



## Le filiere delle colture da biomassa a scopo energetico: panoramica delle principali colture

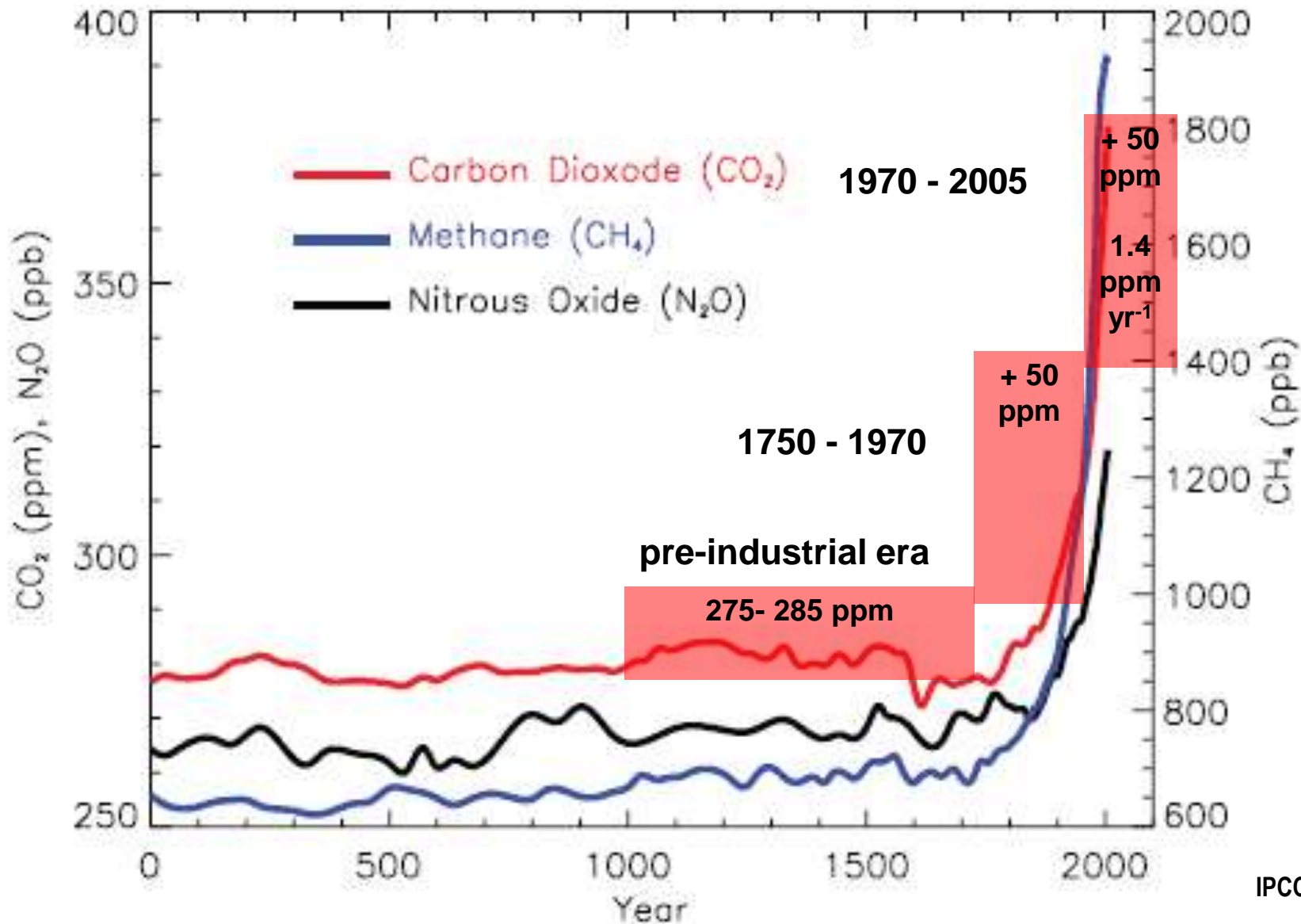
Giorgio Ragaglini



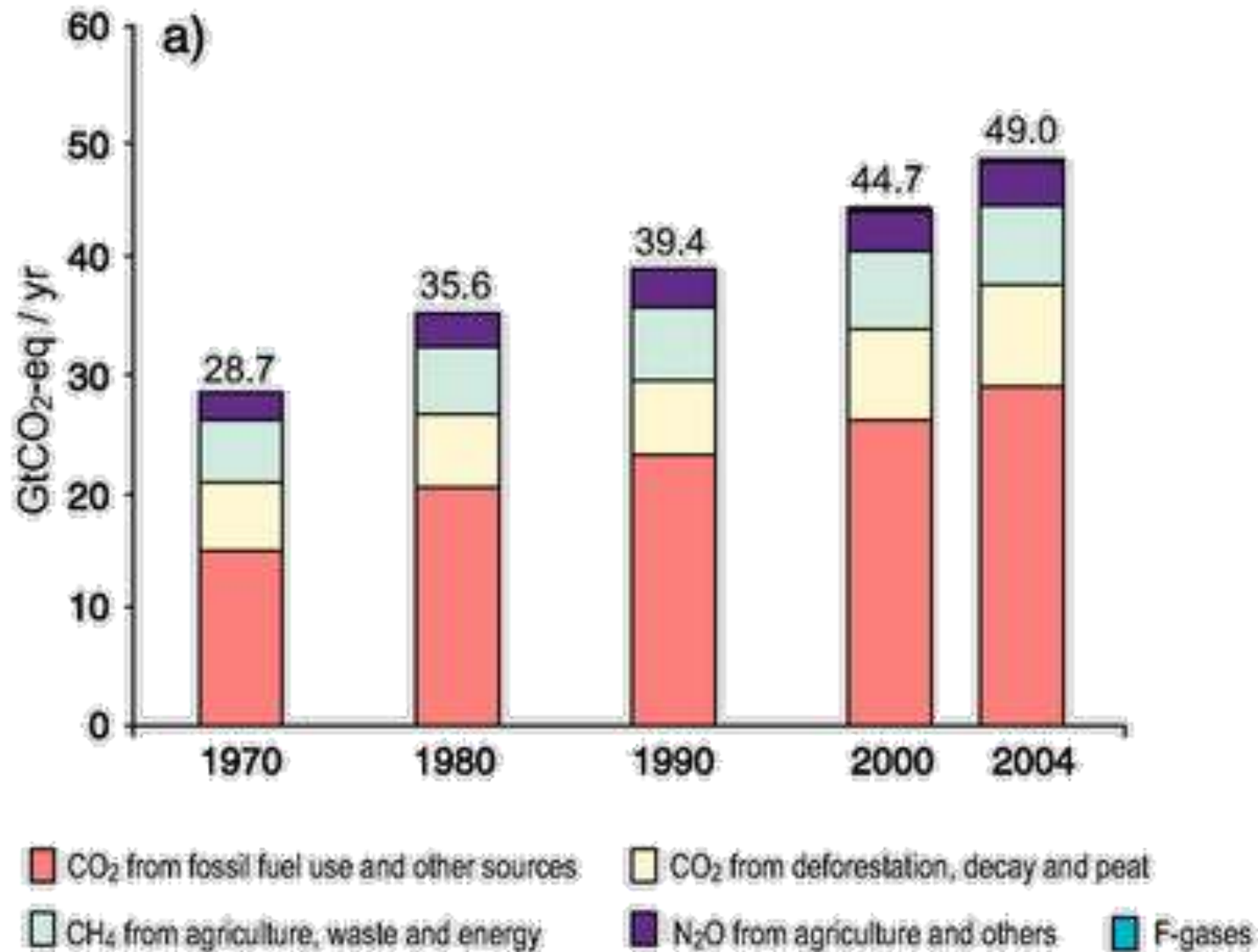
**Sant'Anna**  
Scuola Universitaria Superiore Pisa

**TELLUS**  
AGRICOLTURA, AMBIENTE, TERRITORIO

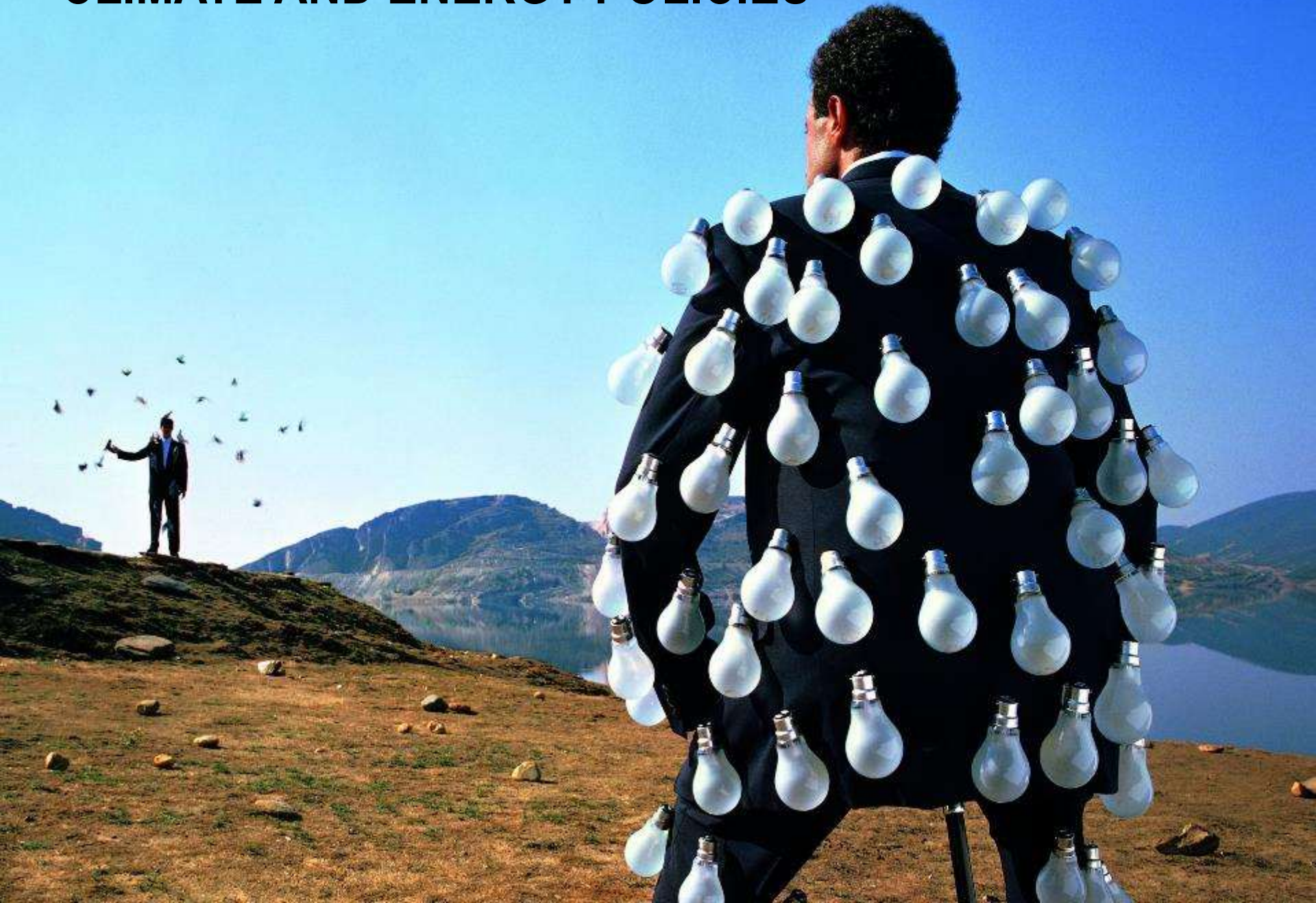
# GREENHOUSE GASES CONCENTRATION AC



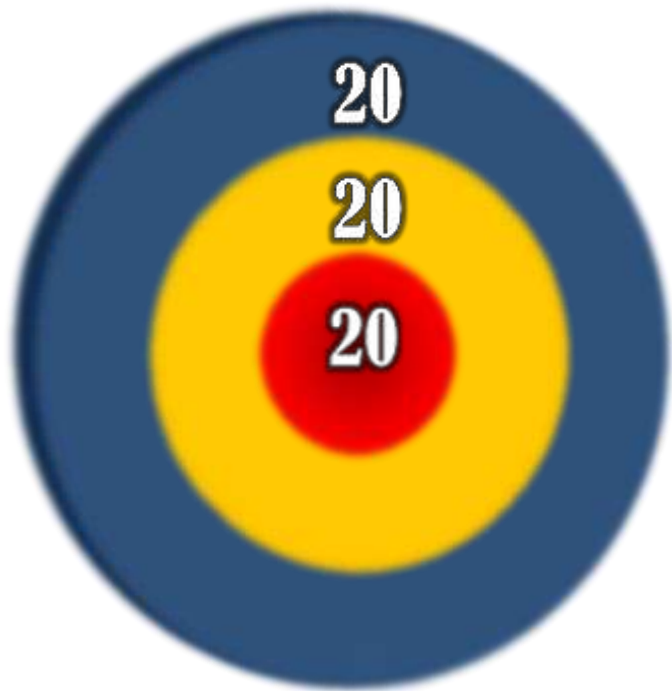
# GHG EMISSIONS



# CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES



# THE CLIMATE AND ENERGY PACKAGE EU TARGETS FOR 2020



kWh/kg

kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kg

kWh/kg

Vettore

# Fotosintesi

$CO_2 + H_2O + luce \Rightarrow$

$Carboidrati + O_2$

Stock

Radiazione solare

Apporto energetico per  
riscaldamento aria,  
pianta, suolo

Apporto energetico per  
la traspirazione della  
pianta e per  
l'evaporazione di acqua  
dal suolo

