

# AFTERLIFE

## PHA production from industrial waste streams as part of sustainable plastics production towards a circular plastics economy

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# Interdisciplinary Thematic Platforms of CSIC

*(Plataformas Temáticas Interdisciplinarias, PTI)*



- Joining the knowledge of CSIC expert groups with other groups from companies, universities, public research bodies, administration, and social agents
- Addressing well defined challenges, within specific deadlines, with clear milestones



## Connecting with the "Global Challenges"



One of the novel CSIC PTIs is  
SusPlast:

***“Interdisciplinary Platform for  
Sustainable Plastics towards a  
Circular Economy”***



Interdisciplinary Platform for Sustainable  
Plastics towards a Circular Economy

## Our "plastic" mission:

*SusPlast aims to develop research and innovation activities, including socio-educational strategies, aimed at plastic production processes and their recycling, **through mechanical, chemical and biotechnological strategies** to meet the necessary requirements to implement plastics management based on a circular economy.*

## 14 SusPlast CSIC partner institutes in Spain



## Private partners supporting SusPlast



## Current projects on polymers, plastic & bioplastic issues and their focus areas that are part of SusPlast platform:

### H2020 – NMBP



### H2020 – BBI



### H2020 – CE/CIRC



### H2020-INFRAIA



### H2020 - SPIRE



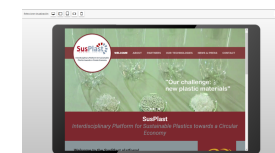
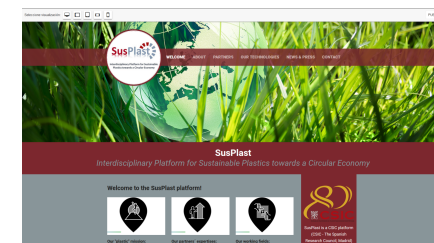
### H2020 – ERA



Interdisciplinary Platform for Sustainable  
Plastics towards a Circular Economy

Find us at:

[www.susplast-csic.org](http://www.susplast-csic.org)





# AFTERLIFE



**Biological Research Center (CIB-CSIC), Madrid (Spain)**

**Dr Oliver Drzyzga: EU Project manager & SusPlast platform manager ([www.susplast-csic.org](http://www.susplast-csic.org))**

**Polymer Biotechnology Group: Prof Auxiliadora Prieto**

**Results: MSc Natalia Hernández Herrero**



AFTERLIFE – **A**dvanced **F**iltration **T**echnologies for the **R**ecovery and **L**ater conversion of rele**V**ant Fractions from wast**E**water



