

RESIDUAL LIGNOCELLULOSE AND OTHER AGROINDUSTRY BYPRODUCTS ADDING VALUE TO SMART CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS

Proposal – Horizon 2020 call:

Integration of Energy Smart Materials in Non-residential Buildings

**Cellulose and Paper Research Group
(University Complutense of Madrid/Spain/Carlos Negro)**



University Complutense of Madrid



Origin: 1293
Students: 74.292
Staff: 9.290
Budget: 523 millions €

Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials

Research Group: Cellulose, Paper & Water



Its activities are conducted in two lines: Fundamental Research and the Applied Research, in order to enhance the technical and scientific expertise of the industry. The Fundamental Research is devoted to the acquisition of new knowledge and the fundamental understanding of the phenomena taking place during pulp and papermaking. On the other hand, the Applied Research is devoted to the application of these knowledge to solve the needs of the industry and suppliers.

Fundamental and Applied Research



- Acquisition of new Knowledge.
- Fundamental understanding of the phenomena taking place during industrial processes.
- Sustainable industrial production.
- Development and optimization of new industrial treatments.
- Application of the gained new knowledge to solve specific needs of industry and suppliers.

Fundamental and Applied Research



Sustainable Paper and Fibercement Production



- **Process optimization: wet-end chemistry, flocculation, drainage and retention processes.**
- **Product (paper/board/cement) properties improvement: mechanical, physical and optical properties.**
- **Lignocellulosic resources (virgin, recycled, agrowastes).**
- **Reuse and recyclability (final product and wastes generated in the processes).**

Fundamental and Applied Research



Sustainable Paper and Fibercement Production



Sustainable Water Management



- **Minimisation of water consumption (e.g. circuits closure, reclaimed water).**
- **Optimization of industrial wastewater treatments.**
- **New technologies developed and proved at lab and pilot scale.**
- **Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOPs).**

Fundamental and Applied Research



Sustainable Paper and Fibercement Production



Sustainable Water Management



Nanotechnology: Nanocellulose



Nanotechnology: Nanocellulose



- Production of different NC (cellulose nanofibers, cellulose nanocrystals, hairy cellulose and bacterial cellulose) from different from different lignocellulosic raw materials.
- Characterization of NC (e.g. nanofibrillation yield, transmittance, carboxylic content, polymerization degree....).
- Surface modification of NC.
- Application and optimization of the use of NC to different industrial sectors: papermaking, water treatment, food industry and **sustainable building materials**.



FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME III 1990-1994

1. Control of flocculation of cellulose fibre and mineral solids in papermaking stocks



FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME IV 1994-1998

1. Study of professional training needs in the European pulp and paper industry
2. PIBARE
3. COLLOIDS
4. NEST



FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME V 1998-2002

1. Formation avancée et développement professionnel en technologies papetierés
2. REWAPULP
3. Microscopy as a tool in pulp and paper research and development
4. PITCH
5. RODET
6. SLIMEZYMES



FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME VI 2002-2006

1. NODESZELOSS
2. ODOURCONTROL
3. SHAKER
4. MODELPACK



FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME VII 2007-2013

1. AQUAFIT4USE
2. CHEMWATER
3. FIBRE+
4. E4WATER



HORIZON 2020 2014-2020

1. Nano-CTB (proposal)



Carlos Negro



Ángeles Blanco



Concepción Monte



Helena Fuente



Rubén Miranda



Antonio Tijero



Daphne Hermosilla



Noemí Merayo



Ana Balea



Patricio López



Cristina Campano



Sara Gilarranz



José Luis Sánchez



Javier Tejera



Jiret Vargas

**MICROCELLULOSE CTQ 2012-36868-C02-01)
NANOSOLPAPEL-REC (CTQ2013-48090-C2-1-R)
NANOPROSOST (CTQ2017-85654-C2-2-R).**

THE ROLE OF NANOCELLULOSE IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURE MATERIALS



*C. Negro, C. Monte, H. Fuente, A. Balea, N. Merayo, C. Campano and A. Blanco. UCM, Madrid
cnegro@ucm.es*





Incentives for Manufacturing Industry

- New source of raw material with wide, largely unexplored range of applications
 - New products
 - New business opportunities



**Nano
cellulose**

Nature-based
Huge applications



NANO

Why nano?

The size reduction enables new opportunities for the development of innovative nano systems and nanostructured materials

**Particle of any shape
with dimensions < than 100 nm**

- Very strong
- Large specific area
- Highly reactive
- Less Defect
- Thermal stability
- Unique optical, electrical, magnetic properties

CELLULOSE

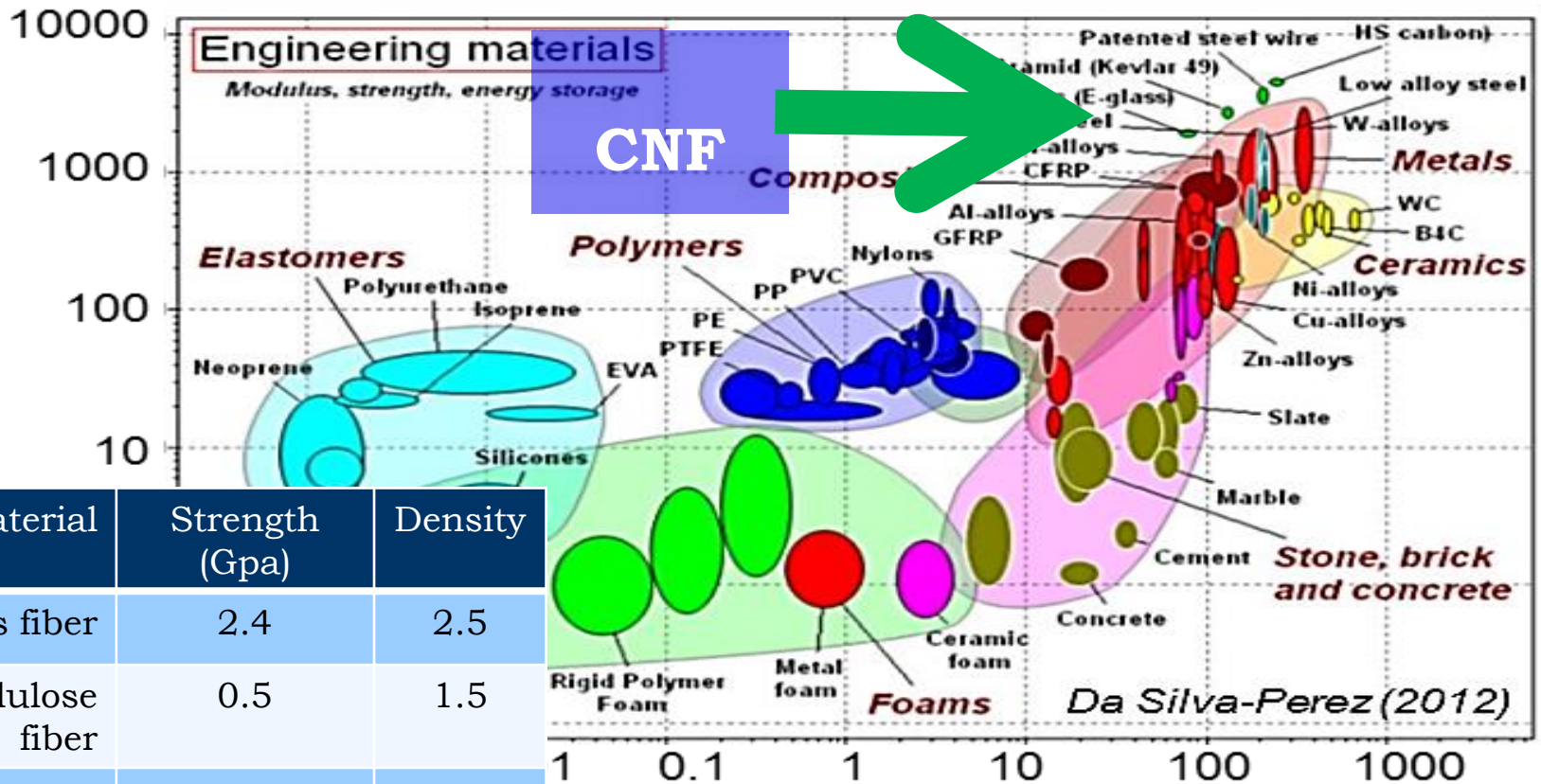


Why cellulose?

