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# WEBINAR

## BIOBASED POLYMERS AND COMPOSITES FOR TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS



June 5th | 4 – 5 pm (CET)

June 26th | 10 – 11 am (CET)



**IfBB**

Institute for Bioplastics  
and Biocomposites



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# Biobased Polymers and Composites for Technical Applications

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Source: Fraunhofer WKI

M. Sc. Madina Shamsuyeva  
Research Associate  
Fraunhofer WKI  
Application Center HOFZET



Source: China Hopson

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Josef Endres  
Head of the Application Center HOFZET  
Head of the IfBB



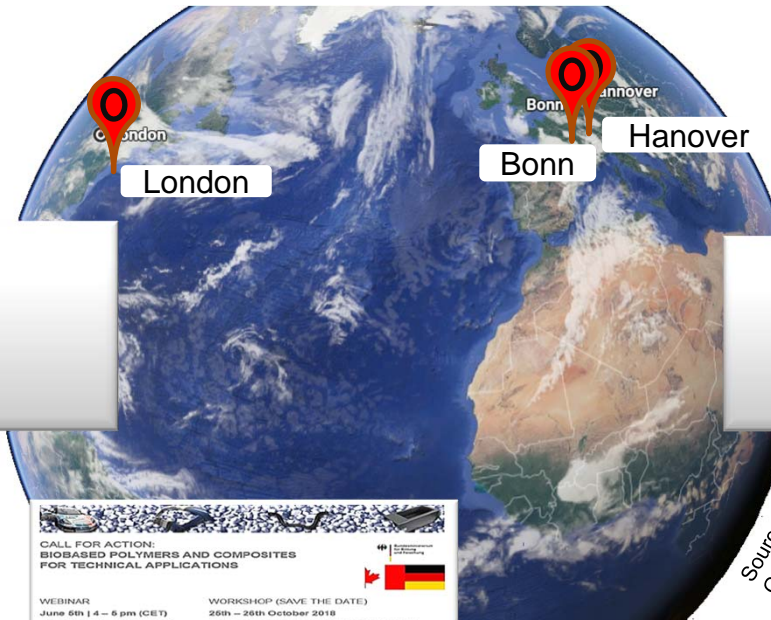
Source: China Hopson

Christian Schulz B. Eng  
Public Relations  
Hannover University of  
Applied Sciences and Arts  
IfBB

# Chronology of the relevant events



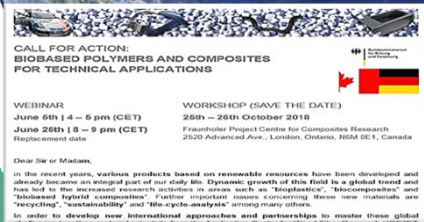
Collaborative projects



Workshop  
25.-26.10.2018  
in London ON



BMBF Canada Day  
17.-18.10.2017 in Bonn



Webinar  
05. and 26.06.2018  
from Hanover



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# Aim and motivation

## Why should you join this webinar?

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The following questions are going to be answered today:

- What are biopolymers and biocomposites?
- How are these materials manufactured and tested?
- What are current applications of these materials?
- What is sustainable production?
- What are the challenges?
- What is LCA and which factors are important?
- Where can you find information about performance characteristics and availability of biopolymers?
- Introduction into a consecutive workshop in London (CAN) in October 2018

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# Biobased polymers and composites for technical applications

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## Webinar

- Introduction
- IfBB and the HOFZET
- Introduction to bioplastics and biocomposites
- Selected research projects
- Sustainability assessment
- Databases
- Information about the consecutive workshop in London (CAN) in October 2018

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# Hans-Josef Endres

Born on 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1966, married, 2 daughters (23 and 18)

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## Educational background:

- Dipl.-Ing. graduate of the Ruhr University Bochum, 1985, mechanical engineering, strong focus on material research
- PhD (Dr.-Ing.) received from University of Bochum, 1995

## Professional experience and activities:

- 9 years of employment with industrial companies including a position as departmental director at Thyssen-Krupp, overseeing a staff of 230
- Professor at Hannover University of Applied Sciences & Arts, since 1999
- Director of the IfBB - Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites, 2011
- Head of Application Center for Wood Fiber Research, Fraunhofer Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut WKI, 2012
- Co-opted Professor at Technical University of Braunschweig, 2016



Source: China Hopson

## Achievements:

- engaged in bioplastics and biocomposites research for more than 25 years;
- established the IfBB - Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites as a new institute;
- established a new Fraunhofer Application Center for Wood Fiber Research;
- authored various publications and received numerous honors and prizes for his research in bioplastics and biocomposites



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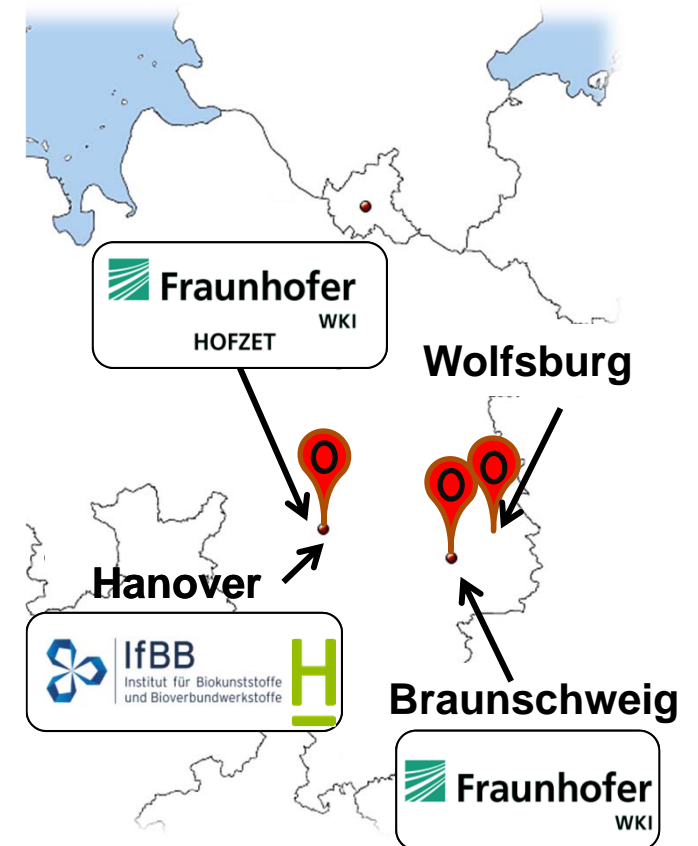
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# IfBB and HOFZET

# Application Center for Wood Fiber Research HOFZET

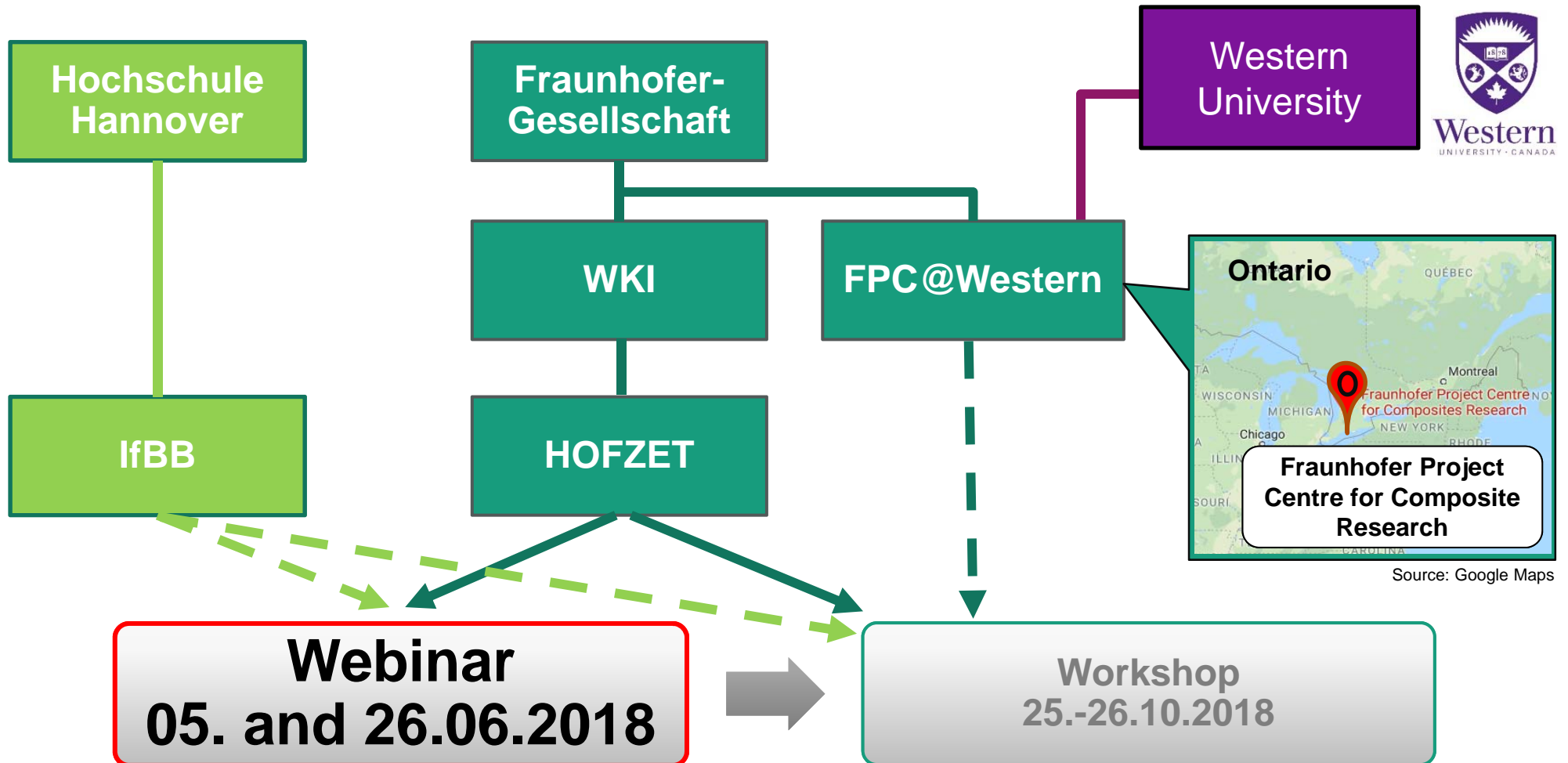
- Operating since 07/2013
- Today 15 employees
- Close collaboration with industry

