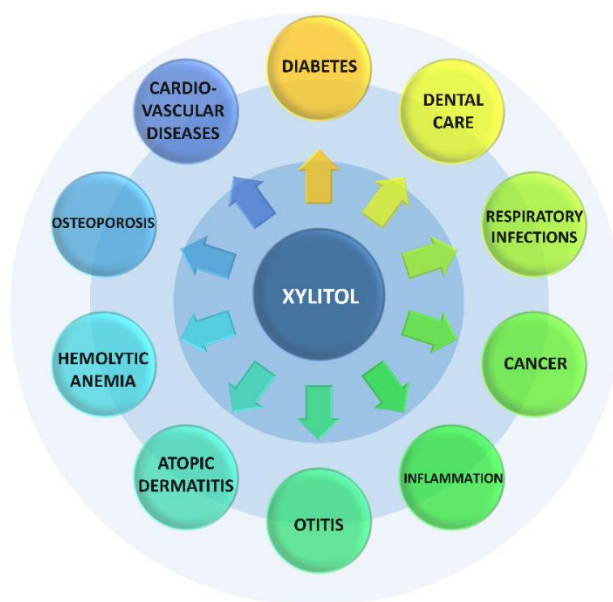
fermentation



Article

## Xylitol Production by *Debaryomyces hansenii* in Extracted Olive Pomace Dilute-Acid Hydrolysate

Ana Rita C. Morais <sup>1</sup>, Luís C. Duarte <sup>1</sup> , Pedro Lourenço <sup>2</sup>, Ivone Torrado <sup>1</sup>, Teresa Brás <sup>3,4</sup> , Luísa A. Neves <sup>5</sup> and Florbela Carvalheiro <sup>1,\*</sup>



## *Take home messages*

- BVPI can be a useful tool to ascertain the upgrade potential of a give material
- might be useful starting point for the development of more robust classification criteria for food waste products
- Biorefinery concepts are useful for the upgrade of food waste materials and to enable their maintenance/upscale as food products

Dr Léa Vilcocq

Dr Sara Díaz

Dr Pedro Branco

Dr Rita Morais

Dr Teresa Brás

Dr Pedro Lourenço

Dr Helena Pereira

Dr Bartha Sandor

Dr Tiago Lopes

Diogo Costa

Bruno Sampaio

Gabriel Mota Ribeiro

Mafalda Batalha

Inês César

João Fialho

Céu Penedo

Belina Ribeiro



**CONVERTE**  
POTENCIAL BIOMÁSSICO PARA ENERGIA

Cofinanciado por:



Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia



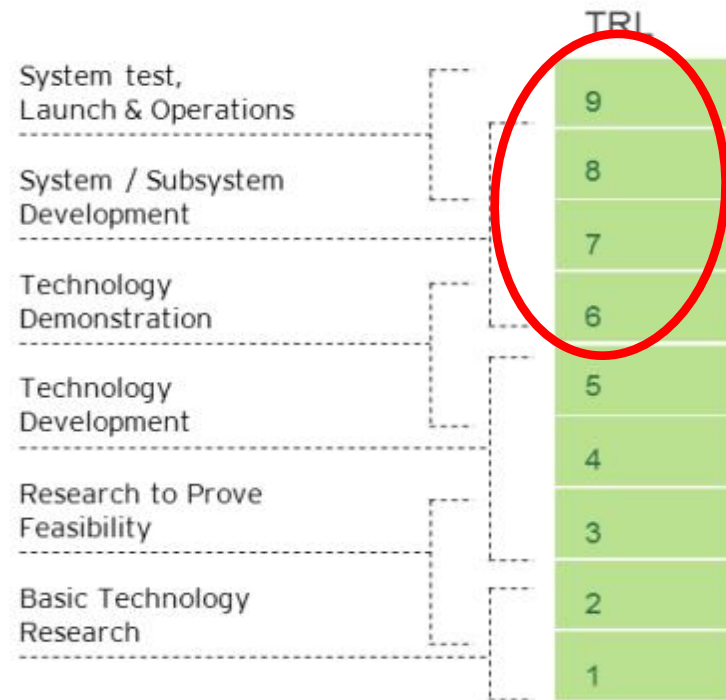
# Thank you for your attention