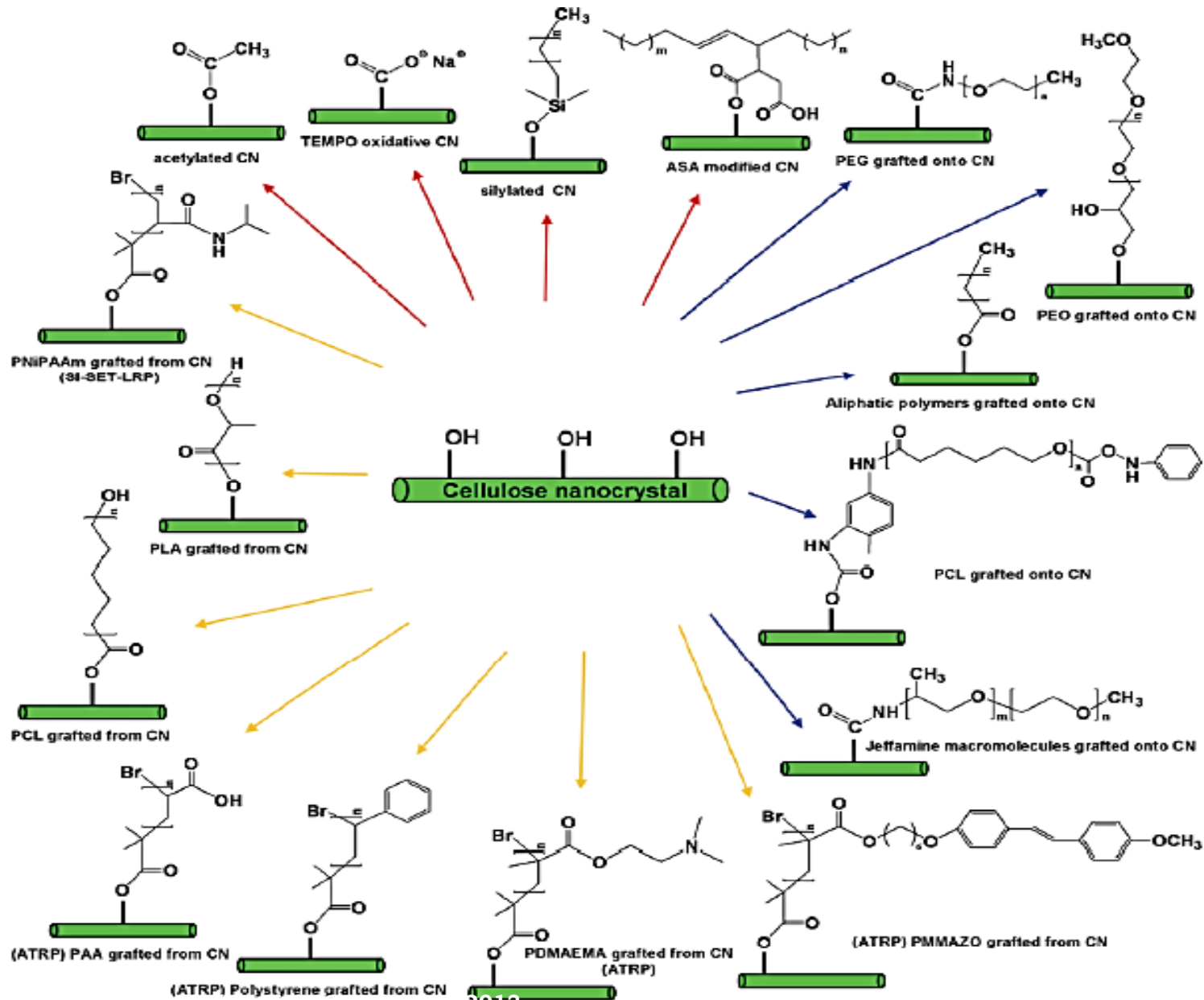
A sustainable material: high availability, natural & renewable, economic, non-toxic, biocompatibility and biodegradability

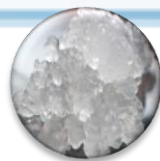
- High strength & modulus
- Flexible
- Lightweight material
- Electrically charged
- Chemically reactive
- Dimension stability
- Water absorption
- Barrier properties
- High aspect ratio
- Transparent and translucent
- Builds network structures

At the nano-scale, the material has fewer defects, and it is therefore stronger



Material	Strength (Gpa)	Density
Glass fiber	2.4	2.5
Cellulose fiber	0.5	1.5
Steel fiber	3	4
CNC	10	1.5
CNF	9-10	1.5





PULP SUSPENSION PRODUCTION

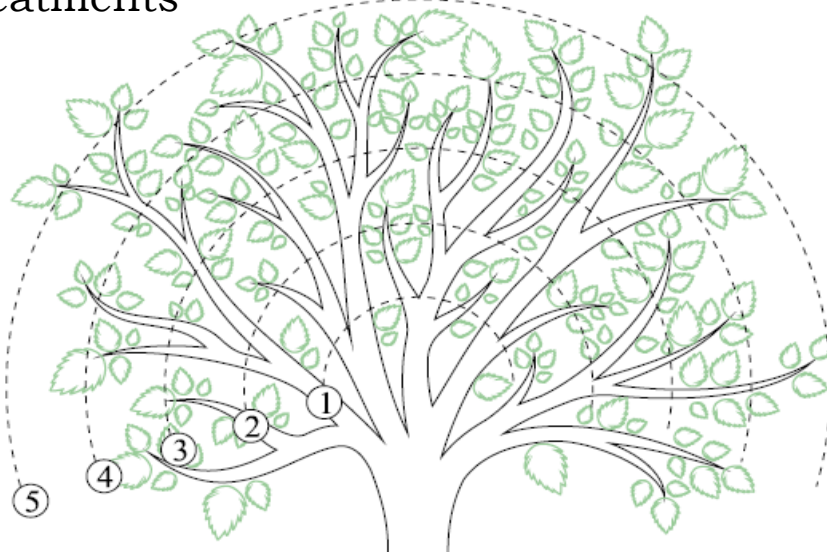
Chemical treatments:

- cooking
- bleaching

Mechanical treatments:

Recycling Treatments

➤ **50 types of CNF**



1 raw material
(wood, plants, agricultural wastes...)

CNF PRODUCTION

Pre-treatments:

- TEMPO oxidation
- carboxylation
- carboxymethylation
- sulfonation
- enzymatic hydrolysis

Mechanical treatment:

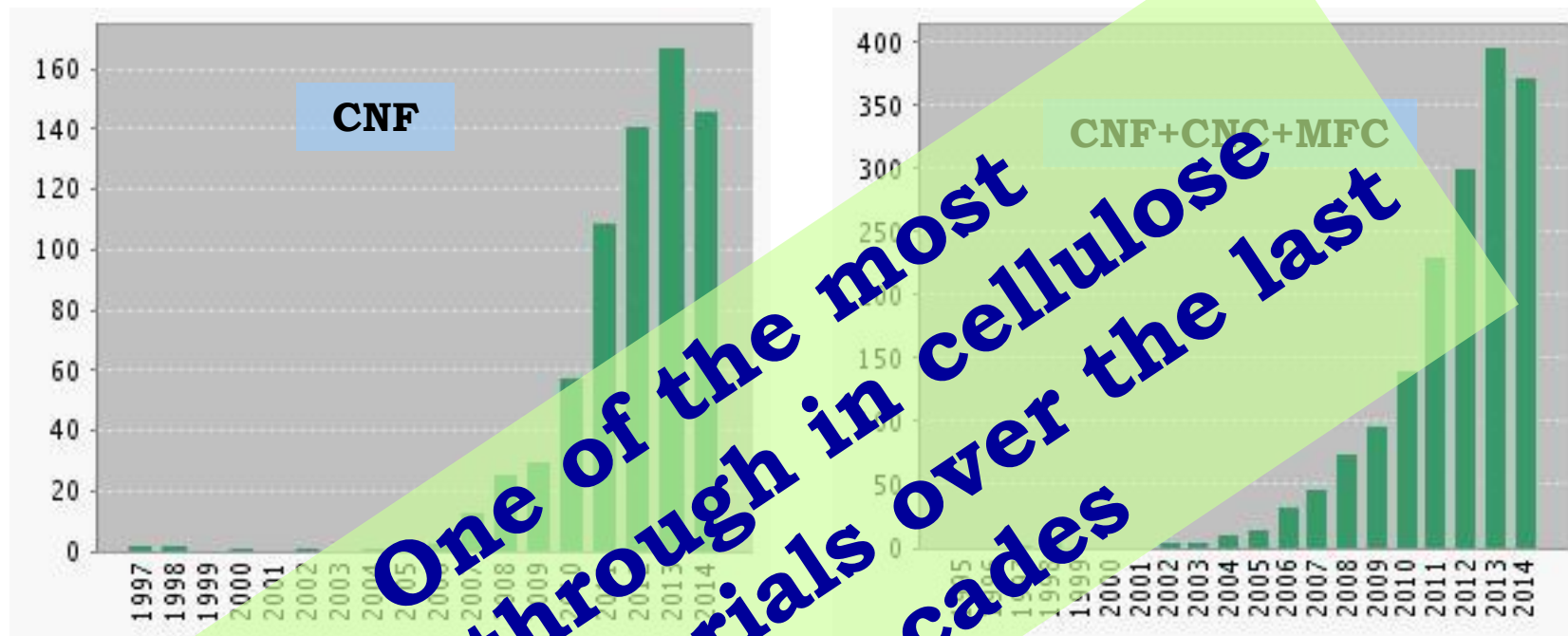
- homogenization
- microfluidization
- refining
- grinding
- electrospinning
- cryocrushing
- ultrasonication
- steam explosion

Post-treatments:

- chemical modification
- fractionation

NANOCELLULOSE EVOLUTION

INTEREST OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY



One of the most breakthrough in cellulose based materials over the last two decades

Increasing interest in nanocellulose can be seen from the exponential rise in the scientific reports dealing with nanofibrillated cellulose and cellulose nanocrystals since 2000.

NC is unique among nanomaterials because it is bio-based, renewable, biodegradable and non-toxic.