Sweets manufacturer

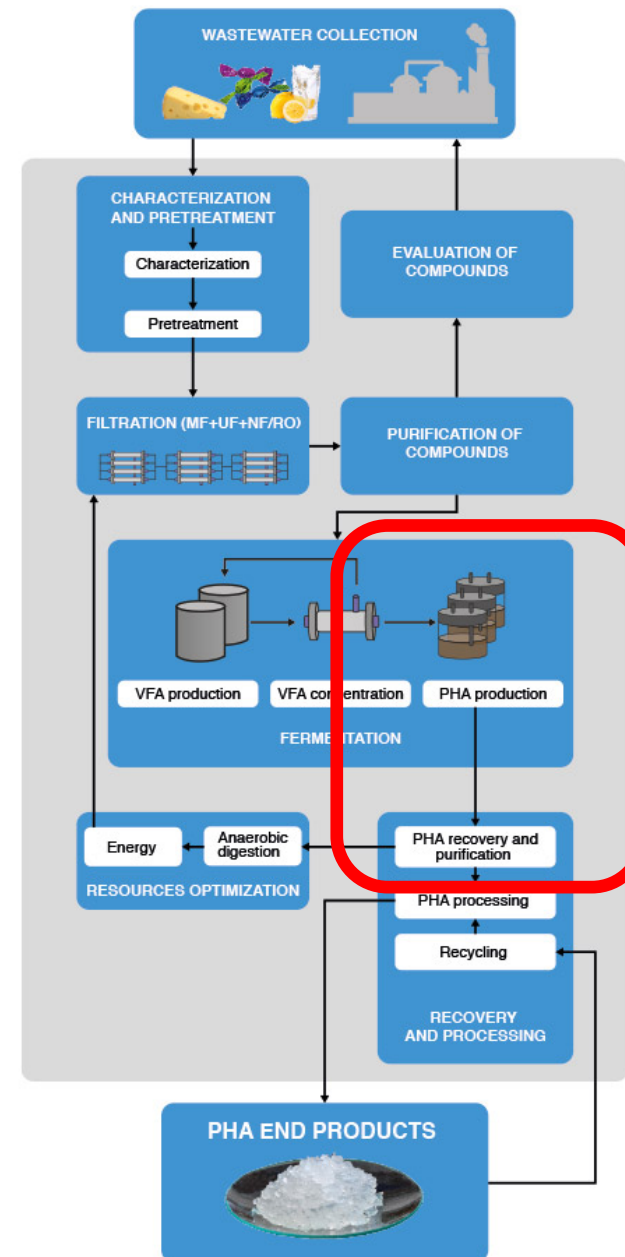


Lemons, oranges and mandarins processing



Cheese manufacturer

## SECOND EHT



## Selection of a bacterial strain for the conversion of VFA into PHA

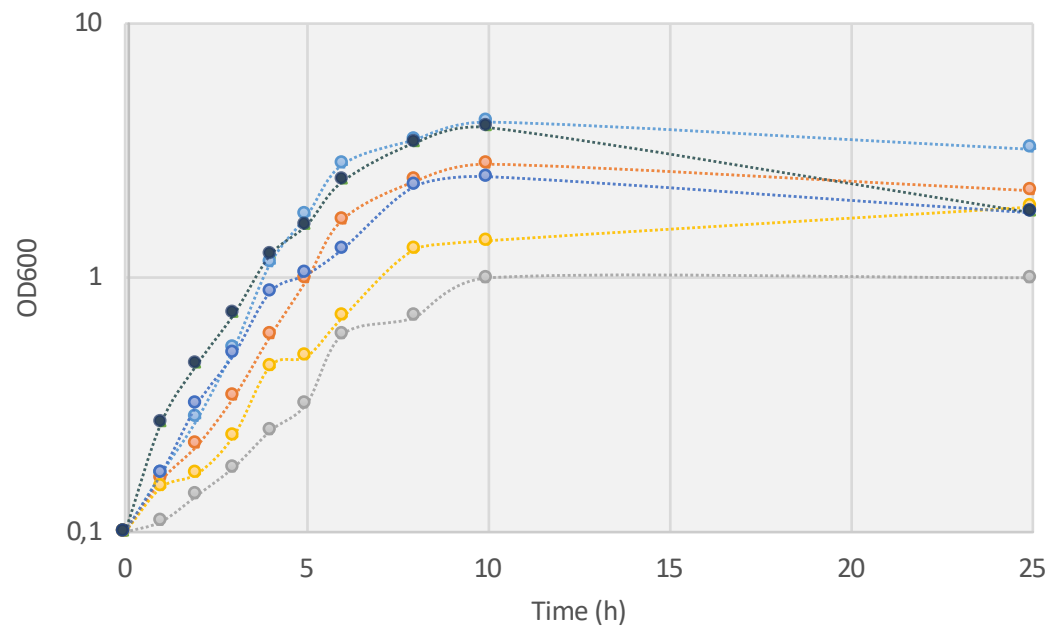
Candidate strains  
provided by



VFAs-consuming

PHA producers

Rich media (Nutrient Broth)