 <b>Fraunhofer</b> WKI	 <b>Fraunhofer</b> <b>HOFZET</b> WKI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technology for Wood-based Panels</li><li>• Material Analysis and Indoor Chemistry</li><li>• Surface Technology</li><li>• Center for Light and Environmentally-Friendly Structures</li><li>• QA</li><li>• <b>HOFZET</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiber analysis and modification</li><li>• Biobased (hybrid) composites</li><li>• Technical textiles</li><li>• Plastics and composites processing</li><li>• Recycling</li><li>• Material analysis</li></ul>

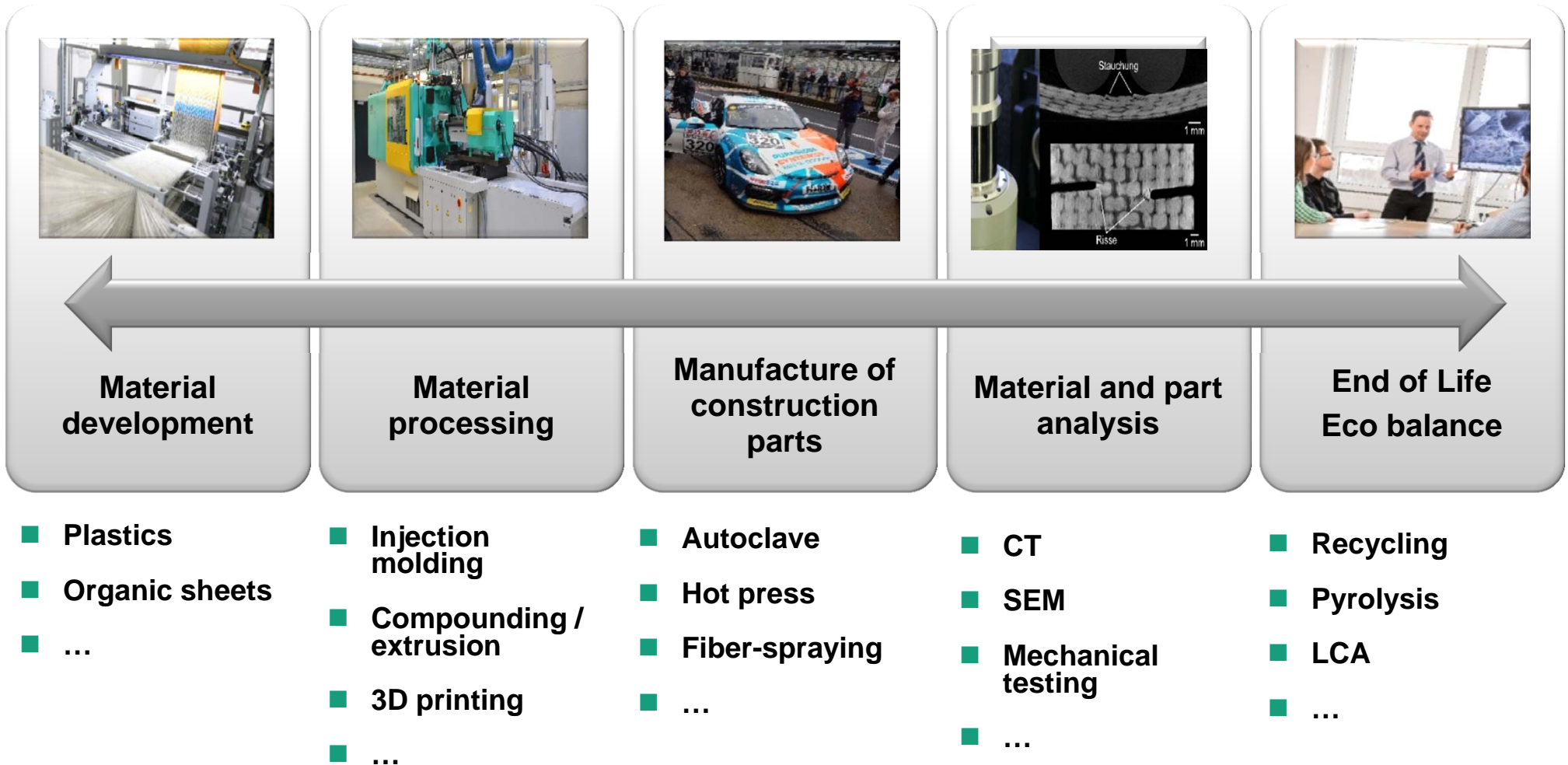




# Organizers of the events



# Research focus of the HOFZET



# HOFZET

## Research fields – process development

- Natural fibers
  - Surface modification
- Technical (hybrid) textiles
- Function integration
- Bio-hybrid composites
- Short fiber-reinforced composites
- Organic sheets
- Recycling