Cellulose (3.2.4) nanofibre (3.1.6) composed predominantly of cellulose and composed of at least one elementary fibril (3.2.5), containing crystalline (3.2.1), paracrystalline (3.2.3) and amorphous (3.2.2) regions, with aspect ratio usually greater than 10, which may contain longitudinal splits, entanglement between particles, or network-like structures

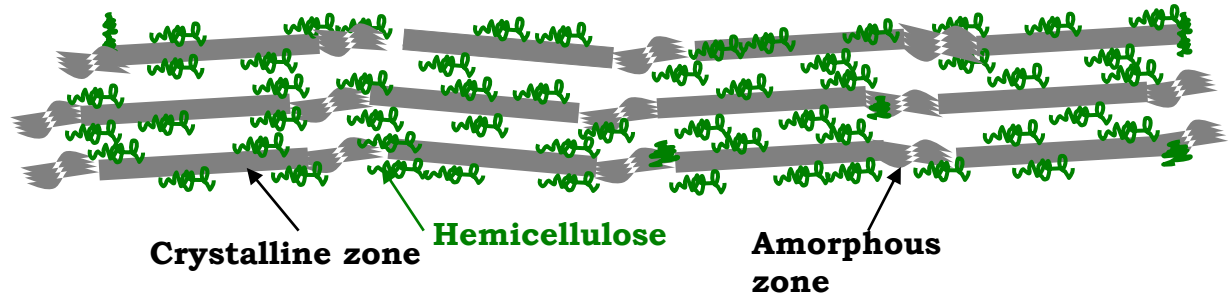
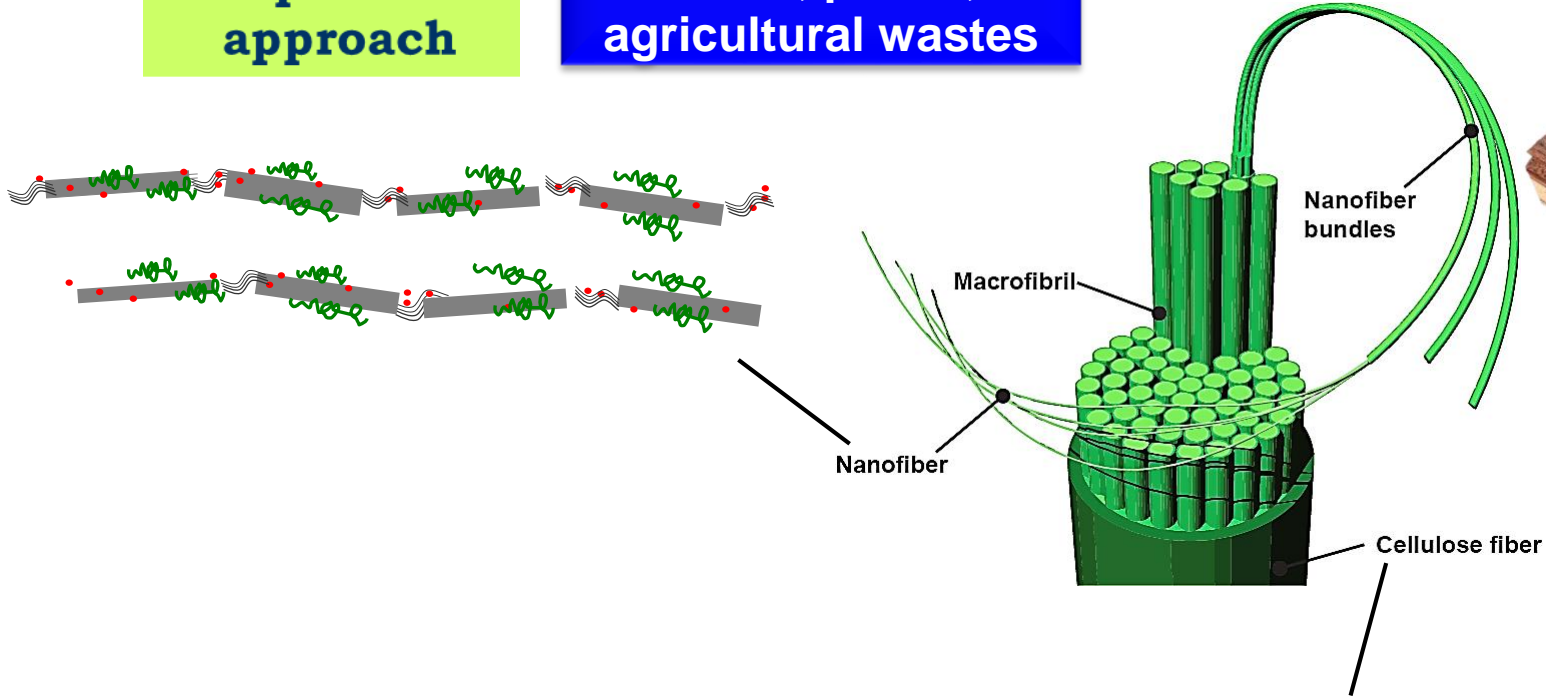
- The dimensions are typically 3-100 nm in cross-section and typically up to 100 μm in length.
- The terms nanofibrillated cellulose (NFC), nanofibrillar cellulose (NFC), microfibrillated cellulose (MFC), microfibrillar cellulose (MFC), cellulose microfibril (CMF) and cellulose nanofibre (CNF) have been used to describe cellulose nanofibrils **produced by mechanical treatment of plant materials often combined with chemical or enzymatic pre-treatment steps.**

Nanocrystal (3.1.7) predominantly composed of cellulose (3.2.4) with at least one elementary fibril (3.2.5), containing predominantly crystalline (3.2.1) and paracrystalline (3.2.3) regions, with aspect ratio of usually less than 50 but usually greater than 5, not exhibiting longitudinal splits, inter-particle entanglement, or network-like structures

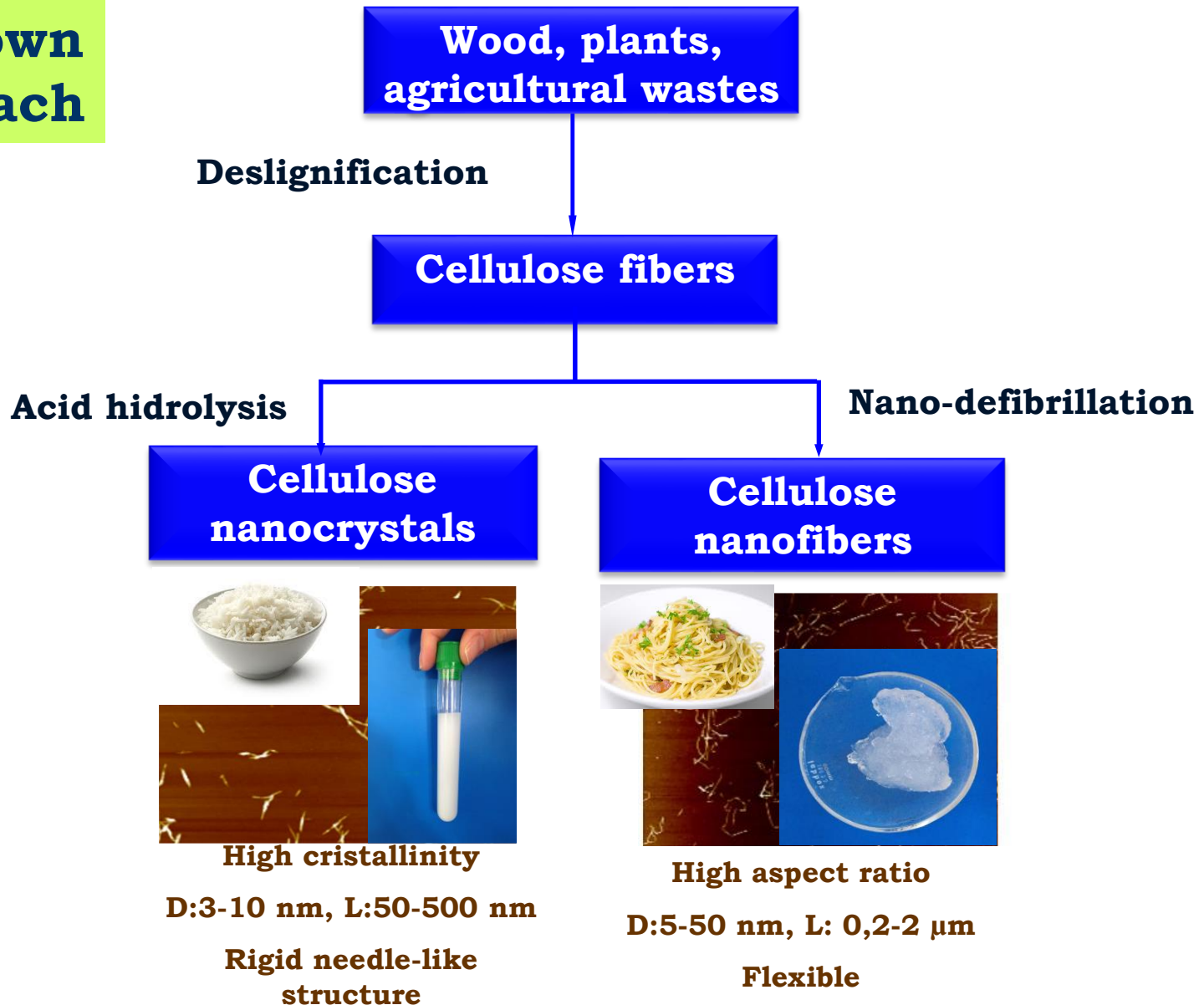
- The dimensions are typically 3-50 nm in cross-section and 100 nm to several μm in length depending on the source of the cellulose nanocrystal.**
- Historically cellulose nanocrystals have been called nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC), whiskers such as cellulose nanowhiskers (CNW), and microfibrils such as cellulose microfibrils; they have also been called spheres, needles or nanowires based on their shape, dimensions and morphology; other names have included cellulose micelles, cellulose crystallites and cellulose microcrystals.**