*Stock di energia*

Emissioni

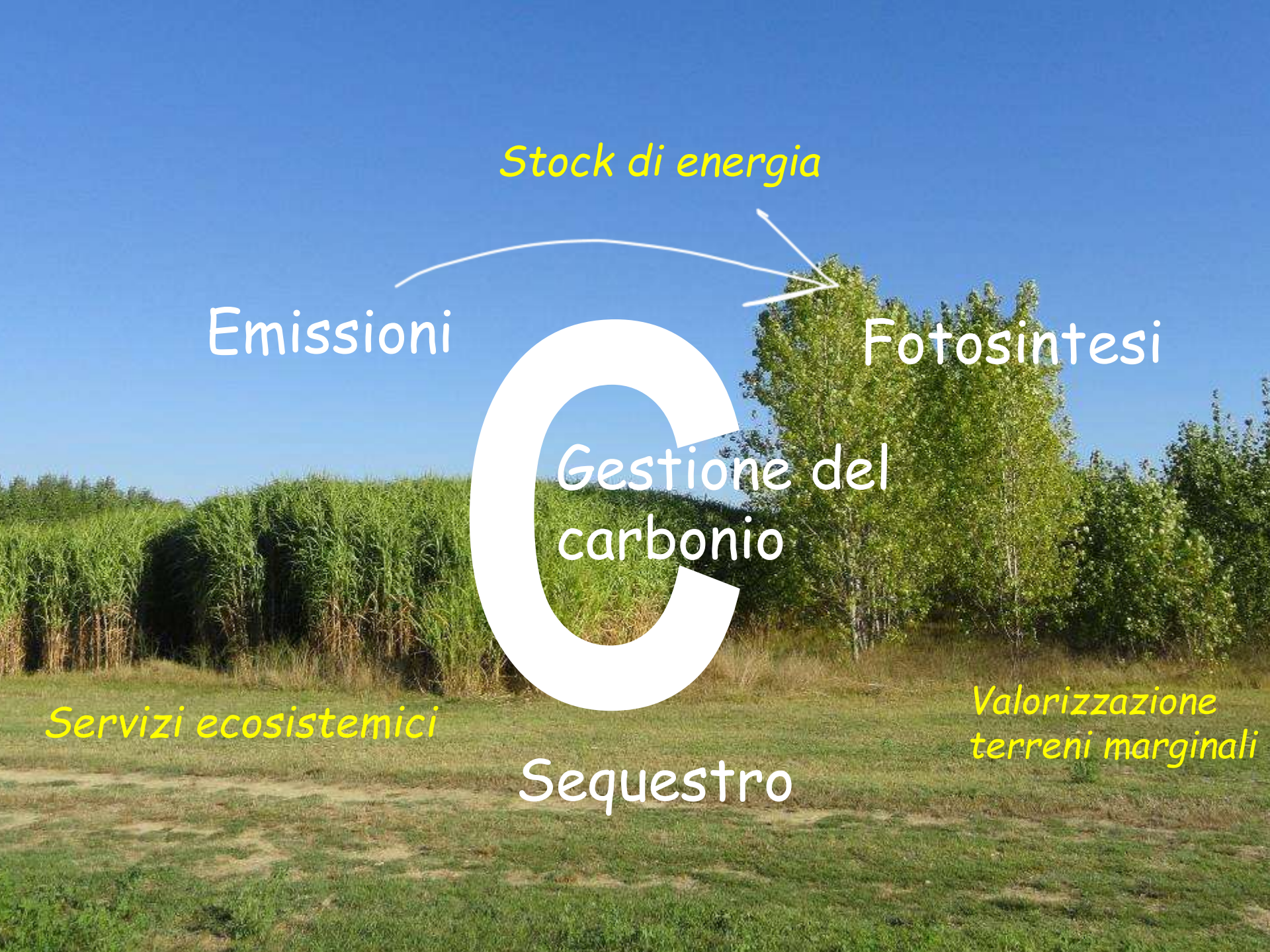
Fotosintesi

Gestione del  
carbonio

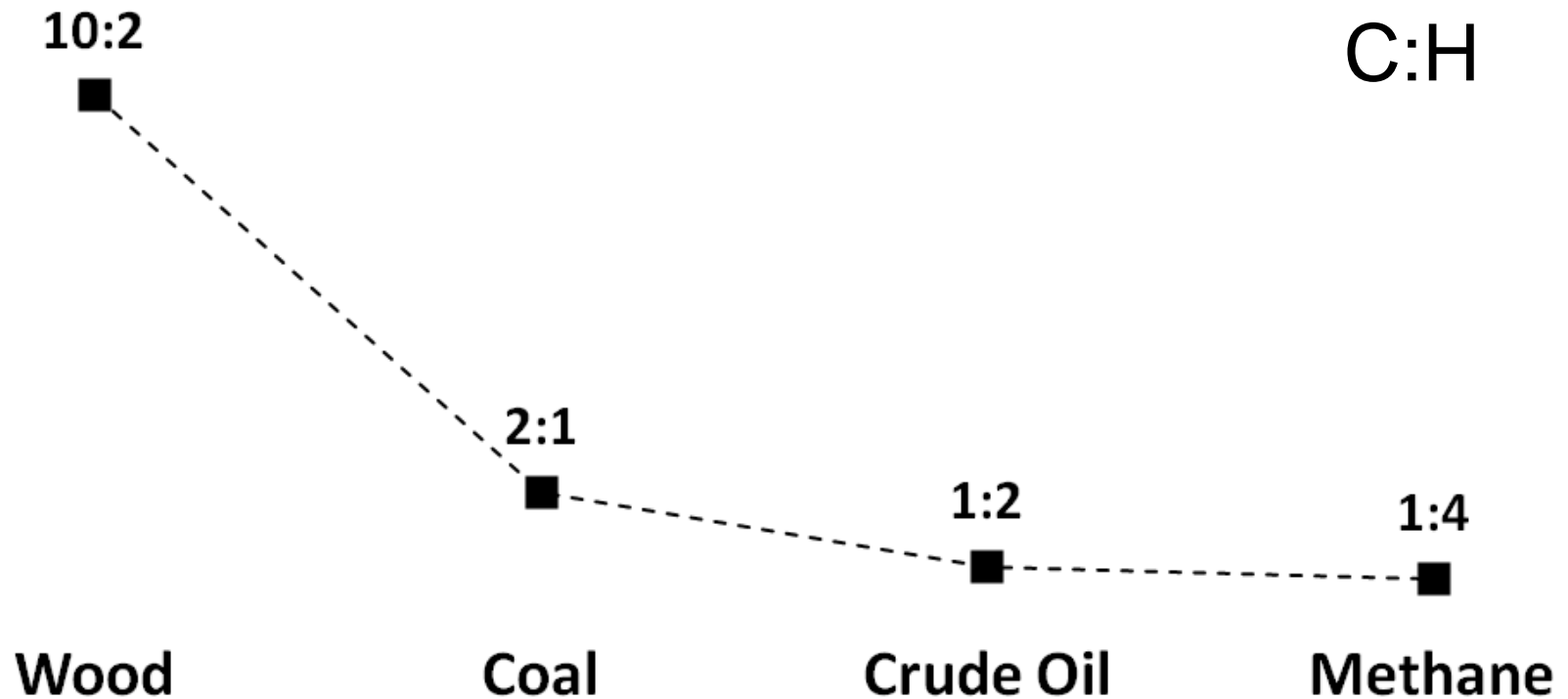
*Servizi ecosistemici*

*Valorizzazione  
terreni marginali*

Sequestro

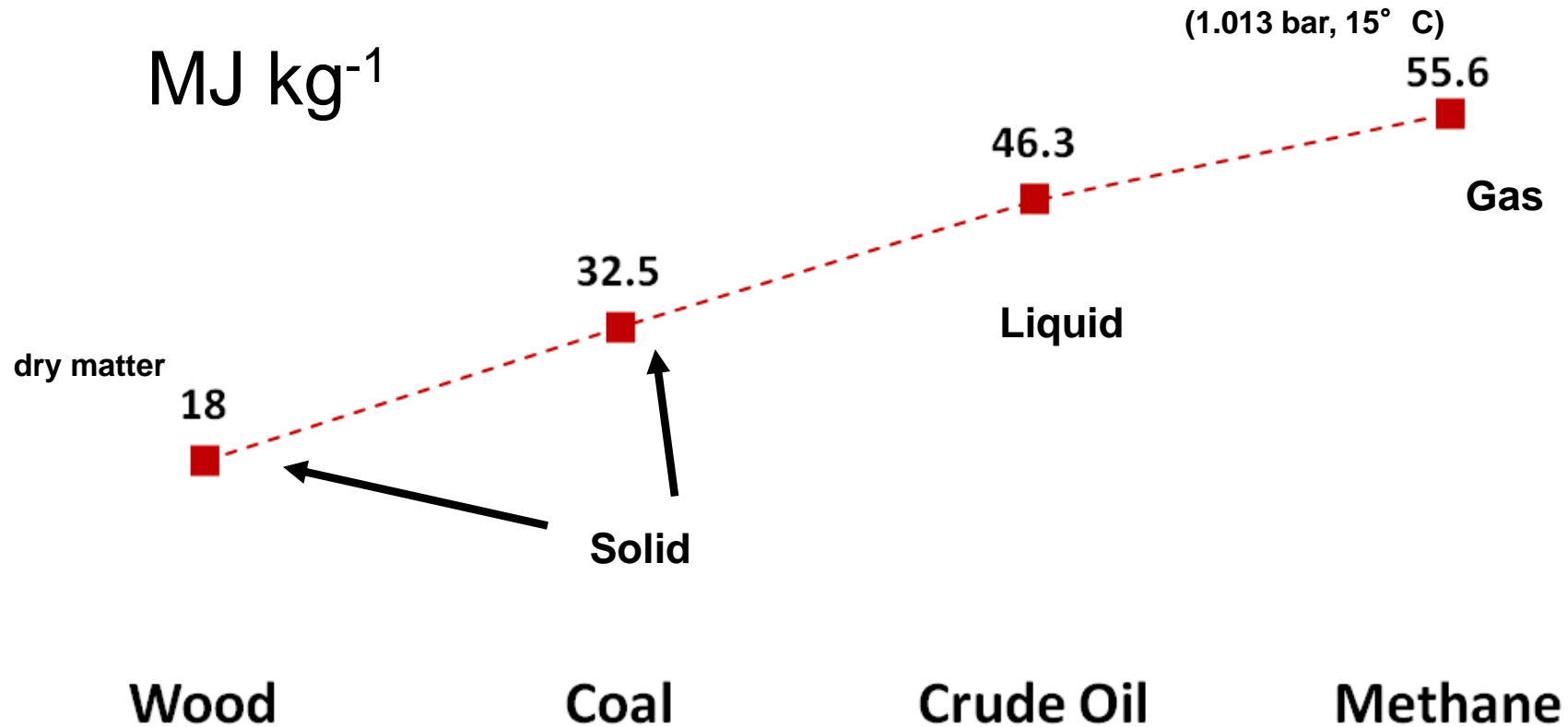


# DECARBONIZATION OF ENERGY FUELS

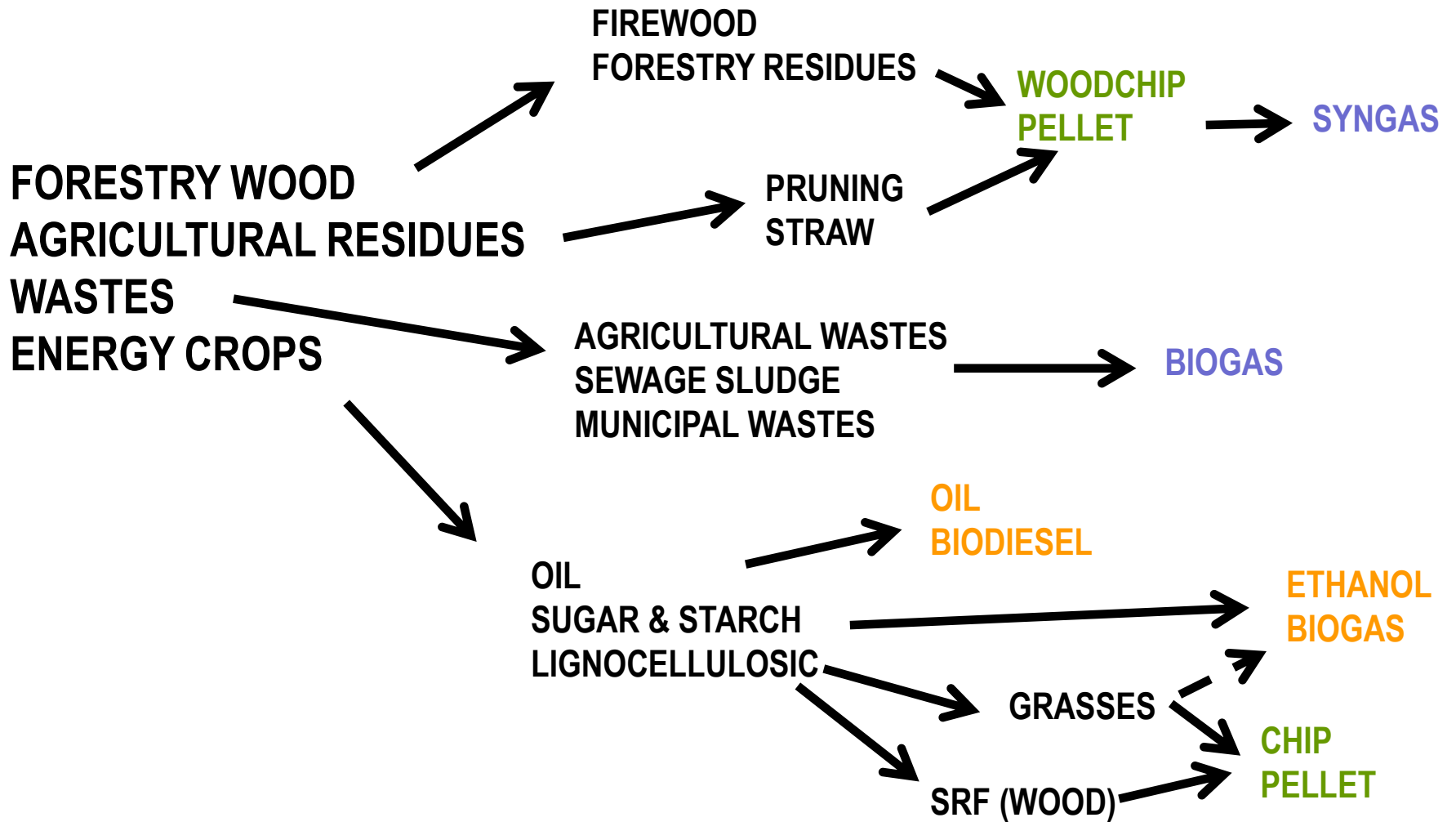




# DECARBONIZATION OF ENERGY FUELS



# BIOMASS





**Canapa**



**Cardo**



**Robinia**



**Sorgho**



**Miscanto**



**Canna comune**



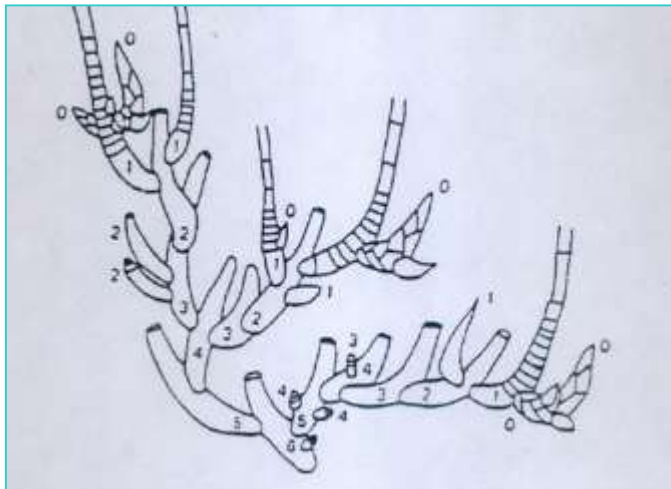
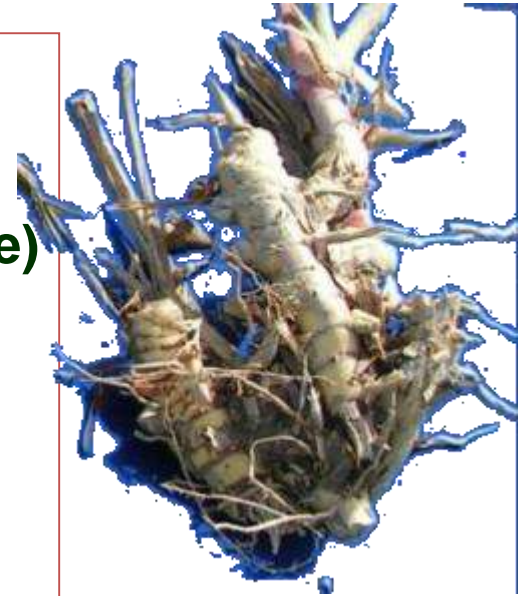
**Pioppo**

**Salice**

*Miscanthus x giganteus*



- **Genere:** *miscanthus*
- **Specie:** *sinensis*
- **Ibrido triploide** *Miscanthus x Giganteus* (sterile)
- **Famiglia:** poaceae
- **Tribù:** andropogoneae
- **Forma biologica:** rizomatososa perenne
- **Origine:** sud est asiatico



- ✓ **Pianta:** erbacea
- ✓ **Ciclo:** poliennale
- ✓ **Diffusione:** introdotta in Europa 65 anni fa come ornamentale.
- ✓ **Specie C<sub>4</sub>** si adatta bene anche ai climi temperati

# Elementi di tecnica colturale

- ❑ **Preparazione:** aratura, estirpature invernali, erpicature
- ❑ **Impianto:** con rizomi o piantine micropropagate
- ❑ **Epoca:** rizomi febb/marzo (10-20 cm prof.);  
piantine maggio
- ❑ **Densità:** 2 rizomi/mq, per avere 40 germogli/mq



**Anticipata:** umidità elevata

**Posticipata:** riduzione resa

- ❑ **Concimazione** alla ripresa vegetativa:  
60 kg/ha N, 25 P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> e 60 di K<sub>2</sub>O
- ❑ **Irrigazione:** buona risposta
- ❑ **Gestione flora infestante:** solo nell'anno di impianto  
(sarchiatura; erbicidi pre)
- ❑ Non esistono **patogeni** noti in ambiente mediterraneo
- ❑ **Raccolta:** dicembre–marzo; barra/ranghinatore/  
rotoimballatrice; falcia-trincia-caricatrice e cassone

## Punti di forza:

- elevata resa media annua (25–28 t/ha di s.s.)
- poliennale assai longeva

## Punti di debolezza:

- esigente in termini di disponibilità idriche
- meccanizzazione delle operazioni di trapianto (costo impianto)
- ripristino del terreno dopo la coltura
- biomassa caratterizzata da un elevato tenore in silice (< ceneri)



# GIANT REED (*Arundo donax*)

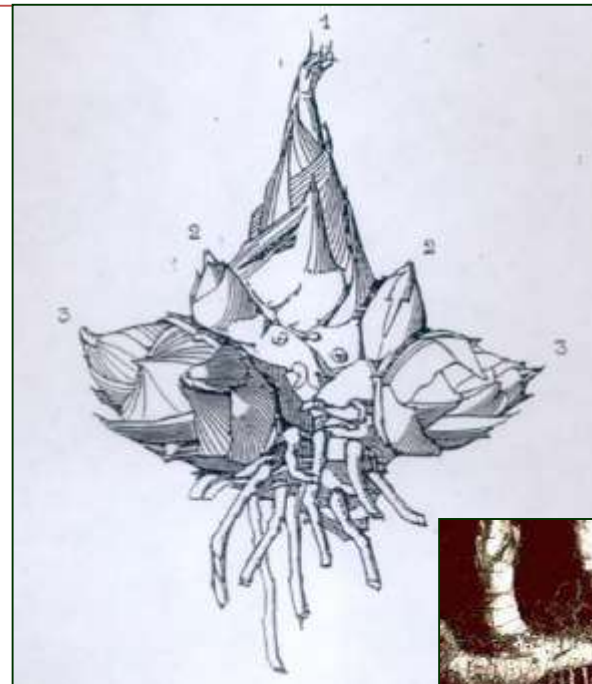




Giant reed



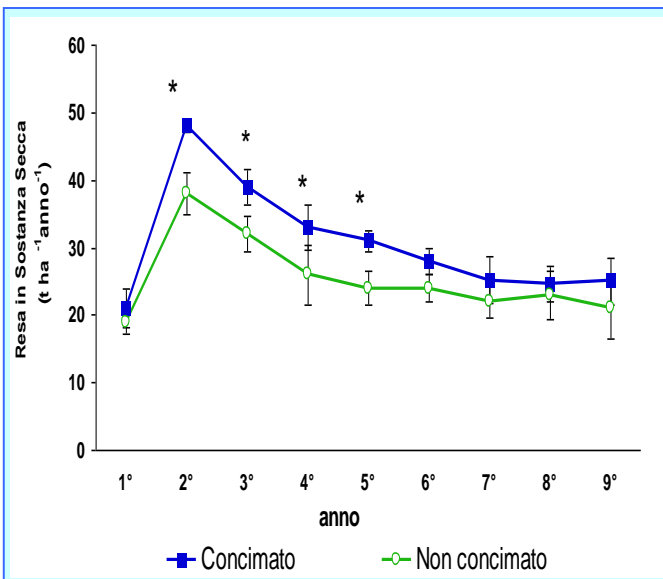
- **Genere:** *arundo*
- **Specie:** *donax*
- **Famiglia:** poaceae
- **Tribù:** arundinee
- **Forma biologica:** geofita rizomatosa  
perenne
- **Origine:** mediterraneo –  
medio oriente, Pakistan



- ✓ **Pianta:** erbacea poliennale
- ✓ **Diffusione:** vegeta fino agli ambienti submontani, in terreni freschi, lungo i fiumi e fossi, in collina, in prossimità del mare, sui cigli stradali e ferroviari, a formare i tipici “canneti”

## ➤ Elementi di tecnica colturale

- ❑ **Preparazione:** aratura, estirpature invernali, erpicature
- ❑ **Impianto:** con rizomi o fusti (a solchi con piantatuberi)
- ❑ **Epoca:** rizomi da febb/marzo (10-20 cm prof.);  
fusti tardo autunno
- ❑ **Densità:** 1,0–1,5 rizomi/mq per avere  
a maturità 40 fusti/mq



- ❑ **Concimazione** (N-P-K: 200-80-200): risposta variabile
- ❑ **Gestione flora infestante:** solo nell'anno di impianto  
(sarchiatura; erbicidi pre)
- ❑ Non esistono **patogeni** noti in ambiente mediterraneo
- ❑ **Raccolta:** dicembre – marzo; falcia-trincia-caricatrice



# PROPAGATION





24.2.2014



25.2.2014



24.2.2014



25.2.2014



25.2.2014



24.2.2014

14.7.2014



10.8.2014



## ➤ **Canna comune (*Arundo donax*)**

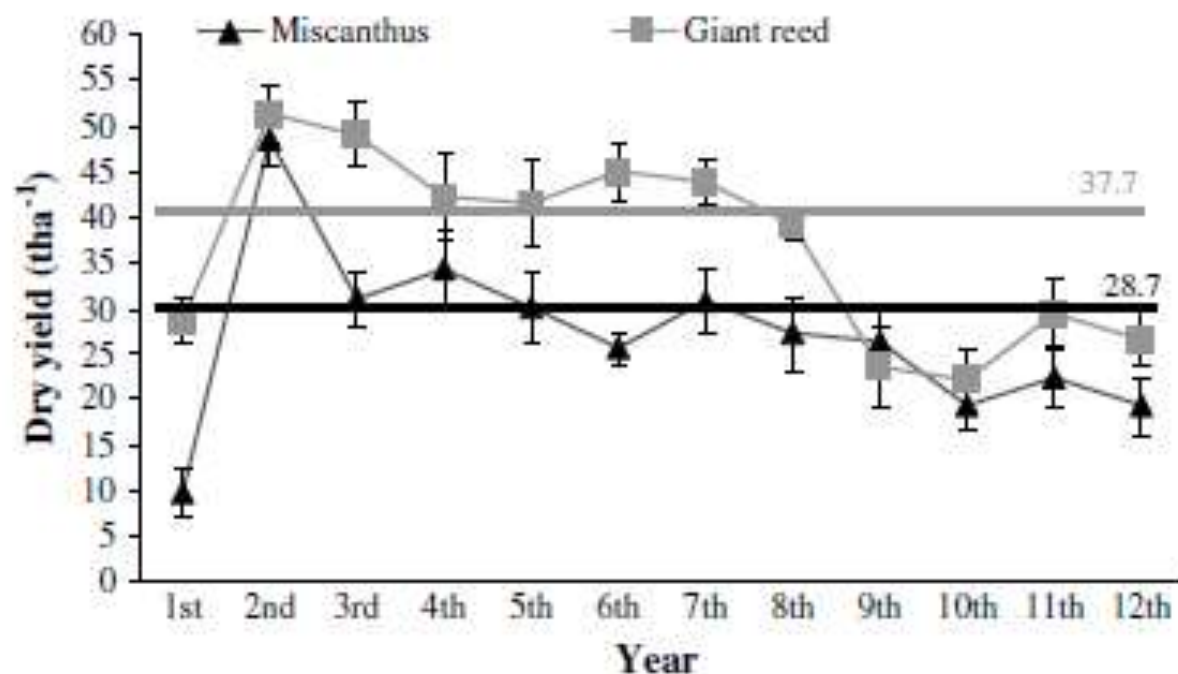
### Punti di forza:

- molto produttiva (34-35 t/ha di s.s.)
- specie poliennale assai longeva (12 – 14 anni)
- tipica del nostro paesaggio rurale
- protegge il terreno dall'erosione
- grande adattabilità (terreni e disponibilità idriche) in ambiente mediterraneo

### Punti di debolezza:

- costo elevato all'impianto
- specie assai invasiva
- biomassa con elevato contenuto in ceneri (5%) e in silice





**Fig. 1 – Giant reed and miscanthus above-ground dry yield from the crop establishment (1992) to the 12th year of growth in comparison, for each species, with the mean value calculated excluding the yield of the first year. Vertical bars represent the standard deviation.**



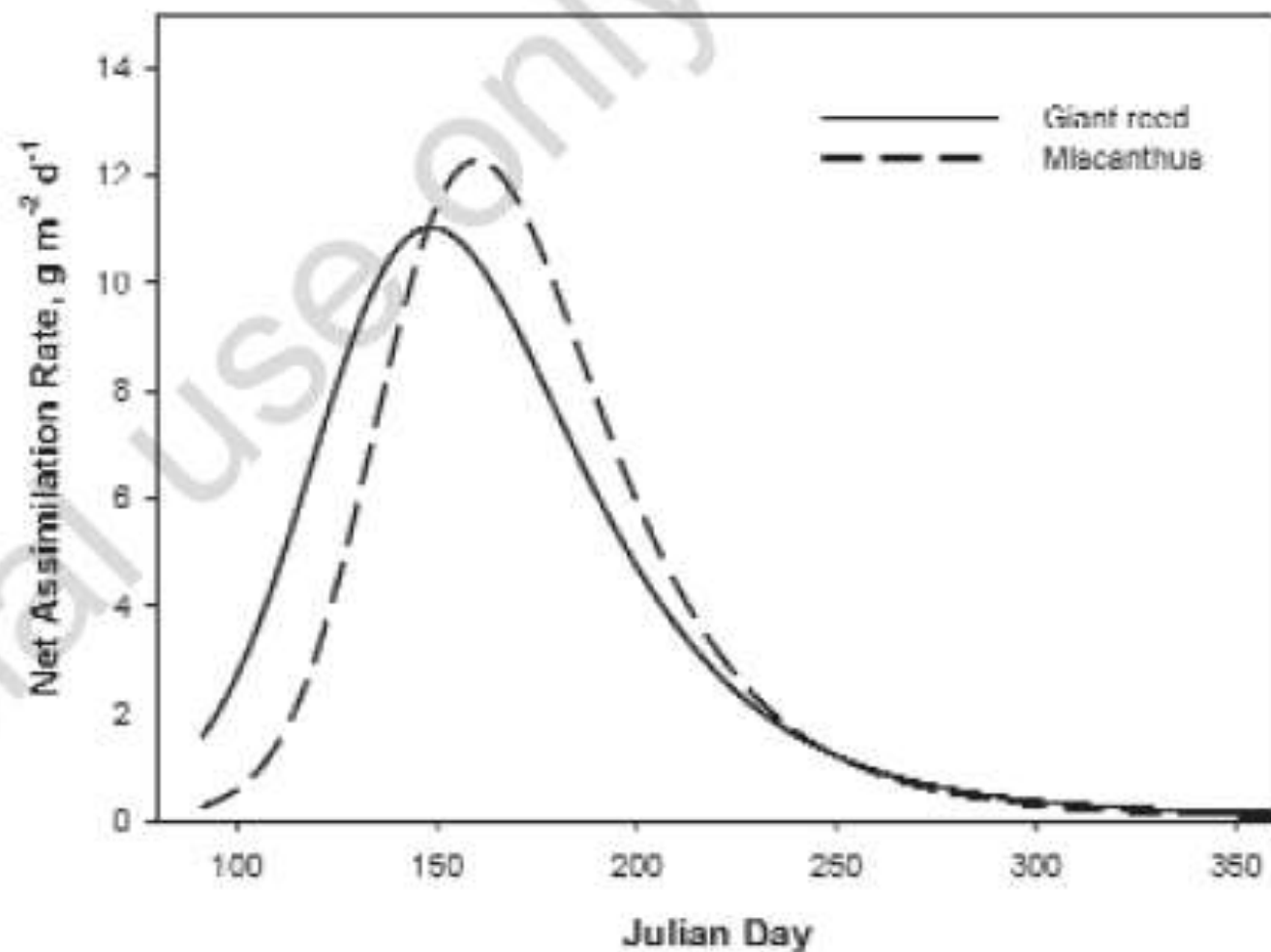
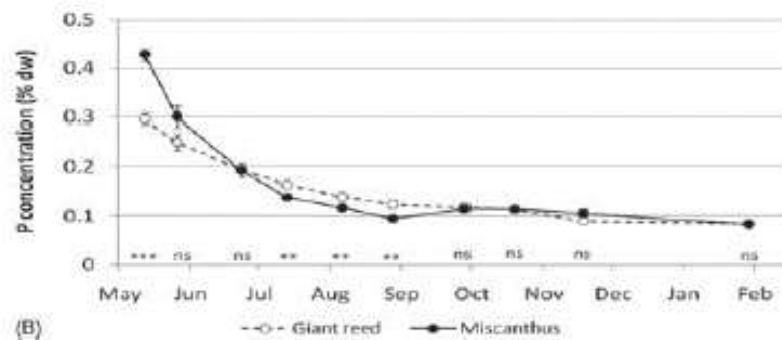
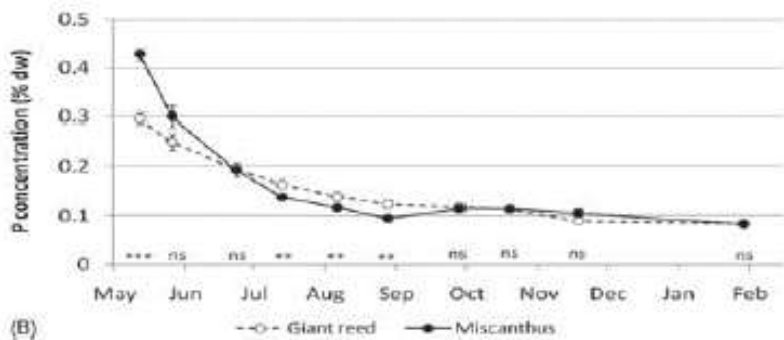
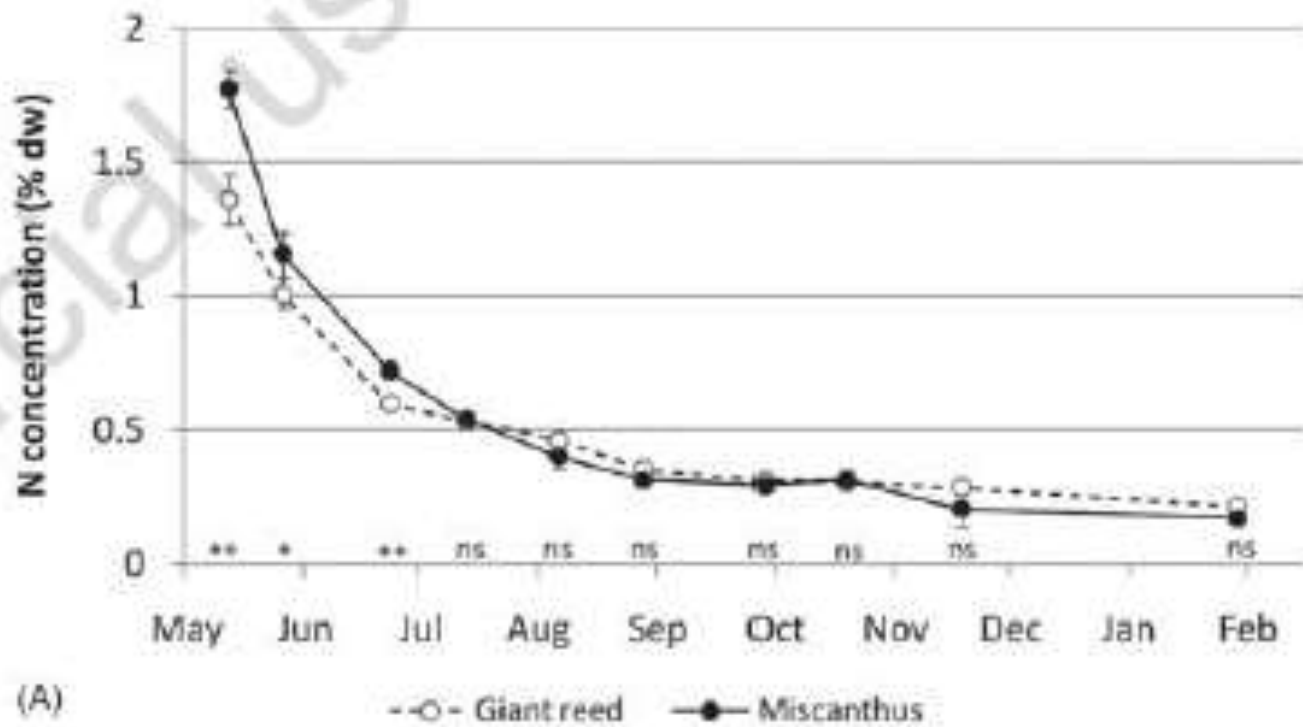