## Selection of a bacterial strain for the conversion of VFA into PHA

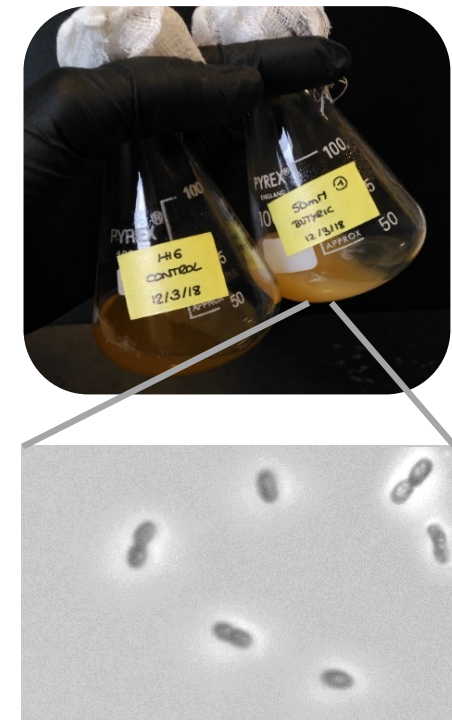
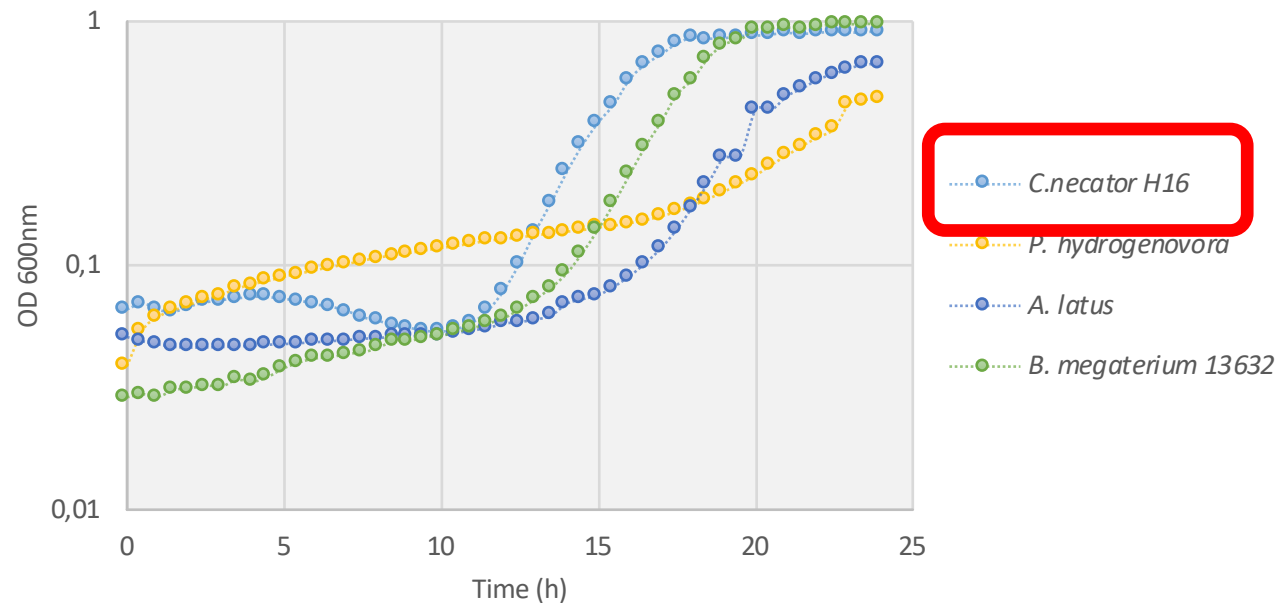
Candidate strains  
provided by



VFAs-consuming

PHA producers

VFAs Synthetic Mixture (Acetic + Butyric acid)



*C. necator* H16 cells

- *C. necator* H16 was selected as the best candidate for the Afterlife project

## Synthesis of biopolymer at laboratory scale using the selected strain

*Cupriavidus necator* H16



PHA production

Samples	Type of Sample	Shipment from	Data of receipt	Quantity of sample receipt (L)
JAKE	Raw WW. Centrifuge and ultrafiltration (0,2 $\mu$ m)	INN	January 2019 June 2019 September 2019	5 L 10 L 25 L
Heritage 1466	Cheese Whey	INN	November 2019	3 L
Citromil	Essential oil WW	INN	December 2019	10 L



## Synthesis of biopolymer at laboratory scale using the selected strain

### Jake fermented WW

Lactic 45%

Acetic 36%

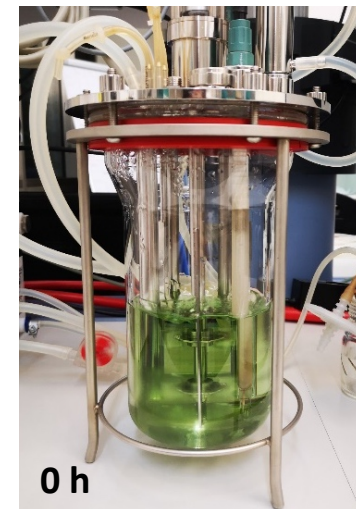
Ethanol 11%

Butyric 9%

→ VFAs: 13.40 g/L  
Total: 37.05 g/L

### SUMMARY

- Selected strain
  - *Cupriavidus necator* H16
- Substrate concentration and feeding policy
  - 2.5 g/L of VFAs as initial concentration (6.7 g/L in total)
  - Fed-batch: Flow rate 30 mL/h
  - More than 5 g/L of VFAs delay bacterial growth (13.40 g / L in total)



Time (h)	CDW (g/L)	PHA (g/L)	PHA (%)	Productivity (g PHA/L/h)
30	11.66	2.95	80	0.094