Surface modification of fibers



Fiber-spraying



Injection molding center



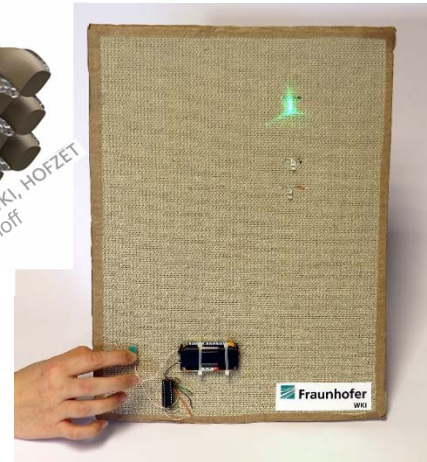
Extrusion center

# HOFZET

## Research fields – material and product development



**Plastic compounding**



**Hybrid textile fabrication**  
**Function integration**



**Electrically conductive biocomposites**



© Fraunhofer WKI



**Construction parts**

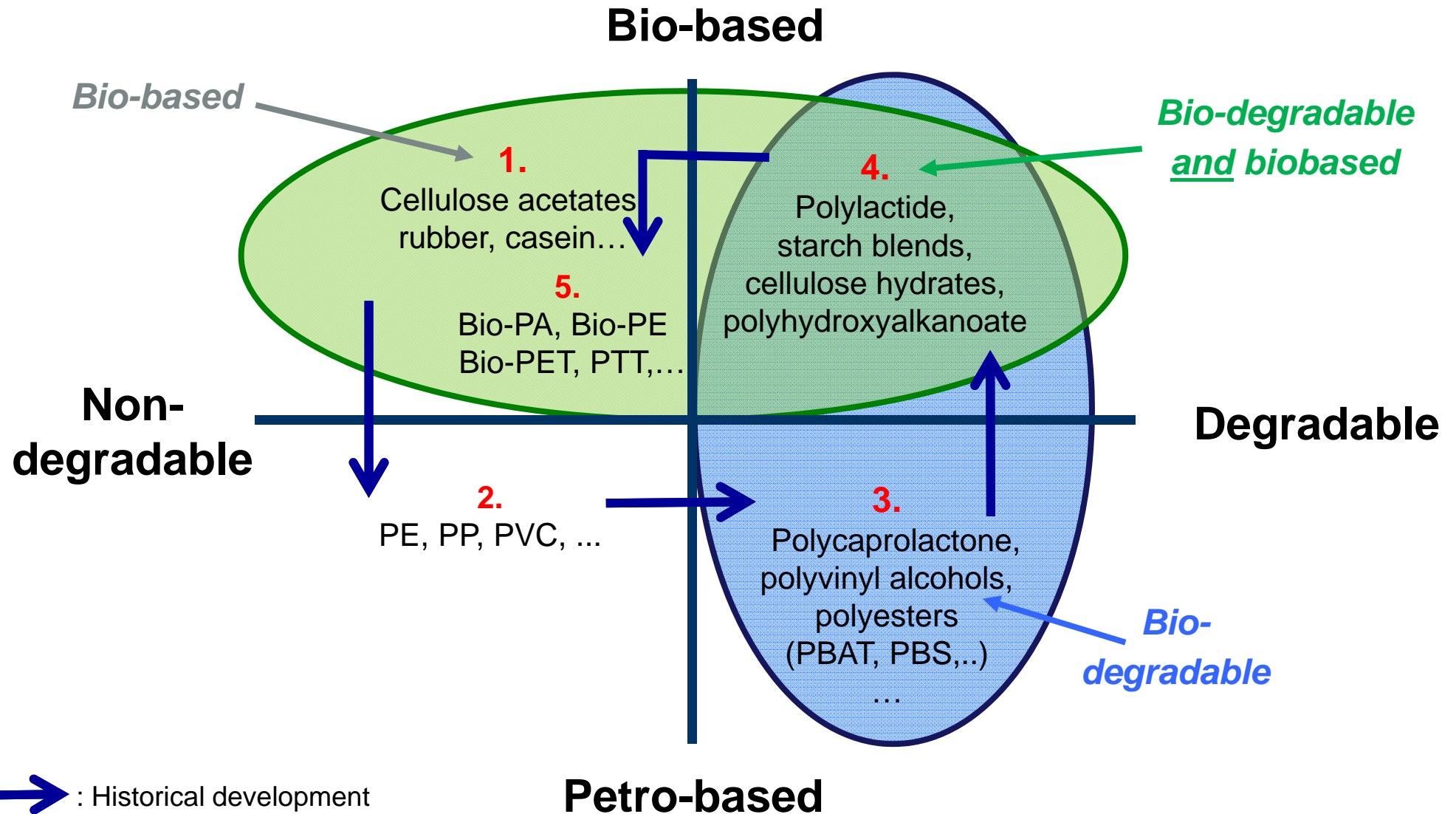


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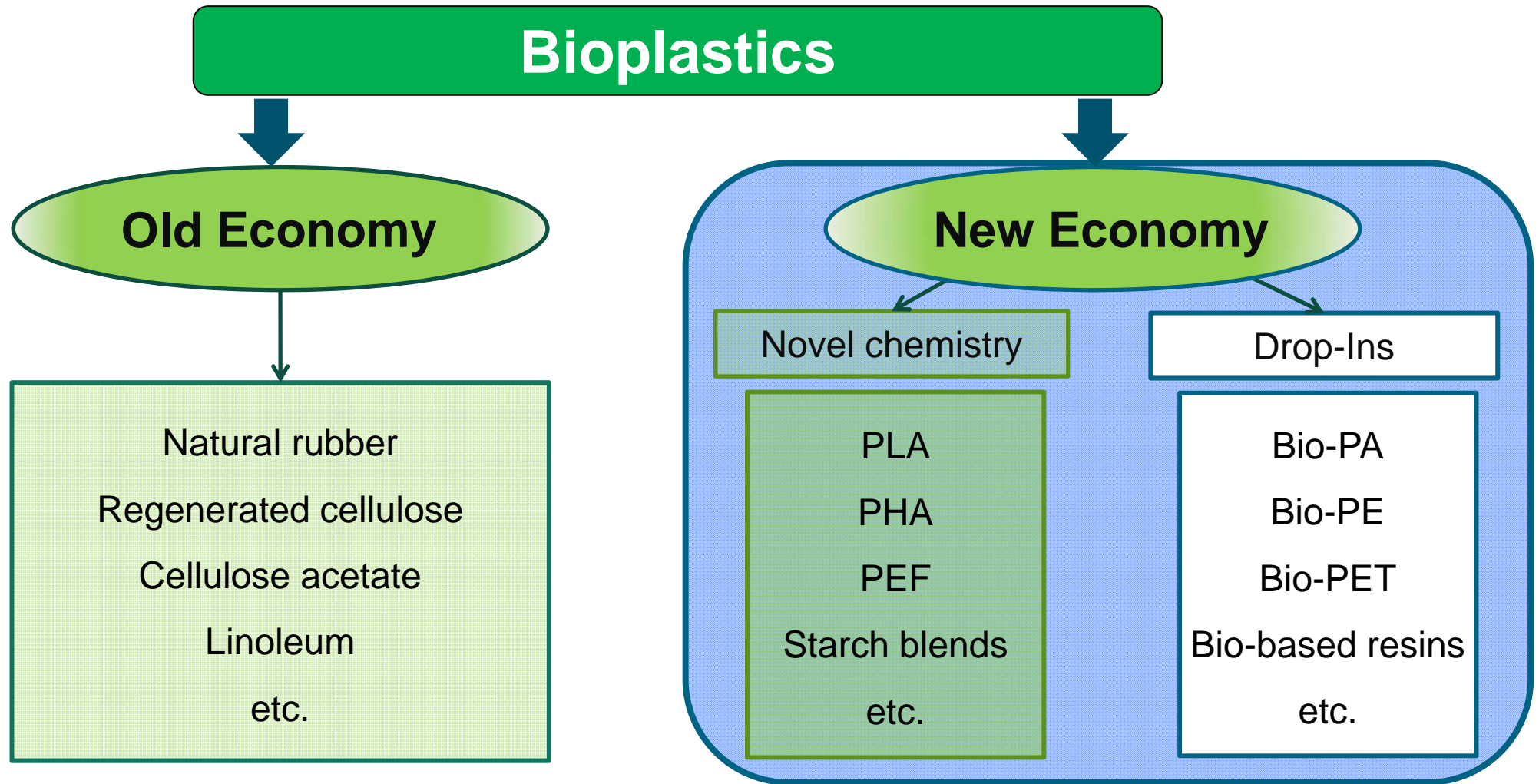
# Introduction to bioplastics

# What are bioplastics?



H.-J. Endres, A. Siebert-Raths, *Engineering Biopolymers*, Carl Hanser Verlag 2011

# Generation comparison



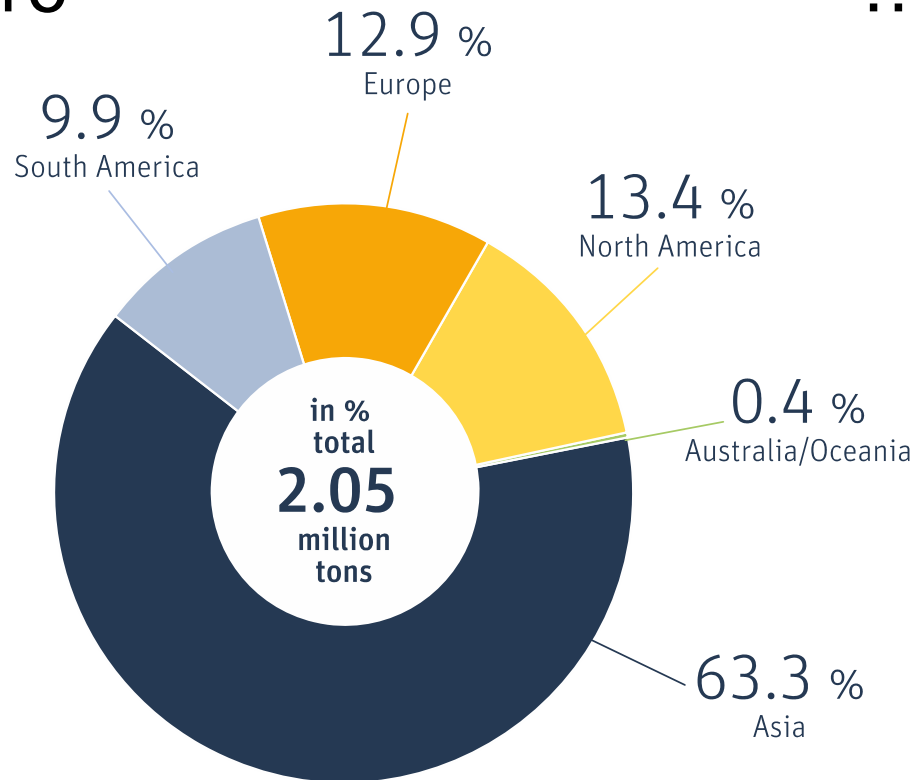
Source: ifBB

# Trends

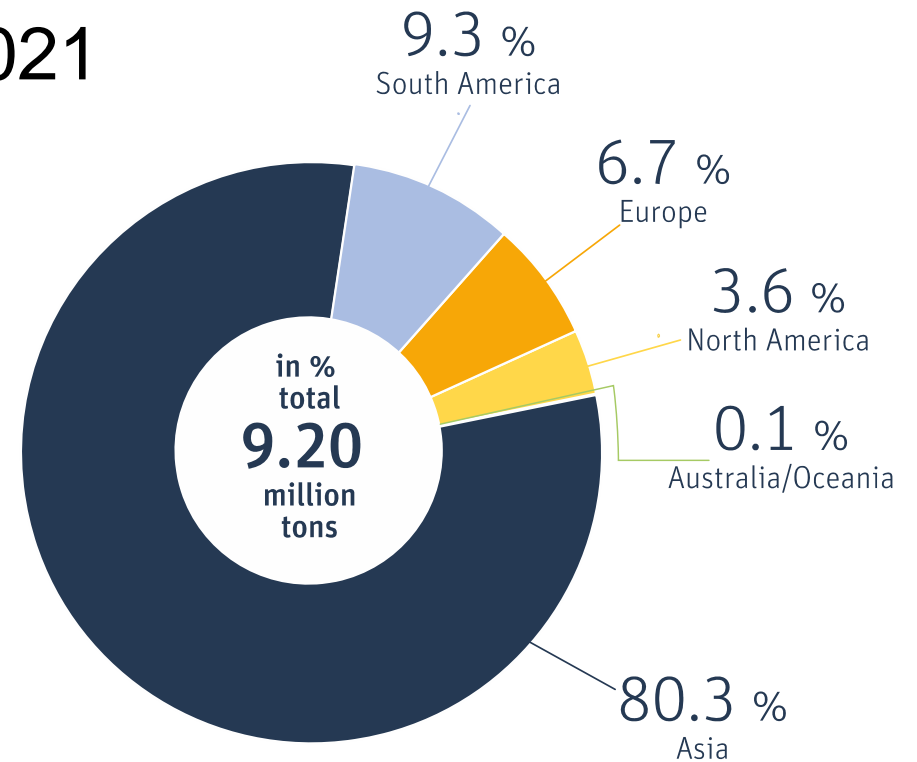
## Geographical shift of production capacities