Figure 7. Predicted net assimilation rate of giant reed and miscanthus during the 2009 growing season at Pisa (Central Italy).



**Table 1. Nutrient use efficiencies of giant reed and miscanthus crops during 2009 growing season in Pisa (43°40' N, 10°19' E), Italy.**

Date	N <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g		P <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g		K <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g	
	Giant reed	Miscanthus	Giant reed	Miscanthus	Giant reed	Miscanthus
19 October	330 a	316 a	884 a	870 a	108 a	150 a
18 November	351 b	489 a	1115 a	952 a	131 b	188 a
23 January	467 b	522 a	1183 a	1073 a	136 b	189 a
Mean	383 b	442 a	1061 a	965 a	125 b	176 a

NUE values, followed by the same letter across species, are not significantly different ( $P=0.05$ ).

**Table 2. Nutrient use efficiencies of some woody and arable crops.**

	N <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g	P <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g	K <sub>NUE</sub> , g/g	Source
Poplar	145-370	1000-2000	256-370	Jug <i>et al.</i> , 1999
Willow	152-244	909-1429	323-500	Jug <i>et al.</i> , 1999
Eucalyptus	219	3477	427	Lodhiyal and Lodhiyal, 1997
Maize	66-111	333-556	86-161	Beale and Long, 1997
Wheat	83-87	-	117-133	Jorgensen, 2000

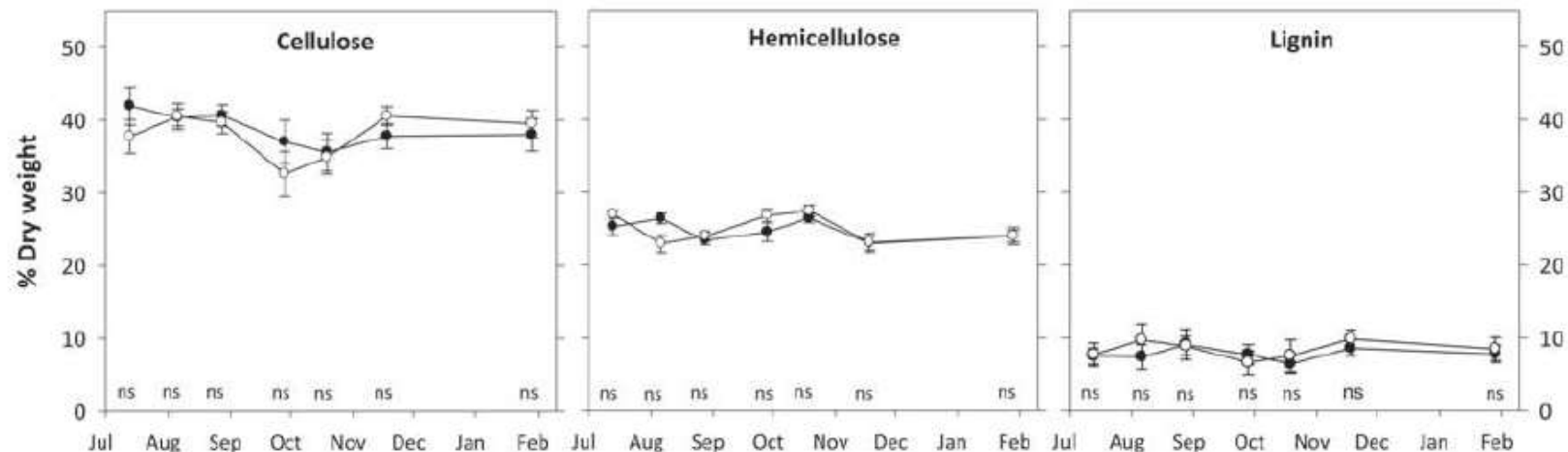


Figure 5. Seasonal variation (2009) in cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin content of giant reed and miscanthus in Pisa, Italy (43°40' N, 10°19' E). ○, giant reed; ●, miscanthus; bars represent the standard deviation; \*, \*\*, \*\*\*, significant differences at  $P < 0.05$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $P < 0.001$ , respectively; ns, no significant differences.

**Table 3. Cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin contents in common agricultural residues.**

Lignocellulosic materials	Cellulose, %	Hemicellulose, %	Lignin, %
Hardwoods stems	40-55	24-40	18-25
Softwood stems	45-50	25-35	25-35
Corn cobs	45	35	15
Wheat straw	30	50	15
Grasses	25-40	35-50	10-30
Leaves	15-20	80-85	0

Source: Sun and Cheng, 2002.



# Giant reed

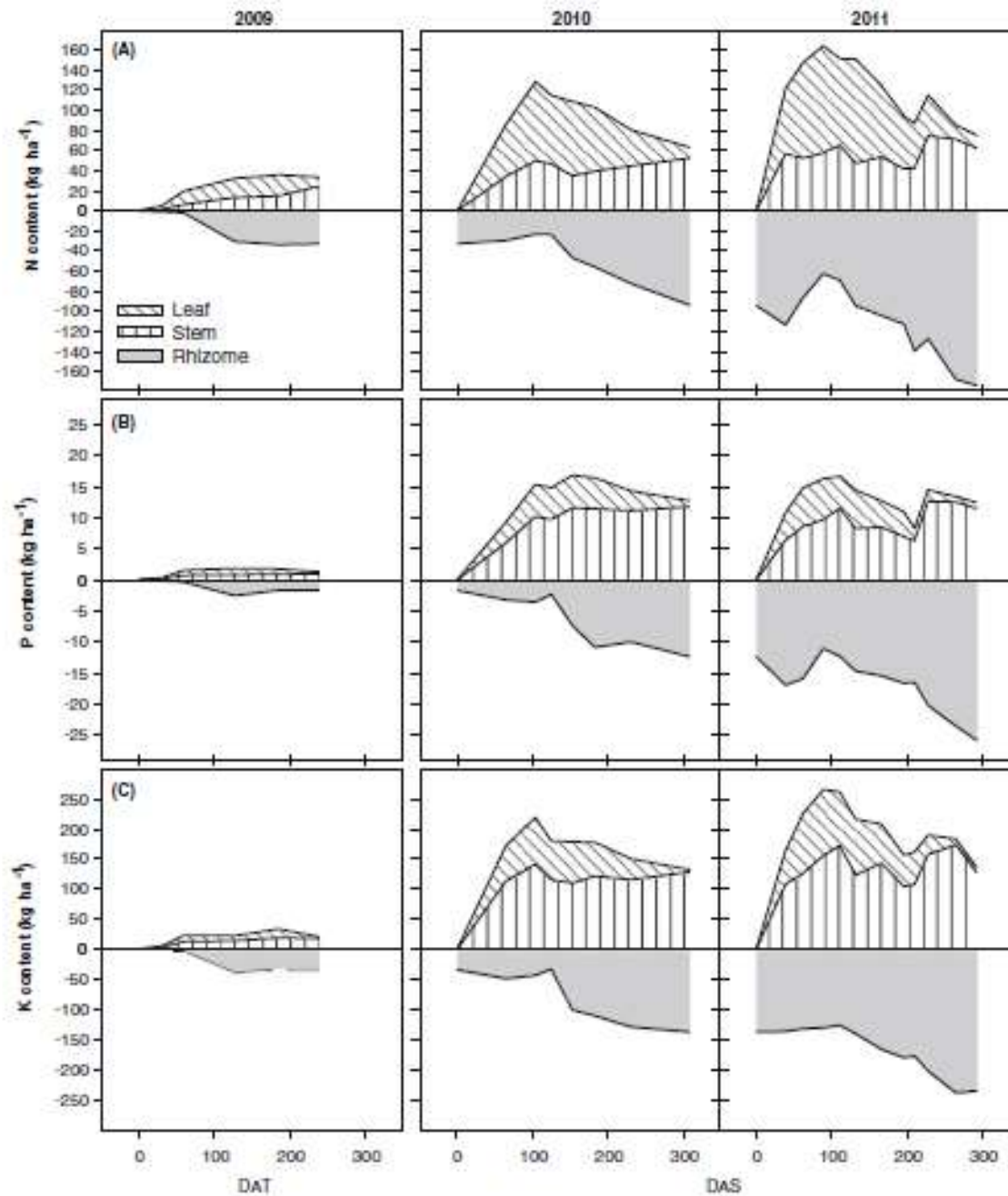


Figure 4a

Water-soluble carbohydrates, leaves

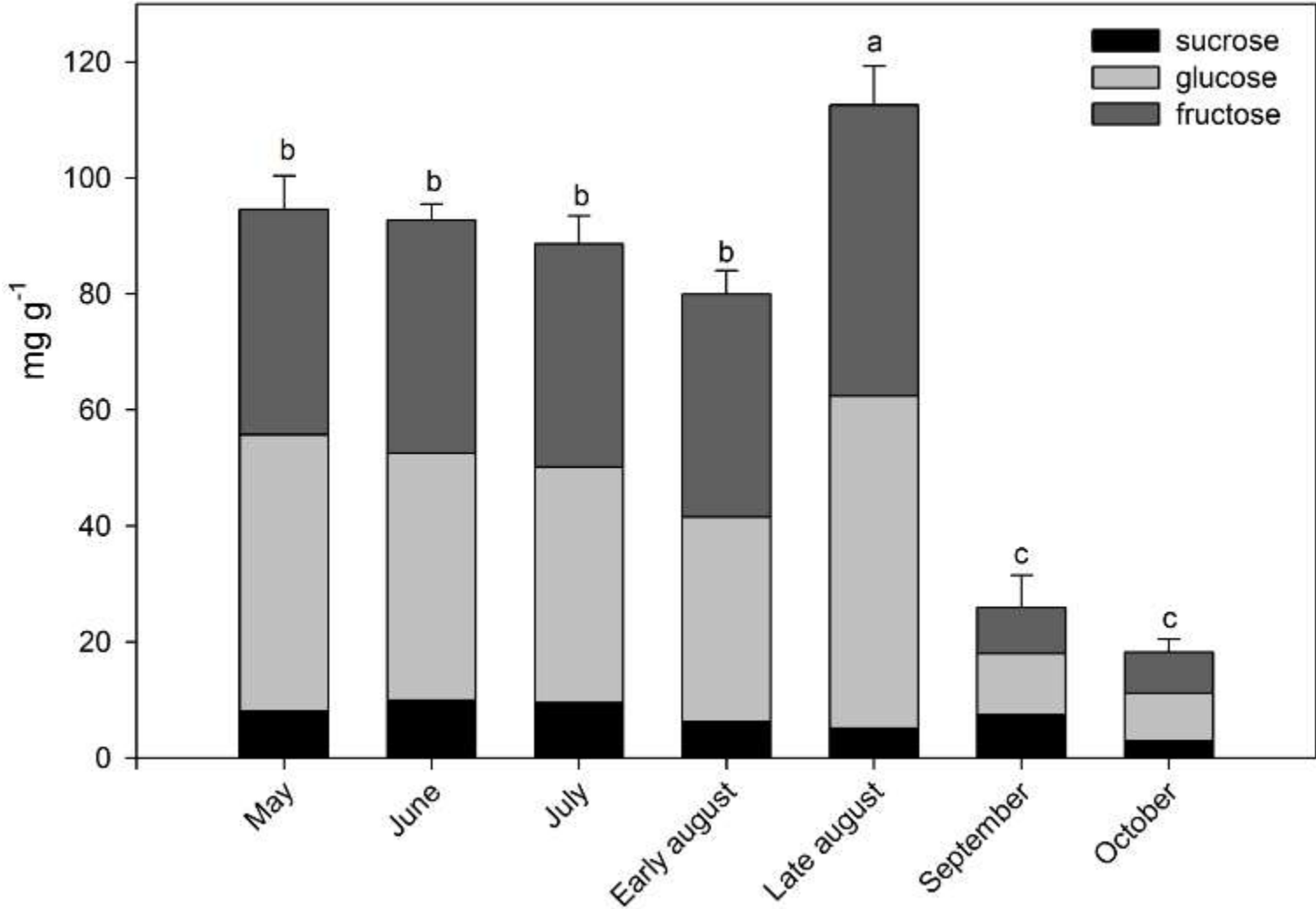


Figure 4b

Water-soluble carbohydrates, stems

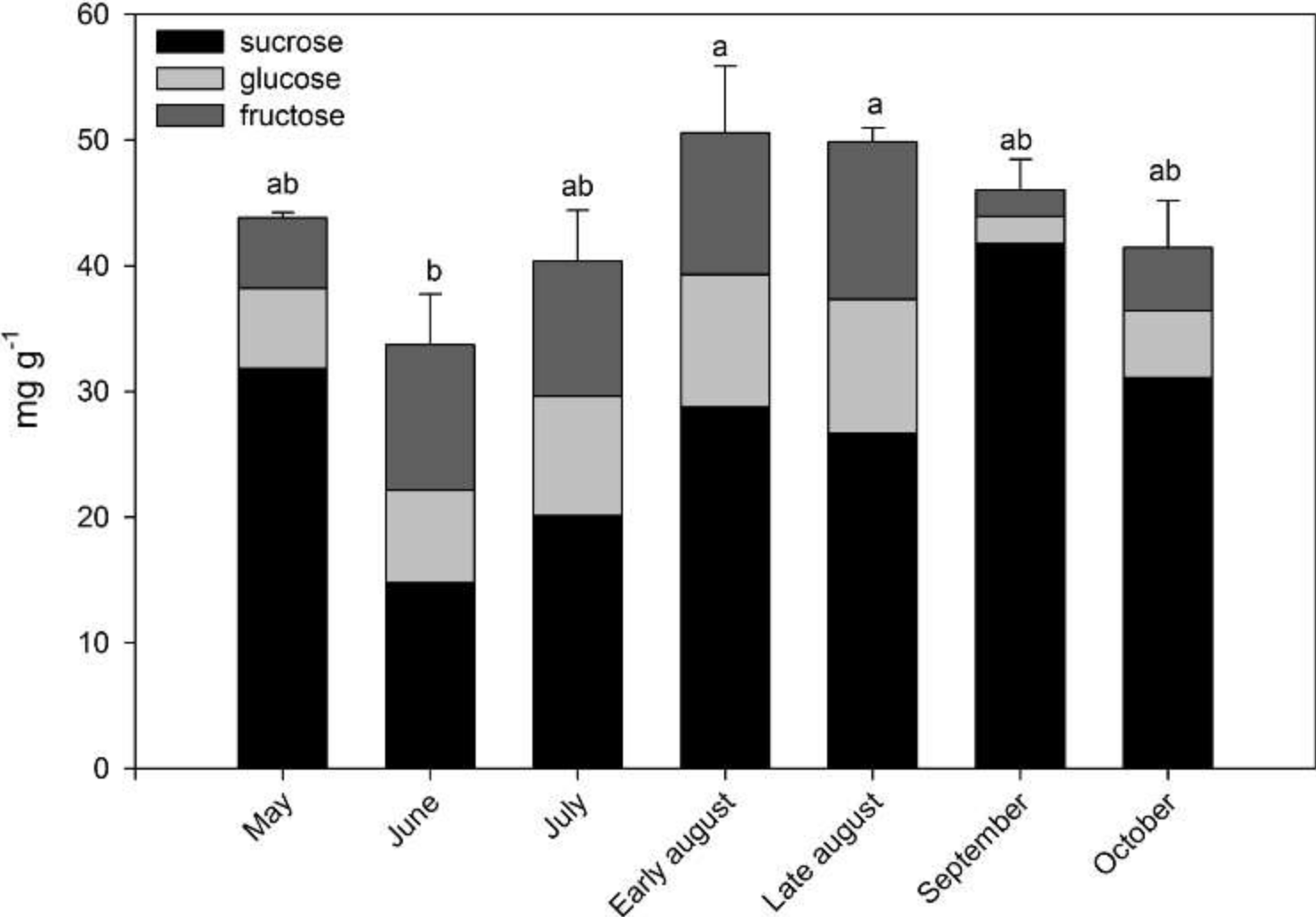
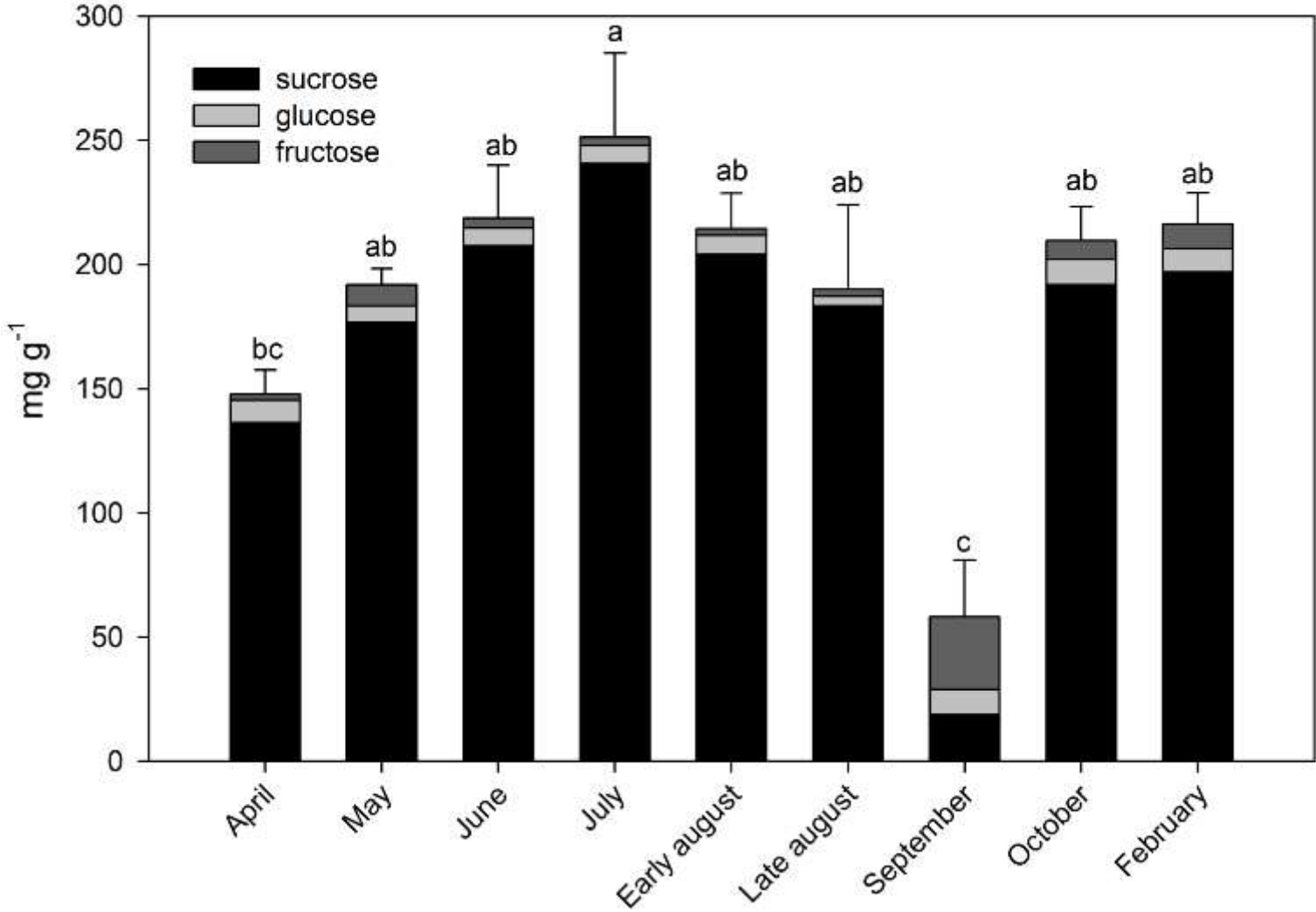