## Synthesis of biopolymer at laboratory scale using the selected strain

### Heritage fermented WW

Lactic 57%

Acetic 12%

Ethanol 22%

Butyric 5%

→ VFAs: 5.06 g/L  
Total: 31.66 g/L

### Citromil fermented WW

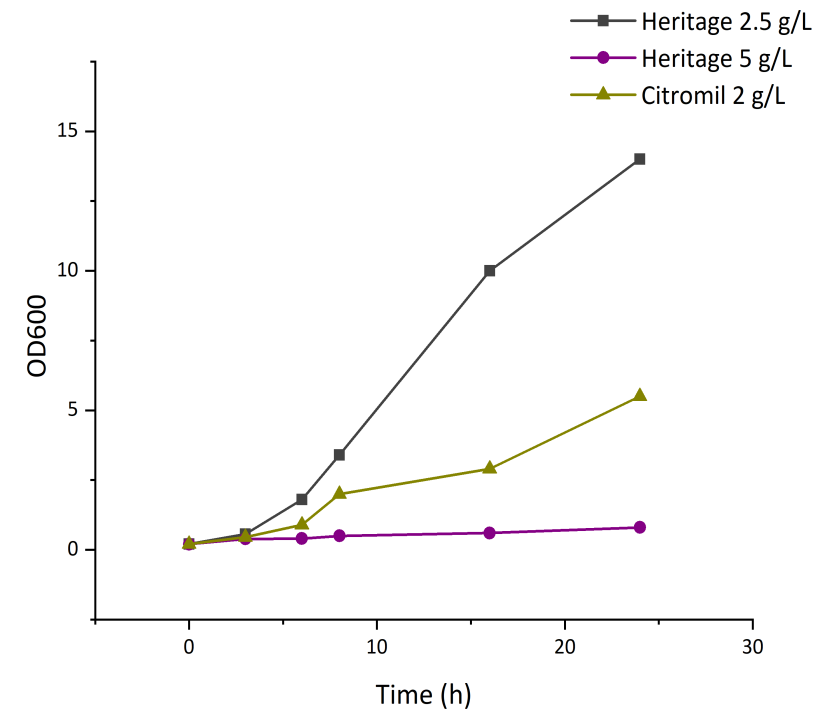
Lactic 60%

Acetic 40%

→ VFAs: 2.33 g/L  
Total: 7.75 g/L

## Results from flask scale

Stream	VFAs	Biomass 16 h	Biomass 24 h	% PHA 16 h	% PHA 24 h
Heritage 1466	2.5 g/L	2.7 g/L	3.69 g/L	56,89± 0.94	59,97± 1.88
Citromil	2 g/L	1.35 g/L	1.85 g/L	6.97± 0.93	14,62± 1.25