### ■ Bioplastics production capacity New Economy

2016



... 2021



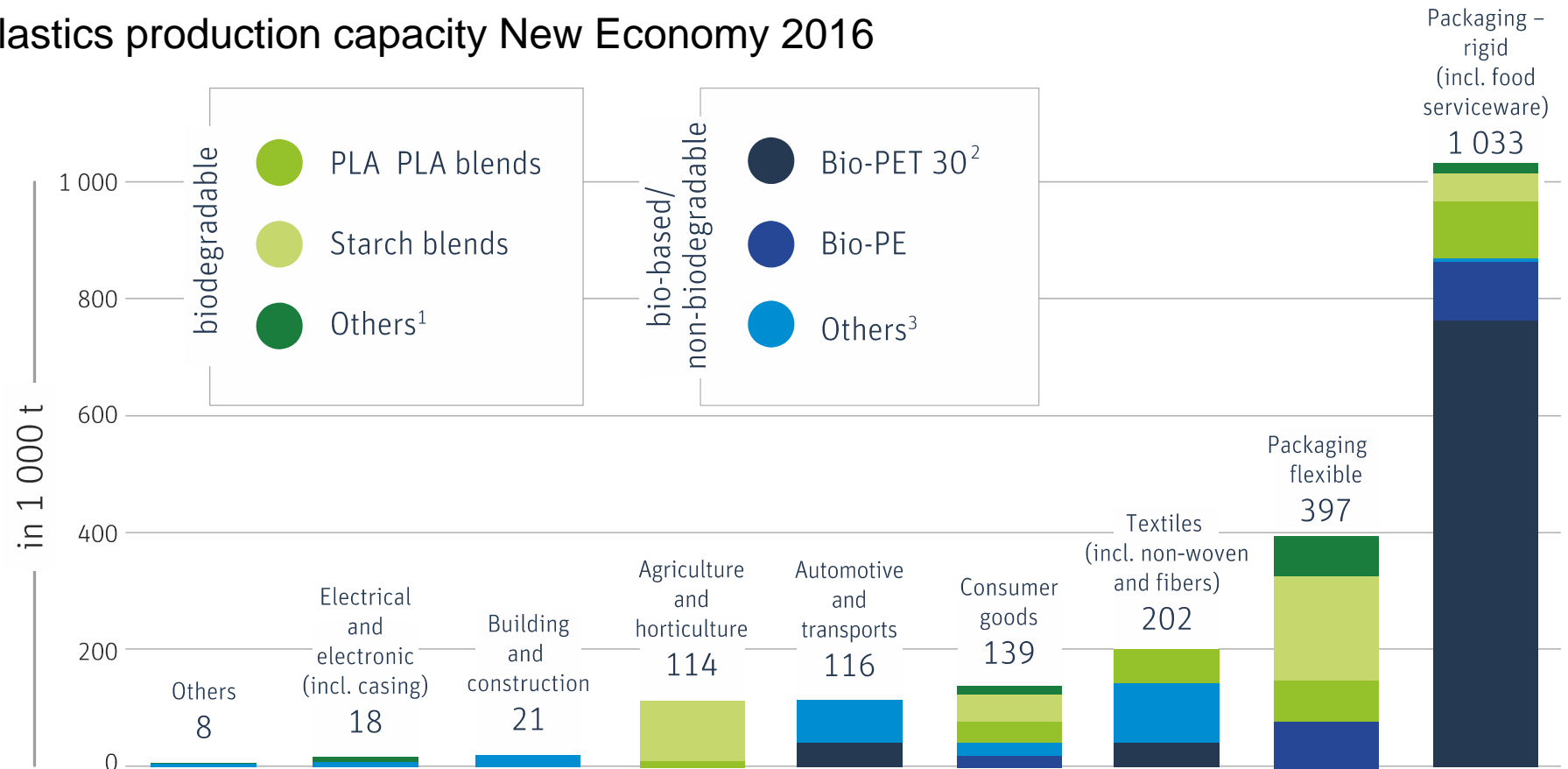
Figures: IfBB  
Data sources: FAO, IfBB 2013 – 2017  
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# Trends

## Market segments 2016

### ■ Bioplastics production capacity New Economy 2016



1 Contains regenerated cellulose and biodegradable cellulose ester

2 Bio-based content amounts to 30%

3 Contains durable starch blends, Bio-PC, Bio-TPE, Bio-PUR (except thermosets), Bio-PA, PTT

Figures: IfBB

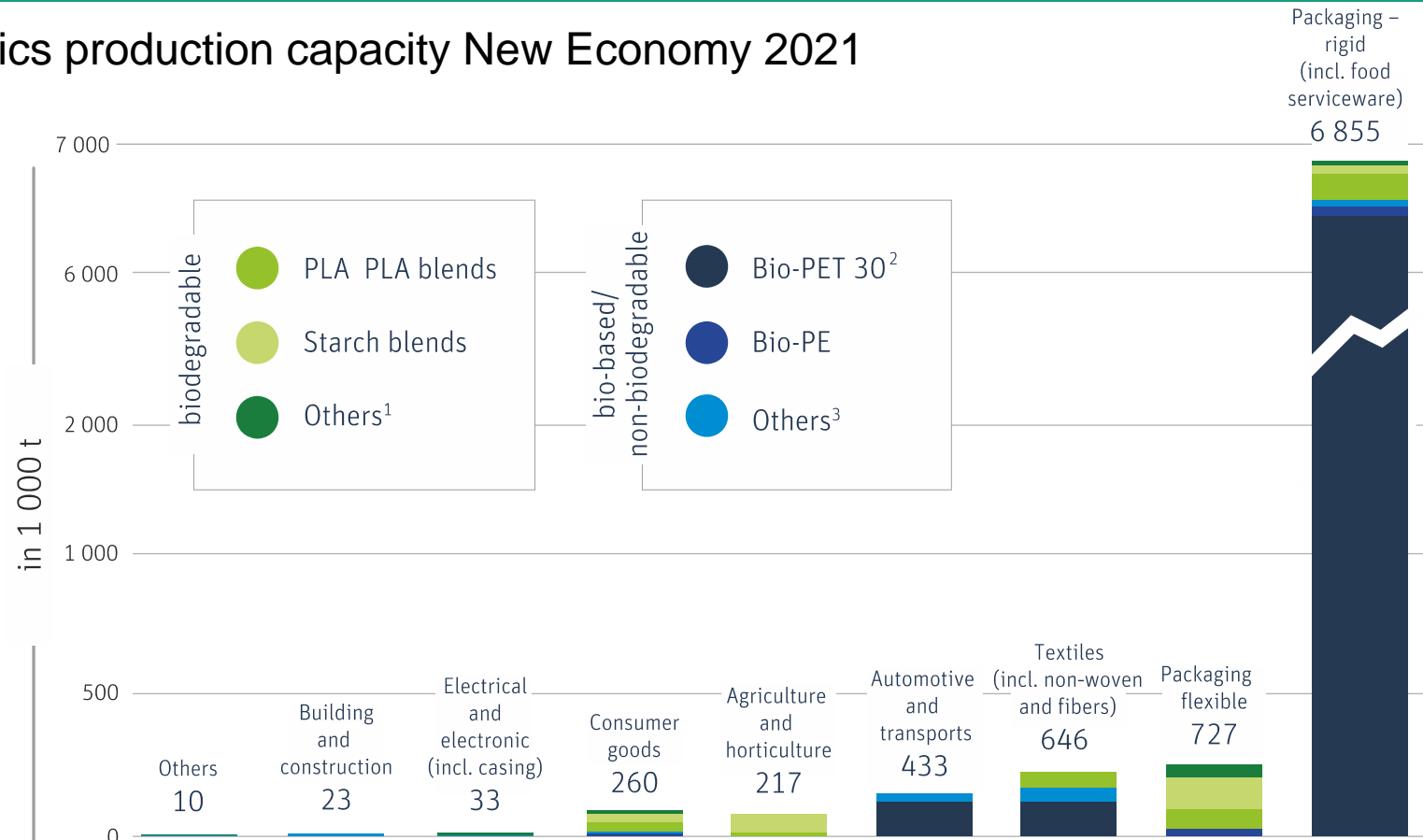
Data sources: FAO, IfBB 2013 – 2017

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# Trends

## Market segments 2021

### ■ Bioplastics production capacity New Economy 2021



1 Contains regenerated cellulose and biodegradable cellulose ester

2 Bio-based content amounts to 30%

3 Contains durable starch blends, Bio-PC, Bio-TPE, Bio-PUR (except thermosets), Bio-PA, PTT

Figures: IfBB

Data sources: FAO, IfBB 2013 – 2017

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# Market overview in summary

- Average growth of more than 350 %, mostly in Asia (> 80 % until 2021)\*:  
2.0 m tonnes → 9.2 m tonnes
- Driver: Bio-based, non-biodegradable (Bio-PE, Bio-PET 30 etc.)\*:  
63 % (2016) → 82 % (2021)
- Biodegradables (PLA, PHA, starch blends, etc.) growing steadily:  
0.7 m tonnes (2016) → 1.6 m tonnes (2021)
- Packaging still most important application sector:  
70 % (2016) → ~ 83 % (2021)\*
- Land use doubles, but is overall low:  
670,000 ha (2016) → 1,320,000 ha (2021)\*