Figure 4c

Water-soluble carbohydrates, rhizomes





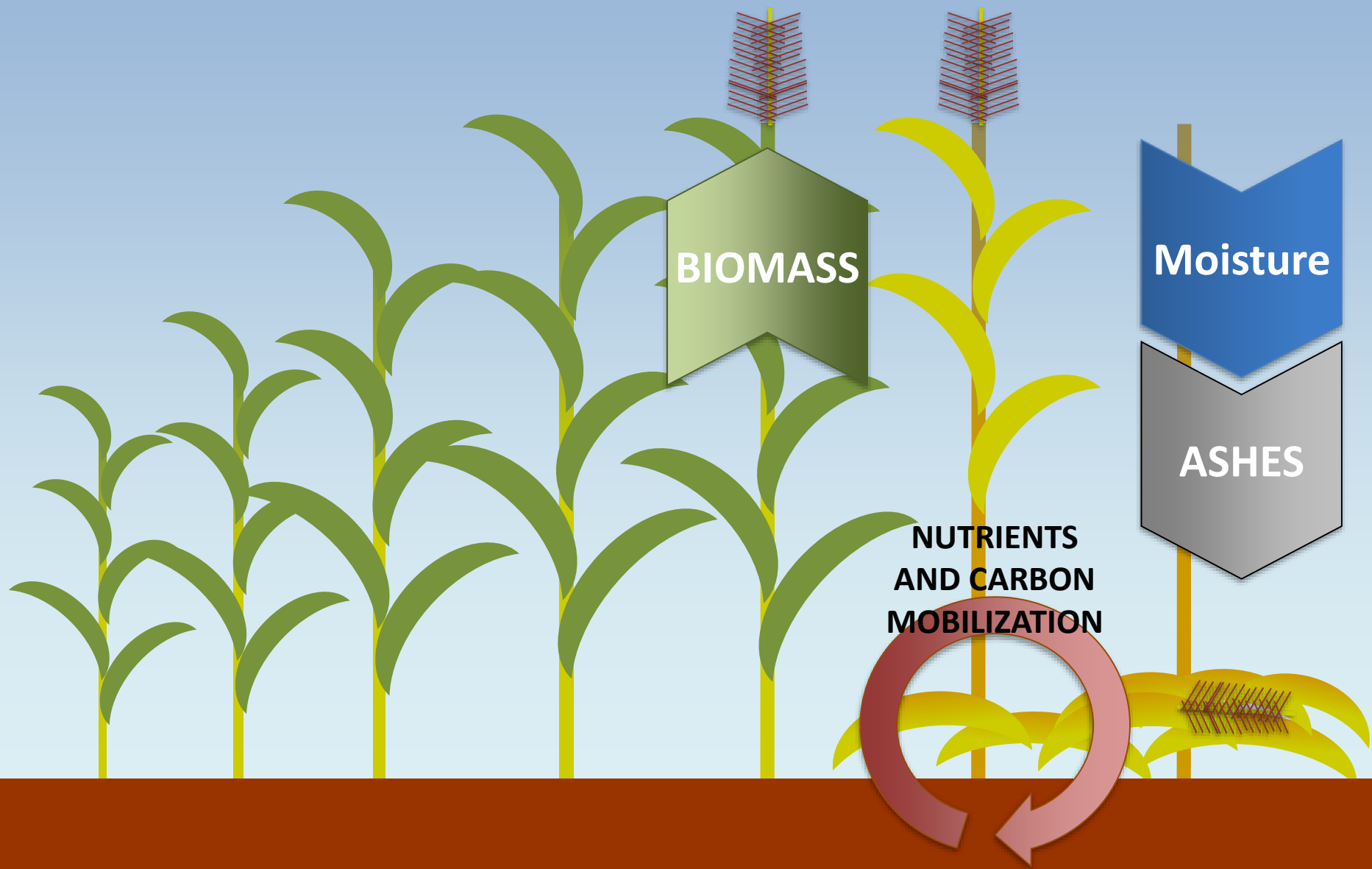
# WHEN TO HARVEST?

Spring

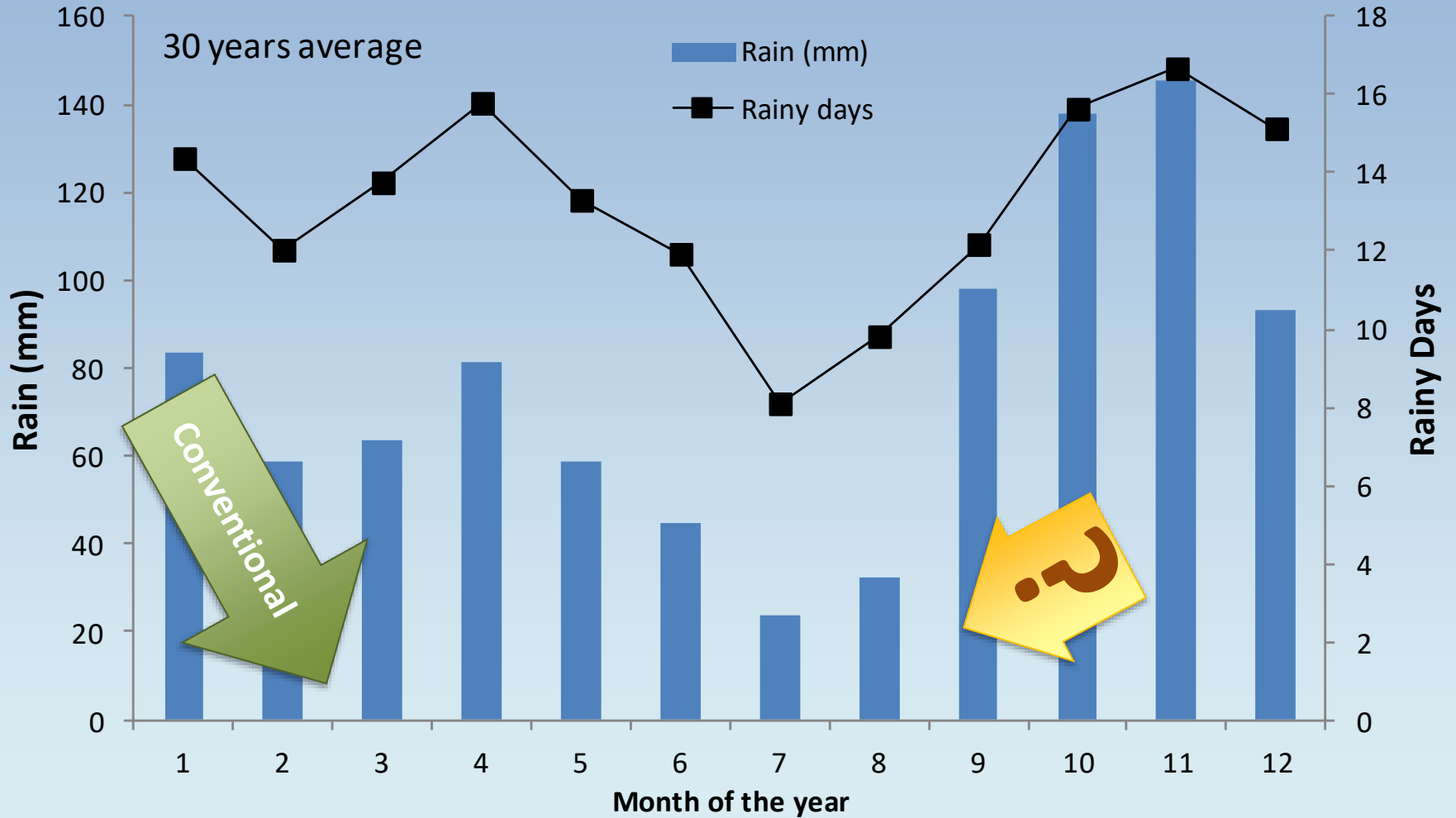
Summer

Autumn

Winter



# WHEN TO HARVEST?



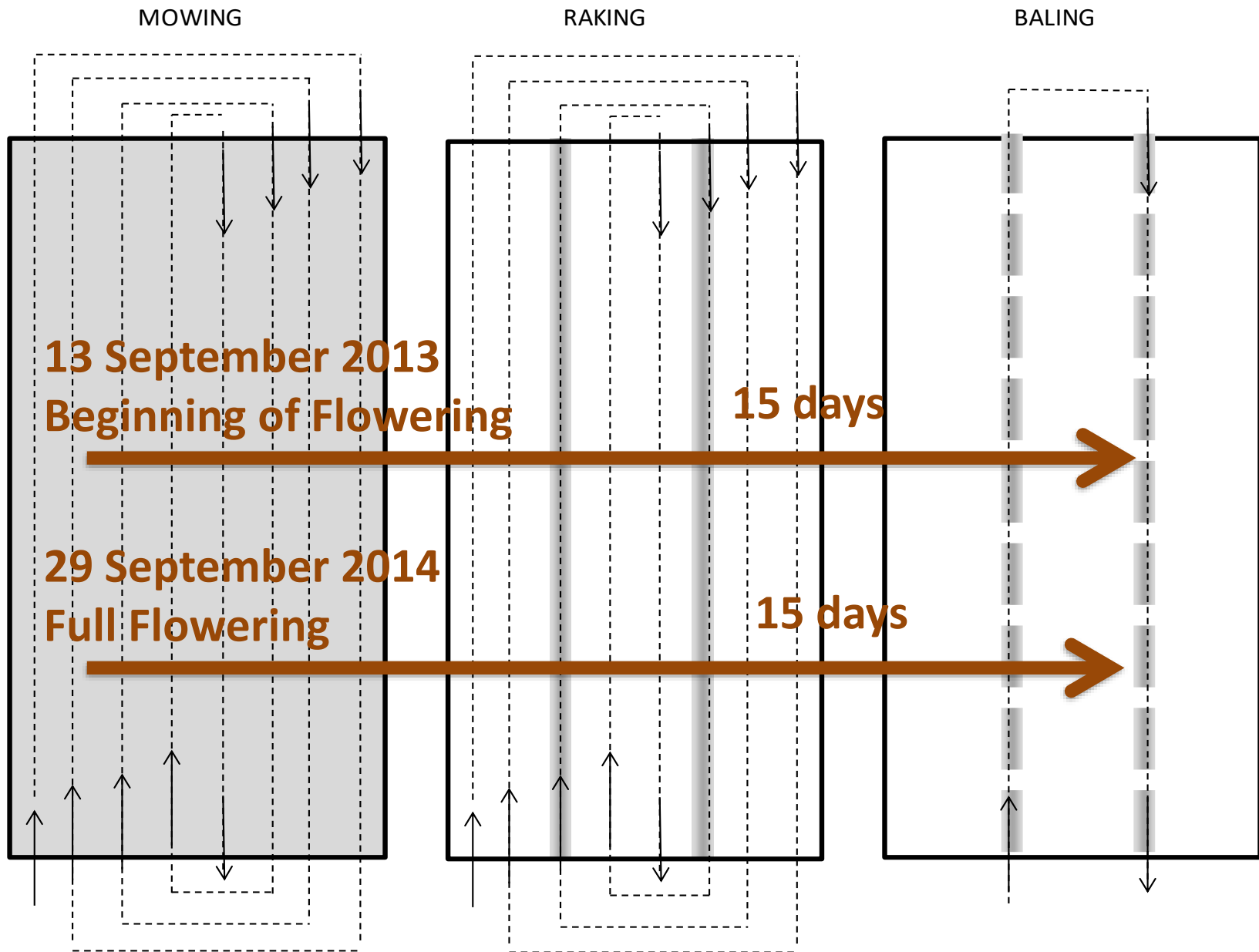
# THREE-PASSAGE SYSTEM AT FLOWERING STAGE (EARLY AUTUMN)



## EARLY HARVESTING OF MISCANTHUS IN ITALY

Machine	Company	Model	Tractor	Fitting
Shredder	NOBILI	WS 320 BIO	Case IH CVX 195 - 192 Hp	Back - Reverse Drive
Rotary Rake	KUHN	GA 3502	New Holland TN75S - 75 Hp	Back
High density square baler	KUHN	LSB 1290	Case IH CVX 195 - 192 Hp	Back

# EARLY HARVESTING OF MISCANTHUS IN ITALY



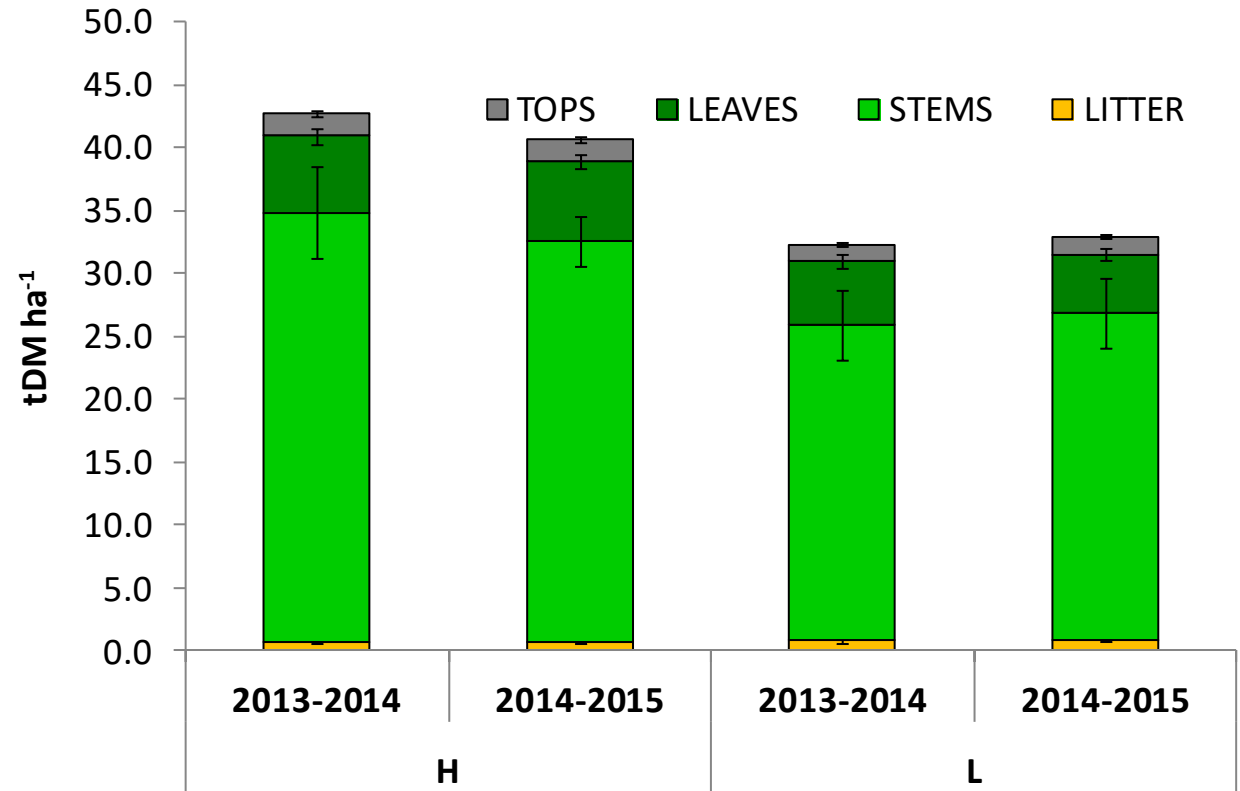
# SINGLE-PASSAGE SYSTEM AT FULL SENESCENCE (LATE WINTER)



## LATE HARVESTING OF MISCANTHUS IN ITALY

Machine	Company	Model	Tractor	Fitting
Shredder	NOBILI	WS 320 BIO	Case IH puma 155 - 155 Hp	Front
High density square baler	KUHN	LSB 1290		Back