Top-down approach

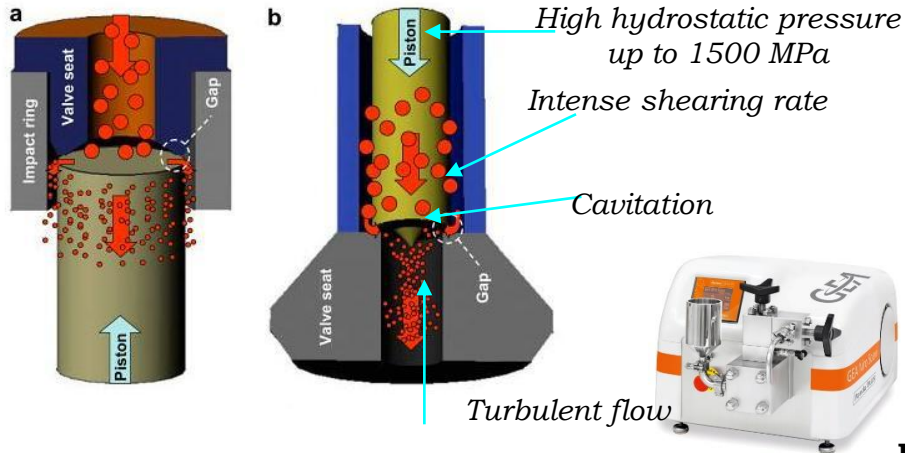
Wood, plants, agricultural wastes



Top-down approach

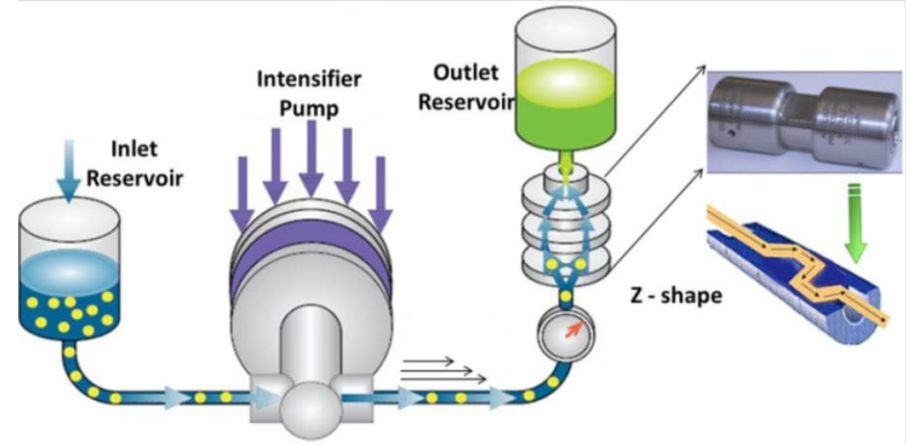


Homogenizer



Scheme illustration of the principle of homogenization lab-scale homogenizer (GEA niro-soavi),