<https://www.5ciab.es>

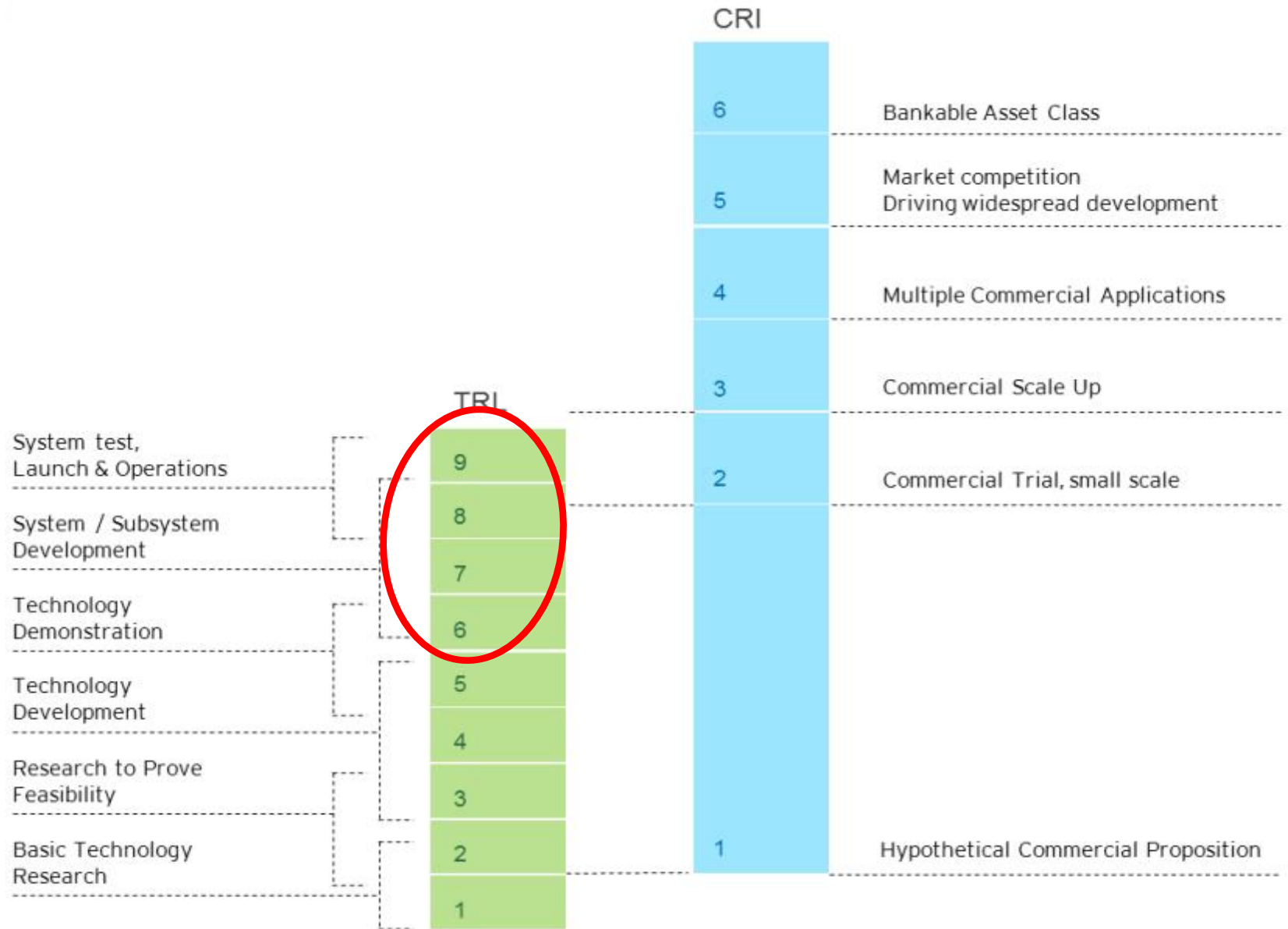


# TRL of current technologies under development for Advanced Biofuels

