

*Towards a new Bioeconomy*

# The role of Biofuel in the post-pandemic era to achieve EU Green Deal goals

*David Chiaramonti*

Polytechnic of Turin and RE-CORD



- The EU SEM hindered during the pandemic. Relevance of domestic supply chains and strategic storage became evident
- BIOeconomy & CIRCULAR economy: most of the attention so far focused on GHG savings, especially in the EU
- Sustainable transport fuels are a major part of Bio/Circular
- These value chains are indeed also real ECONOMY
- Decarbonization and economic recovery are not competing, but can rather be two complementary sides of the same coin
- Domestic supply chains for food, materials and energy are needed in the post Covid-19 scenario for economic recovery

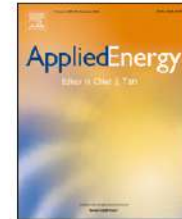


→ **The economic impact of well-designed sustainable Biorefinery fuels chains is as important as their effects on GHG emissions**

Applied Energy 271 (2020) 115216

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Applied Energy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apenergy](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/apenergy)

Security of supply, strategic storage and Covid19: Which lessons learnt for renewable and recycled carbon fuels, and their future role in decarbonizing transport?



David Chiamonti<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Kyriakos Maniatis<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> "Galileo Ferraris" Energy Department, Polytechnic of Turin, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italy

<sup>b</sup> RE-CORD (Renewable Energy Consortium for R&D), Viale J.F.Kennedy, Pianvallico, 50038 Scarperia e San Piero, FI, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Independent expert, Brussels, Belgium

## COVID-19

- Which impact on energy? (Renewable and Recycled Carbon Fuels - RCCF)
- Which role for RCCFs in the post-pandemic era?

# ENERGY AND INVESTMENTS DYNAMICS

- ❑ **Energy and investments: a reality check!**
  - **2015-2019** energy demand and emission growth > **than 2011-2015**
  - **2018: only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of 1800 bill.\$** global energy investments on **Low-Carbon**
  - **G20 Countries: out of 7.4 Trill.\$** to economic recovery, **only 4% Green** (reducing GHG)
  - **Oil: - 1000 bill\$** in 2020 vs 2019. **Electricity: - 180 bill\$**
- ❑ **Investments decline expected in 2020**, due to bad economics (lower profits and cash flows, higher debts, reduced demand):
  - **HC -30%, RES -10%, Electricity Infrastructures -8%**
  - Compared to investment levels needed for the **Energy-Climate transition** the **reduction is even more significant**
- ❑ **Under-investing in the energy sector could cause production/demand unbalances** and increased energy prices when demand will recover
  - Reduced investments **now** → **9 MMBD reduced production at 2025**
  - **Rebound** effects?
- ❑ **Biofuel** production expected to fall by **13% in 2020** due to lower demand, 2021 back to same level as 2019

## Shell Warns Of Massive \$22 Billion Write Down After Oil Crash

By Tsvetana Paraskova - Jun 30, 2020, 9:00 AM CDT



Join Our Community

Royal Dutch Shell [warned](#) on Tuesday it could take as much as impairment charge for Q2, becoming the latest oil major warning of its assets as it revised its price assumptions after the oil price

"In the second quarter 2020, Shell has revised its mid and long margin outlook reflecting the expected effects of the COVID-19 macroeconomic as well as energy market demand and supply a statement.

Shell now assumes Brent Crude prices at \$35 a barrel this year year, with a long-term oil price assumption at \$60 a barrel.



## Big Oil's Nightmare Is Coming True

By Nick Cunningham - Jun 30, 2020, 5:00 PM CDT



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Royal Dutch Shell said that it could cut the value of its oil and gas assets by as much as [\\$22 billion](#), as it takes a dim view of the state of the oil market. The move adds more evidence to the notion that a huge slice of oil reserves will wind up as stranded assets. Shell [cut](#) its Brent oil prices forecast from \$60 per barrel to \$35 for this year, and lowered its 2021 and 2022 forecasts to \$40 and \$50 per barrel, respectively, down from \$60 previously. The lower outlook reflects the expected damage to the oil market due to the coronavirus and the negative impacts on the global economy, Shell said.

As a result, the value of Shell's assets will be cut by between \$15 and \$22 billion. Broken down by segment, Shell's integrated gas unit will take an \$8 to \$9 billion hit, mostly related to Australian LNG assets, including its gargantuan Prelude project, a floating LNG vessel, which came in over budget and is now underutilized in a weak LNG market. Shell's upstream unit will be impaired by \$4 to \$6 billion, a cut related to Brazil and U.S. shale. Finally, its refining portfolio will be reduced by \$3 to \$7 billion.

## Debt Destroys A Shale Giant

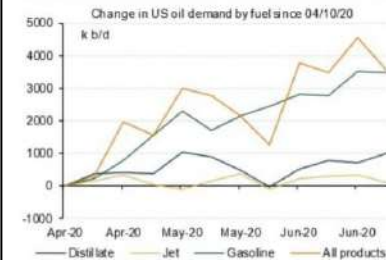
By Editorial Dept - Jul 03, 2020, 12:00 PM CDT



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### 1. Gasoline demand rebounds, jet fuel stays down

Chart 7: Apparent US gasoline demand has rebounded more than 3.5mn b/d from the lows of April...



Source: Bloomberg

*[..] nearly 240 North American shale companies have filed for bankruptcy since 2015.*

→ *Impact on jobs and economy well-beyond the oil sector*

# DECARBONIZATION ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OIL SECTOR



**biofuels**  
international

SP340XP-1000 INCREASED PERFORMANCE IN EXTRACTING OIL

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BP

This article is more than 4 months old

## BP sets net zero carbon target for 2050

New CEO Bernard Looney reveals plan to invest more in low-carbon businesses

APR 17, 2020

**TOTAL**

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Home > Total adopts a new Climate Ambition to Get to Net Zero by 2050

## TOTAL ADOPTS A NEW CLIMATE AMBITION TO GET TO NET ZERO BY 2050

05/05/2020 News

Supporting EU's carbon neutrality ambition, Total becomes the first major oil and gas company for all its European Businesses by 2025

Paris – Total announces today its ambition to get to net-zero emissions by 2050 across its production and energy products used by its customers...

Through a joint statement developed between Total S.A. and institutional investor initiative Climate 100+1 – Total takes 3 major steps towards achieving this goal:

**eni.com**

Do you want to know more? Ask a question

Media / Press Release

PRICE SENSITIVE

## Long-Term Strategic Plan to 2050 and Action Plan 2020-2023

FINANCIAL NEWS, RESULTS AND STRATEGIC PLAN

28 FEBRUARY 2020 7:00 AM CET

San Donato Milanese, 28th February 2020 – Eni announces Long-Term Strategic Plan to 2050 and Action Plan 2020-2023.

- Three major steps to get Total to Net Zero:
1. Net Zero across Total's worldwide operations by 2050 or sooner (scope 1+2)
  2. Net Zero across all its production and energy products used by its customers in Europe<sup>2</sup> by 2050 or sooner (scope 1+2+3)
  3. 60% or more reduction in the average carbon intensity of energy products used worldwide by Total customers by 2050 (less than 27.5 gCO<sub>2</sub>/MJ) - with intermediate steps of 15% by 2030 and 35% by 2040 (scope 1 + 2 + 3)

Summarizing: [...] on April 17 Royal Dutch **Shell** announced its commitment to **net-zero GHG emissions within 30 years** [29]. Similar announcements from **Total** [30], and previously from **BP** [31] and **ENI**, with net zero carbon footprint by 2040 [32].