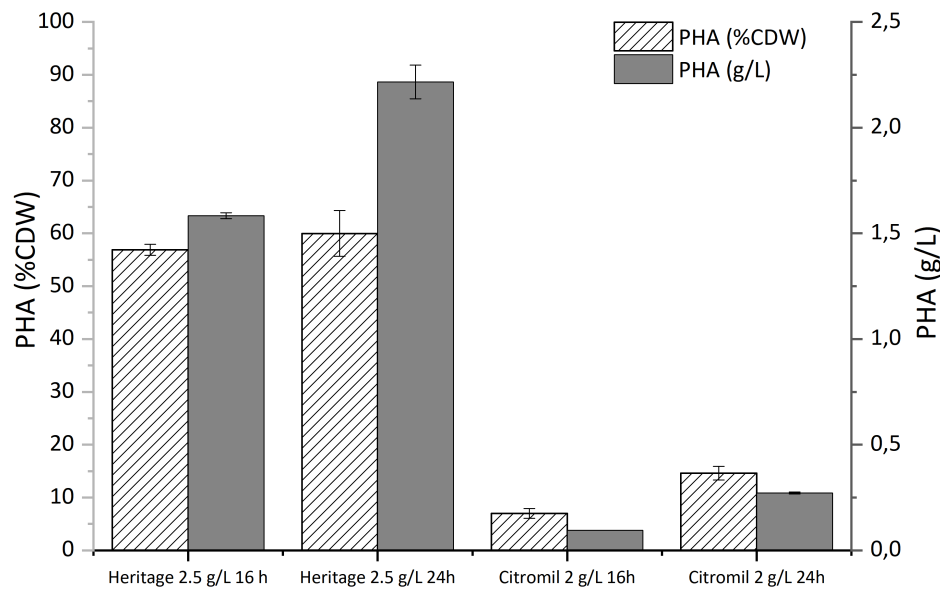


## Synthesis of biopolymer at laboratory scale using the selected strain

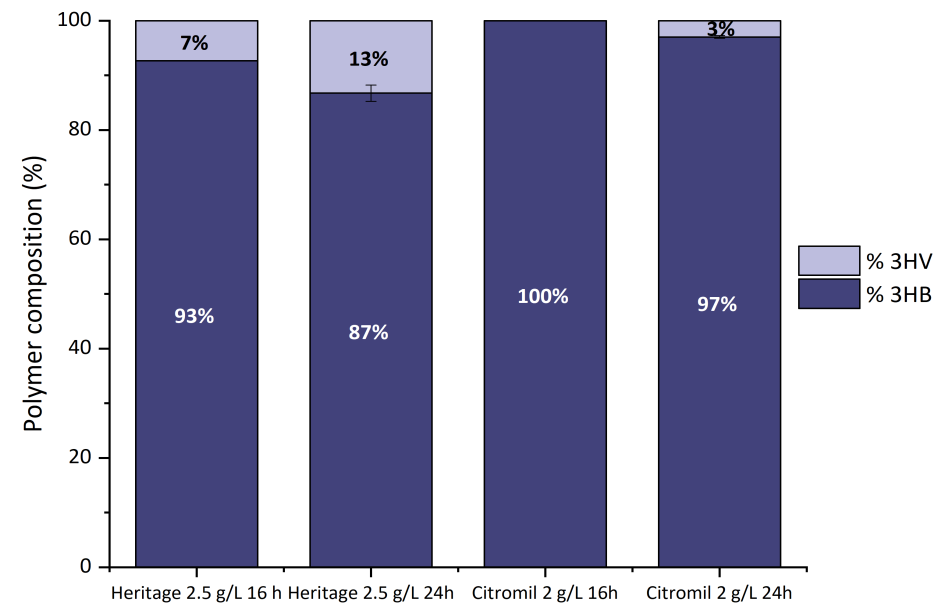
Heritage fermented WW

Citromil fermented WW

### PHA production



### Polymer composition



- *C. necator* H16 was able to obtain a PHA production of 60% using 2.5 g/L as a substrate (Heritage).
- The yield of the PHA production under batch conditions was 0.88 g PHA/g VFA (Heritage).
- The produced polymer from was composed by 3HB and 3HV units (Heritage).

## Synthesis of biopolymer at laboratory scale using the selected strain

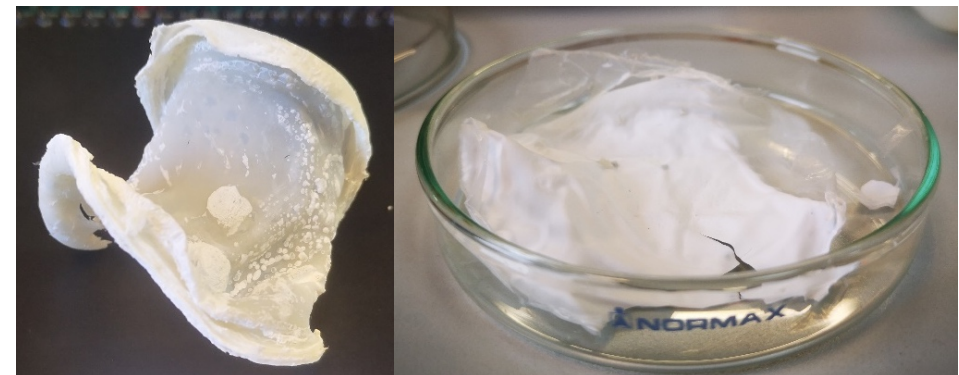
### Summary

Stream	VFAs stream concentration (g/L)	Dilution for PHA production	Initial OD	Final OD	Type of polymer	PHA 24h (%)	PHA 24h (g/L)	g PHA/g VFA
Jake*	13.82	1:5	0.2	11.65	PHB	57.21	1.19	0.52
Heritage	5.06	1:2	0.2	14.2	PHBV	59.97	2.21	0.88
Citromil	2.33	Only pH adjusted	0.2	1.8	PHBV	14.62	0.27	0.11

\*Bioreactor scale 1L

### Future tasks

- Heritage 1466 WW scale-up optimization
- Polymer characterization (by NovalD partner)