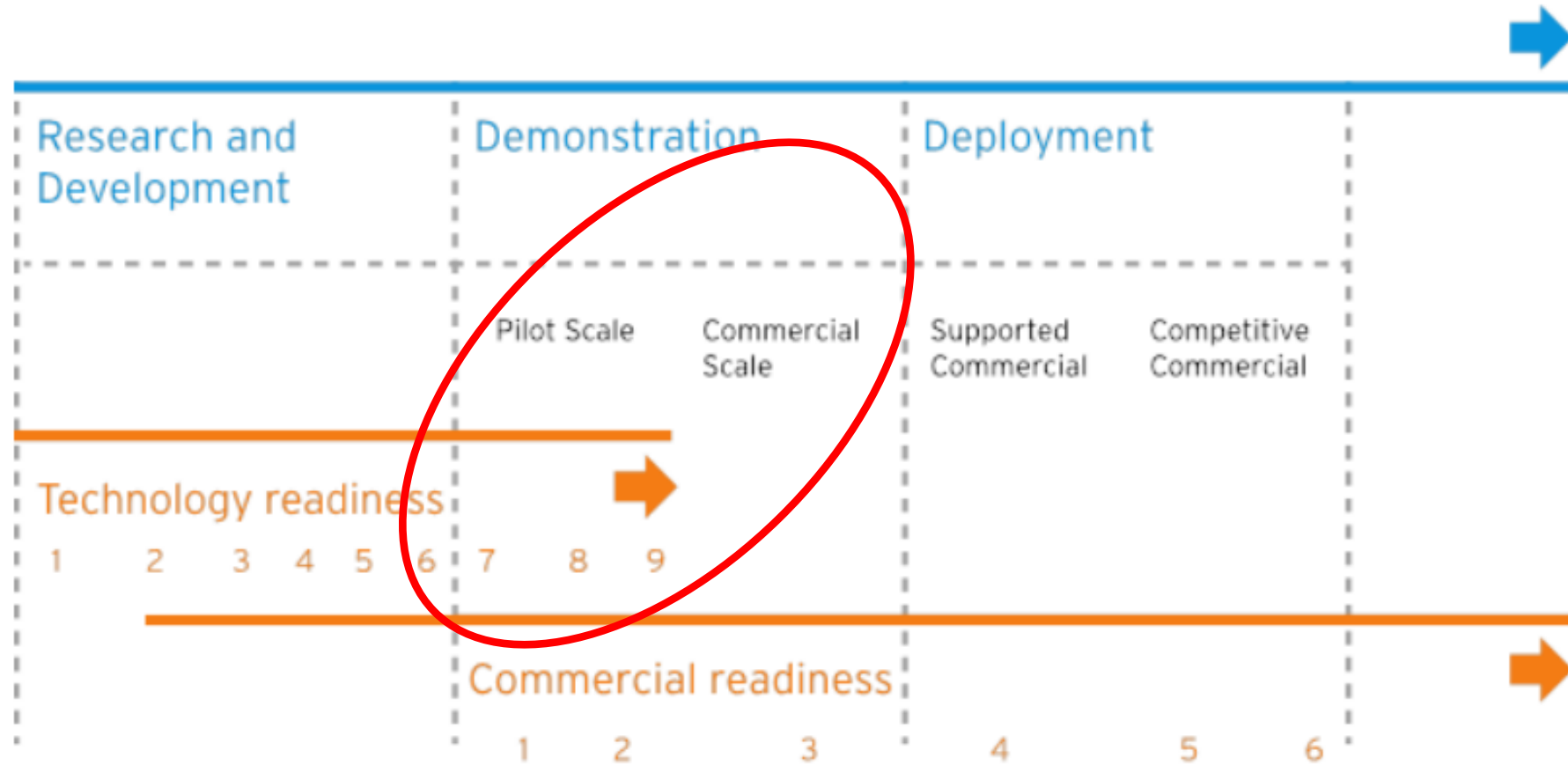




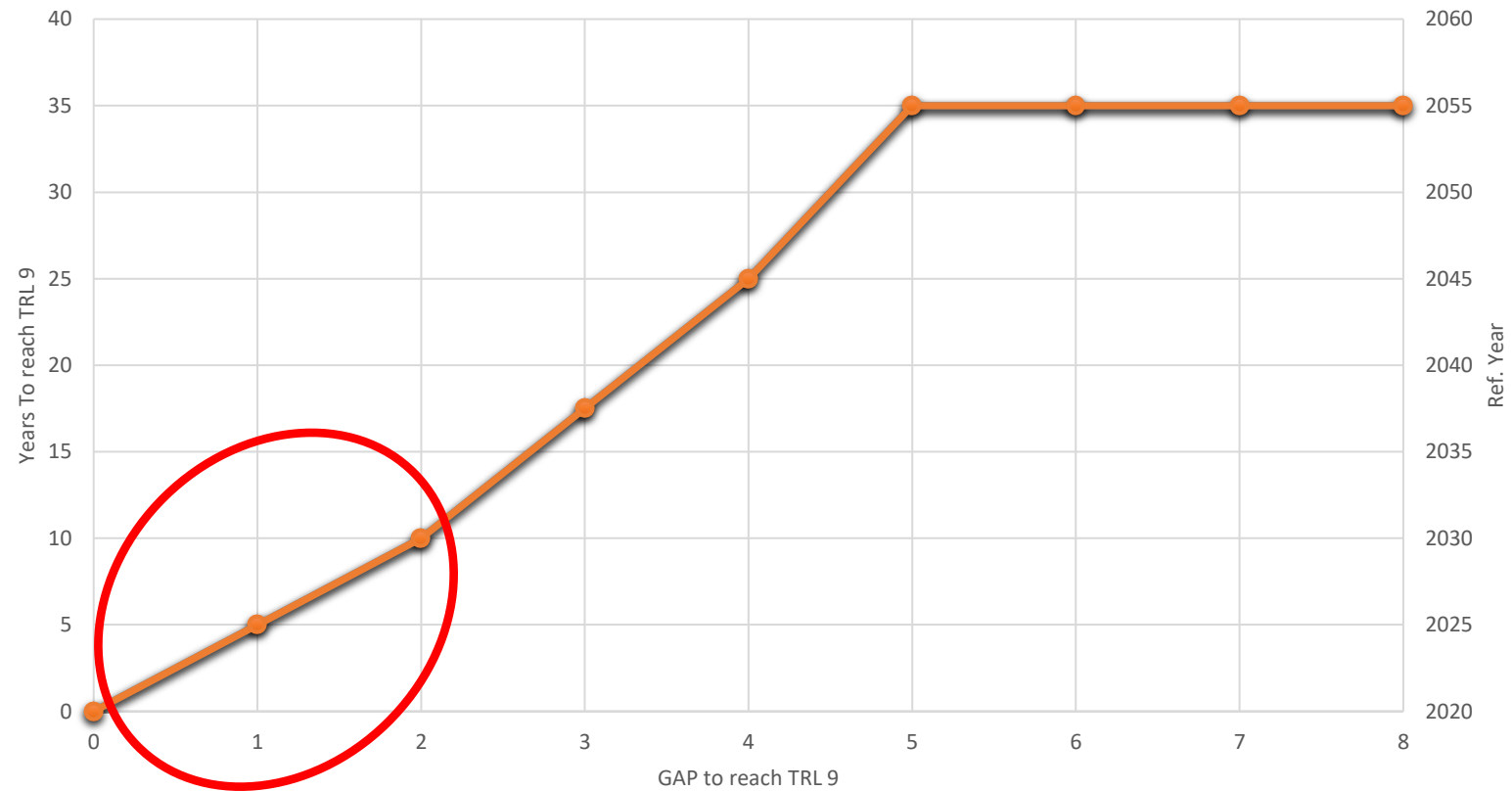
# TRL vs. CRI - Commercial-Readiness Index