# HYDROGEN ON THE SPOT (GREEN..BUT ALSO BLUE)



To Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

To Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans

Also sent to Commission President von der Leyen, Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President Vestager, Commissioner Simson, Commissioner Breton, Commissioner Vălean, Director-General Juul Jørgensen, Director-General Petriccione, Director-General Jorna, MEP Buşoi, MEP Krasnodębski, MEP Petersen, MEP Toia, MEP Gálvez Muñoz, MEP Canfin, MEP Eickhout, MEP Luena, MEP Motreanu, MEP Hazekamp, President of the European Council Michel, Ambassador Clauss, Ambassador Léglise-Costa, Ambassador Andrassy, Ambassador Szech-Koundouros, Ambassador Dubreuil, Ambassador Štefanić

**Subject: Wide industry coalition call for a Hydrogen Strategy inclusive of all clean hydrogen pathways**

Brussels, 24 June 2020

As we firmly believe that Europe's future energy system needs to take a technology-neutral approach to drive the most **cost-efficient and cost-effective decarbonization**, we support a **strategy which comprises all clean hydrogen production pathways**, including electrolysis, methane pyrolysis and natural gas reforming in combination with carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). The clean hydrogen economy could provide up to 5.4 million jobs by 2050,<sup>1</sup> and retain existing high-skilled jobs in EU energy-intensive industries. **For this to materialise, an inclusive approach to clean hydrogen is necessary.**

Today, hydrogen produced from natural gas delivers the lion's share of the EU's industrial hydrogen, while hydrogen from clean electricity is produced in much smaller volumes.<sup>2</sup> We fully recognize and support the growth in hydrogen from clean electricity, which will become a significant part of the hydrogen mix in 2050, while market design will need to ensure that the requirements of different consumer groups are met. However, this hydrogen alone will not be enough to **develop a commercial market for clean hydrogen** in the next decade. It will take time to scale up, which is why we need to deploy all scalable, enabling technologies starting today.

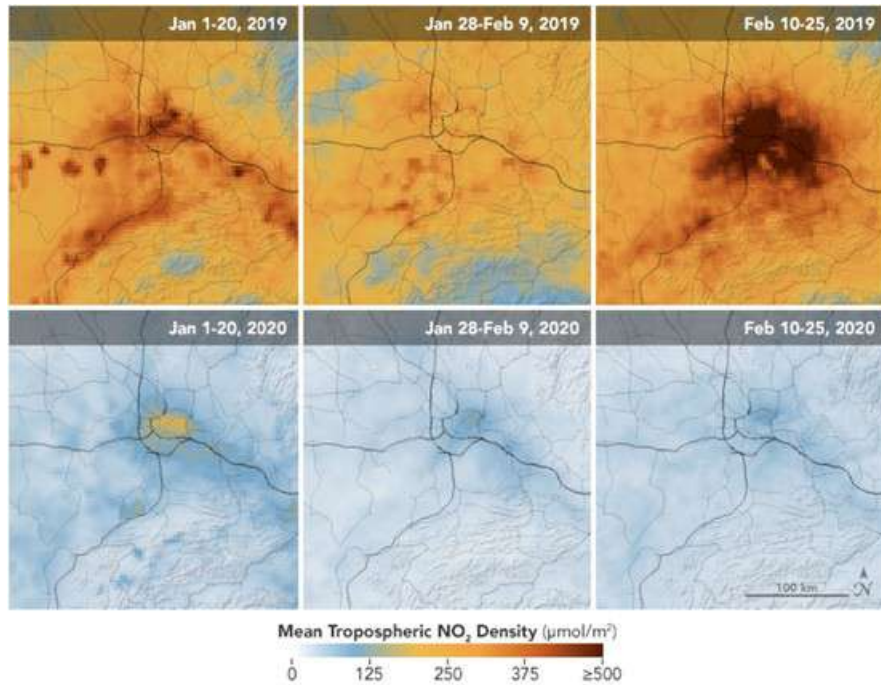
Hydrogen from natural gas with carbon management technologies such as CCUS and pyrolysis will be needed to **create the necessary scale and make hydrogen applications cost-competitive**. Today, it is 2 to 5 times cheaper than renewable hydrogen and its deployment will help reduce the latter's cost.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the flexibility and resilience provided by the gas system significantly reduce investments needed and facilitate the integration of large-scale variable renewable energy.

In order to create these European opportunities in the short-, mid-, and long-term both for economic growth and decarbonization, it is of key importance for the EU to invest in all hydrogen technologies to unlock the nascent hydrogen market, while supporting the development of EU hydrogen ecosystems. **We thus urge the EU to create a strong policy framework in support of all forms of clean**

<sup>1</sup> FCH JU (2019): *Hydrogen Roadmap Europe*. Available from: [https://www.fch.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Hydrogen%20Roadmap%20Europe\\_Report.pdf](https://www.fch.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Hydrogen%20Roadmap%20Europe_Report.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/the-future-of-hydrogen>, June 2019.  
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



# COVID-19 AND AIR POLLUTION: WAS THAT LASTING ENOUGH?



January 1, 2019 - February 25, 2020

**Pollutant drops in Wuhan during Covid19. No rebound effect observed till end of February 2020**

Earth Observatory. Airborne Nitrogen Dioxide plummeted over China. Available at <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146362/airborne-nitrogen-dioxide-plummets-over-china>

**The Washington Post**  
Democracy Dies in Darkness

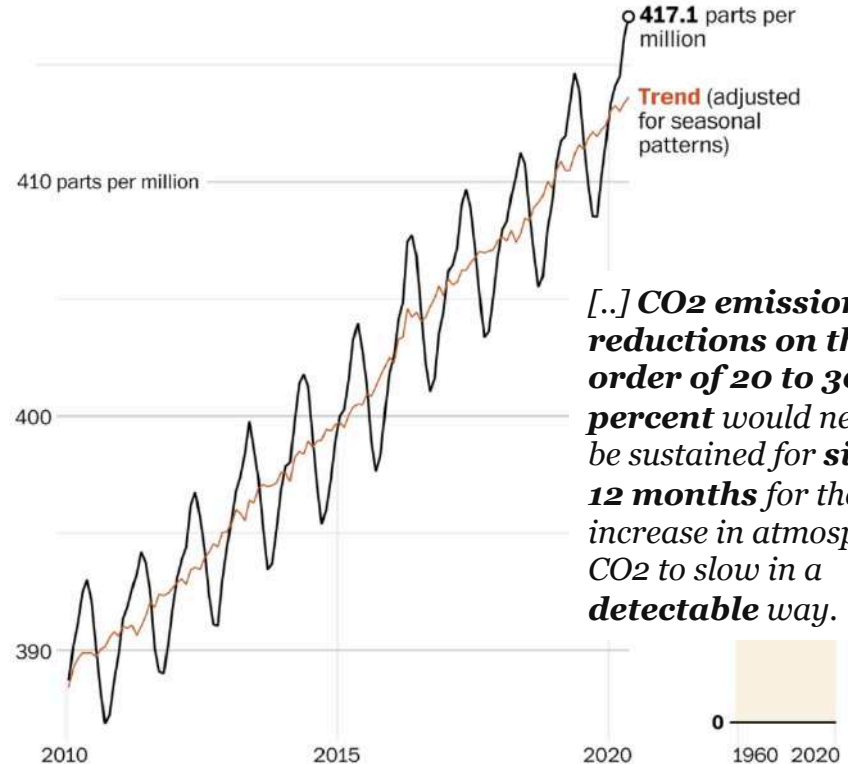
JUNE 4, 2020

Capital Weather Gang

## Earth's carbon dioxide levels hit record high, despite coronavirus-related emissions drop

### Carbon dioxide in atmosphere at record level

Mauna Loa Observatory measured a record monthly average atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration in May, typically the peak of the year.