Microfluidizer

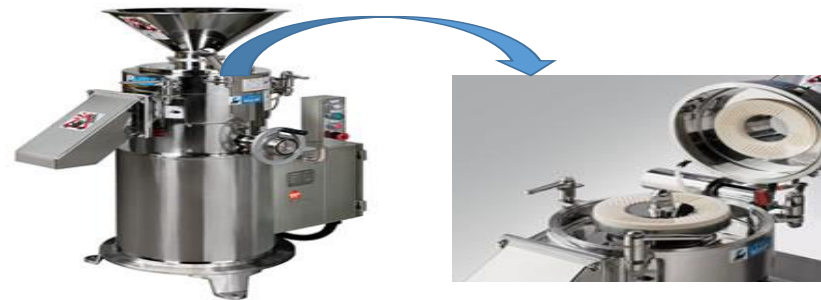


Basic concept of the single pump microfluidizer functioning

Refining



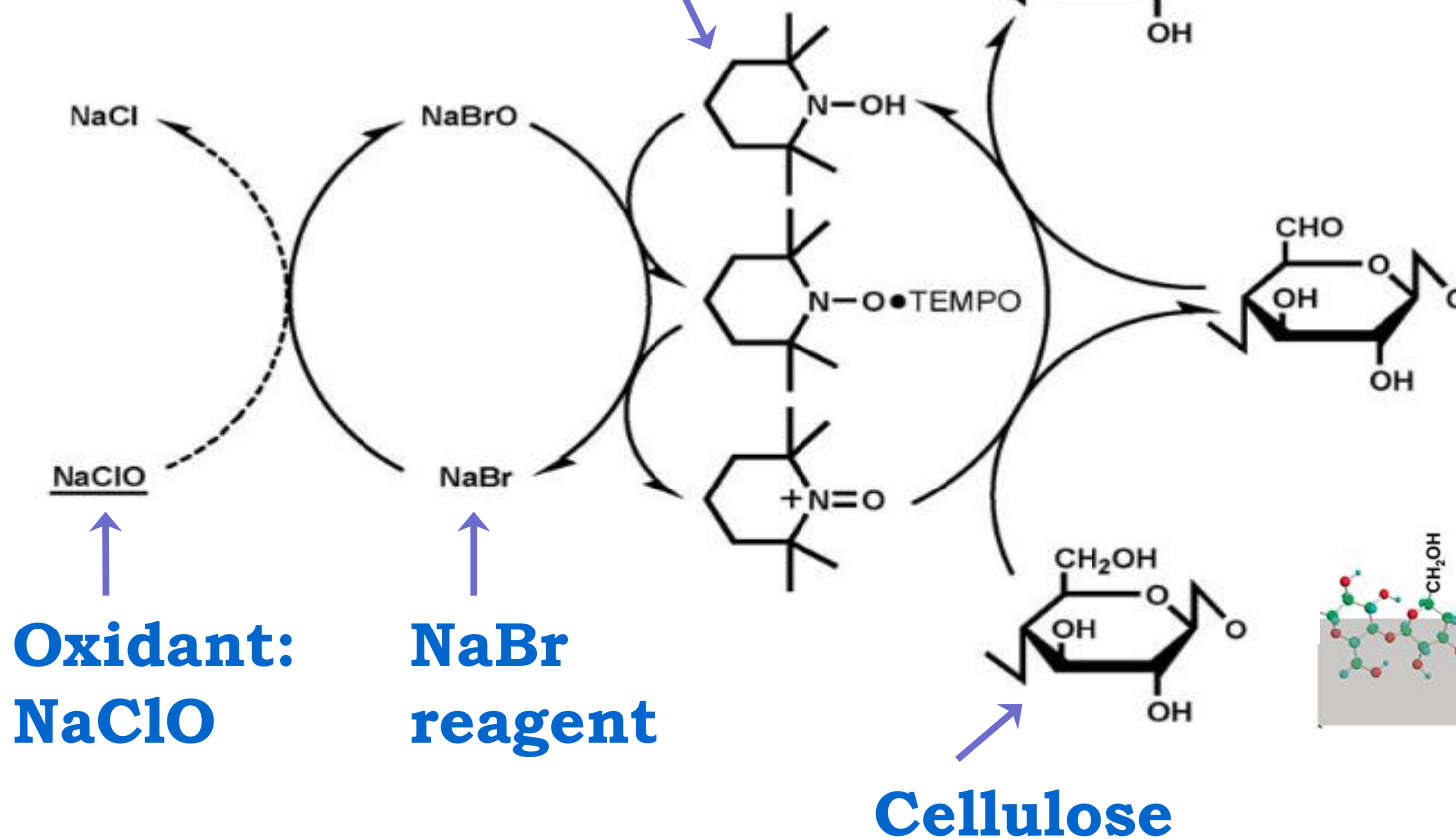
Grinding

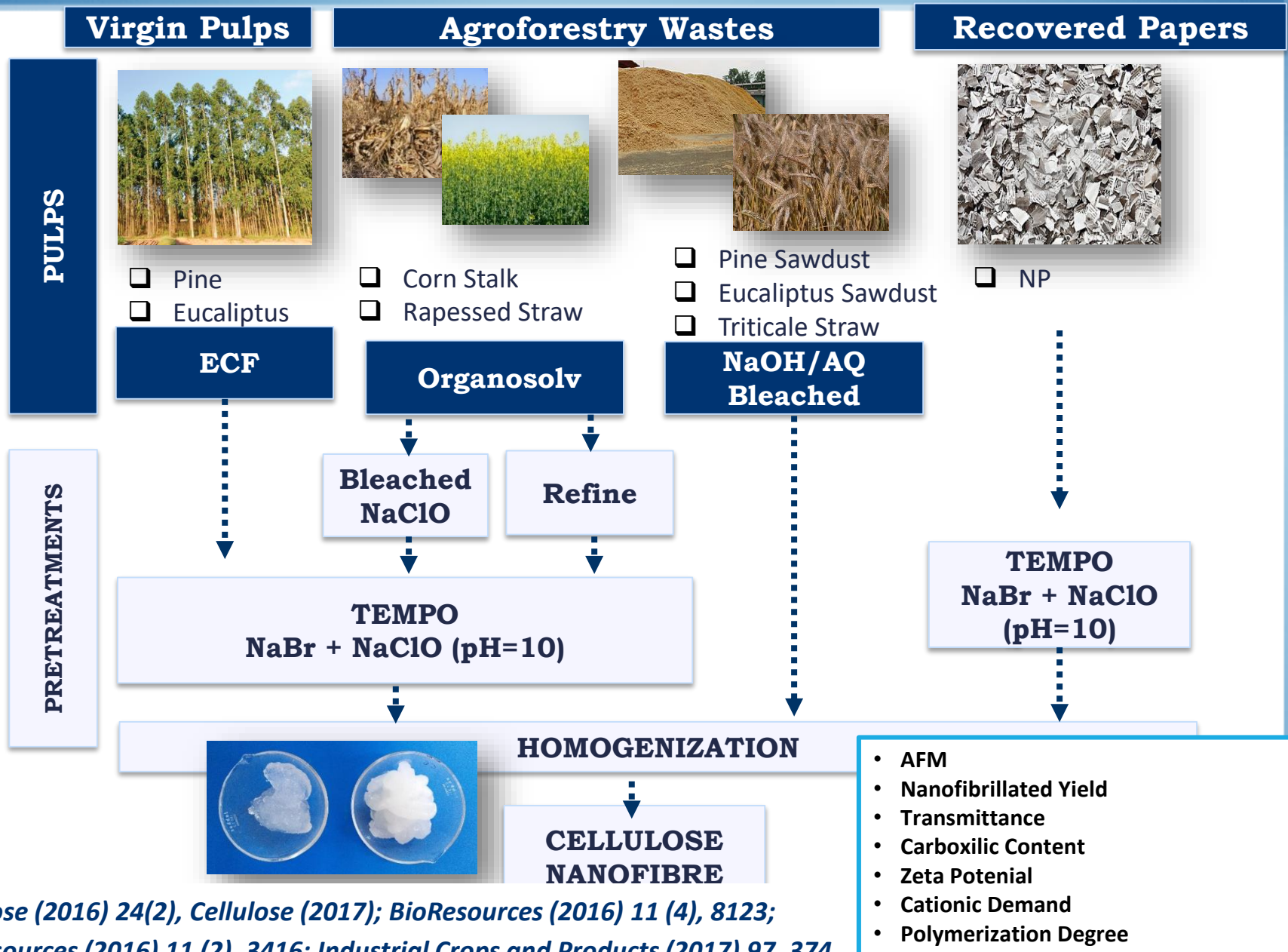


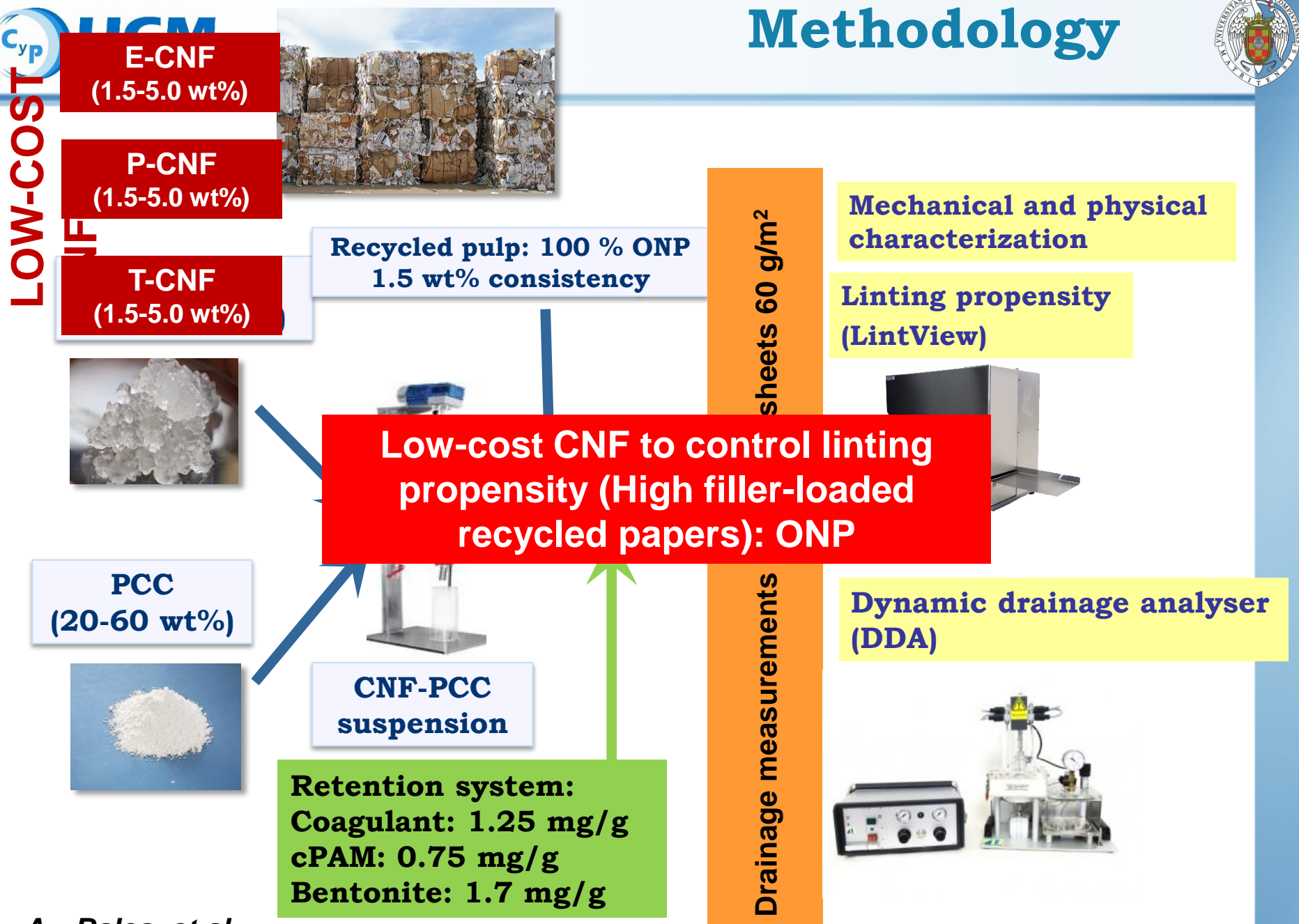
The carboxyl content can be ranged from 200 to 1500 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$

2,2,6,6-Tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl

TEMPO catalyst



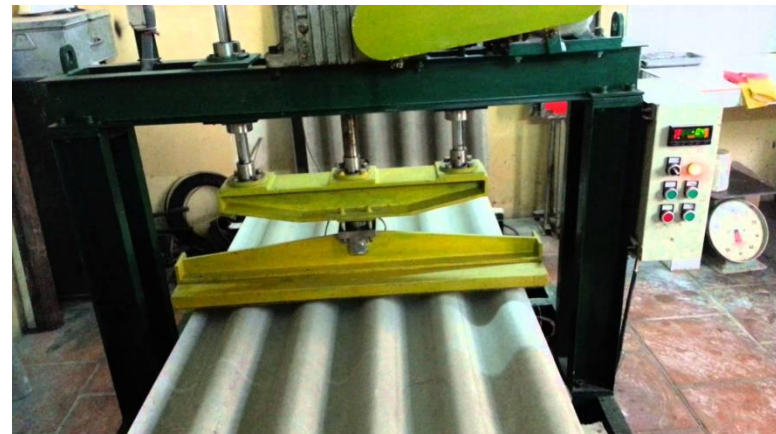




2. As additive

- **Improvement of bonding strength: MOE and MOR**
- **Enhancement of hardenning after 7 days**
- **Reducing of pull out**
- **Reducing porosity**

✓ **Low CN doses are enough
for high improvements**



2.- Why does NC improve FC mechanical properties?

**1. NC increases the interactions
fibers ↔ matrix**

NC has high hydrogen bonding ability

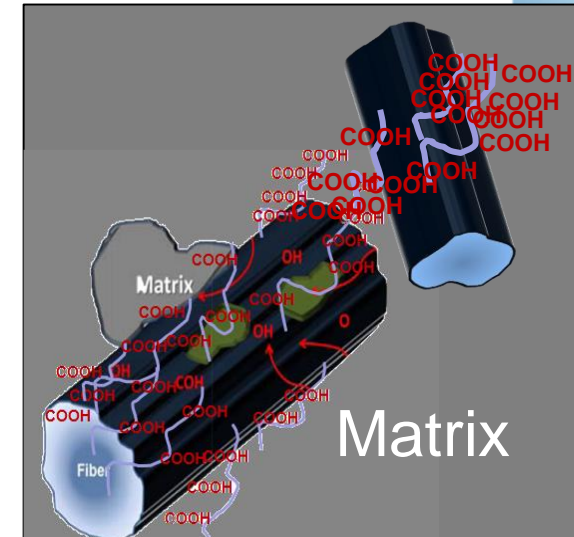
↑ **affinity for cellulosic fibers**



**NC attaches on fiber surface
and interacts with matrix
and other fibers**



- ✓ **Improvement of bonding strength, MOE and MOR**
- ✓ **Contribute to reduce pull out**



2.- Why does NC improve FC mechanical properties?