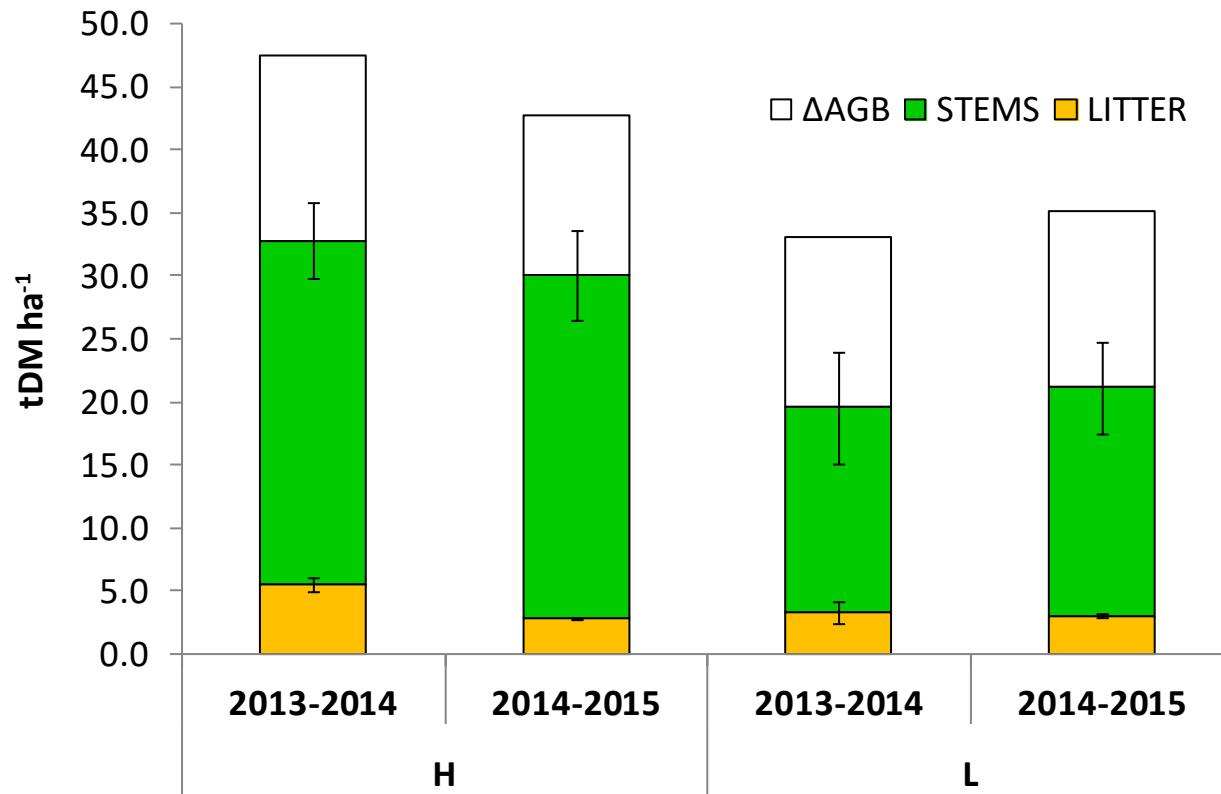
# ABOVE GROUND BIOMASS PARTITIONING AT FLOWERING STAGE



H = high yielding plantation  
L = low yielding plantation



# ABOVE GROUND BIOMASS PARTITIONING AT FULL SENESCENCE



**H = high yielding plantation**  
**L = low yielding plantation**







# MISCANTHUS AFTER MOWING






# MISCANTHUS AFTER RAKING



1.5 m



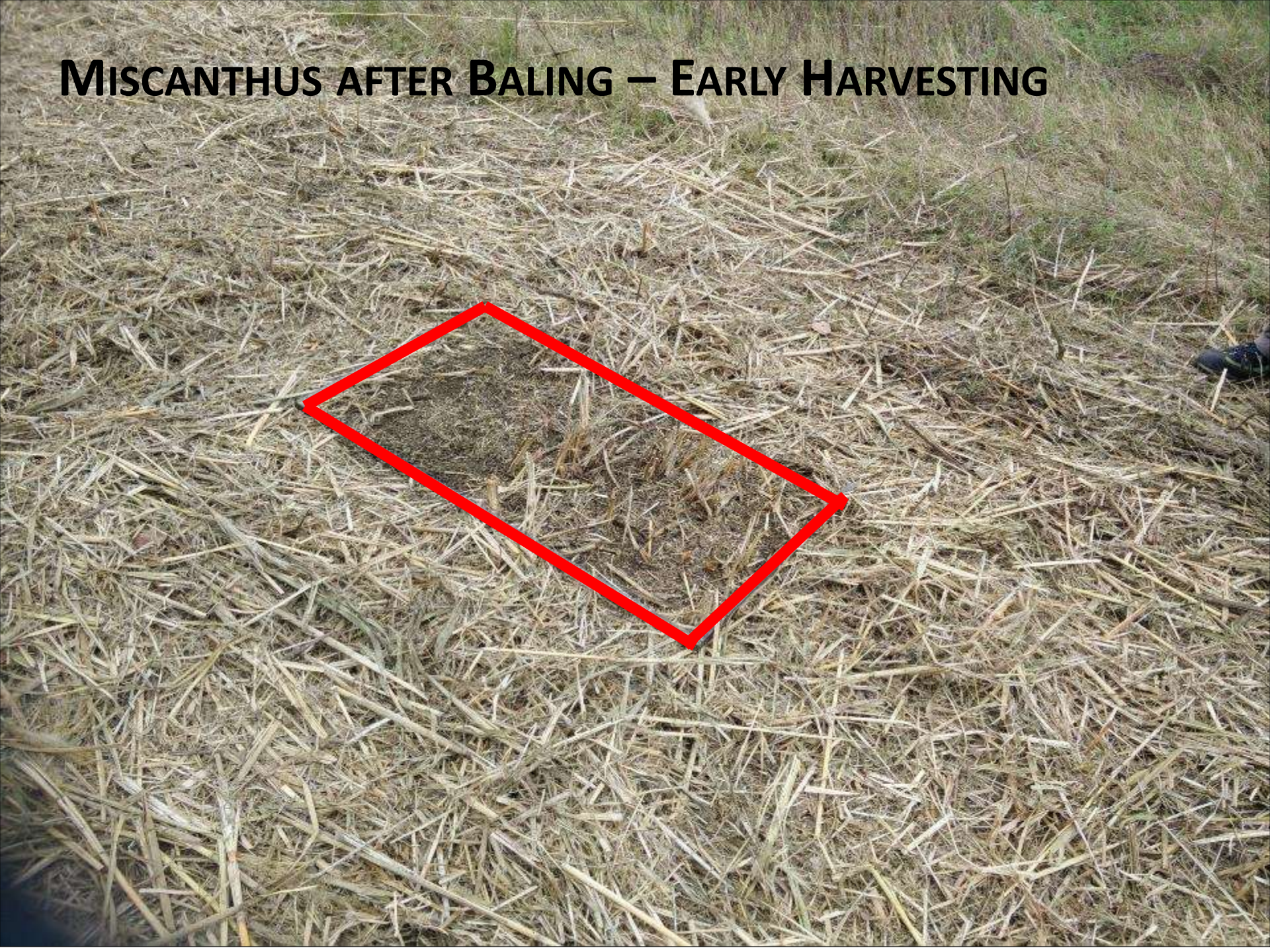




# MISCANTHUS AFTER BALING – EARLY HARVESTING



# MISCANTHUS AFTER BALING – EARLY HARVESTING



# MISCANTHUS AFTER BALING – LATE HARVESTING



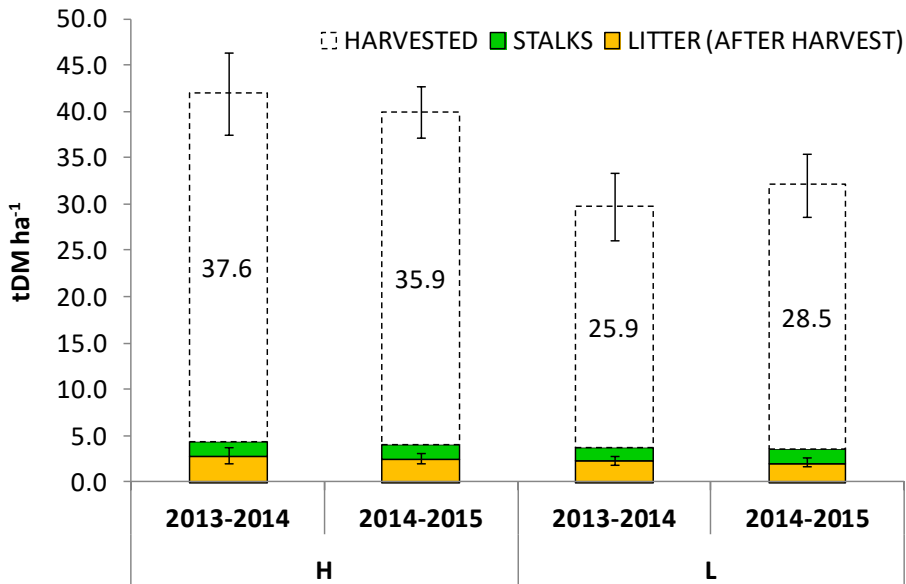


15 cm ~ 1.5 tDM ha<sup>-1</sup>

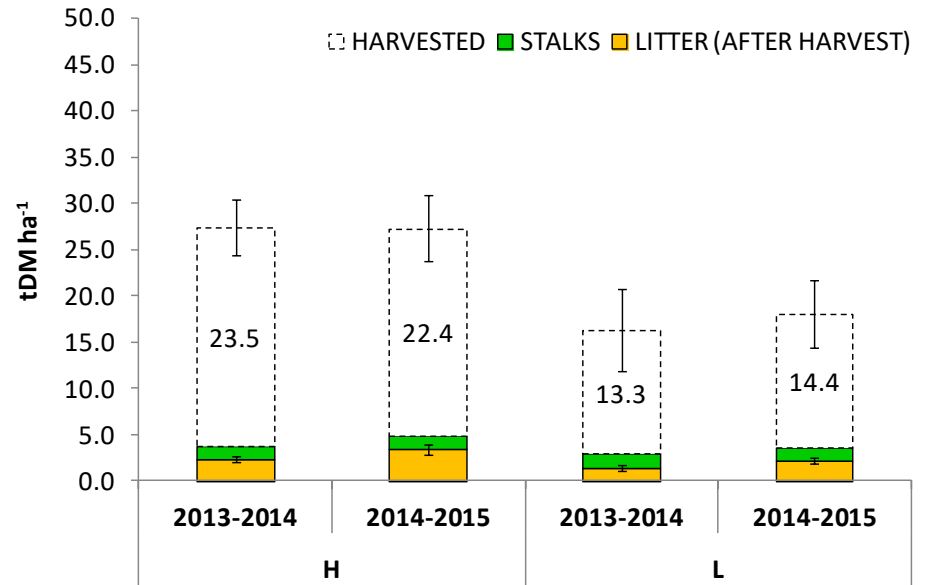
30 cm

# HARVESTED BIOMASS

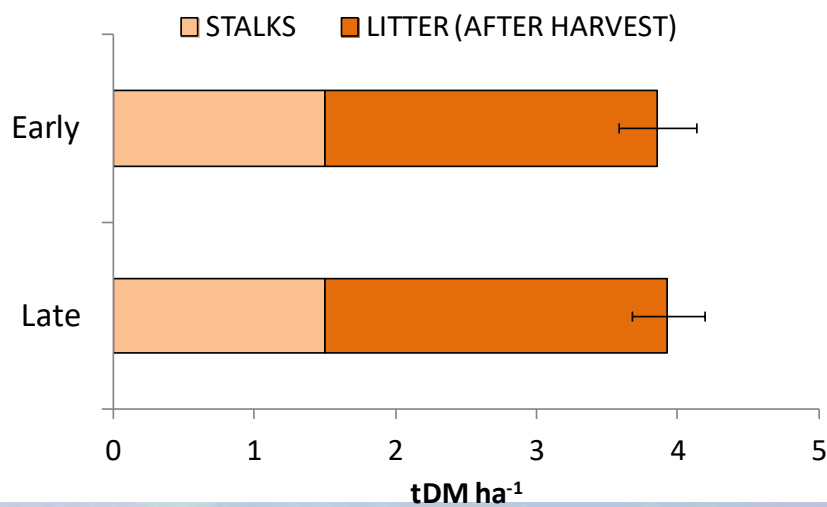
## EARLY HARVEST



## LATE HARVEST



# FIELD LOSSES AND OVERALL EFFICIENCY



**vs Harvestable**

**vs max AGB**

**87%**

**87%**

**70%**

**50%**

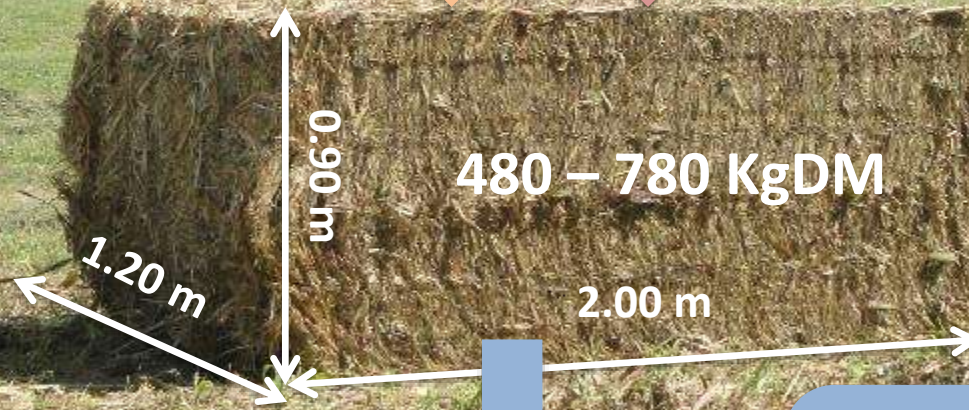


## Three-passages

1.92 L fuel  
4.08 min manpower

## Single-passage

1.45 L fuel  
2.23 min manpower



3-5.5 GJ/m<sup>3</sup>  
Primary energy







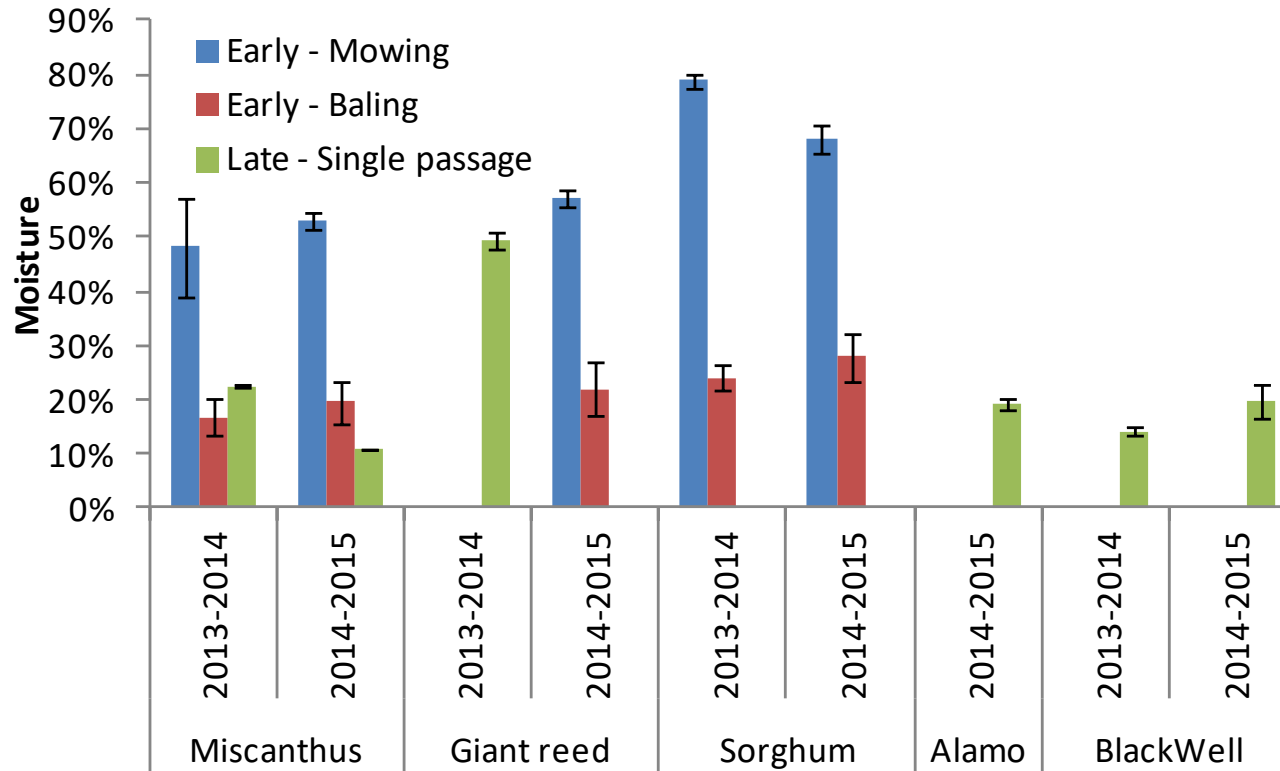








# MOISTURE CONTENT



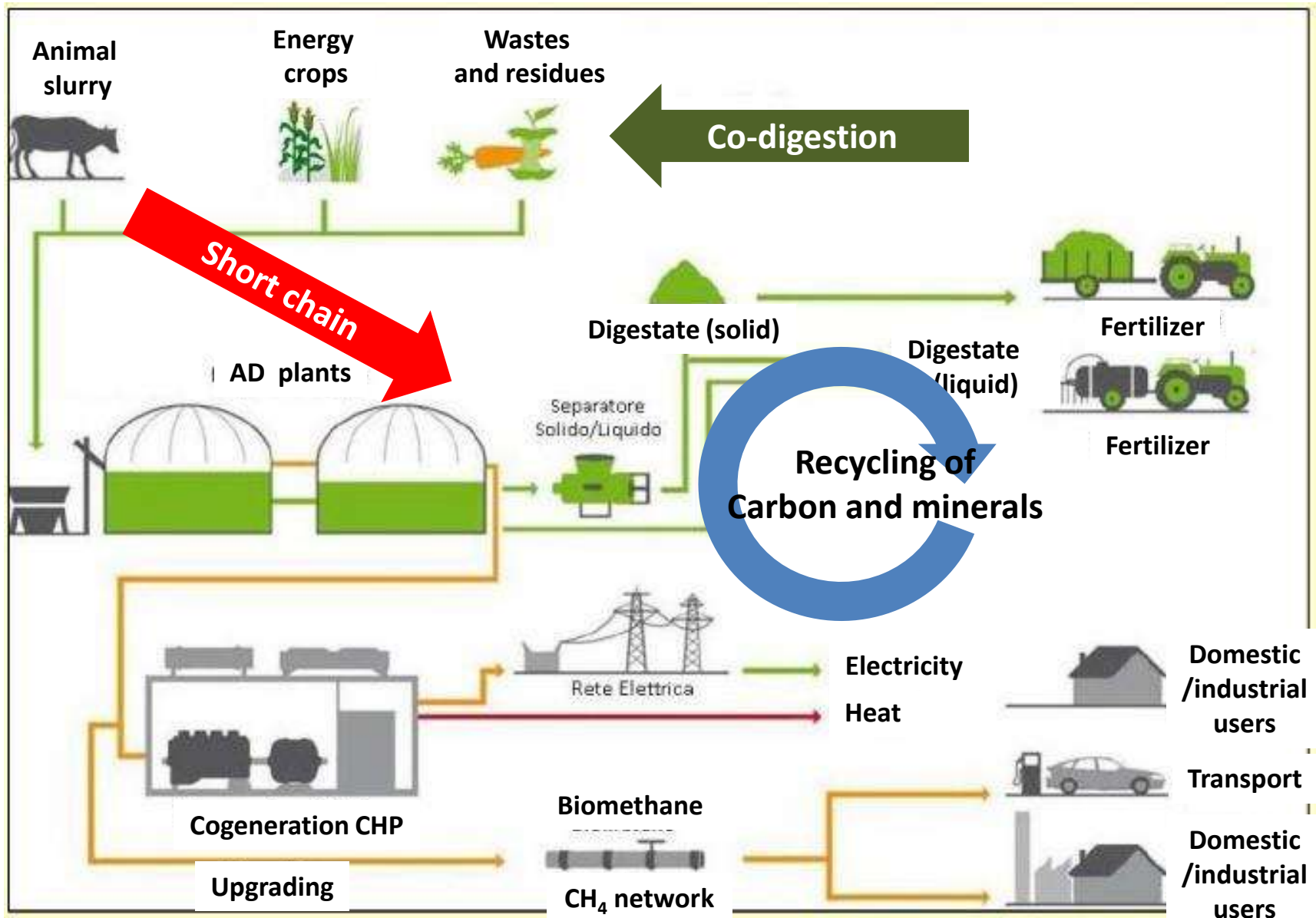




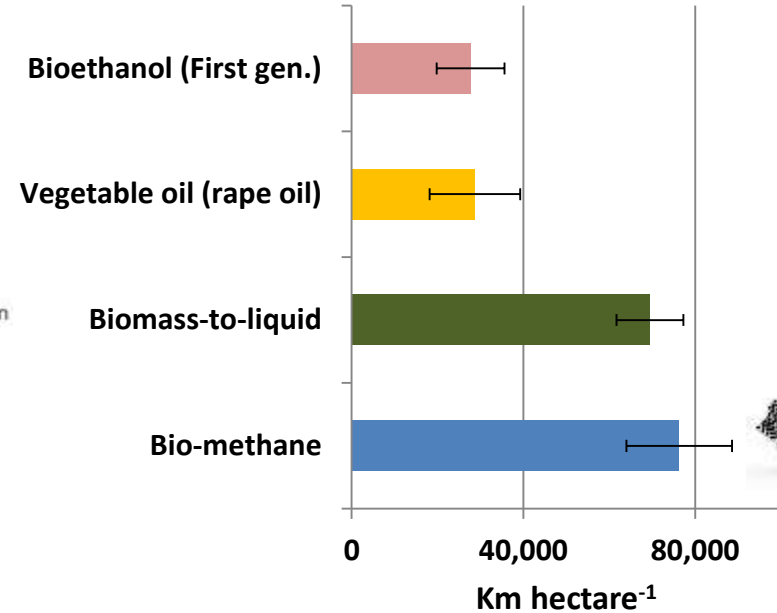
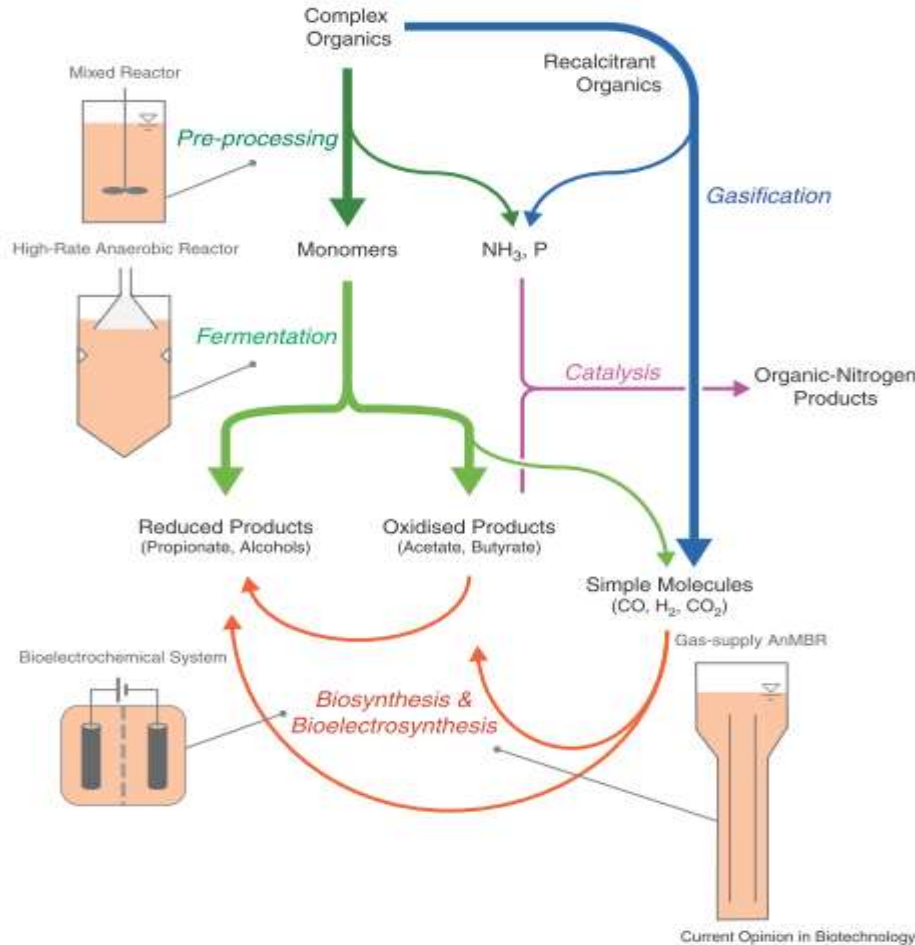




# Reasons behind the success of AD



## Biogas production: the anaerobic digestion pathway



Biomethane showed good performances as a biofuel for transportation

Anaerobic digestion can be integrated with several bioenergy supply chains and in a **biorefinery** approach

Existing and new technologies can be applied to anaerobic digestion for energy recovery and chemicals production.

Perennial grasses have been acknowledged as high-yielding, low input crops, very promising for their GHG and energy balance

At the same time, annual crops (e.g. maize) have been increasingly used (and criticized) as substrates for biogas production.



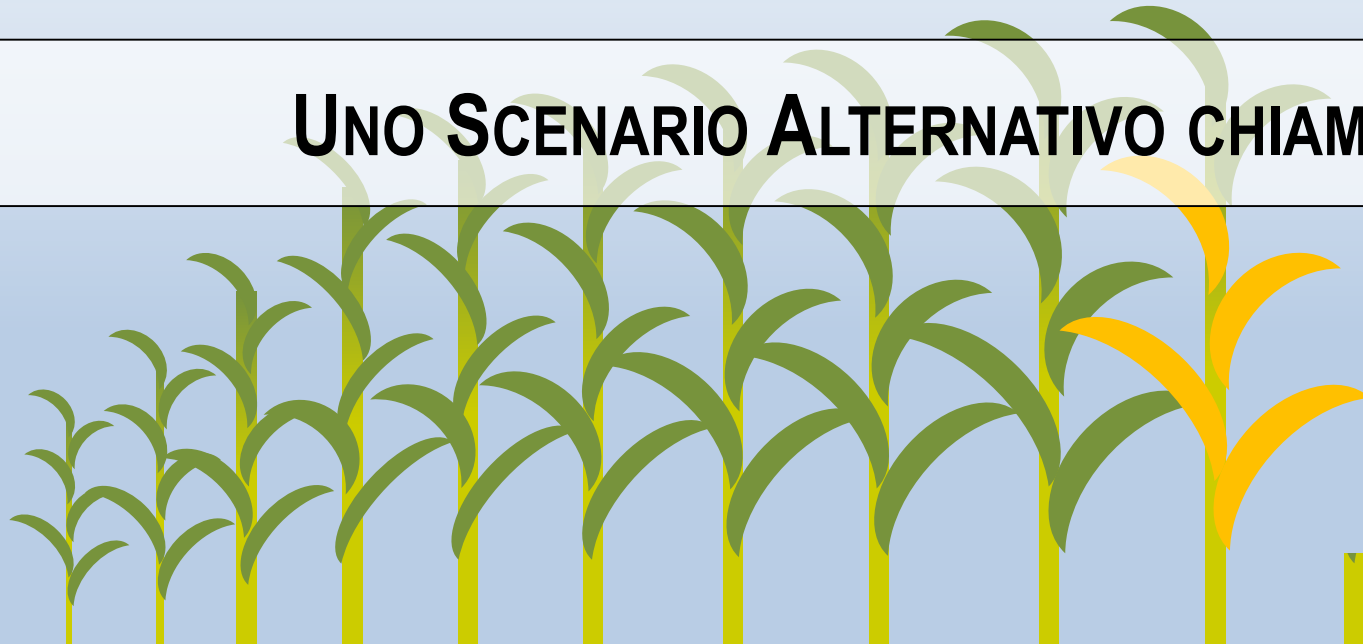
In the last few years, perennial grasses gained interests as potential feedstock for anaerobic digestion.