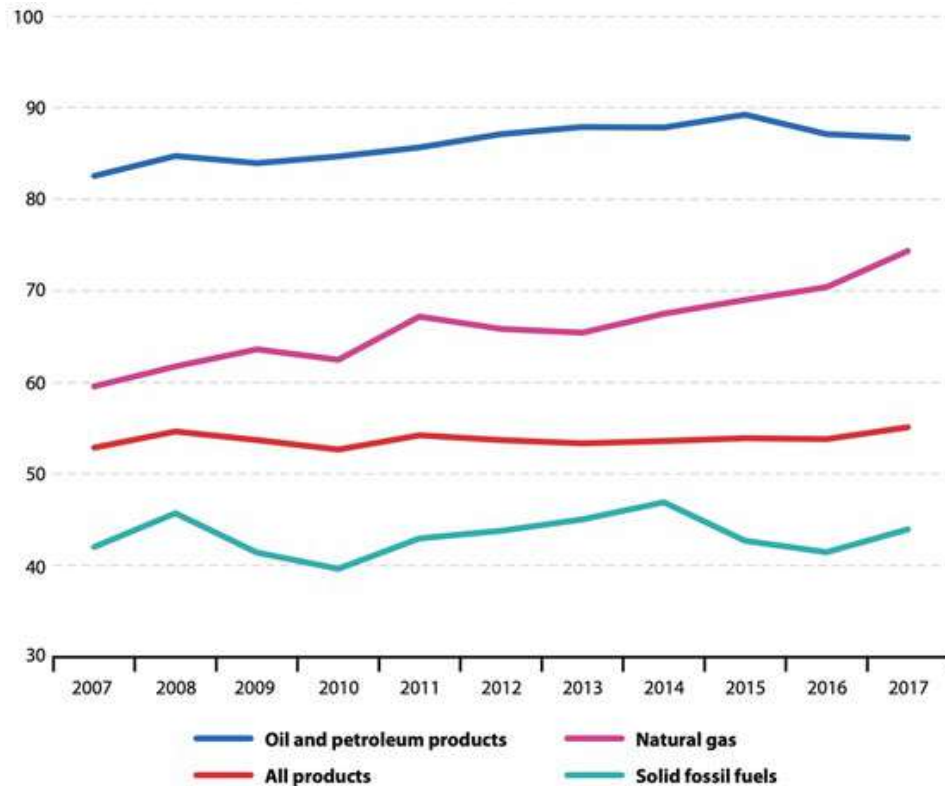


Source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory

JOHN MUYSENS/THE WASHINGTON POST



# EU: HIGH DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS

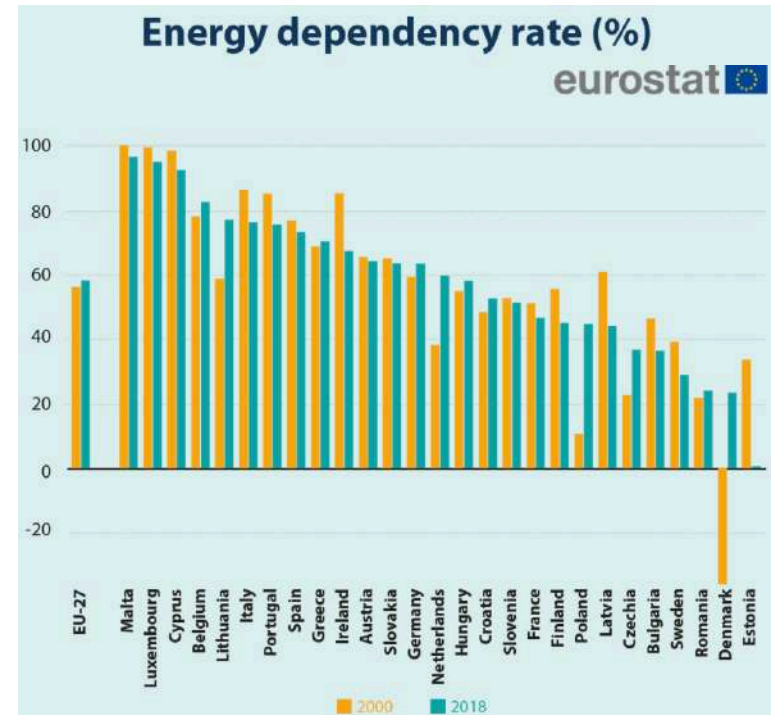


Note: the y-axis is cut.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg\_ind\_id)

## Energy dependence rate, EU-28 2007–2017, % of net imports in gross available energy

EUROSTAT. EU imports of energy products – recent developments Statistics Explained. November 2019. Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/pdfscache/46126.pdf>



- EU depended on energy import by 58% in 2018 (56 % in 2000).
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of 2017 imports refer to **petroleum** products, **NG (26%)** and **solid fossil fuels (8%)**.
- Transports in the EU are mostly linked to **imported quotas**.

## Top economist: US coronavirus response is like 'third world' country

Joseph Stiglitz attacks Donald Trump, saying US on course for second Great Depression

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)

**The Guardian**



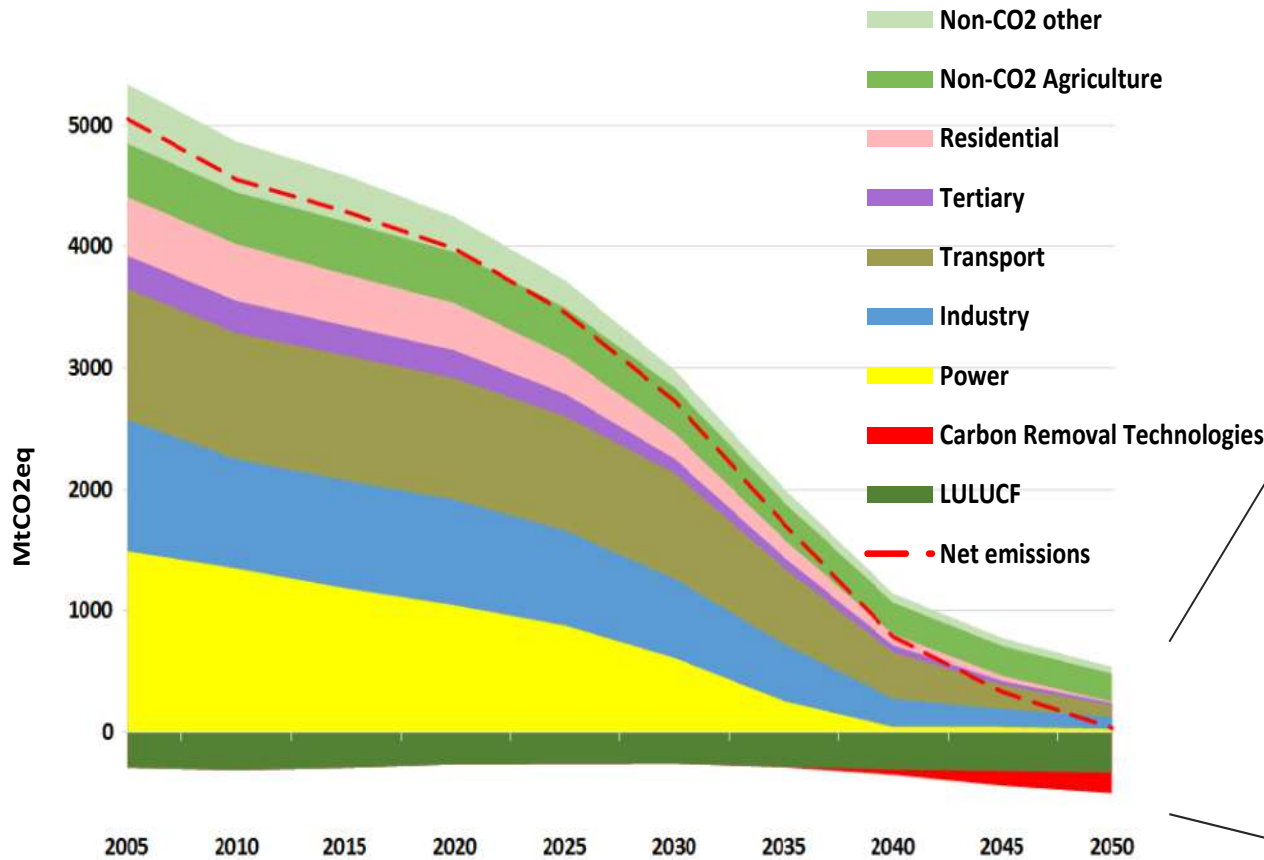
Stiglitz said the current crisis would force countries to make themselves less vulnerable, and this would lead to shorter supply chains and a greater emphasis on self-sufficiency in food and energy.