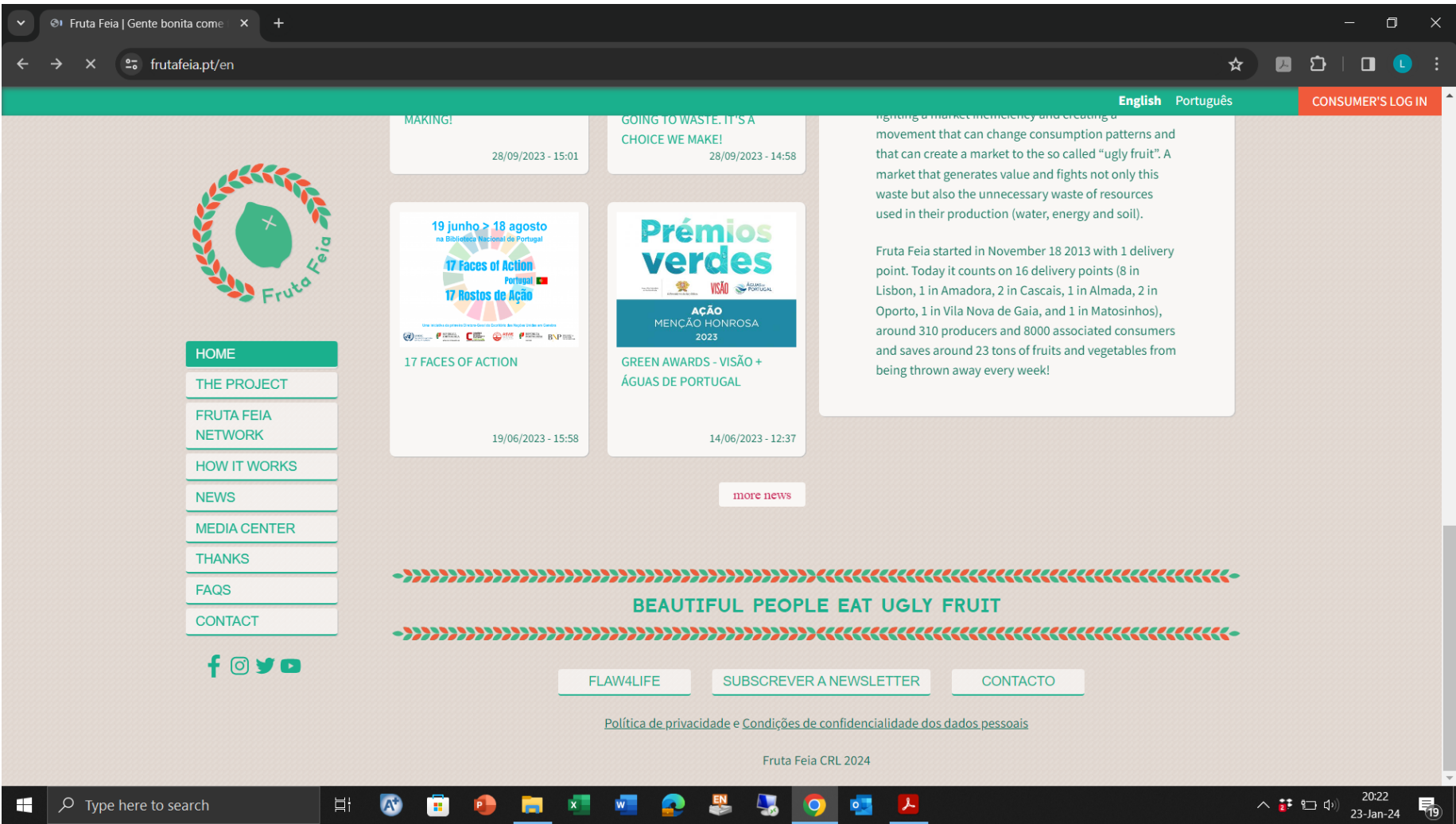


# TRL vs. CRI - Commercial-Readiness Index



# R&DD Timeframe





# Hemicelluloses upgrade

## Prebiotic Oligosaccharides

- ✓ Prebiotic activity
- ✓ Food supplement

OS consumers

## Probiotics

- ✓ Benefits to health
- ✓ Food supplement

## Posbiotic acids

- ✓ Building block
- ✓ Acidulant)
- ✓ Food flavouring
- ✓ Food preservative



## Patent 1

# Symbiotic drinks obtained from coffee grounds



**“Upcycled foods are for human consumption”**

- ✓ Is all about elevating food to its highest and best use
- ✓ Are made from ingredients that would otherwise have ended up in a food waste destination

**Coffee grounds**



- ✓ Zero value
- ✓ Antioxidant



- ✓ Green/Sustainable
- ✓ Cost-effective



**Symbiotic drink**



- ✓ Upcycled food
- ✓ Milk free
- ✓ Pre-, Pos-, and Probiotic