Crop		Biochemical Methane Potential (BMP)	
<b>Maize</b>	<i>Zea mais</i> L.*	312-365 NL kgVS <sup>-1</sup>	Amon et al., 2007
<b>Hemp</b>	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.	234 NL kgVS <sup>-1</sup>	Kreuger et al., 2011
<b>Switchgrass</b>	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.	191-309 NL kgVS <sup>-1</sup>	Massé et al., 2010
<b>Reed canary grass</b>	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> L.	283-315 NL kgVS <sup>-1</sup>	Kandel et al., 2013
<b>Giant reed</b>	<i>Arundo donax</i> L.	273 NL kgVS <sup>-1</sup>	Di Gregorio et al., 2013

\* FAO 600, milk ripeness

# UNO SCENARIO ALTERNATIVO CHIAMATO GIANT REED

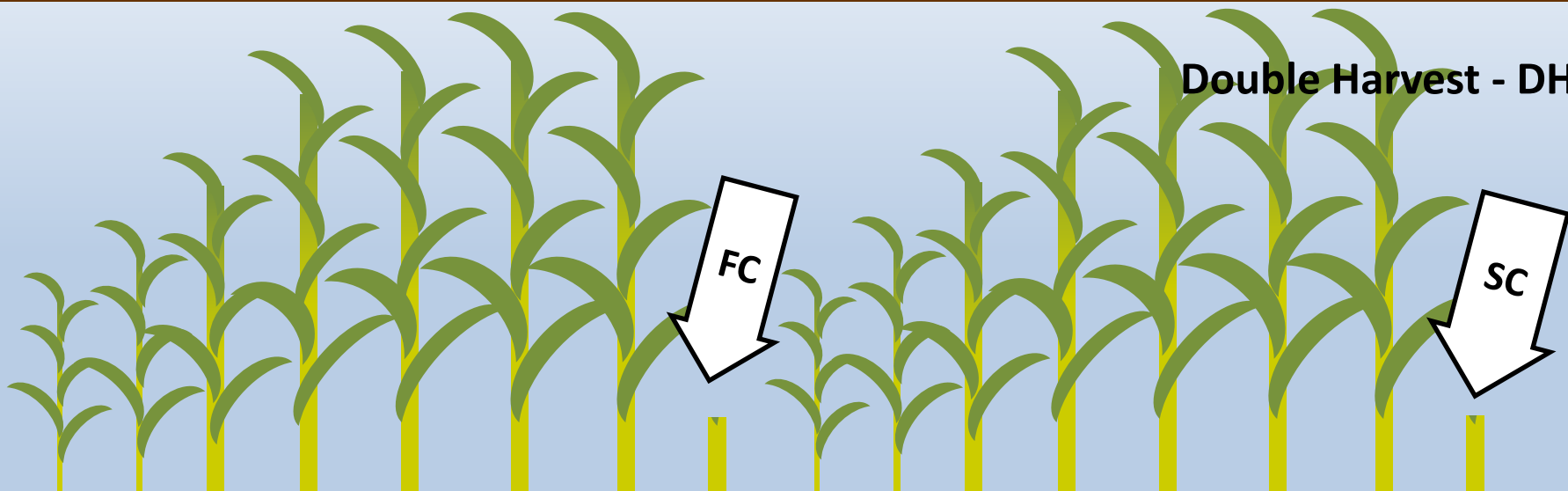
Single Harvest -SH



Settembre

Marzo

Double Harvest - DH

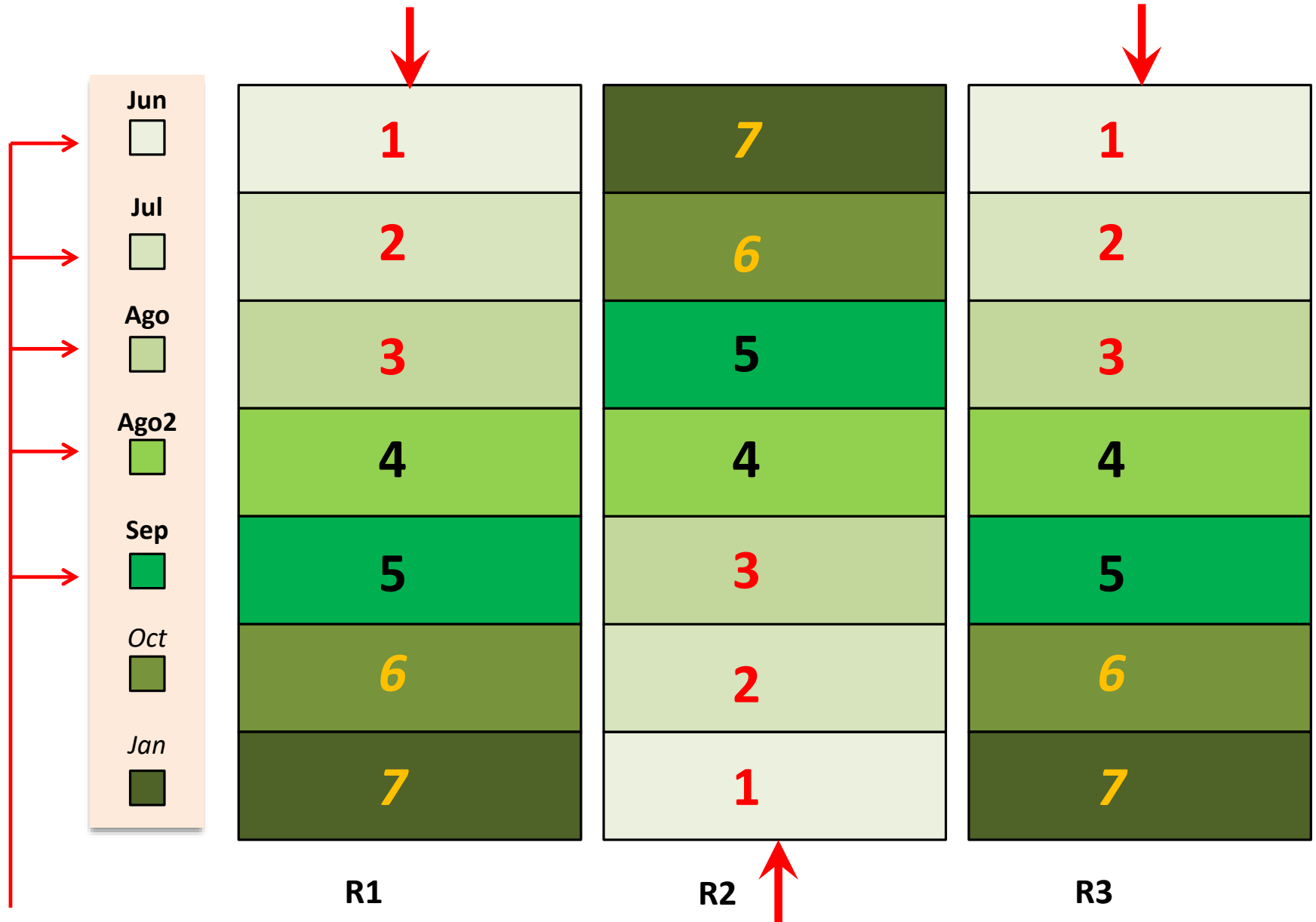


Ottobre

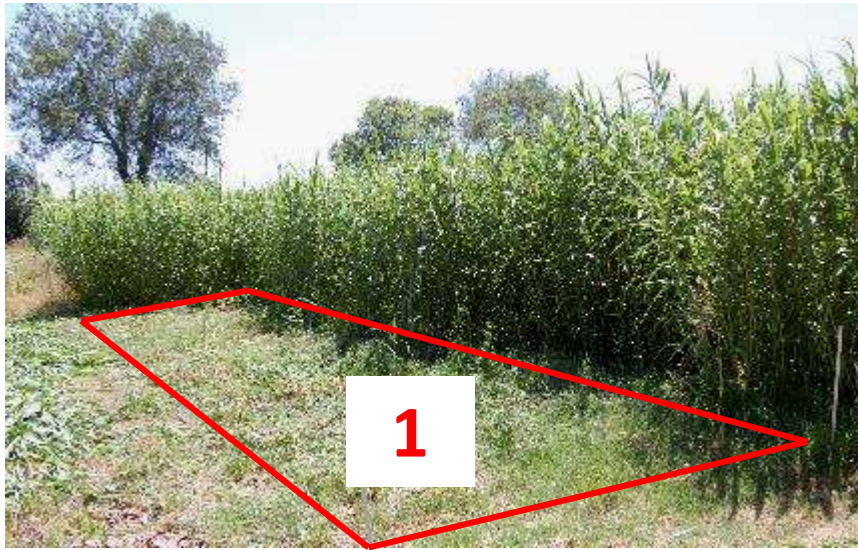
Giugno/Luglio

Marzo

# 1.1 Materials and methods



June, after FC



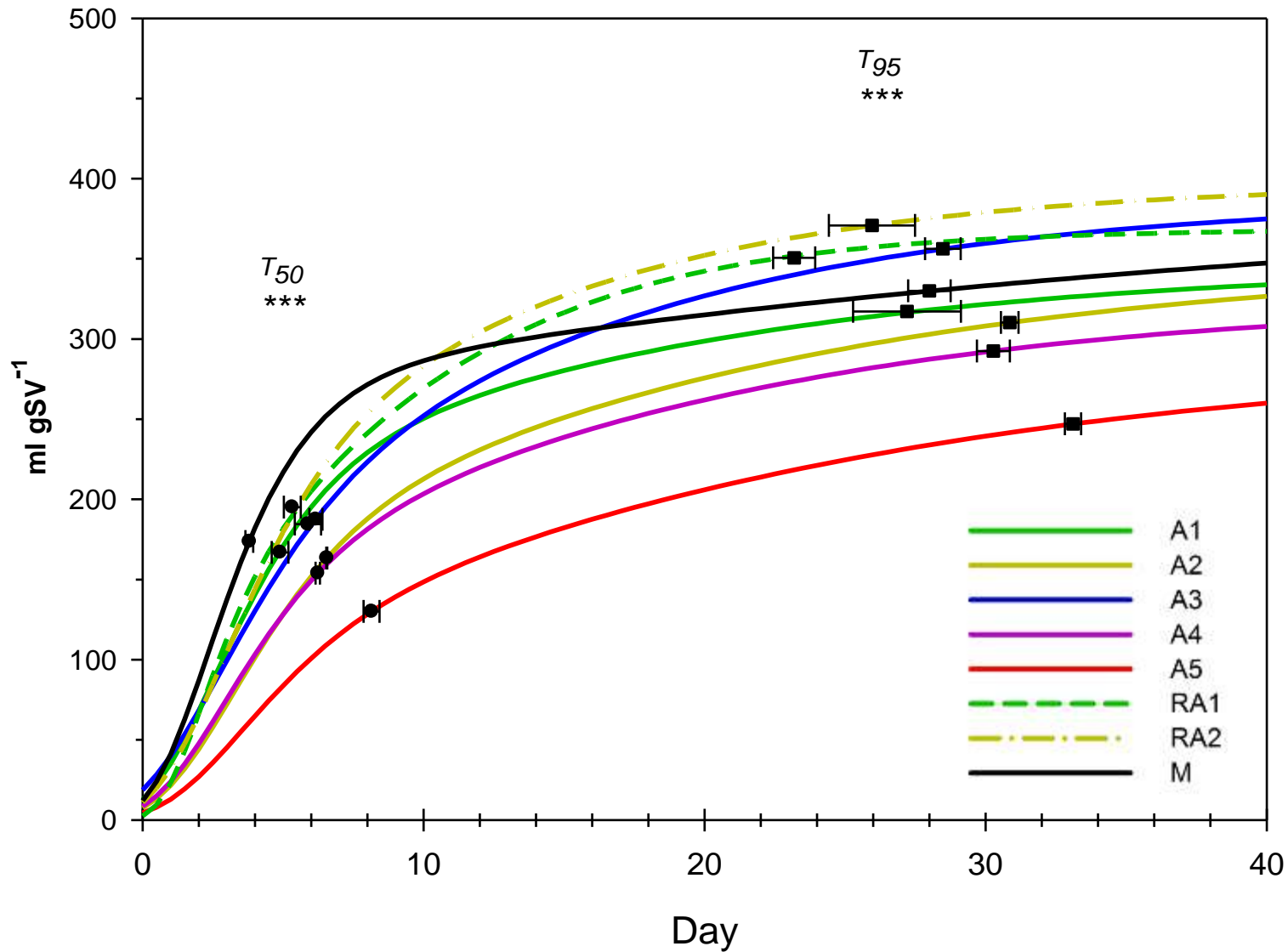
August, crop regrowth before SC



September, crop regrowth before SC



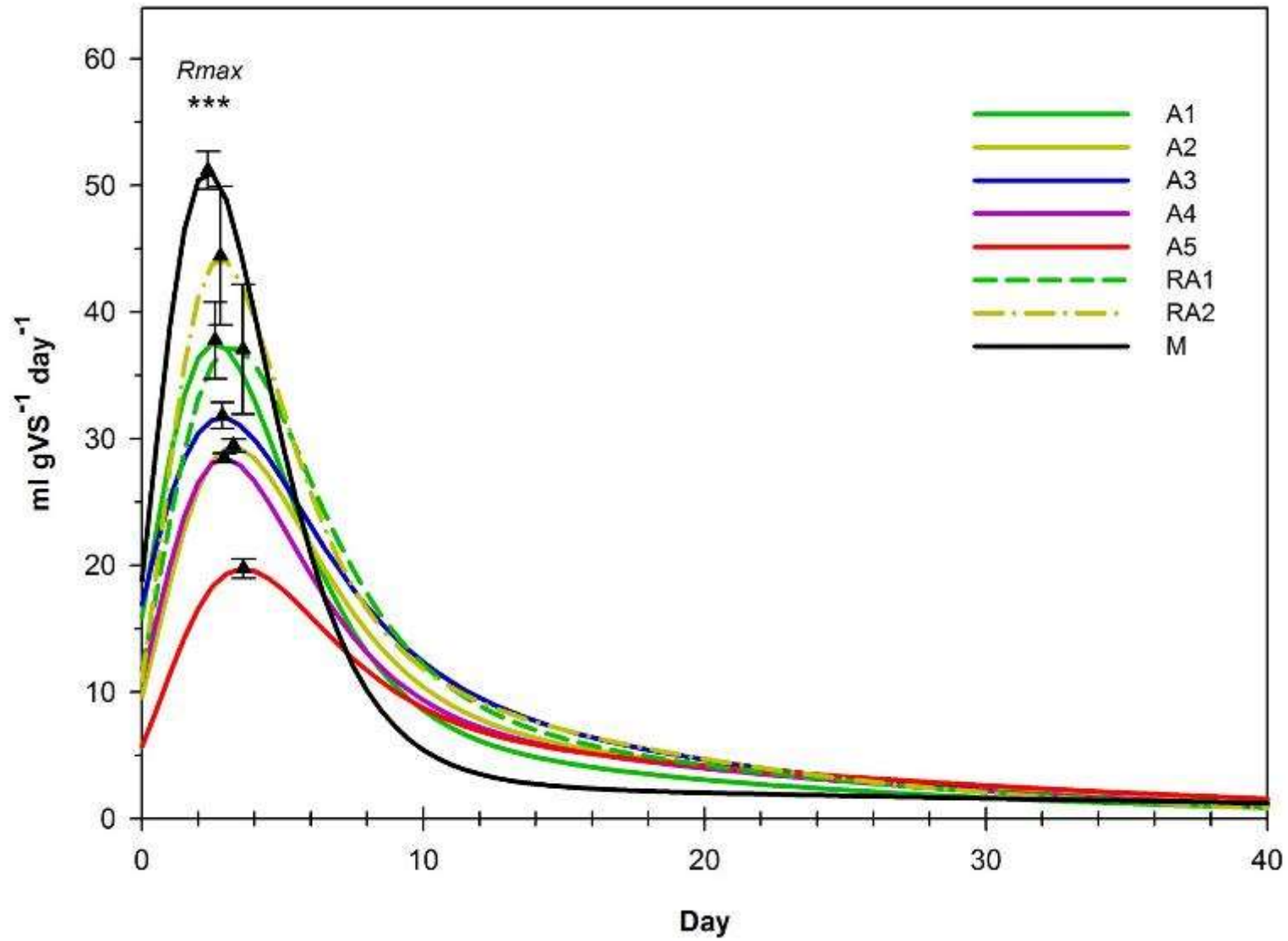
## 2.2 Results



The highest Biochemical Methane Potential (390 NL CH<sub>4</sub> kgVS<sup>-1</sup>) was achieved by RA2, while the lowest was that of A5 (280 NL kgVS<sup>-1</sup>).

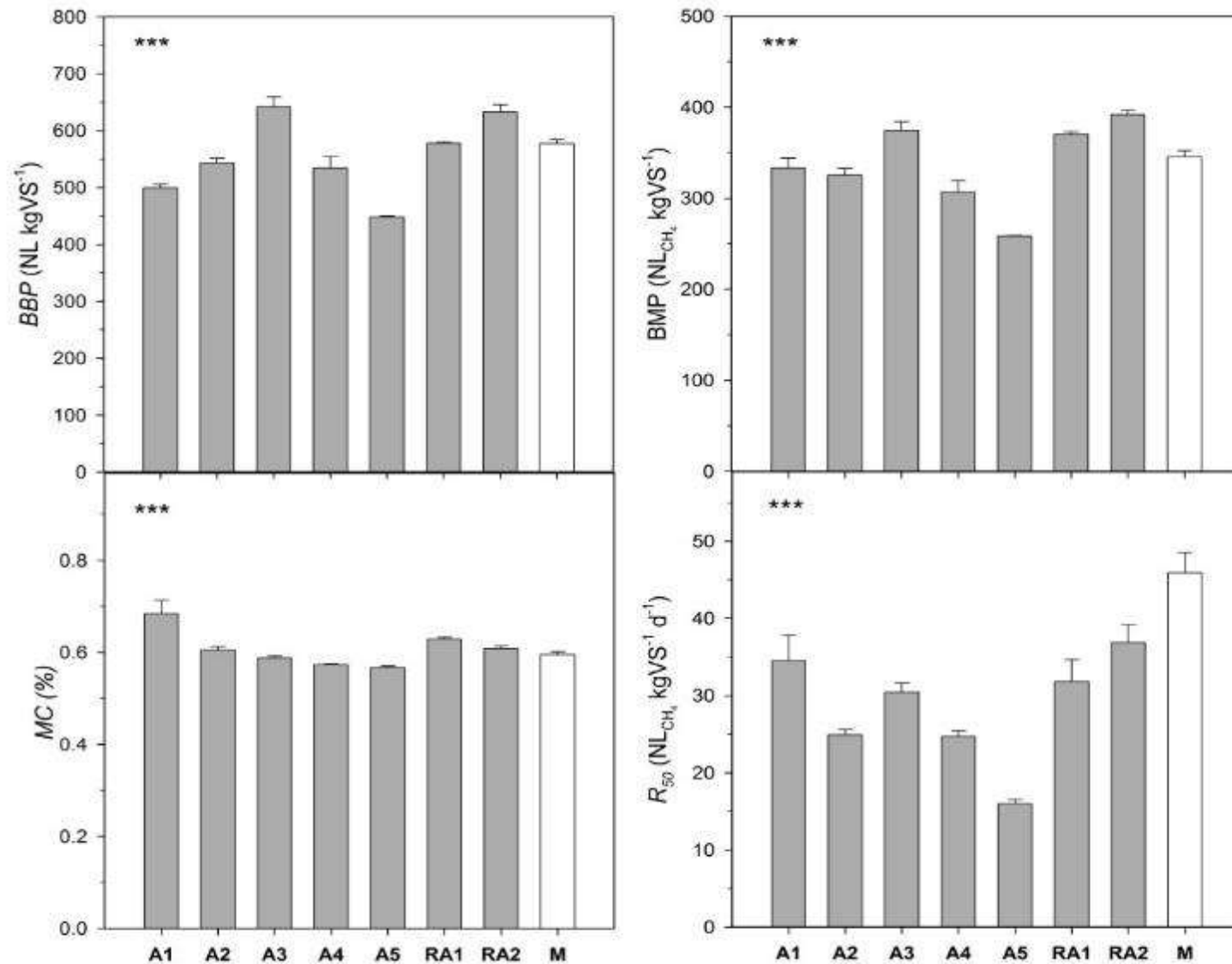


## 2.2 Results



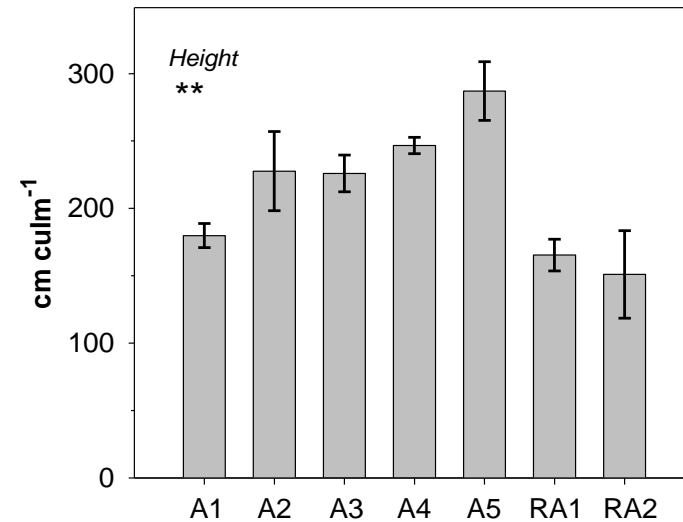
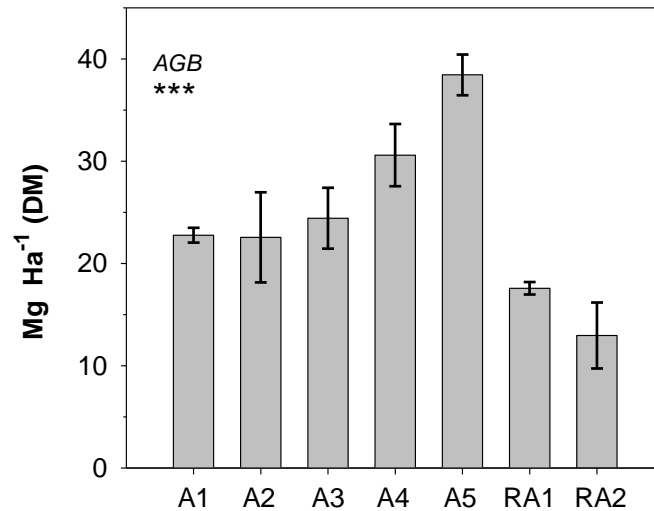
The maximum digestion rate ( $R_{max}$ ) ranged from 51  $\text{NL CH}_4 \text{ kg VS}^{-1}$  (maize) to 20  $\text{NL CH}_4 \text{ kg VS}^{-1} \text{ day}^{-1}$  (A5).