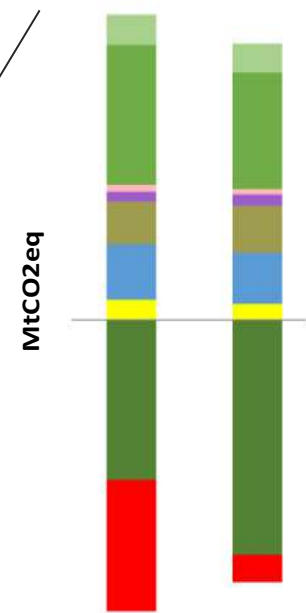
# THE DECARBONISATION PATHWAY IN THE EU: AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUST BECOME KEY ACTORS



## GHG emission trajectory for 1.5 °C



Different zero GHG pathways lead to different levels of remaining emissions and absorption of GHG emissions



Source: A Clean Planet for All, EC

# AN EXEMPLARY WIN-WIN CASE FOR BIOECONOMY: BIOCHAR, SOIL FERTILITY, AND C STORAGE

- Improvement of soil **physical** properties
  - *Mechanical structure*
  - *Soil porosity and aeration*
  - *Moisture retention capacity*
- Improvement of soil **chemical** properties
  - *pH increase in acidic soils*
  - *CEC and AEC*
  - *Improved N-cycle*
  - *Addition of C-recalcitrant to soil*
  - *Environment suitable for microorganism*
  - *Nutrient addition (slow release) and reduced leaching*
- Improvement of **biological** properties
  - *Effects strictly linked to the two previous ones*
- Cost-competitive permanent C sequestration





# AGRICULTURE & SOIL: URGENT NEED TO TAKE ACTION



EN 2018 NO 33

Special Report  
**Combating desertification in the EU: a growing threat in need of more action**

(pursuant to Article 287(4), second subparagraph, TFEU)

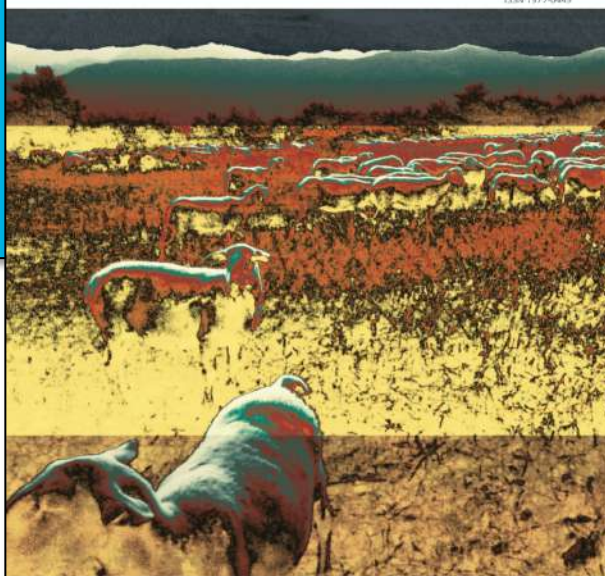


EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

EEA Report | No 04/2019

Climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector in Europe

ISSN: 1977-2649



The European Green Deal



- **Healthy soil:** essential for food/feed, sustainable bioenergy and bioeconomy
- **REDII** includes C-in-soil measurements (Annex V)
- **EU Mission on Soil**  
([https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/mission-area-soil-health-and-food\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/mission-area-soil-health-and-food_en))
- Soil is a key component in the new **EU Green Deal** (part of 6 in 9 EU Green Deal goals) and **UN SDGs**



# IPCC LATEST REPORTS WELL ADDRESS BIOCHAR



ipcc

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SPECIAL REPORT

## Global Warming of 1.5 °C

An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

FOLLOW

SHARE

- Chapter 1 Framing and Context
- Chapter 2 - Mitigation pathways compatible with 1.5°C in the context of sustainable development
- Impacts of 1.5°C of Global Warming on Natural and Human systems
- Strengthening and Implementing the Global Response
- Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities
- Glossary

Soil Biology & Biochemistry 76 (2014) 229–238

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Soil Biology & Biochemistry

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/soilbio

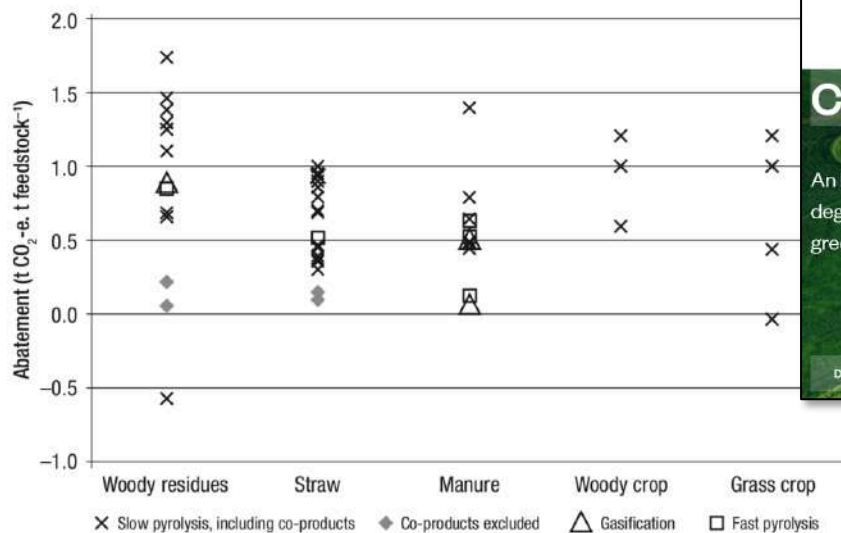
Biochar stability in soil: Decomposition during eight years and transformation as assessed by compound-specific <sup>14</sup>C analysis

Yakov Kuzyakov<sup>a, b, c, \*</sup>, Irina Bogomolova<sup>a</sup>, Bruno Glaser<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Soil Science of Terrestrial Ecosystems, University of Göttingen, 37077 Göttingen, Germany