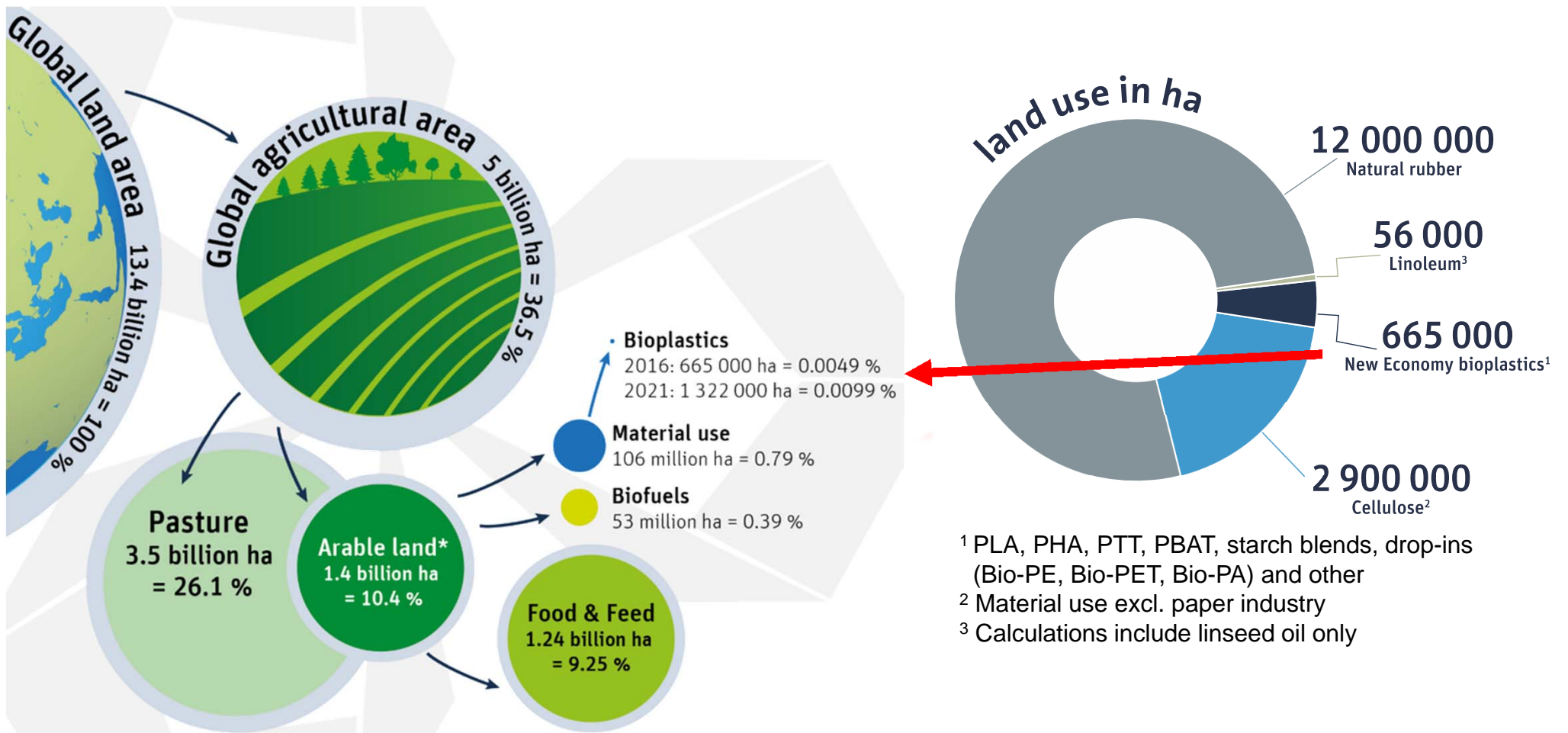
*Focus on long-term  
applications \*  
... otherwise balanced*

*... 0.1 % of global  
arable land*

\* Deviations possible by changes in Coca-Cola's Bio-PET strategy.

Data sources: FAO, IfBB 2013 – 2017  
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# Global land use



\*Also includes area growing permanent crops as well as approx. 1 % fallow land. Abandoned land resulting from shifting cultivation is not included.

Figures: IfBB  
Data sources: FAO, IfBB 2013 – 2017  
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# Introduction to (hybrid) biocomposites

# Composites

- Composite material is made from at least two constituents
- Main constituents:
  - Reinforcing fibers providing strength
  - Matrix holding the reinforcing fibers together and protecting from environmental damages

## Short fiber-reinforced polymer composites



Wood fiber-reinforced PP (compound)



Carrier box made from wood fiber-reinforced PP

## Long / endless fiber-reinforced polymer composites

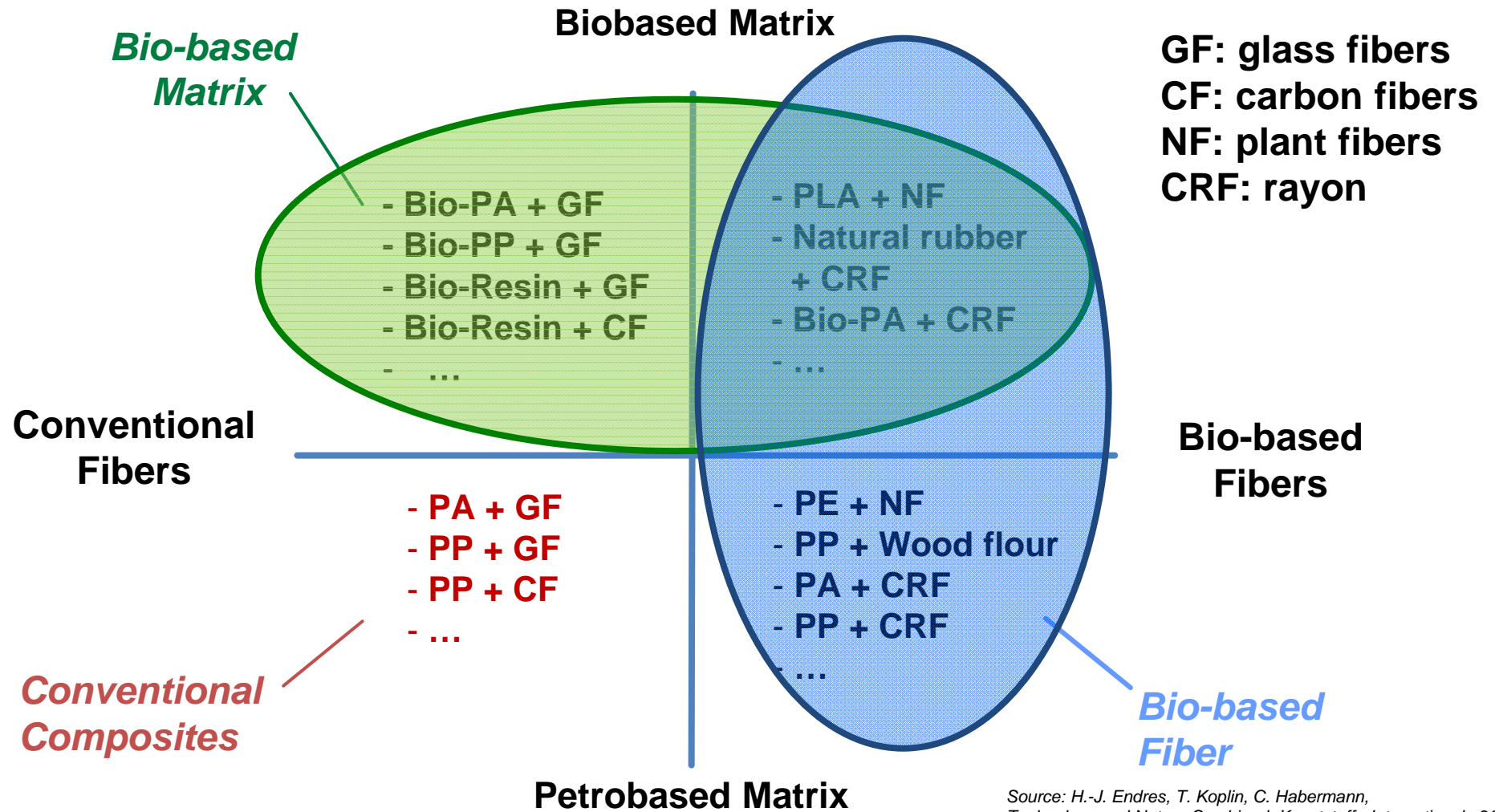


Various natural fiber textiles



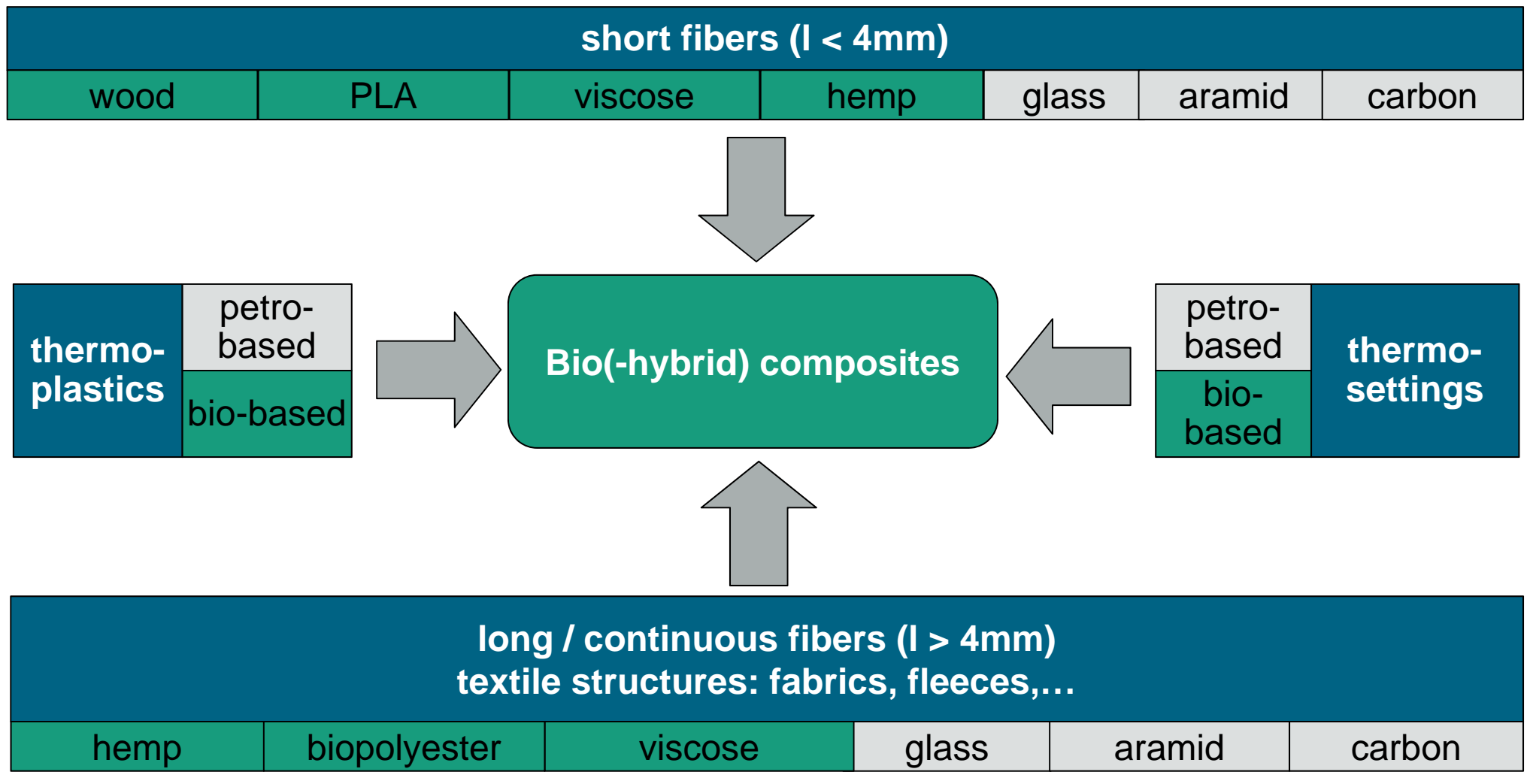
Tailgate made from various natural and carbon fiber-reinforced epoxy