## 2.2 Results



BBP, BMP, MC and digestion rate ( $R_{50}$ ) varied significantly between different cuts.

## 2.2 Results

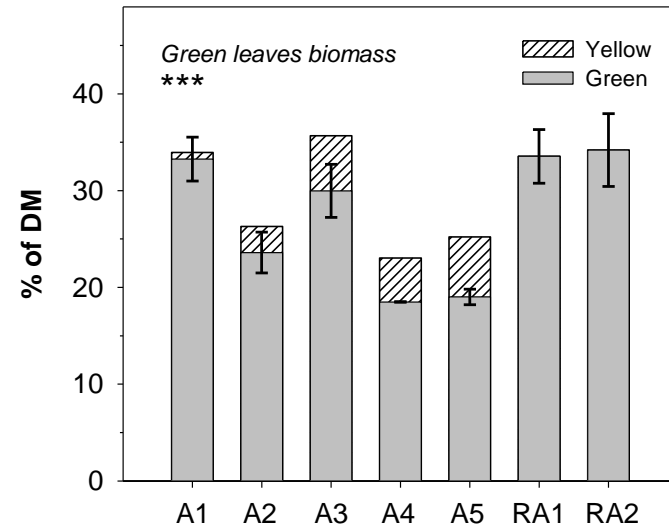
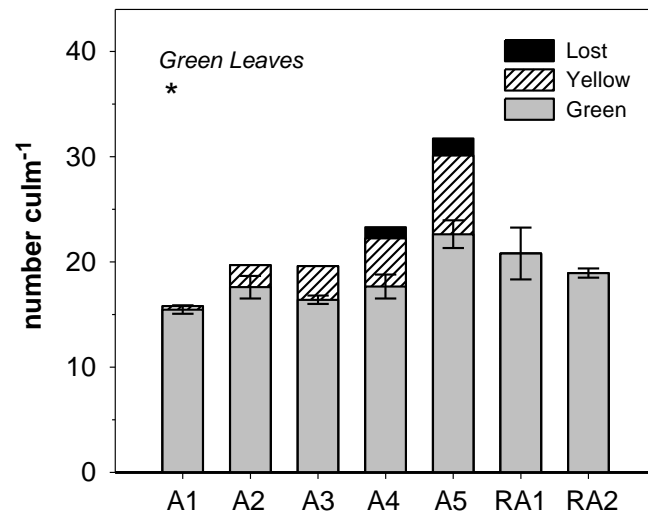


Correlation matrix between anaerobic digestion parameters and biomass/crop characteristics

	Height	Leaves (%)	Green Leaves (%)	TKN (%)	Carbon (%)	C/N	Lignin (%)	NSC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>BMP</b>	-0.84 *	0.82 *	0.84 *	0.78 *	-0.53 ns	-0.83 *	0.49 ns	0.44 ns
<b>BBP</b>	-0.58 ns	0.64 ns	0.58 ns	0.51 ns	-0.16 ns	-0.56 ns	0.48 ns	0.43 ns
<b>MC</b>	-0.69 ns	0.57 ns	0.72 ns	0.76 *	-0.9 **	-0.77 *	0.06 ns	-0.16 ns
<b>T<sub>50</sub></b>	0.87 *	-0.65 ns	-0.78 *	-0.85 *	0.75 ns	0.86 *	-0.16 ns	-0.09 ns
<b>T<sub>95</sub></b>	0.92 ***	-0.75 ns	-0.87 *	-0.75 *	0.71 ns	0.78 *	-0.53 ns	-0.47 ns
<b>R<sub>max</sub></b>	-0.98 ***	0.74 ns	0.88 **	0.93 ***	-0.79 *	-0.92 ***	0.18 ns	0.42 ns
<b>R<sub>50</sub></b>	-0.94 ***	0.82 *	0.91 ***	0.93 ***	-0.75 ns	-0.94 ***	0.23 ns	0.33 ns

Plant height increased along the seasons, thus being an indicator of crop maturity

## 2.2 Results

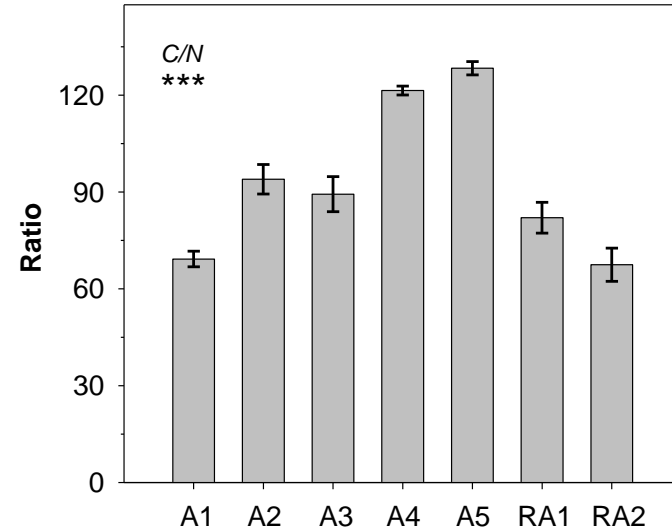
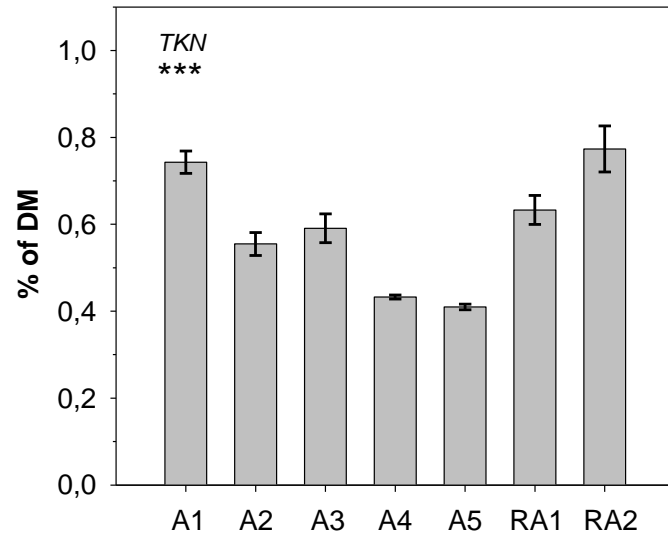


Correlation matrix between anaerobic digestion parameters and biomass/crop characteristics

	Height	Leaves (%)	Green Leaves (%)	TKN (%)	Carbon (%)	C/N	Lignin (%)	NSC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>BMP</b>	-0.84 *	0.82 *	0.84 *	0.78 *	-0.53 ns	-0.83 *	0.49 ns	0.44 ns
<b>BBP</b>	-0.58 ns	0.64 ns	0.58 ns	0.51 ns	-0.16 ns	-0.56 ns	0.48 ns	0.43 ns
<b>MC</b>	-0.69 ns	0.57 ns	0.72 ns	0.76 *	-0.9 **	-0.77 *	0.06 ns	-0.16 ns
<b>T<sub>50</sub></b>	0.87 *	-0.65 ns	-0.78 *	-0.85 *	0.75 ns	0.86 *	-0.16 ns	-0.09 ns
<b>T<sub>95</sub></b>	0.92 ***	-0.75 ns	-0.87 *	-0.75 *	0.71 ns	0.78 *	-0.53 ns	-0.47 ns
<b>R<sub>max</sub></b>	-0.98 ***	0.74 ns	0.88 **	0.93 ***	-0.79 *	-0.92 ***	0.18 ns	0.42 ns
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Plant height increased along the seasons, thus being an indicator of crop maturity

## 2.2 Results

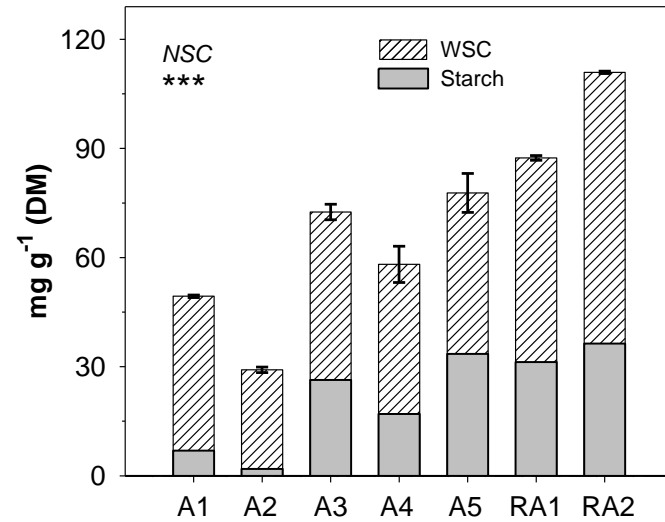
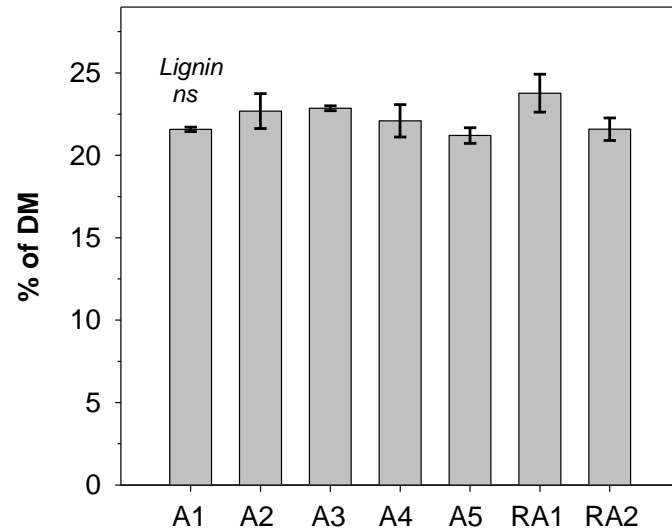


Correlation matrix between anaerobic digestion parameters and biomass/crop characteristics

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Plant height increased along the seasons, thus being an indicator of crop maturity

## 2.2 Results

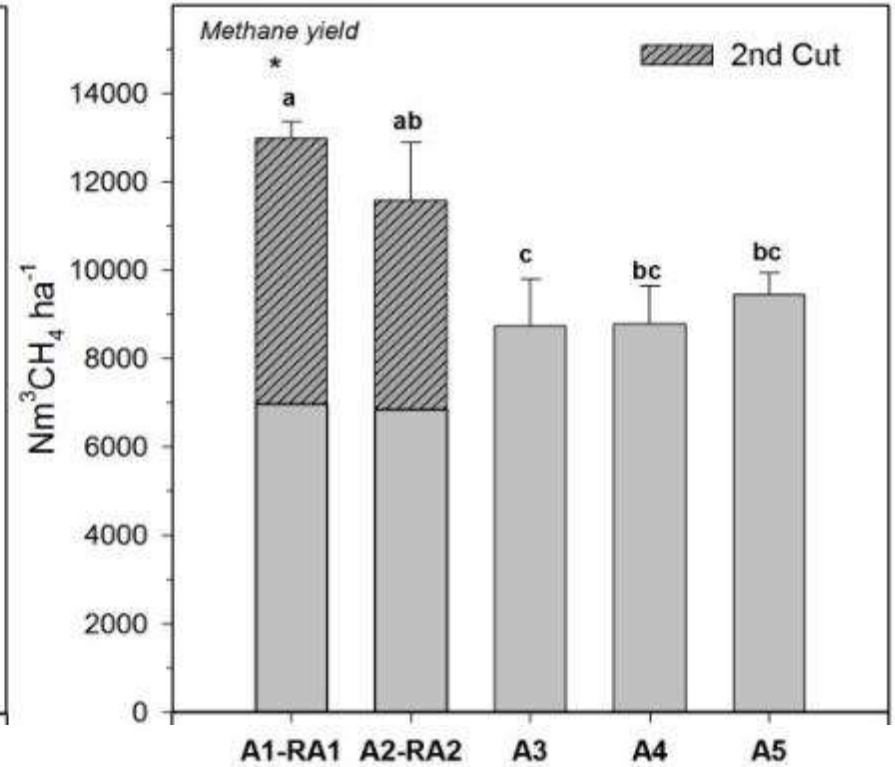
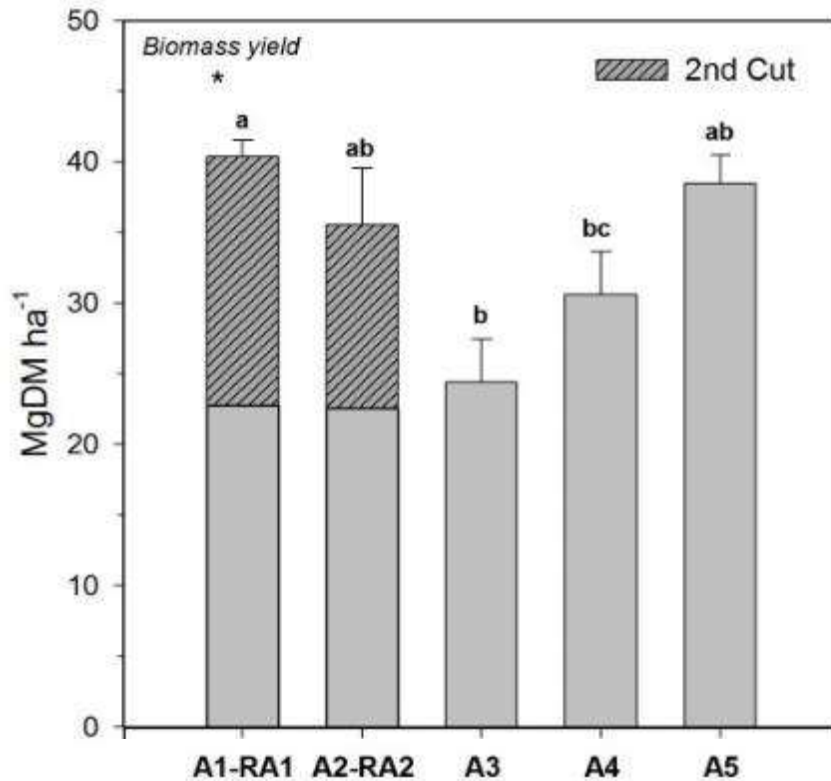


Correlation matrix between anaerobic digestion parameters and biomass/crop characteristics

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T <sub>50</sub>	0.87 *	-0.65 ns	-0.78 *	-0.85 *	0.75 ns	0.86 *	-0.16 ns	-0.09 ns
T <sub>95</sub>	0.92 ***	-0.75 ns	-0.87 *	-0.75 *	0.71 ns	0.78 *	-0.53 ns	-0.47 ns
R <sub>max</sub>	-0.98 ***	0.74 ns	0.88 **	0.93 ***	-0.79 *	-0.92 ***	0.18 ns	0.42 ns
R <sub>50</sub>	-0.94 ***	0.82 *	0.91 ***	0.93 ***	-0.75 ns	-0.94 ***	0.23 ns	0.33 ns

Plant height increased along the seasons, thus being an indicator of crop maturity

## 2.2 Results



**A1+RA1**, based on first cut in *June* and second cut in *October*, showed the highest methane yield per hectare, as a result of high yields and high digestibility.

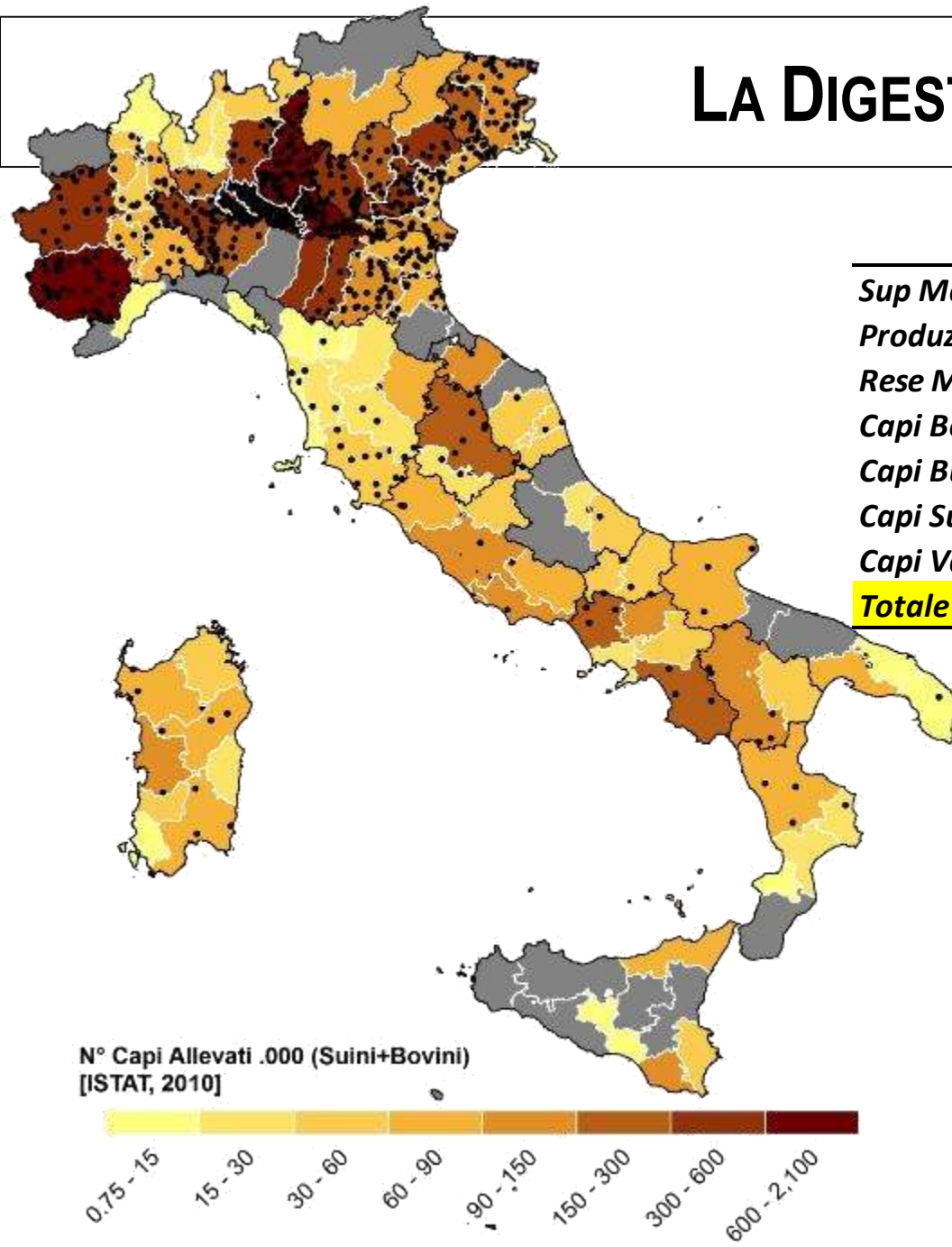
**A1+RA1**: ~13000 Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> (about 50% at FC)

**A2+RA2**: ~11500 Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> (about 50% at FC)

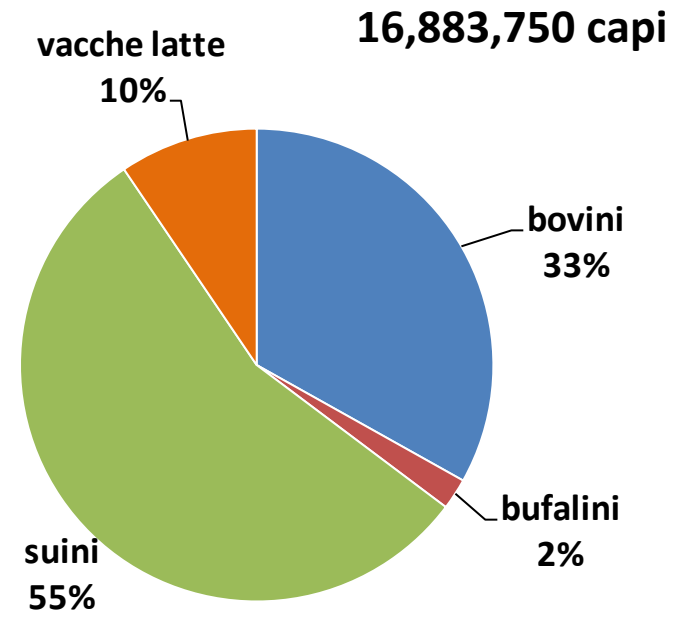
**A5**: ~9000 Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>

**M**: ~6500 Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> (considering 20 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> dm)