<sup>b</sup>Department of Agricultural Soil Science, University of Göttingen, 37077 Göttingen, Germany

<sup>c</sup>Department of Soil Biogeochemistry, Institute of Agronomy and Nutritional Sciences, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Von Seckendorff Platz 2, 06108 Halle, Germany



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## Climate Change and Land

REPORT

An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

DOWNLOAD REPORT

**Figure 27.1** GHG abatement per unit of feedstock dry matter, for a range of feedstocks, from LCA studies. 'Manure' also includes biosolids and poultry litter. The data sources are indicated in Table 27.1

# IPCC AND BIOCHAR: NEWLY DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED ACCOUNTING FOR C-REMOVAL FROM BIOCHAR



**GHG savings from biochar well documented by IPCC & other sources → Accounting is Possible**

$\Delta BC_{Mineral}$  = the total change in carbon stocks of mineral soils associated with biochar amendment, tonnes sequestered C yr<sup>-1</sup>

$BC_{TOT_p}$  = the mass of biochar incorporated into mineral soil during the inventory year for each biochar production type  $p$ , tonnes biochar dry matter yr<sup>-1</sup>

$F_{C_p}$  = the organic carbon content of biochar for each production type  $p$ , tonnes C tonne<sup>-1</sup> biochar dry matter, Table 4A.1

$F_{perm_p}$  = fraction of biochar carbon for each production type  $p$  remaining (unmineralised) after 100 years, tonnes sequestered C tonne<sup>-1</sup> biochar C, Table 4A.2

$n$  = the number of different production types of biochar

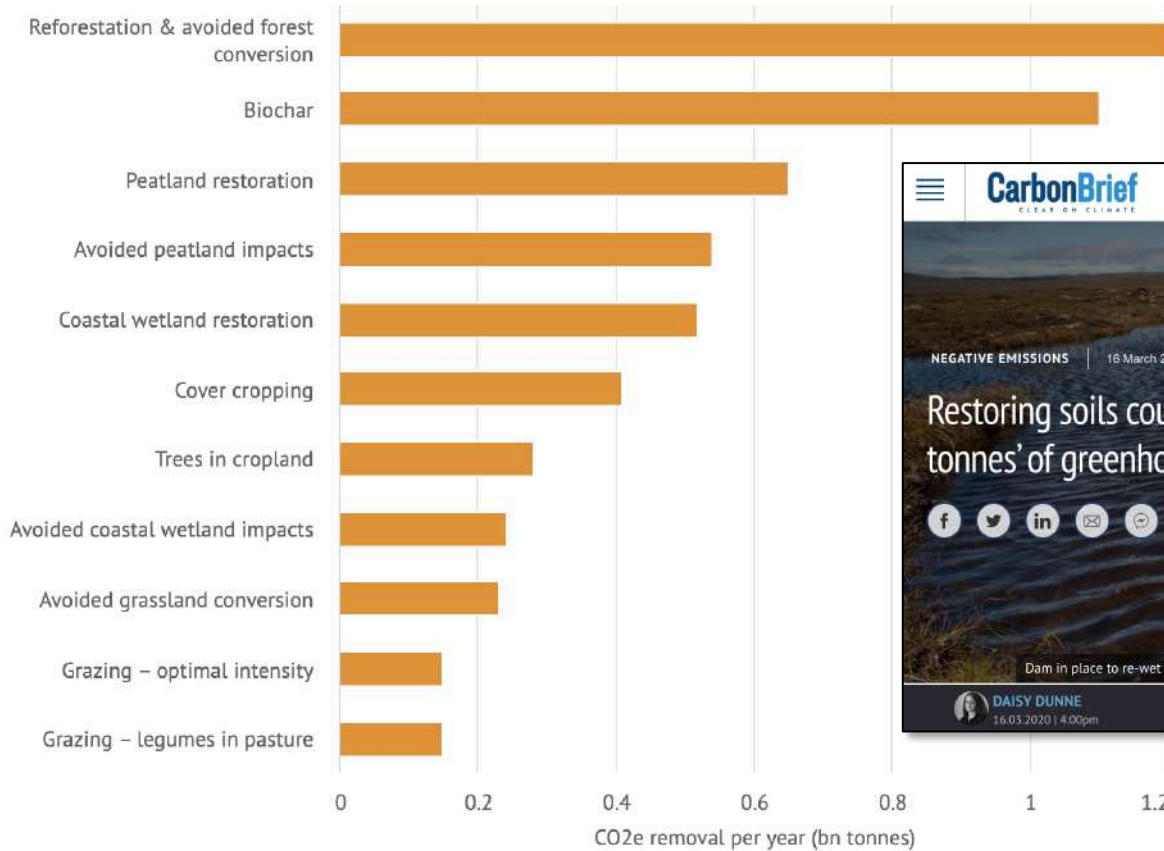
## EQUATION 4A.1

**ANNUAL CHANGE IN BIOCHAR CARBON STOCK IN MINERAL SOILS RECEIVING BIOCHAR ADDITIONS**

$$\Delta BC_{Mineral} = \sum_{p=1}^n \left( BC_{TOT_p} \cdot F_{C_p} \cdot F_{perm_p} \right)$$



# BIOCHAR: HUGE POTENTIAL FOR C STORAGE



CarbonBrief  
CLEAR ON CLIMATE
SECTIONS ▾

NEGATIVE EMISSIONS | 16 March 2020 | 16:00

## Restoring soils could remove up to '5.5bn tonnes' of greenhouse gases every year

f
t
in
e
m
a
i
l

Dam in place to re-wet bla

**DAISY DUNNE**  
 16.03.2020 | 4:00pm

nature sustainability
ANALYSIS

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-0491-z>

Check for updates

### The role of soil carbon in natural climate solutions

D. A. Bossio<sup>1,2</sup>, S. C. Cook-Patton<sup>3</sup>, P. W. Ellis<sup>1</sup>, J. Fargione<sup>4</sup>, J. Sanderman<sup>5</sup>, P. Smith<sup>6</sup>, S. Wood<sup>1,4</sup>, R. J. Zomer<sup>5</sup>, M. von Unger<sup>6</sup>, I. M. Emmer<sup>6</sup> and B. W. Griscom<sup>7</sup>

Mitigating climate change requires clean energy and the removal of atmospheric carbon. Building soil carbon is an appealing way to increase carbon sinks and reduce emissions owing to the associated benefits to agriculture. However, the practical implementation of soil carbon climate strategies lags behind the potential, partly because we lack clarity around the magnitude of opportunity and how to capitalize on it. Here we quantify the role of soil carbon in natural (land-based) climate solutions and review some of the project design mechanisms available to tap into the potential. We show that soil carbon represents 25% of the potential of natural climate solutions (total potential, 23.8 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per year), of which 40% is protection of existing soil carbon and 60% is rebuilding depleted stocks. Soil carbon comprises 9% of the mitigation potential of forests, 72% for wetlands and 47% for agriculture and grasslands. Soil carbon is important to land-based efforts to prevent carbon emissions, remove atmospheric carbon dioxide and deliver ecosystem services in addition to climate mitigation.