2. Enhances hardenning near NC

**Interaction
with Ca⁺⁺**

**NC
swelling**

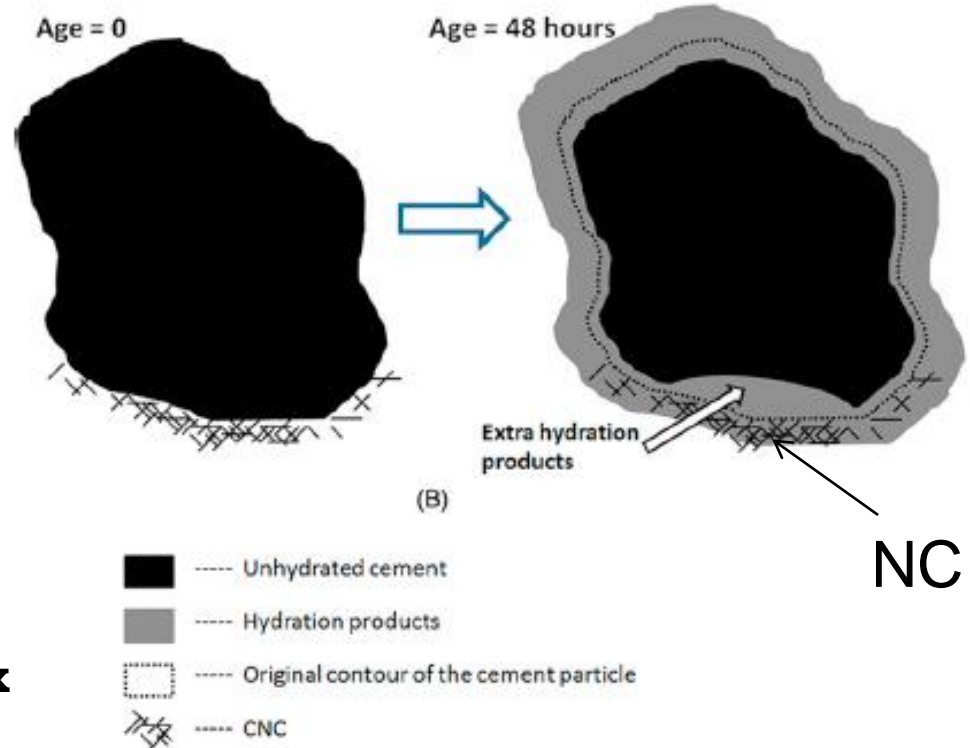
↑ H₂O and Ca⁺⁺ in interface
Better difusión of H₂O in NC
network

**Accumulation of hydration
products in interface**

**Block pores
of fibers**

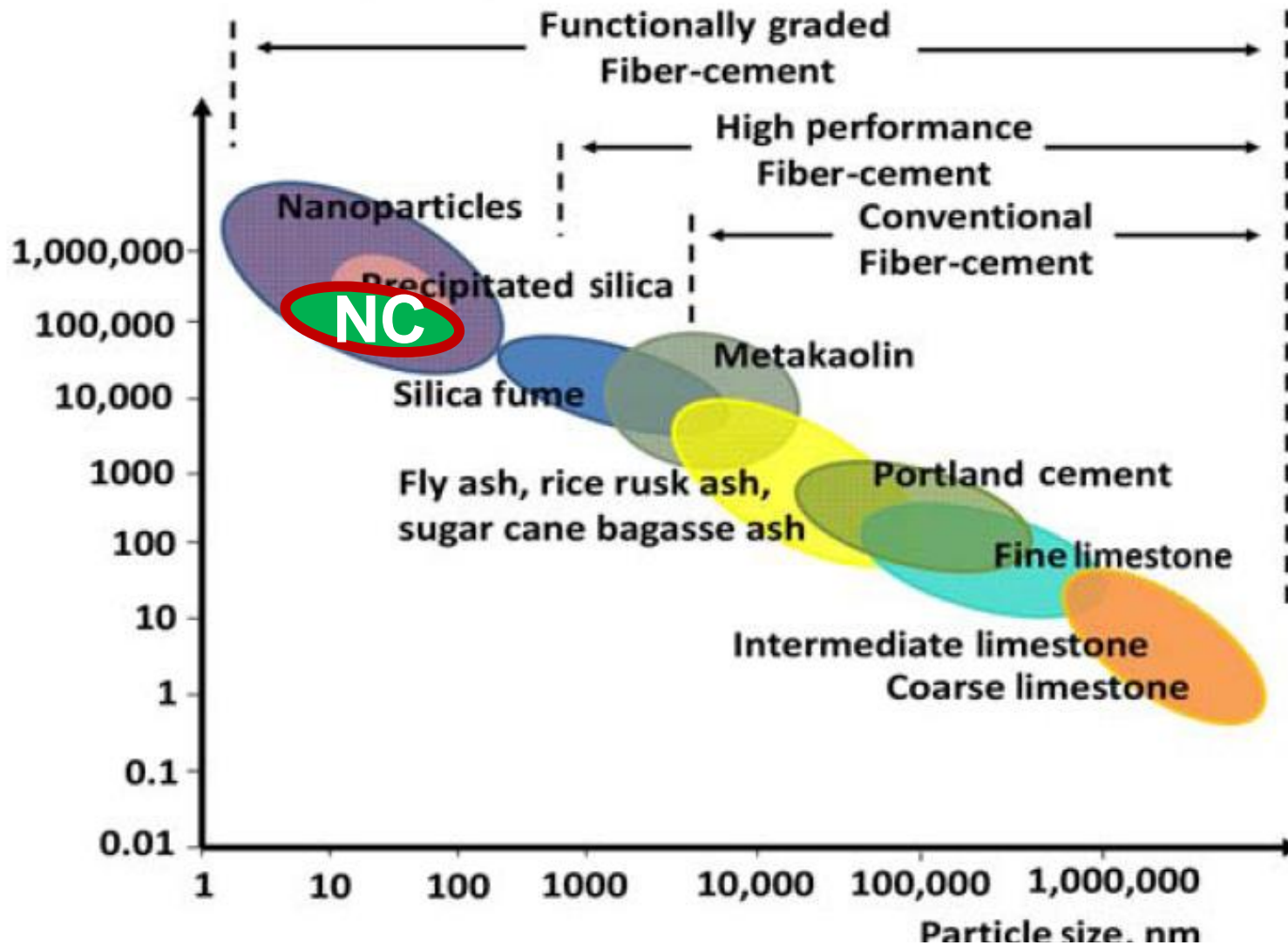
**Increase
interaction
fiber-matrix**

Control of water in matrix



Parveen et al. (2017). Macro-and nanodimensional plant fiber reinforcements for cementitious composites. In Sustainable and Nonconventional Construction Materials using Inorganic Bonded Fiber Composites (pp. 343-382).

Specific surface area (m^2/kg)



Sanchez and Sovolec. Nanotechnology in concrete – A review.
Construction and Building Materials
Volume 24, Issue 11, November 2010, Pages 2060-2071



Functionalised NC aerogels as superinsulation materials for buildings: synthesis, characterisation and integration

Interactions of functionalised NC aerogel powder and the components of the fibercement

Aerogel



Synthetic polymers

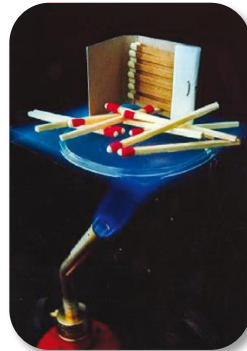
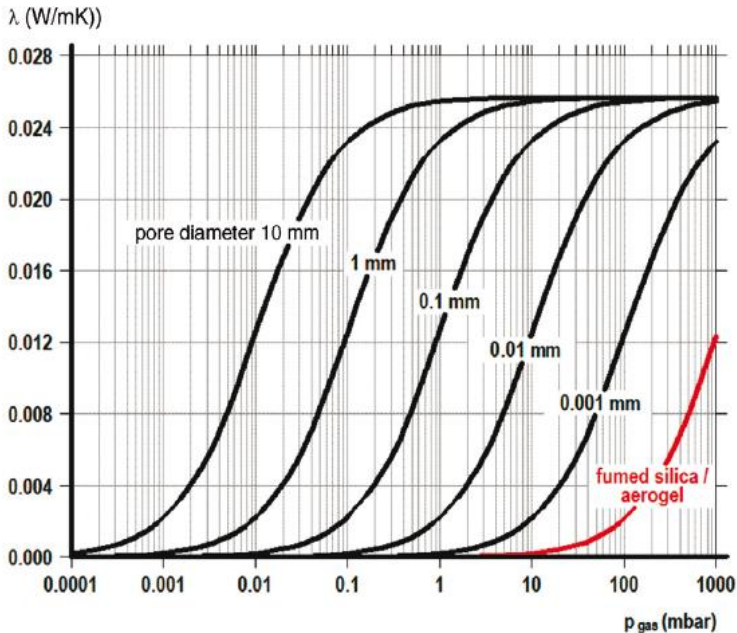
Polystyrene, phenolic resins, polyurethane, nylon...