PHB from Jake WW fermentation using *C. necator* H16



# Use of other carbon waste streams for PHA production:



**Food industry**



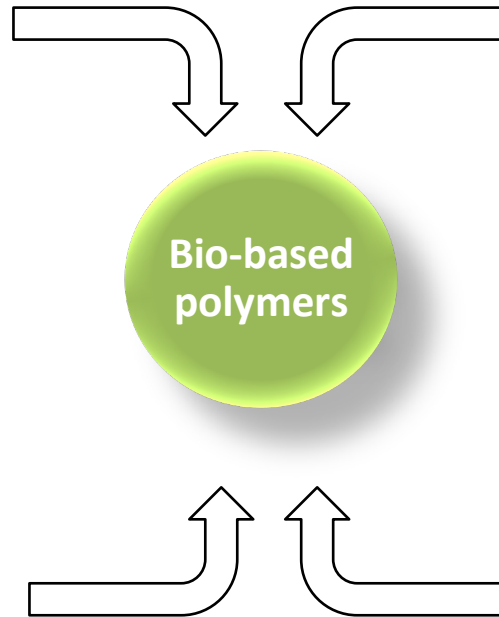
**Livestock and agriculture**



**The municipal  
and  
commercial wastes**



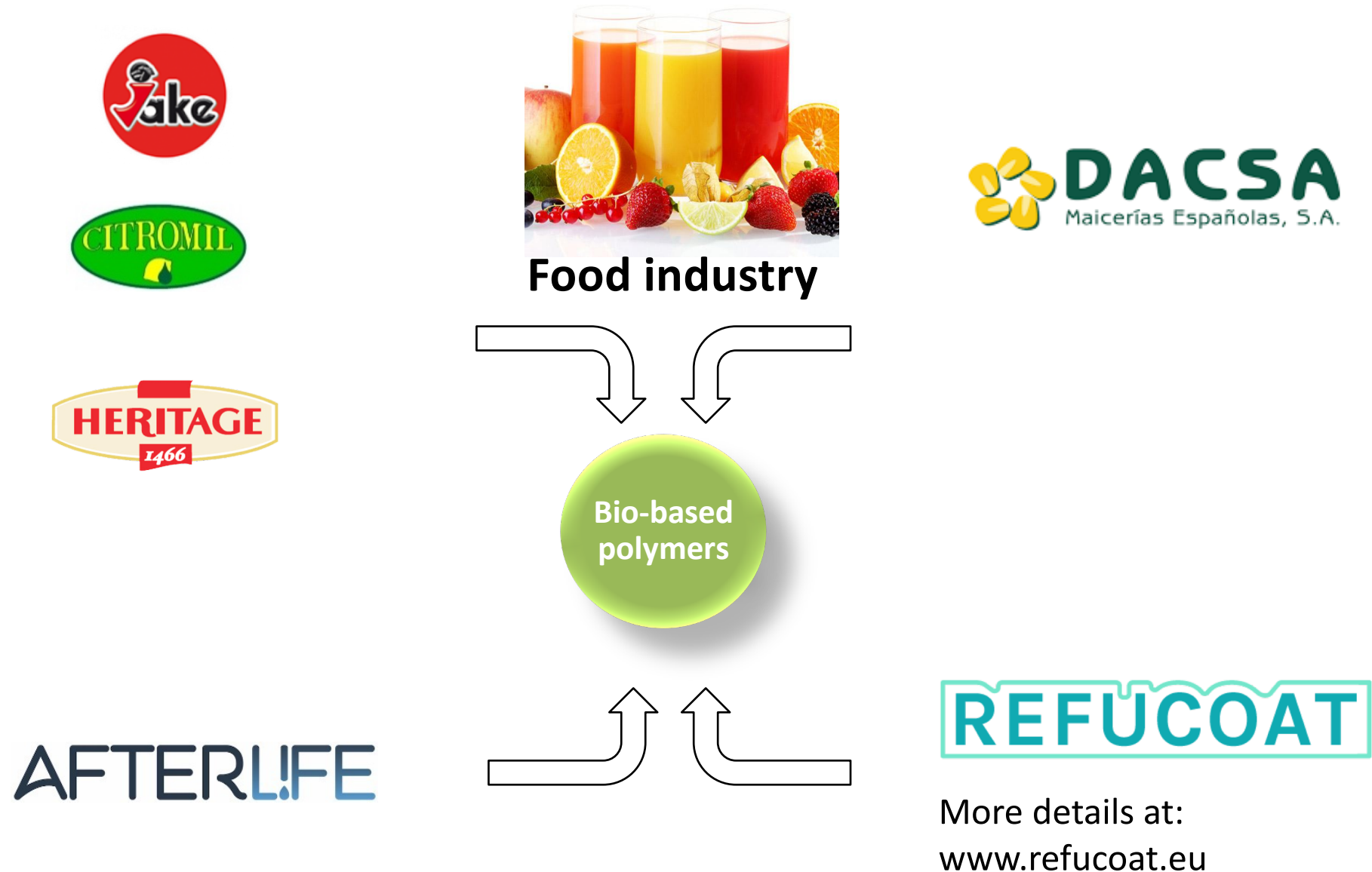
**Sludge**



**Bio-based  
polymers**



# Use of other industrial waste streams for PHA production:



RefuCoat - Full recyclable food package with enhanced gas barrier properties and new functionalities by the use of high performance coatings

# Use of other industrial waste streams for PHA production:

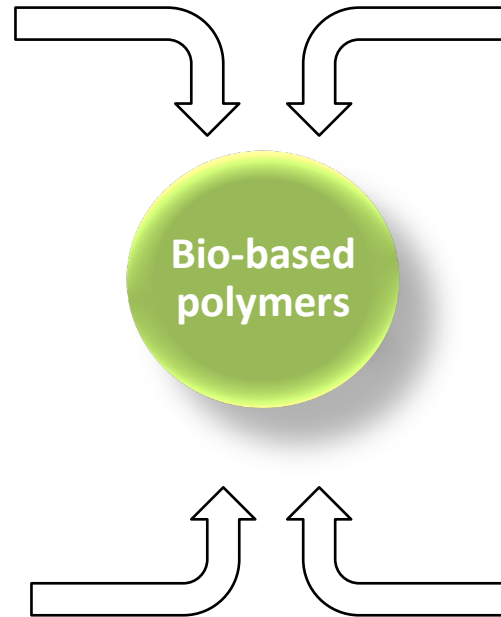


More details at:  
[www.synpol.org](http://www.synpol.org)