Protecting and restoring soil organic matter delivers many benefits to people and nature<sup>1,2</sup>. Globally, soils hold three times more carbon than the atmosphere<sup>3</sup>, and the role of soil organic matter as a regulator of climate has been recognized by scientists for decades<sup>4</sup>. Recent work has highlighted the historical loss of carbon from this pool<sup>5</sup> and the threat of future accelerated loss under warming scenarios<sup>6</sup>. Soil organic carbon (SOC) as a natural climate solution (NCS) thus has a role through both restoring a carbon sink

recognition of SOC sequestration in the UNFCCC process in 2017 (COP23 decision 4/CP.23). To date there are only a few dozen projects that address SOC in registered compliance or voluntary carbon markets. Fewer than 60 projects (half of them in Australia) provided under 50 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) removals by soil in agriculture and grassland projects per year<sup>7</sup>. This is less than 0.0001% of the estimated mitigation potential<sup>8</sup>. As a comparison, there are 1,500 carbon projects covering 12 Mha of land in the forest



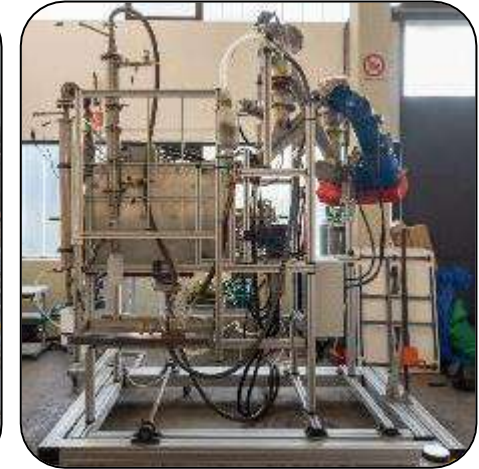


# Biochar production facilities at Re-Cord

## Rotary Kiln

Slow pyrolysis of biomass & waste to fuels and products

- Solid (as fuel or amendment) + high T heat
- Integration in large-scale Advanced Biofuel supply chain
- IN=100 kg/h



## CarbOn RE-CORD

Slow pyrolysis of biomass for charcoal and biochar making.

- Fixed bed, Open-top Oxidative Reactor (Autothermal)
- Designed and developed for small farmers
- Continuous operation.
- IN=50 kg/h. OUT=12kg/h ( $\eta_c = 24 \text{ wt.}\%$ )



Intermediate pyrolysis  
Pilot Demo Unit



LIGNOCELLULOSIC  
RESIDUES



BIOCHAR



- ✓ *Animal Feed, Biogas/Biomethane, Metallurgy, Buildings, Water Treatment, Air Treatment, Textiles, Food, Preserving, Colour, Medicine, Cosmetics, Electronics, Batteries, Industrial Materials, Dessiccant, etc..*



Source: Ithaka institute: «55 uses of Biochar»

→ We will focus on Biochar use in sustainable agriculture

# ROOM EXIST FOR MANY VALUE CHAINS: EU-MED

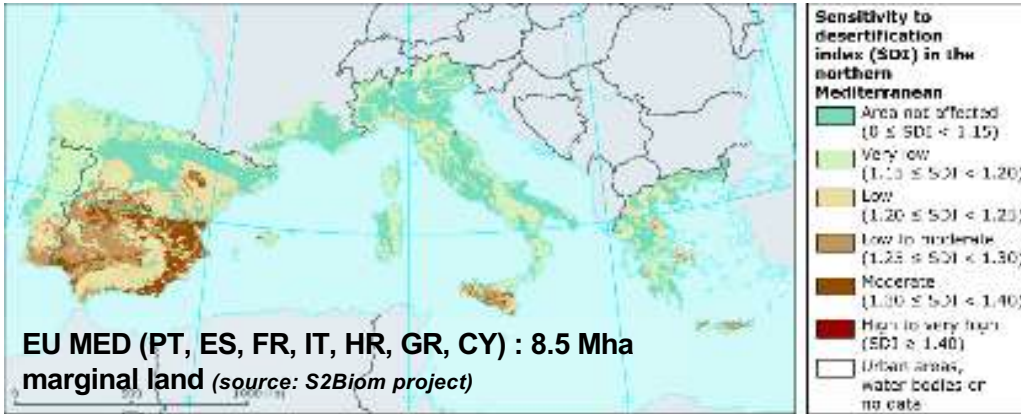
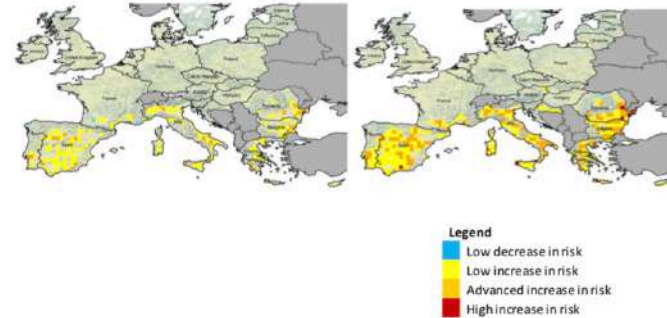


Figure 3 – Predicted change in desertification risk and aridity index in 2071-2100 compared to 1981-2010

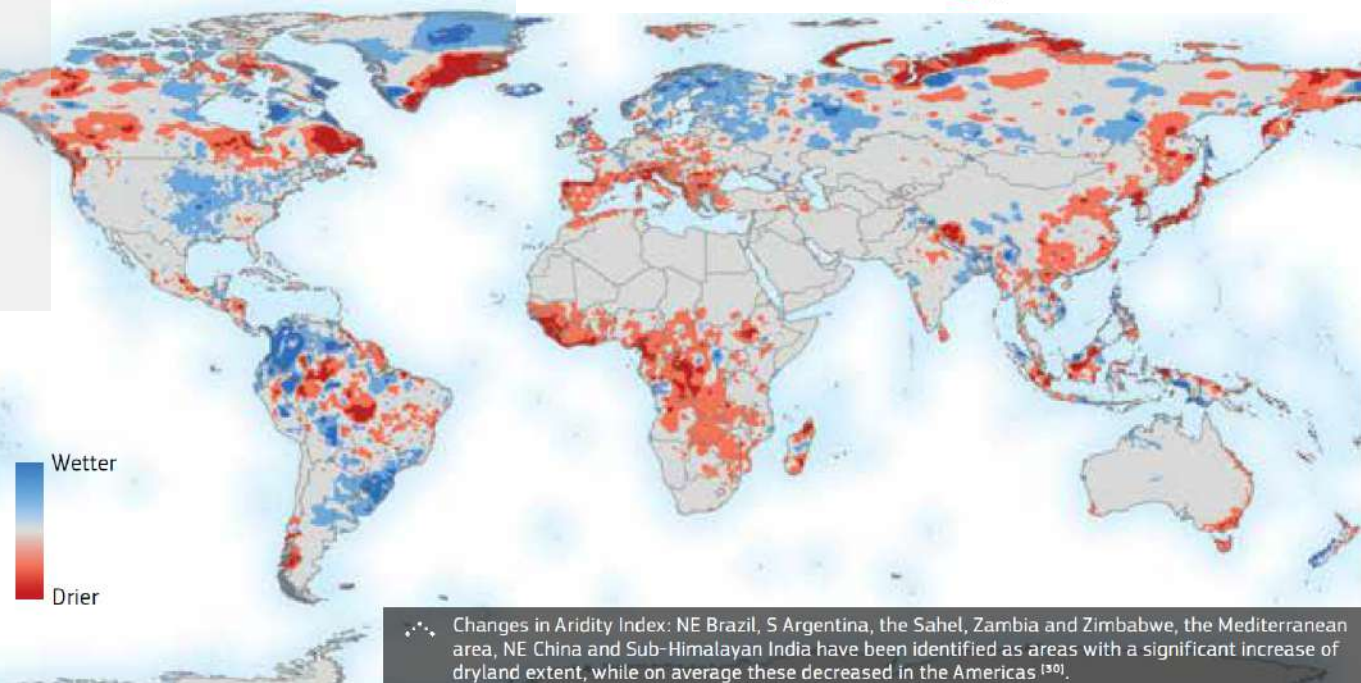
- Predicted change in desertification risk<sup>24</sup> under 2.4°C scenario (RCP 4.5 – left) and 4.3°C scenario (RCP 8.5 – right) in 2071-2100 compared to 1981-2010<sup>25</sup>.