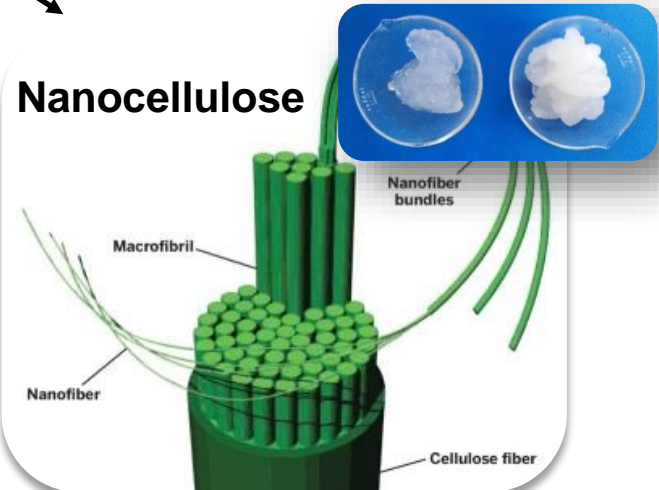
Insulation material (<math><0.025 \text{ W/mK}</math>)

Environmental concerns

Renewable resources



Nanocellulose



Aerogel



Synthetic polymers

Polystyrene, phenolic resins,
polyurethane, nylon...



CELLULOSE



- High strength & modulus
- Flexible
- Lightweight material
- Electrically charged
- Chemically reactive
- Dimension stability
- Water absorption
- Barrier properties
- High aspect ratio
- Transparent and translucent
- Builds network structures

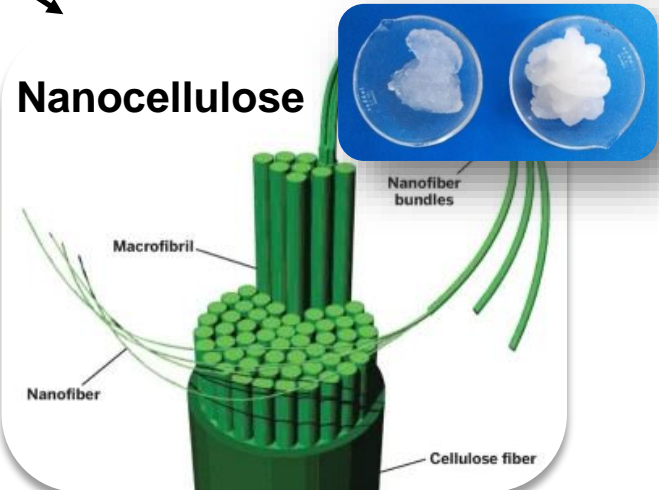
Environmental concerns

NANO

- Very strong
- Large specific area
- Highly reactive
- Less Defect
- Thermal stability
- Unique optical, electrical, magnetic properties

Sources

Nanocellulose

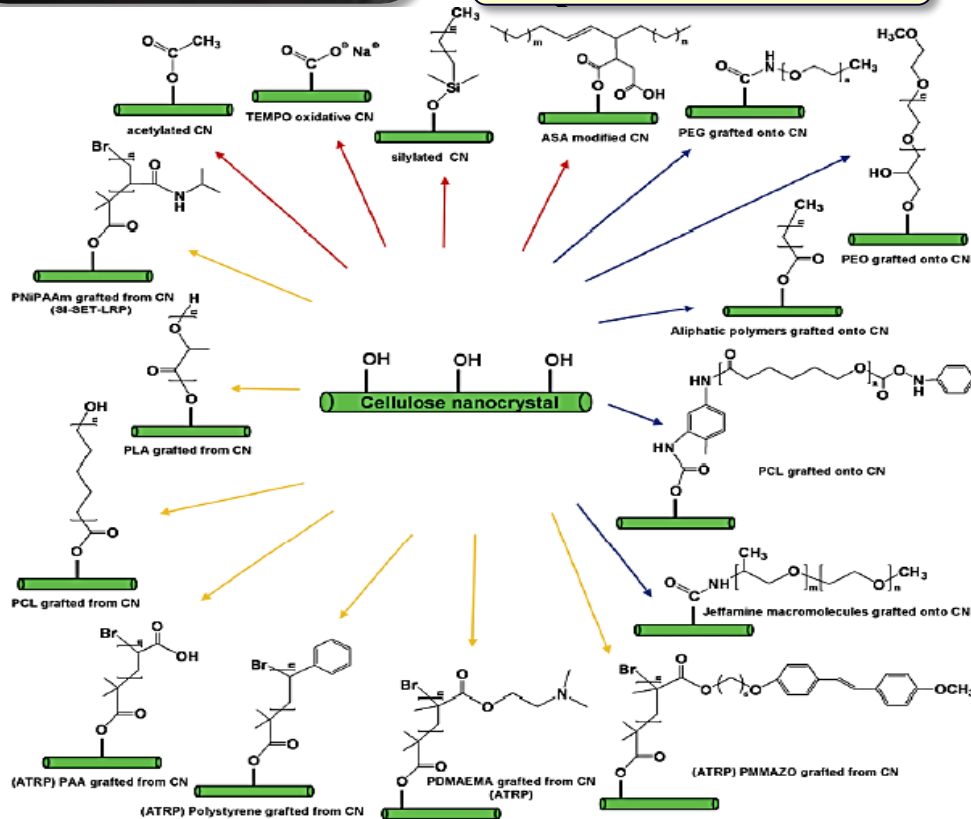


Aerogel



Synthetic polymer

Functionalised NC



Functionalised NC aerogels:

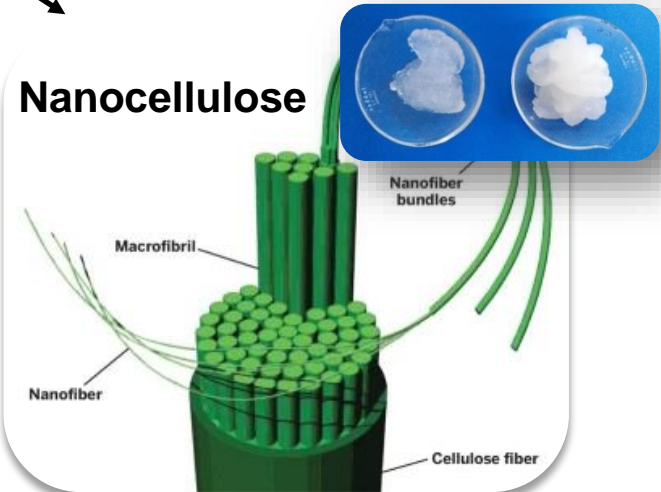
Increasing:

- Dimensional stability
- Interfacial compatibility with the matrix
- Reinforcing capacity
- Adhesion of NC aerogel to the adjacent layers
- Durability

Decreasing:

- Water absorption of NC
- Cost production

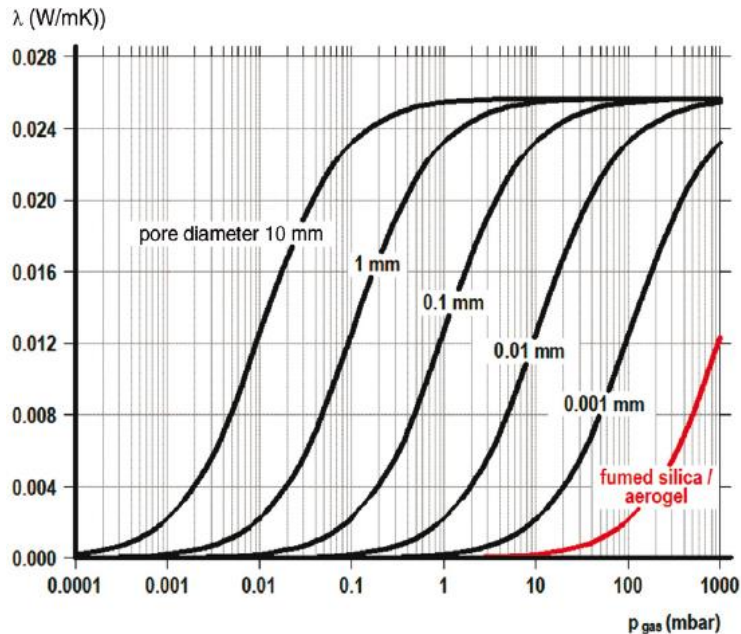
Nanocellulose



Aerogel



**Insulation material
($<0.025 \text{ W/mK}$)**

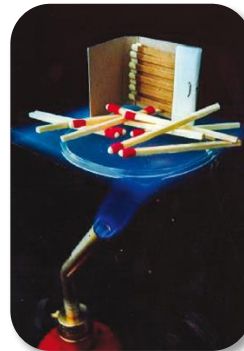


Building sector

Development “zero energy buildings”



Piping, vessels, heat and cold storage appliances and devices



Functionalised NC aerogels as superinsulation materials for buildings: synthesis, characterisation and integration

A1) Production and characterisation of non-functionalised hydrogels of NC:

- Raw material: residual lignocellulose sources (e.g. agrowastes residues, recycled pulp).
- Production: mechanical/chemical pre-treatment+high-pressure homogeneization.
- Characterization: e.g. AFM, carboxylic groups, nanofibrillation yield, transmittance, zeta potential, cationic demand, polymerization degree, WRV.

A2) Production and characterization of non-functionalised aerogels (reference):

- Production: freeze-drying.
- Characterization: e.g. porosity, WRV, hydrofobicity, thermal conductivity, nanostructure (pore distribution).