# Biocomposites



Source: H.-J. Endres, T. Koplín, C. Habermann, *Technology and Nature Combined, Kunststoffe International*, 2012

# Bio(-hybrid) composites





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# Bio-hybrid fiber-reinforced polymers

## Motivation

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- Flexibility regarding mechanical properties
  - Weaving technique, localized reinforcement, etc.
- Integration of new properties
  - Acoustic damping, etc.
- Large choice of reinforcing materials and matrices
- High material availability
- Sustainable production
- Good disposal / recycling possibilities



© Fraunhofer WKI | Manuale Lingnau

Aramid, carbon, glass and  
flax fiber-reinforced epoxide

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# Bio-hybrid fiber-reinforced polymers

## Industrial applications

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- Sport and leisure industry
- Automobile industry
- Building industry
- Furniture
- Design und Interior



The snowboard feature a combination of  
biax glass, triax glass, flax and basalt

# Advantages and disadvantages of plant fibers

Advantages	Disadvantages
Renewable resources	Insufficient supply chains
Low density	Lack of data
Acoustical damping	New materials (e.g. simulation?)
New optical appearance	Low thermal resistance
Low price	Hydrophilicity / polarity
Disposal behavior	Variable fiber morphology
Extensive knowledge in textile technology	Inferior mechanical properties
etc.	etc.

Source: WKI

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# Selected projects

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# Selected projects:

## Next generation Bio-Hybrid-Car

- Demonstration of technical performance of bio-hybrid composites
- Ecological, technical and economic assessment
- Creation of database (material combinations, mechanical performance, ...)
- Processability and industrial usability for automotive application
- Realization of > 500 Cars
- Project start: 09/2017
- Project partner: Porsche AG, Four Motors
- Project funding: BMEL (FNR)

© WKI



# Selected projects: Next generation Bio-Hybrid-Car



# HOFZET / IfBB – selected projects

## InteReSt

Aim: Function-**integrative** and **resource-saving** lightweight construction **structure** for aviation

- Feasibility study on use of biobased hybrid parts instead of conventional parts made of petrol-based materials or metal
- Demonstration of the technology concept via manufacture of helicopter structure
- Duration: 2016 – 2019



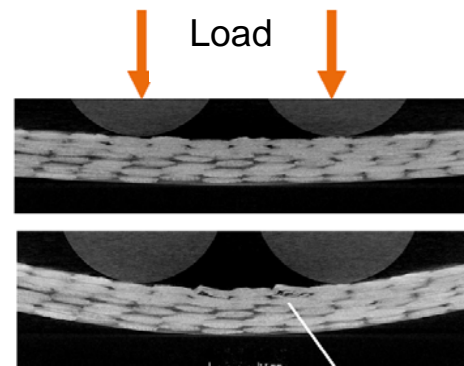
© edm aerotec

Helicopter cabin CAD model



© edm aerotec

Exemplary helicopter model



© Fraunhofer WKI | Florian Bittner

In-situ CT analysis (3-point bending)

# HOFZET / IfBB – selected projects

## SLC (Small load carrier)

Aim: Development of a universal sustainable, biobased, small load lightweight carrier

- In order to optimize the logistics chain between automotive manufacturers, suppliers and service providers, a small load carrier system (SLC system, German: KLT) is utilized in industry
- Current SLC generation is produced from polypropylene (PP)
- In the project, a large proportion of the PP is going to be replaced with wood fibers or cellulose fibers
  - Economic and ecological advantages
  - Significant strengthening and stiffening effect
  - Reduction of the wall thicknesses leads to the lower weight



© Fraunhofer WKI | Hasan Mezdegi

New generation SLC

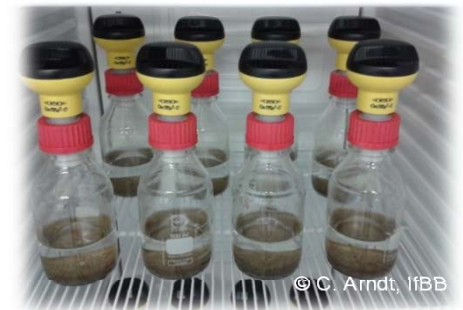


# IfBB – selected projects

## SeaArt

**Aim:** Development of marine biodegradable artificial seagrass to provide suitable conditions for the restoration of natural seagrass meadows

- Studies on marine biodegradability of bioplastics and natural materials
- Material characterization in terms of degradability, technical and mechanical properties and feasible production methods
- Material development regarding degradability and mechanical properties
- Duration: 2016 – 2020



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# ProBio

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**Functionally-integrated, three-dimensional and variable production of bio-hybrid components with maximum organic content ([ProBio](#))**



Niedersächsisches Ministerium  
für Wissenschaft und Kultur

FORSCHUNGS  
**CAMPUS**

öffentlich-private Partnerschaft  
für Innovationen



Open Hybrid  
**LabFactory** e.V.

# ProBio

- Development of bio-hybrid-fiber-reinforced composites (bio-HFC) with the highest possible proportion of bio-based components
  - Reinforcing fibers and / or plastic matrices
- Technologies
  - Hot pressing
  - Fiber-spraying facility
  - Weaving machine
- Surface modification
  - Improvement of compatibility between fibers
  - Function integration



Fiber-spraying facility



Weaving machine with Jacquard technology

# Hybrid textile for composite applications



© Fraunhofer WKI | Carsten Aßhoff

Hybrid fabrics (CAD)



© Fraunhofer WKI, HOFZET

Multi-layer fabrics (CAD)

- Combination of various fiber types in one textile
  - Different reinforcing fibers (e.g. cellulose-based fibers and carbon)
  - Reinforcing fibers and matrix fibers (e.g. cellulose-based and polyamide)

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# DeFiCoat

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**Development of specially coated natural fibers for efficient application in engineering thermoplastics**  
**(DeFiCoat)**



BIOPRODUCTS DISCOVERY  
& DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Funding code: 031B0502

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# DeFiCoat

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## ■ Aim

- Improvement of the thermal stability of cellulose-based fibers
- Processability at temperatures  $> 200^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Expansion of the application spectrum of natural fiber-reinforced composites (NFC)
- Improved mechanical properties, thermal stability and chemical resistance

## ■ Pursued approach

- Coating of the natural fibers with an optimized thermosetting coating
- Coating should act as an isolating layer between fibers and melted thermoplastics

- Duration: 1.11.2017 – 31.10.2019

# DeFiCoat

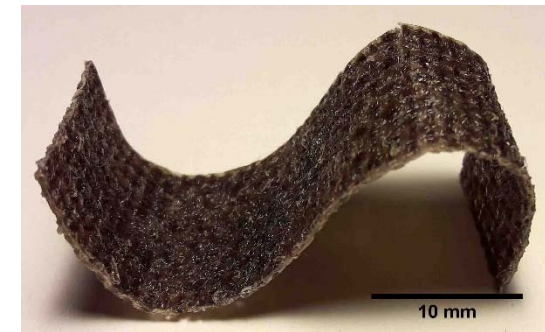
## Flax fabrics – mechanical properties



Flax fabric, uncoated



Flax fabric, coated with diluted epoxy resin



Flax fabric, coated with diluted epoxy resin, in curved state

© Madina Shamsuyeva

- Preliminary results
  - It is possible to coat the fabrics homogeneously with diluted epoxy resin
  - The fabrics remain deformable

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# Challenges in sustainability

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- Environmental benefits of bioplastics/biocomposites in comparison to their (mainly fossil-based) conventional counterparts are one of the key drivers for their use and promotion
- Companies who intend to use bioplastics for their products are required to provide quantification and proof of the environmental benefits in order to avoid false claims and greenwashing
- Especially small and medium-sized enterprises are confronted with the challenge of generating this information in an effective, high-quality and low-cost way