Developing biofuel value chains in these areas will promote both **socio-economic recovery & decarbonization**



**BIO4A: >10 M€ H2020 project on SAF from marginal land and UCO**



Source: EC-JRC. World Atlas of Desertification, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Mapping Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management Opportunities. 2015. <http://wad.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

- **COMBI** produced, characterized and tested in two sites in Spain, in the framework of the H2020 BIO4A project on HEFA biojet ([www.bio4a.eu](http://www.bio4a.eu))



## Production and characterization of co-composted biochar and digestate from biomass anaerobic digestion

David Casini<sup>1</sup> · Tommaso Barsali<sup>1</sup> · Andrea Maria Rizzo<sup>1</sup> · David Chiamonti<sup>1,2</sup>

Received: 30 March 2019 / Revised: 15 July 2019 / Accepted: 16 July 2019  
© The Author(s) 2019

### Abstract

Biochar, produced through pyrolysis of lignocellulosic biomass, is attracting increasing interest as soil amendment thanks to its potential numerous benefits to agriculture, as well as its ability to sequester carbon in soil. Solid fraction of digestate from anaerobic digestion is a well-known N-rich substrate, most often composted in large and small agro-industrial plants. Co-composting biochar and digestate has the potential to synergistically increase the agronomic value of both components; however, it needs further process and on-field research. The present research work reports on the experimental tests on producing biochar and co-composting various biochar amounts with digestate from biomass anaerobic digestion (product here named COMBI). Biochar was produced by feeding wood chips from chestnut to an innovative oxidative reactor. In order to evaluate the quality of the products obtained by composting and co-composting, correlating this with the final biochar rate in the material, the net organic matter yield, the humified organic matter, the compliance with the European Compost Network Quality Assurance Scheme (ECN-QAS) limits for inorganic pollutants, and the product stabilization and sanitization indexes were investigated. The 11.2% w/w d.b. biochar rate in the initial blend (19.8% w/w d.b final concentration in the co-composted products) offered the best performances and is recommended for further investigation. Additional benefits from co-composting were also assessed, as the reduced dust load that favors safety and health during logistics and use.

**Keywords** Biochar · Compost · Digestate · Co-composting · Soil amendment

### 1 Introduction

Sustainable production of biomethane is a key option to substitute conventional natural gas and decarbonize the energy system [1]: anaerobic digestion (AD) is the leading route to generate biogas, which can then be further upgraded to biomethane by CH<sub>4</sub> separation. Today, the AD process is a well-mature process, bringing environmental and social benefits at both local and global level [2, 3]: the main co-product of biomass anaerobic digestion is a sludge (digestate), which

can be applied to soil for agronomic purposes as an organic amendment. Composting is another well-known pathway to stabilize organic matter of various origins through a bio-oxidative process [4], which brings benefits as volume reduction, sanitization from pathogens, reduction of liquid contaminants, and economic and environmental returns [5, 6]. In anaerobic digestion plants, the composting stage of the solid fraction of digestate generally occupies large volumes and requires long residence time, in addition to complex logistical steps [7, 8]. The addition of a bulking agent in the compost pile is normally recommended, in particular when substrates are used. The small particle size of the material generates risks of anaerobic conditions within the pile, leading to the production of undesired phenomena as ammonia volatilization [9, 10].

Biochar is the solid product from lignocellulosic biomass pyrolysis, characterized by a high content of stable C, mostly produced through slow pyrolysis. Biochars from intermediate/fast pyrolysis and gasification are often discussed in literature, even if these show different characteristics. Biochar is a highly porous material with a wide range of possible uses, including

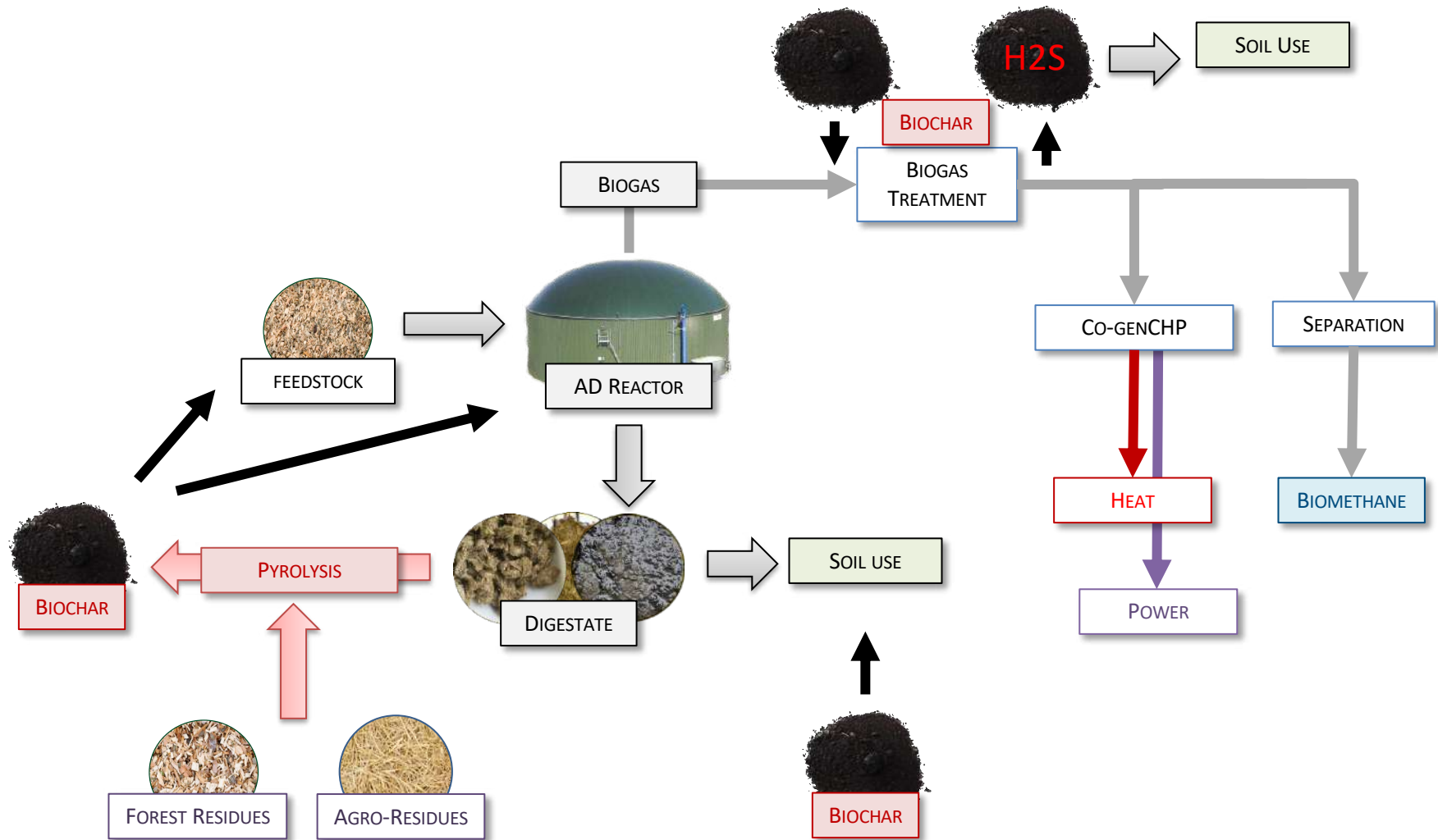
**Electronic supplementary material** The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13399-019-00482-6>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