SYNPOL – Biopolymers from syngas fermentation



**The municipal  
and  
commercial wastes**



**Sludge**



**Agriculture**

# Use of other industrial waste streams for PHA production:

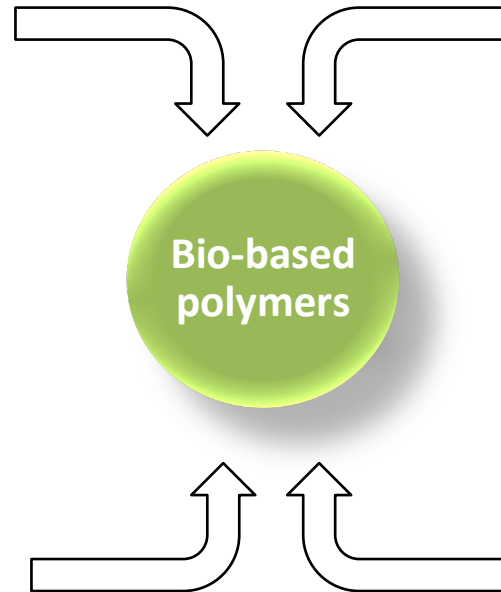


**Gases (CO<sub>2</sub>)**



More details at:  
[www.celbicon.org](http://www.celbicon.org)

CELBICON - Cost-effective CO<sub>2</sub> conversion into chemicals via combination of **C**apture, **E**lectrochemical and **B**iochemical **C**ONversion technologies



More details at:  
[www.engicoin.eu](http://www.engicoin.eu)

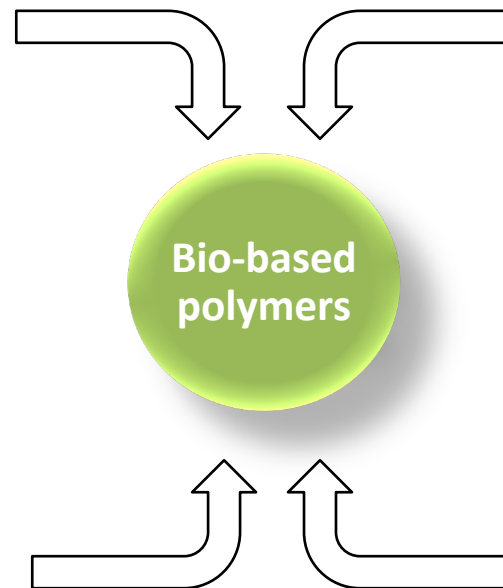
ENGICOIN - **E**ngineered microbial factories for **CO<sub>2</sub>** exploitation in an **i**ntegrated waste treatment platform