Source: IfBB



# Sustainability Assessment

**LCSA**

=

Life Cycle  
Sustainability  
Assessment

**Environment**

**LCA**

Life Cycle  
Assessment

+

**Economic**

**LCC**

Life Cycle  
Costing

+

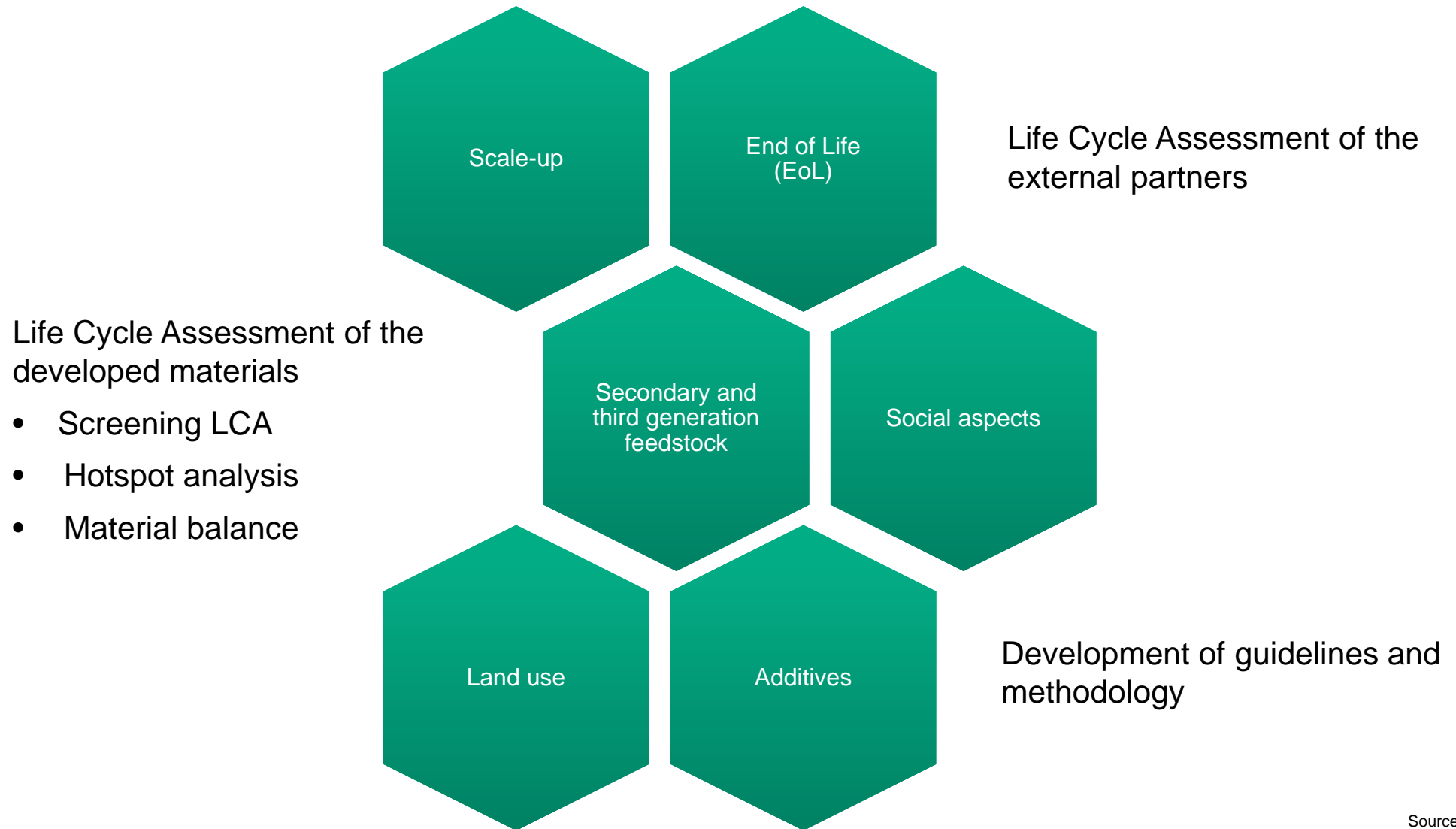
**Social**

**SLCA**

Social Life  
Cycle  
Assessment

Source: IfBB

# Sustainability



Source: IfBB

# Sustainability in the context of the ongoing projects

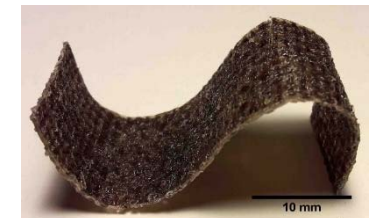
## ■ InteReSt

- Project aim: Lightweight structures from biobased polymers and biocomposites for aerospace industry
- Sustainability task: Development of recycling concept und ecological assessment of the developed materials



## ■ DeFiCoat

- Project aim: Development of specially coated natural fibers with improved thermal stability
- Sustainability task: Life cycle assessment of the developed materials

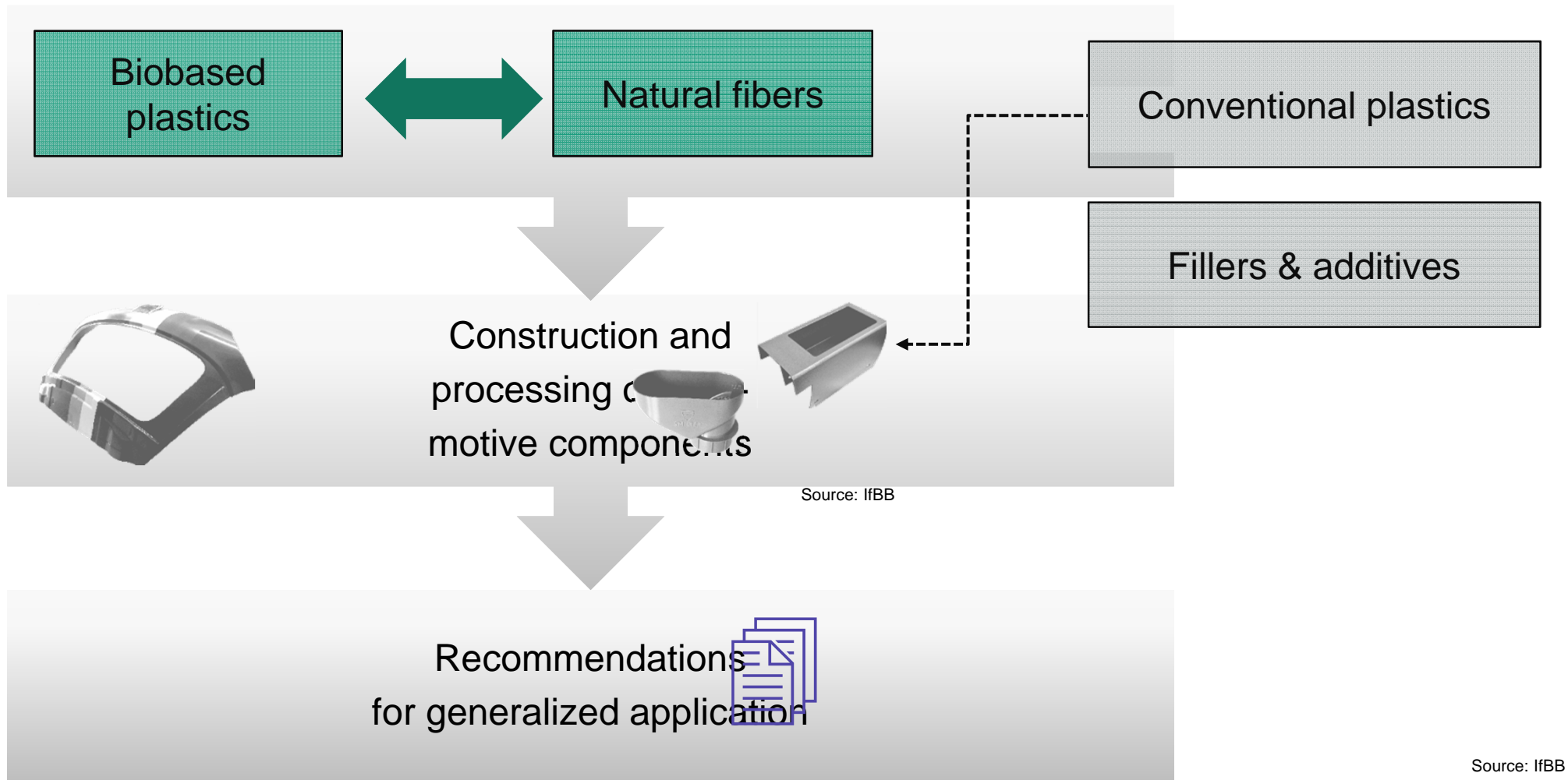


## ■ SLC

- Development of a universal sustainable, biobased, small load lightweight carrier
- Sustainability task: Life cycle analysis of the developed product