# LA DIGESTIONE ANAEROBICA IN ITALIA

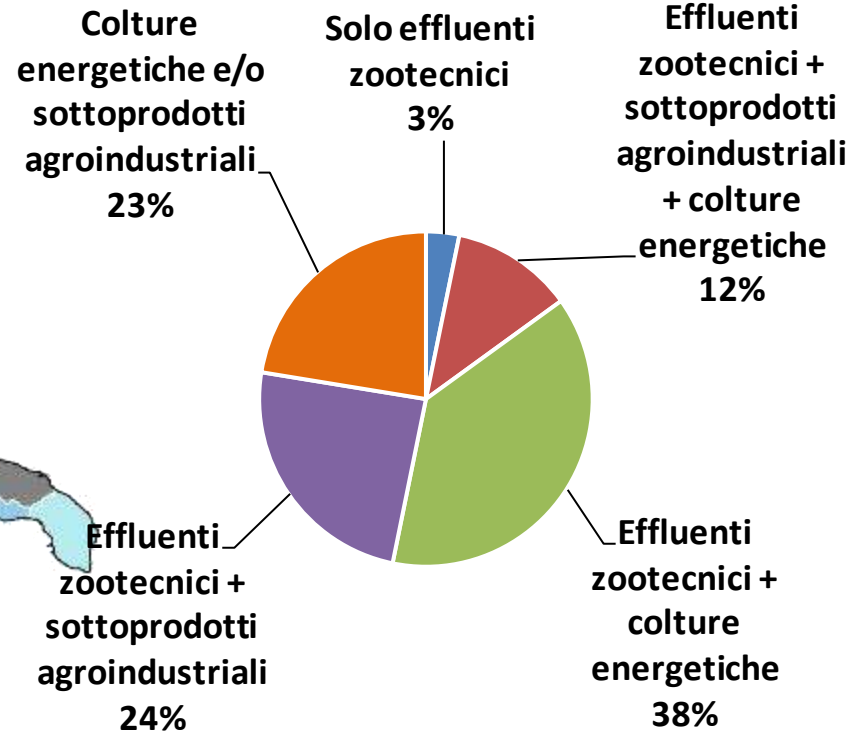
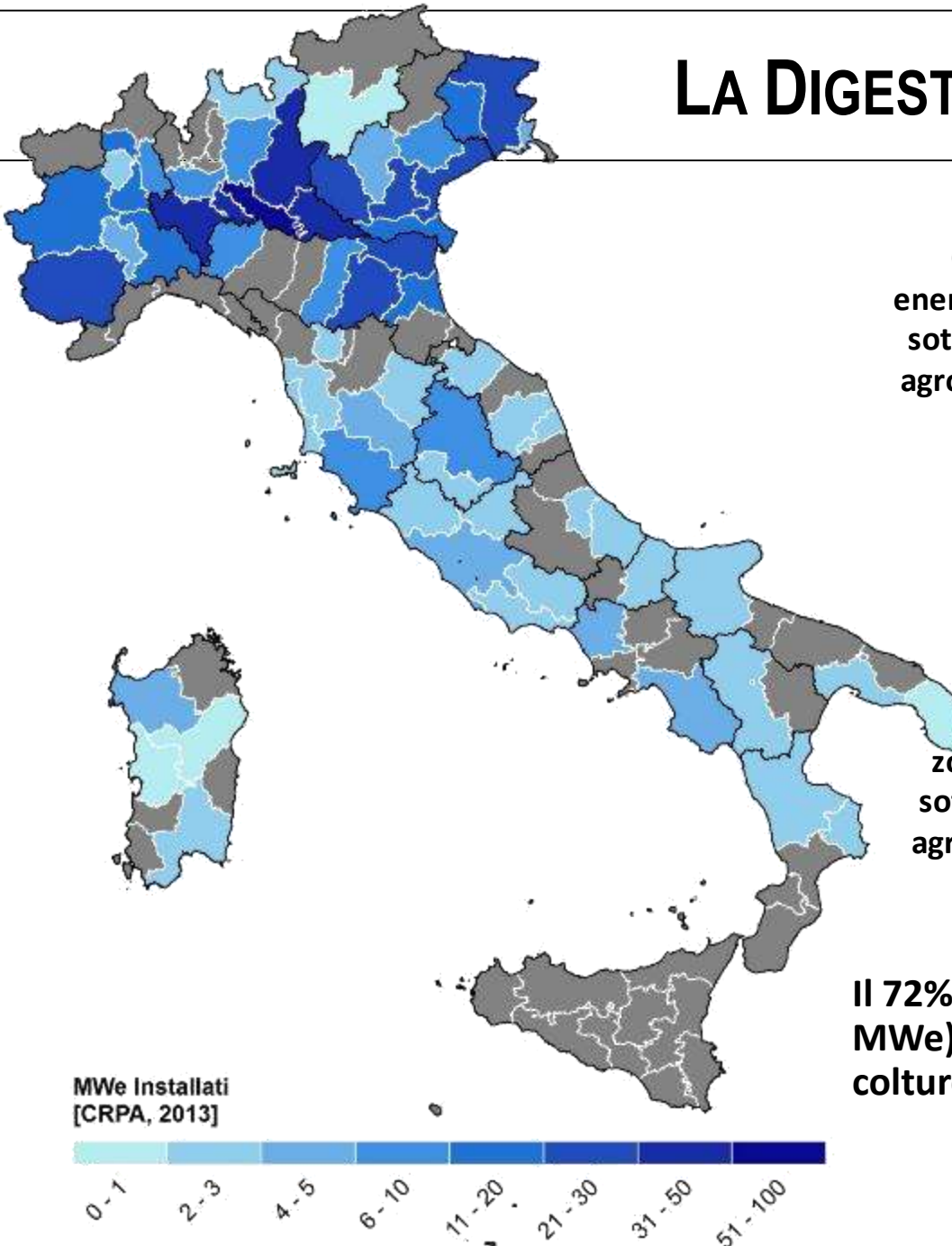


	N° Impianti DA r (spearman)	Potenze kWe r (spearman)
<i>Sup Mais Ceroso</i>	0.56 ***	0.54 ***
<i>Produzione Mais Ceroso</i>	0.56 ***	0.55 ***
<i>Rese Mais Ceroso</i>	0.33 **	0.36 **
<i>Capi Bovini</i>	0.55 ***	0.45 ***
<i>Capi Bufalini</i>	0.11 <i>ns</i>	0.12 <i>ns</i>
<i>Capi Suini</i>	0.74 ***	0.72 ***
<i>Capi Vacche Latte</i>	0.54 ***	0.47 ***
<b><i>Totale Capi</i></b>	<b>0.71 ***</b>	<b>0.63 ***</b>



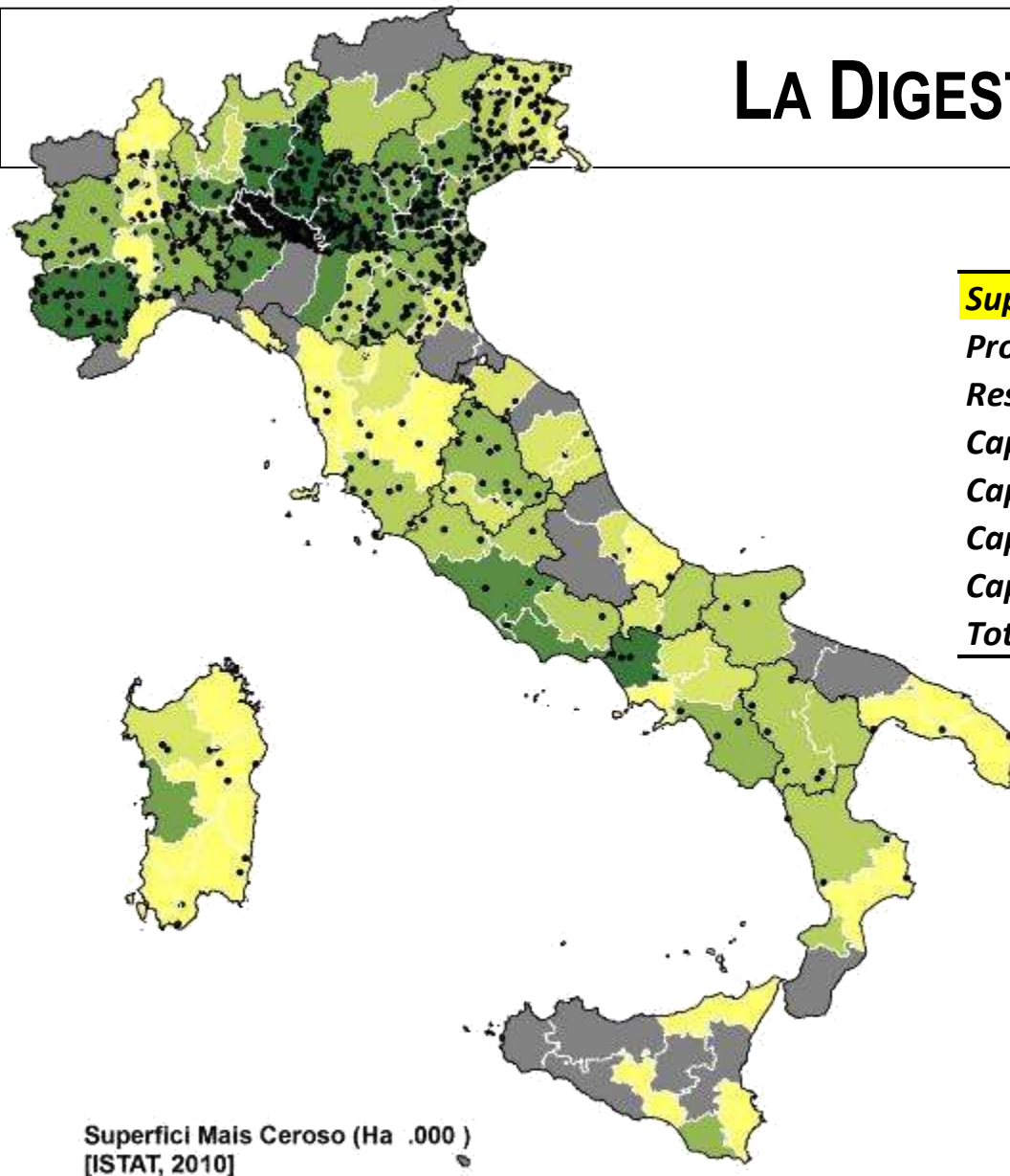


# LA DIGESTIONE ANAEROBICA IN ITALIA

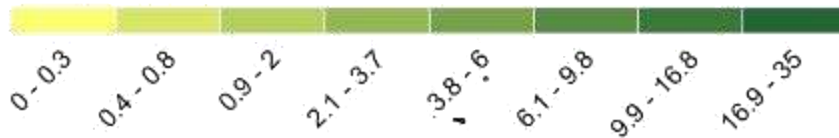


**Il 72% della potenza elettrica installata (653 MWe) basa il proprio approvvigionamento su colture da biomassa**

# LA DIGESTIONE ANAEROBICA IN ITALIA



Superfici Mais Ceroso (Ha .000 )  
[ISTAT, 2010]

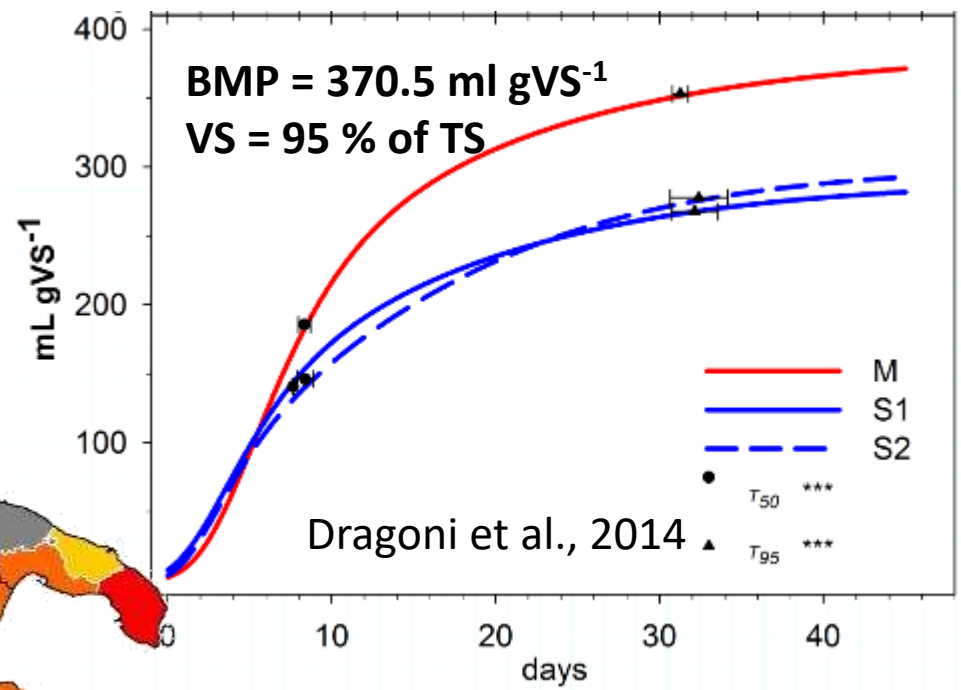
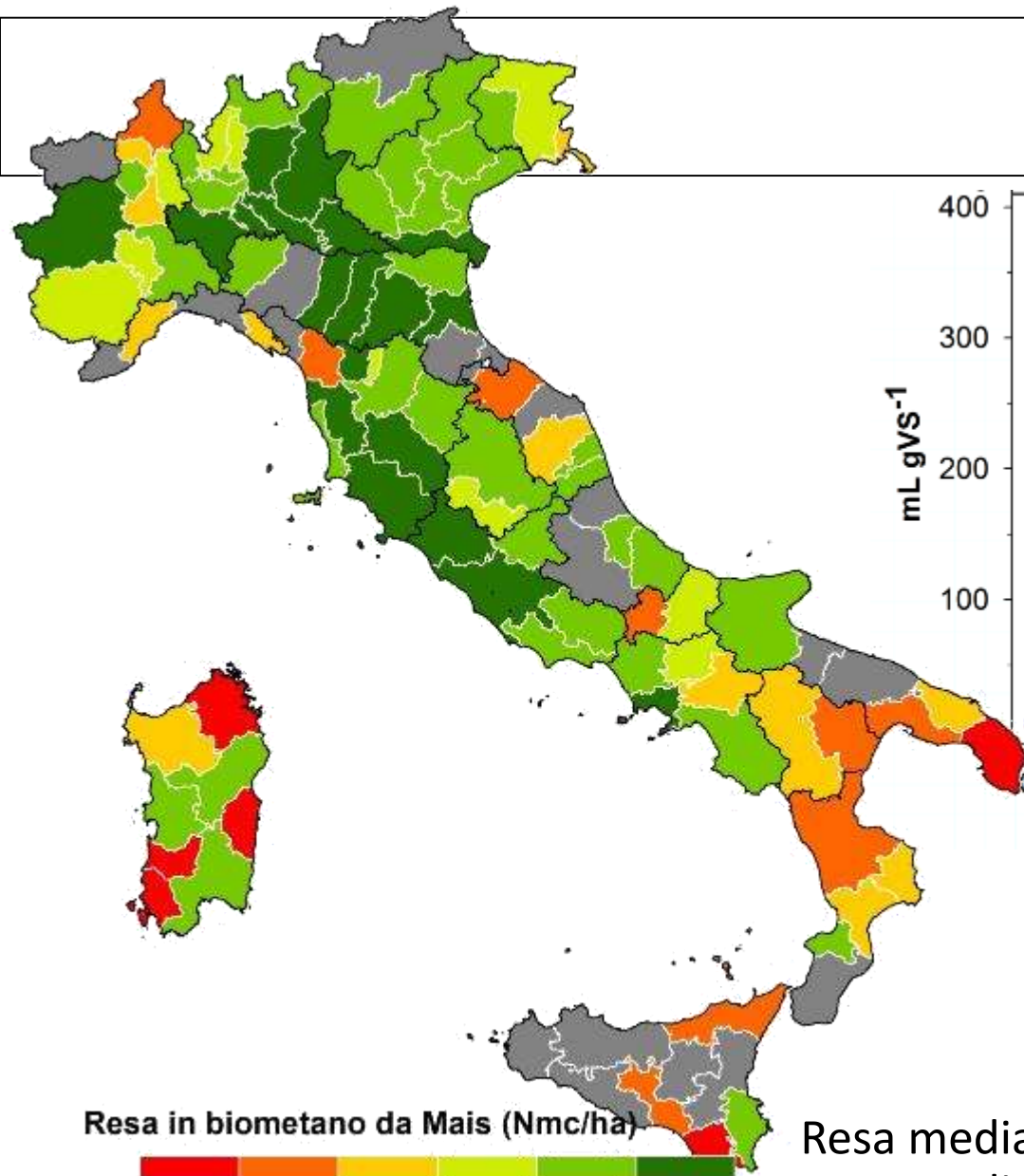


N° Impianti DA    Potenze kWe  
r (spearman)      r (spearman)

<b><i>Sup Mais Ceroso</i></b>	0.56 ***	0.54 ***
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<i>Capi Bufalini</i>	0.11 <i>ns</i>	0.12 <i>ns</i>
<i>Capi Suini</i>	0.74 ***	0.72 ***
<i>Capi Vacche Latte</i>	0.54 ***	0.47 ***
<b><i>Totale Capi</i></b>	0.71 ***	0.63 ***

**Superficie: 290,700 ha**  
**Produzione: 16,635,000 t FM**  
**Resa media: 570 qli ha<sup>-1</sup>**

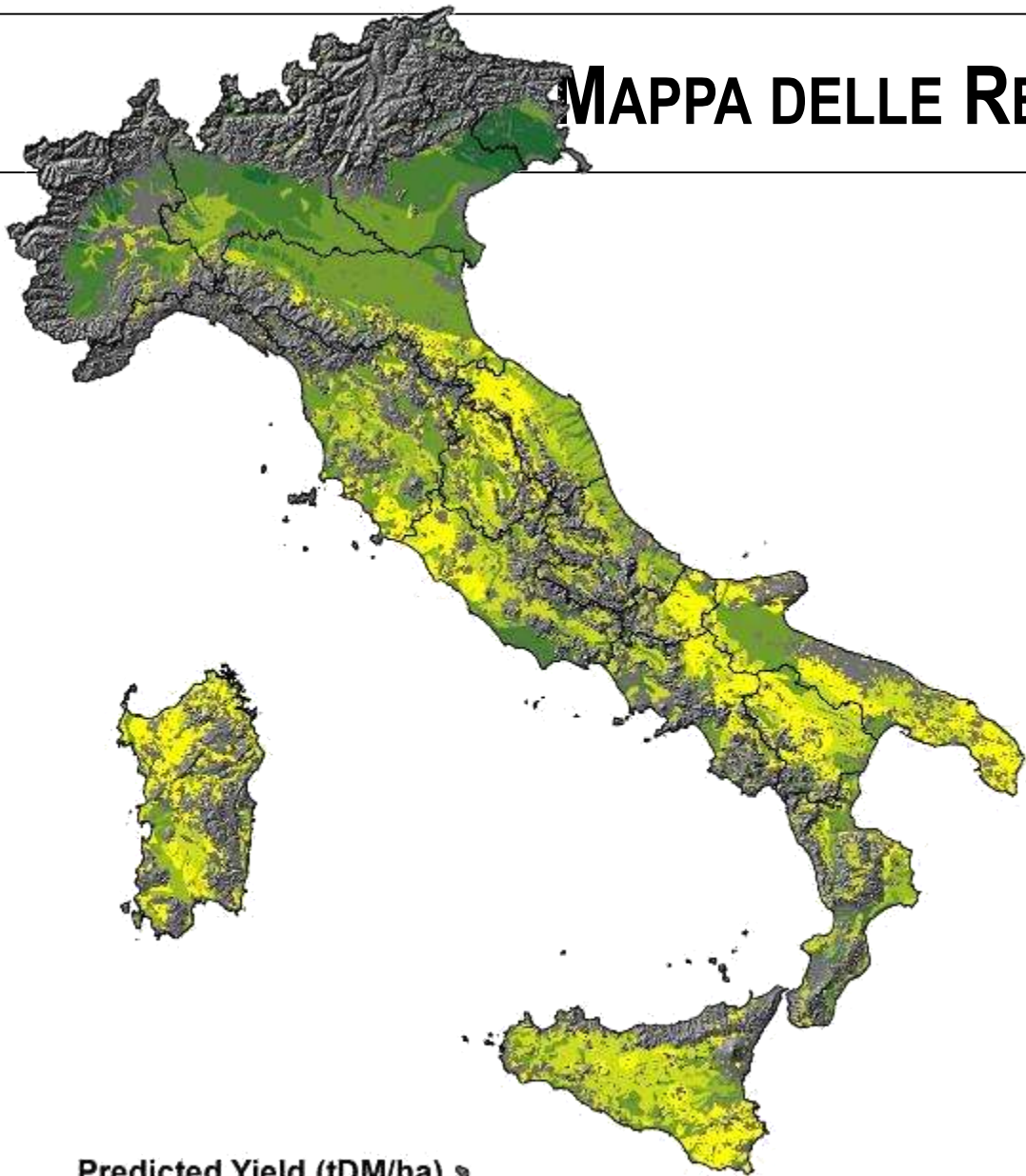
# POTENZIALITÀ DEL MAIS



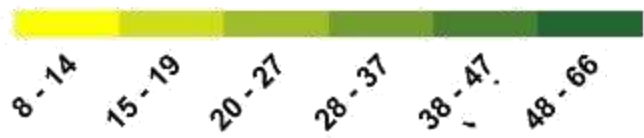
Resa media mais = **18.3 (±4.4) tDM**

Resa media biometano = **6434 (±1554) Nm ha<sup>-1</sup>**

# MAPPA DELLE RESE POTENZIALI DI ARUNDO



Predicted Yield (tDM/ha) ●



## CROP

RUE = 5.74 g MJ<sup>-1</sup> (Ceotto et al., 2013)

avgLAI = 3.5 > 0.85  $f_{IPAR}$

WUE = 3.2 g L<sup>-1</sup> (Triana et al., 2014)

Tb = 6 °C (Nassi o Di Nasso et al., 2012)

ΣHU – vegetative season

## CLIMATE (15 year data UCEA)

RAD

Tmed

Ptot

## SOIL (ESDB)

Texture

Bulk Density

OM

Depth

Pedotransfert function

Ground Water Level

## GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRAINTS

Soil Use (211 of CORINE 2006)

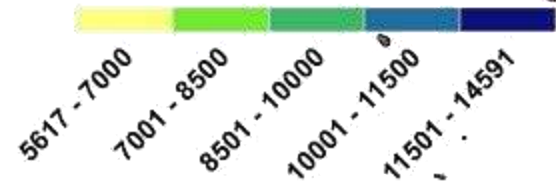
Slope (DTM 75m)

# RESA AD ETTARO DI CH<sub>4</sub> DA ARUNDO DONAX

SH – 8825 NmCH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>

DH – 11247 NmCH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup>

SH - NmCH<sub>4</sub>/ha



DH - NmCH<sub>4</sub>/ha

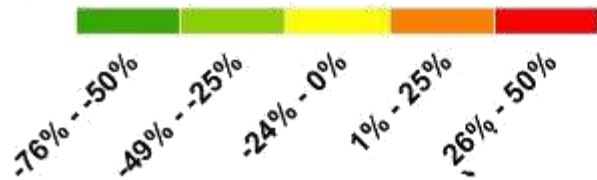


# RISPARMIO DI SUOLO – SH VS MAIS

Fabbisogno Energia primaria = **22.514.150 GJ anno<sup>-1</sup>**

	Mais	Arundo SH
<i>Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup></i>	6434 (± 1554)	8825 (± 1956)
<i>LUC (ha kWe<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	0.45 (±0.16)	0.32 (±0.07)
<i>Sup richiesta (ha)</i>	92,143	66,645
<i>LUsaving (%)</i>		-28

Land Use Saving (%)



# RISPARMIO DI SUOLO – SH VS MAIS

Fabbisogno Energia primaria = **22.514.150 GJ anno<sup>-1</sup>**

	Mais	Arundo DH
<i>Nm<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup></i>	6434 (± 1554)	11247 (± 1932)
<i>LUC (ha kWe<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	0.45 (±0.16)	0.24 (±0.04)
<i>Sup richiesta (ha)</i>	92,143	53,804
<i>LUsaving (%)</i>		-42

Land Use Saving (%)