# Use of other industrial waste streams for PHA production:



More details at:  
[www.p4sb.eu](http://www.p4sb.eu)

P4BS - From Plastic waste to Plastic value using  
*Pseudomonas putida* Synthetic Biology



**Plastic waste**



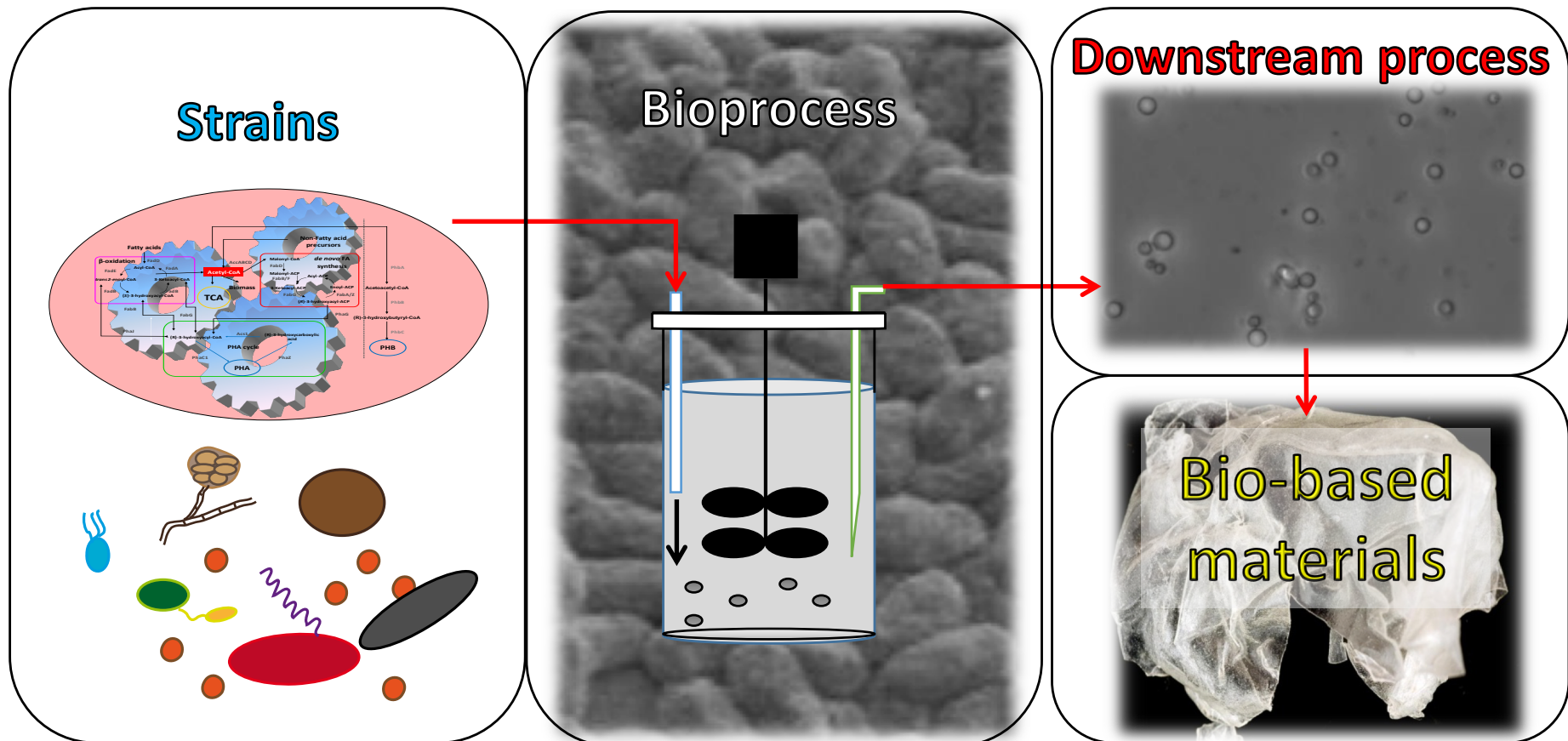
mixed plastics biodegradation and upcycling using microbial communities

More details at:  
[www.mix-up.eu](http://www.mix-up.eu)

Mix-Up - MIXed plastics biodegradation and UPcycling  
using microbial communities



# “Towards microbial cell factories for bio-based polymer production within a true circular bio-economy”





# Thank you!