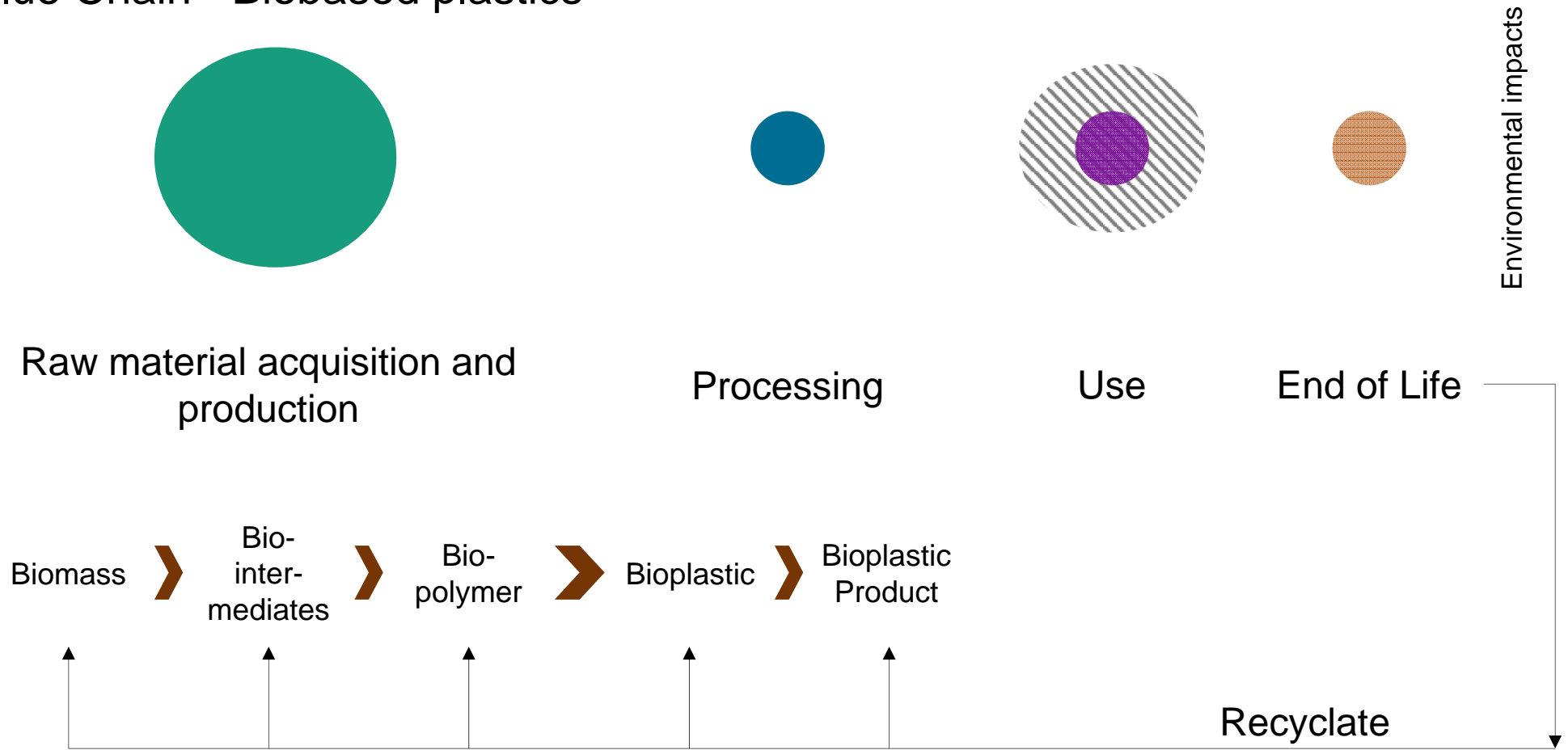


# BioMat\_LCA










# LCA of biobased plastics

## Value Chain - Biobased plastics



Source: IfBB

# LCA of biobased plastics VI

Characterization factor	Tendency of biopolymers	Biopolymers	Conventional polymers
Energy demand		Different energy demand for different biopolymers	Different energy demand for different conventional polymers
Global-warming potential		High CO <sub>2</sub> storage during the plant growth	High CO <sub>2</sub> emission during burning
Abiotic resource depletion		Bio-based (renewable)	Crude oil-based (finite)
Eutrophication potential		Consumption of fertilizers and pesticides	Not necessary
Acidification potential		Consumption of fertilizers and pesticides	Not necessary
Land use		Agricultural field necessary	Agricultural field not necessary
Water consumption		Process water and water for irrigation	Only process water

Source: Source: PE INTERNATIONAL/ IfBB 2014

# Thinkstep & IfBB Bioplastics LCA tool

For more information:  
<https://www.thinkstep.com>



thinkstep

- Bioplastic-specific **GaBi database** (incl. feedstock, granulates, additives, conversions, auxiliaries, transport, end-of-life)
  - ✓ IfBB as scientific development partner for LCA data
- Base your decisions on consistent, high-quality, up-to-date and reliable background data
  - ✓ **Comparison of scenarios** (products, conversion/compounding processes, transport options, end-of-life (recycling, composting, incineration), bioplastics vs. conventional plastics)
- Know about the **environmental consequences before investing** in product and process changes
  - ✓ Easy-to-use interface, **instant result calculation** and reporting with customized content, tables, diagrams, format and company design
- Communicate **verifiable LCA results** created on your own without being an LCA expert
  - ✓ The tool covers all stages of the bioplastics supply chain
- Be prepared to answer questions from your clients and even questions asked to your clients

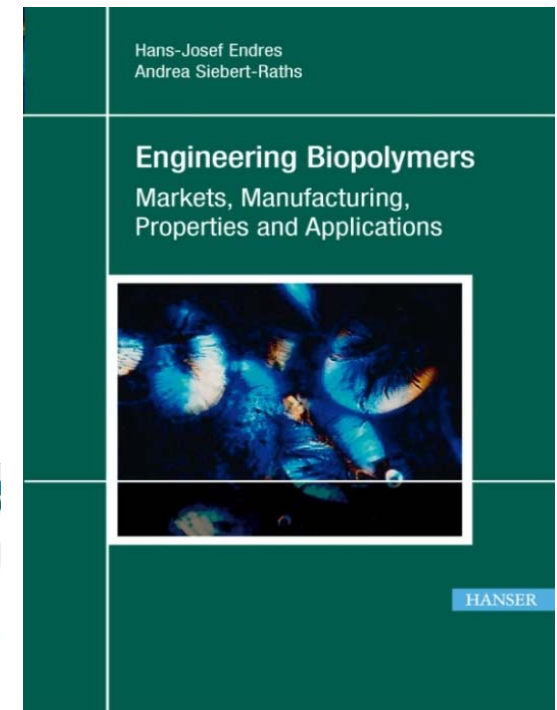
Source: Thinkstep

# Further information on bioplastics

- Information on the widely-varying processing procedures for almost 100 bio-based plastics  
<http://www.biokunststoffe-verarbeiten.de>
- Procurement-relevant information on products made from bioplastics and biocomposites  
<https://datenbank.fnr.de/>
- Technical material characteristics and applications  
<http://biopolymer.materialdatacenter.com>



Source: IfBB, FNR, VI-Base



<http://www.hanser.de/buch.asp?isbn=978-3-446-42403-6&area=Technik>



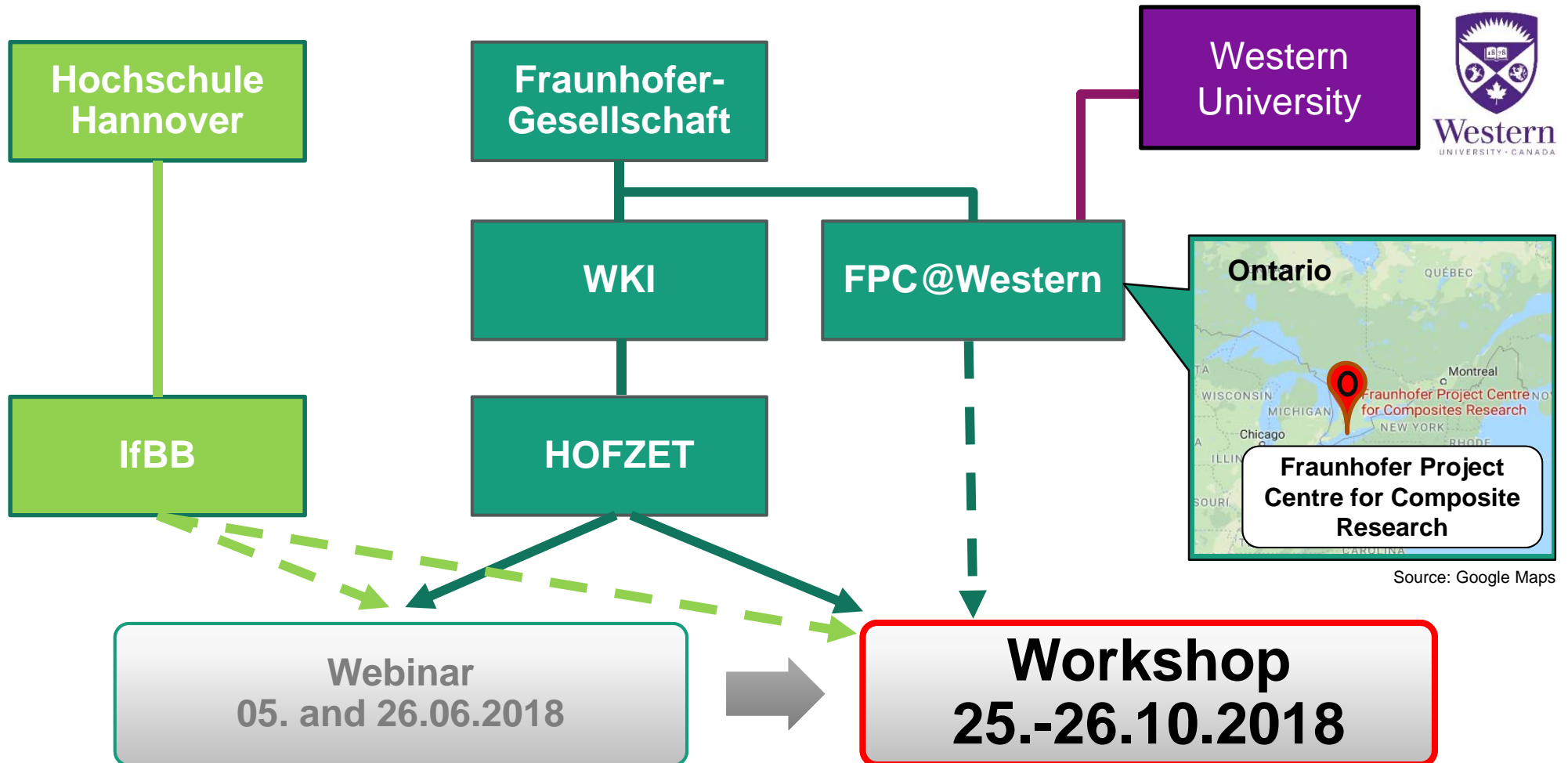
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# Outlook on future research

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- End-of-Life / New-Life Options
- Additives / Blending
- Hybridization
- Communication (awareness, social responsibility, etc.)
- Sustainability methods & LCA for bioplastics & biocomposites
  - Quality and availability of LCA data (manufacturers of fibers, biopolymers, etc.)
  - Cascade utilization and ecological assessment
  - Time horizon in LCA
  - Regional and global assessment of sustainable production
  - Competence exchange (material development, global wording, etc.)
  - Assessment of social sustainability

# Organizers of the events



# WKI Workshop in Canada

## Why should I join the workshop in London?

25.-26.10.2018 in London (CAN)

- Competence exchange between scientists and industry
- Identification of new ideas and topics for collaborative projects
- Efficient use of renewable resources for industrial applications
  - Optimization of reinforcement fibers and fabrics
  - Manufacture of biocomposites
  - State-of-the-art manufacturing technologies
  - Properties of the biobased products
  - Analytics
  - Recycling / End of Life scenarios
  - Life Cycle Analysis
- Registration will be opened in the middle of June



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# Contact

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**[www.wki.fraunhofer.de](http://www.wki.fraunhofer.de)**

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