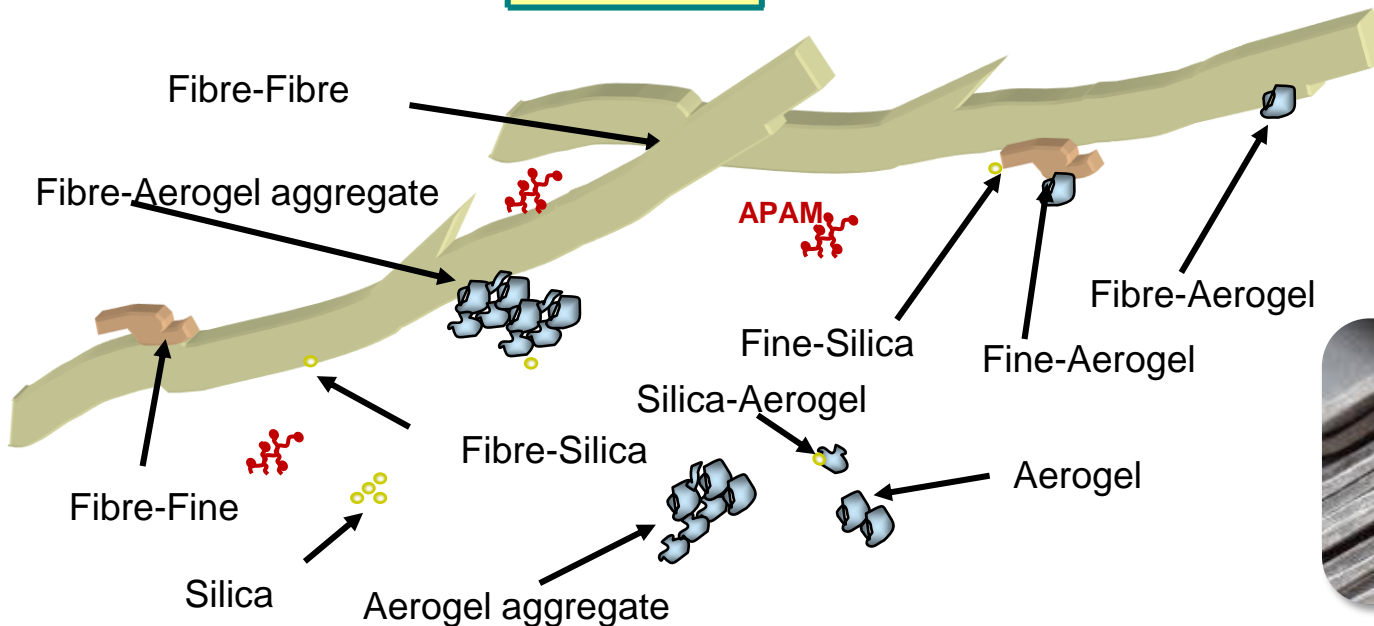
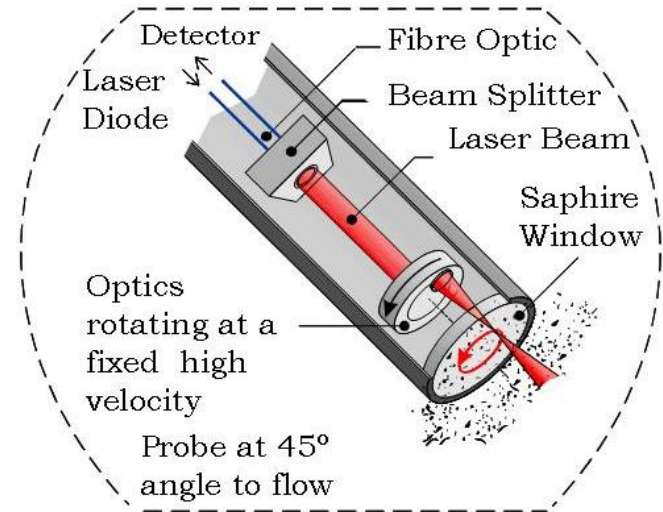
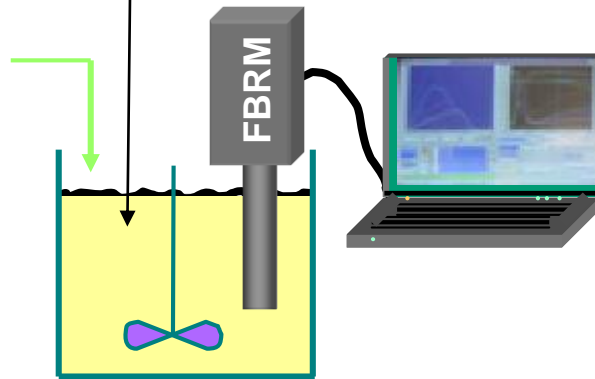
A3) Production and optimisation of functionalised NC hydrogels and aerogels:

- Production: e.g. silylation, grafting
- Characterization hydrogel/aerogel: idem A1 and A2

A4) Integration in non-residential building insulation: monolithic and divided materials.

Cellulose fibers
Cement
Silica
PVA
Functionalised NC
aerogel powder

Flocculant: APAM



Interactions of functionalised NC aerogel powder and the components of the fibercement

A1) Selection the functionalised aerogels based on two criteria: low thermal conductivity and high hydrofobicity.

A2) Production and characterisation of functionalised NC aerogels powder:

- Production: grinding
- Characterization: e.g. particle distribution, WRV, hydrofobicity, thermal conductivity, nanostructure (pore distribution).

A3) Interaction of functionalised NC aerogels powder with fibercement component using FBRM (e.g. cellulose fibers, cement, silica...).

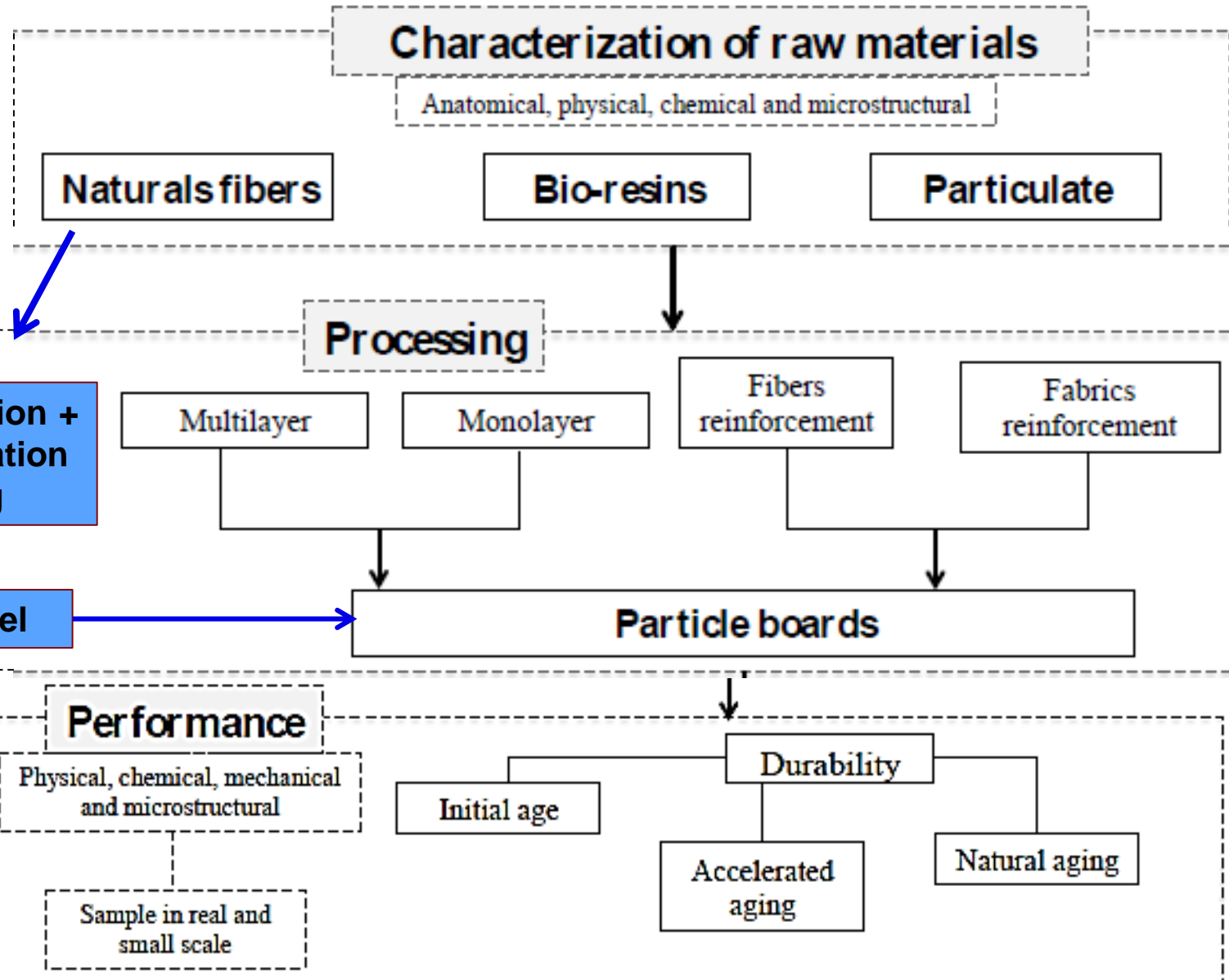
- Single interaction without flocculant (e.g. NC aerogel powder + cement; NC aerogel powder+cellulose fibers...)
- Interaction with APAM (e.g. NC aerogel powder + cement + APAM)

A4) Preparation and characterization of fibercement-aerogel composites.

- Preparation of probes of FC containing aerogel powder by mixing, casting, pressing and curing.
- Characterization of physical, mechanical and thermal properties
- Microstructure (SEM)

INTEGRATION IN THE PROJECT

Task 1 – Particleboards produced with agroindustry wastes



INTEGRATION IN THE PROJECT