✉ David Chiamonti  
david.chiamonti@unifi.it

<sup>1</sup> Renewable Energy Consortium for R&D (RE-CORD) Viale J. F. Kennedy, 182, Scarperia e San Piero, 50038 San Piero, Italy

<sup>2</sup> CREAR/Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Florence, Viale Morgagni 40, 50134 Florence, Italy

# BIOCHAR & ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

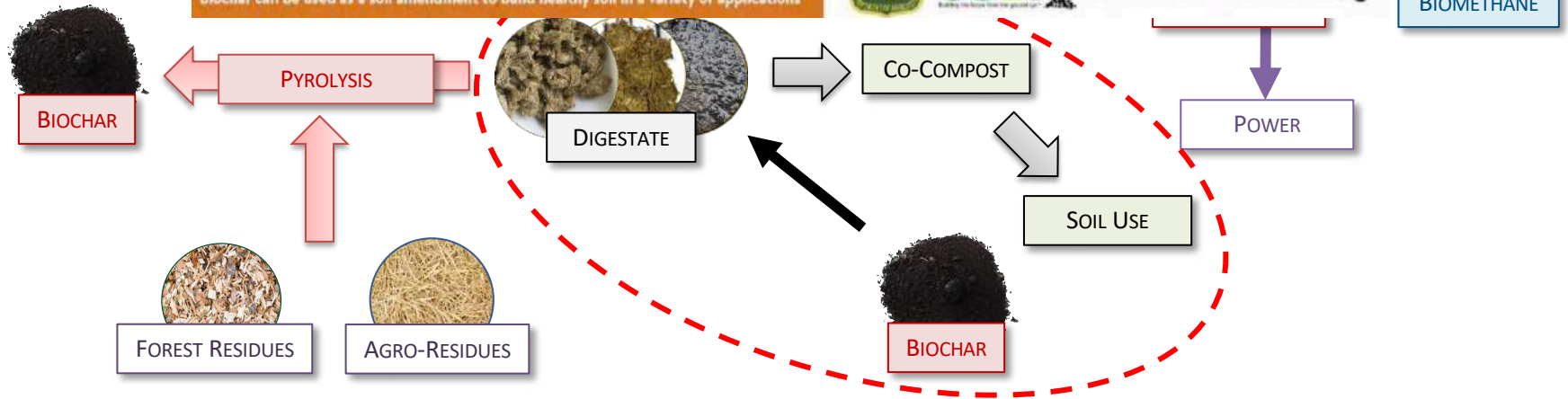


# BIOCHAR & ANAEROBIC DIGESTION



**AGRICULTURAL USES FOR BIOCHAR**  
Biochar can be used as a soil amendment to build healthy soil in a variety of applications

USBI [www.biochar-us.org](http://www.biochar-us.org) LEARN MORE AT



**A**

No fertilization	1	2	3	4
NPK	5	6	7	8
10% Biochar + Compost	9	10	11	12
15% Biochar + Compost	13	14	15	16
20% Biochar + Compost	17	18	19	20
100% Biochar + NPK	21	22	23	24
100% Compost	25	26	27	28

**B**

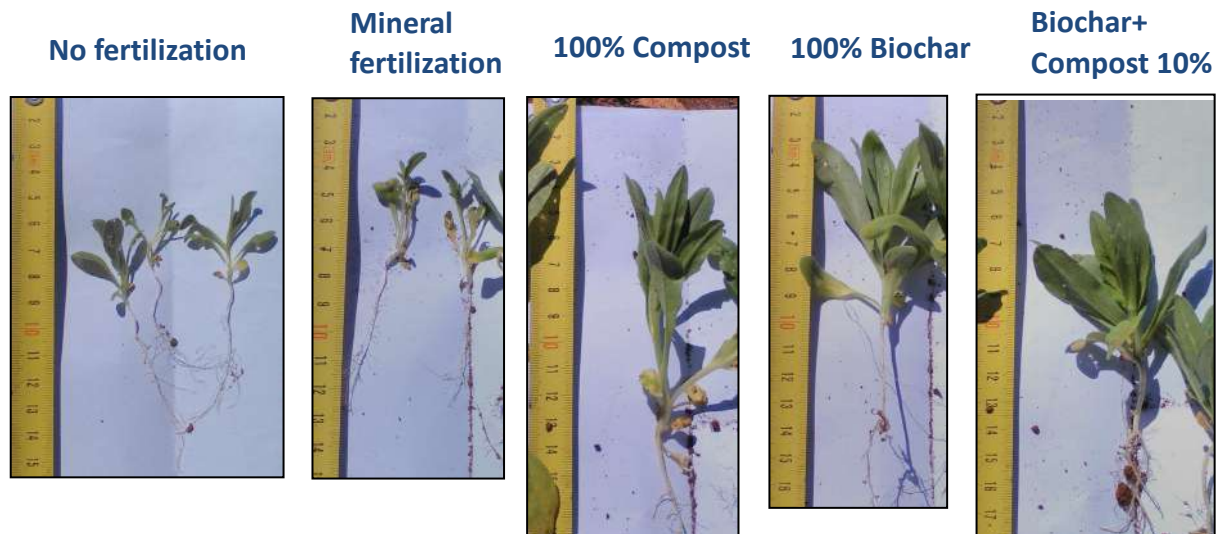
Rep 1	Rep 2	Rep 3	Rep 4
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## Field trials: Ciudad Real (ES)

**Background fertilization:** 11/01/19

**Seeding date:** 14/01/19



# FARM TO FORK, AGRICULTURE, AND BIOMETHANE



The use of pesticides in agriculture contributes to pollution of soil, water and air.

The Commission will take actions to:

- **reduce by 50%** the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030.
- **reduce by 50%** the use of more hazardous pesticides by 2030.



**From Farm to Fork**

Our food, our health, our planet, our future



The **excess of nutrients** in the environment is a major source of air, soil and water pollution, negatively impacting biodiversity and climate. The Commission will act to:

- **reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%**, while ensuring no deterioration on soil fertility.
- **reduce fertilizer use by at least 20%** by 2030.



**Antimicrobial resistance** linked to the use of antimicrobials in animal and human health leads to an estimated 33,000 human deaths in the EU each year. The Commission will **reduce by 50% the sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 2030.**



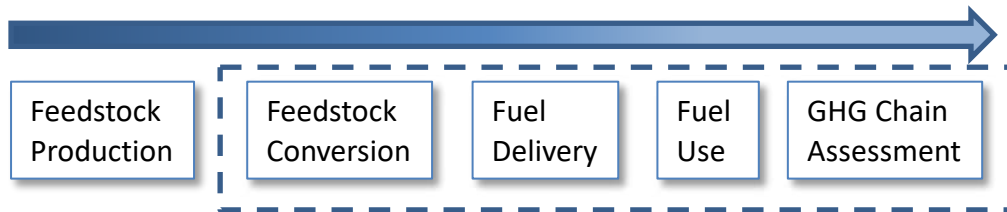
**Organic farming** is an environmentally-friendly practice that needs to be further developed. The Commission will boost the development of EU organic farming area with the aim to achieve **(25 % of total farmland) under organic farming by 2030.**



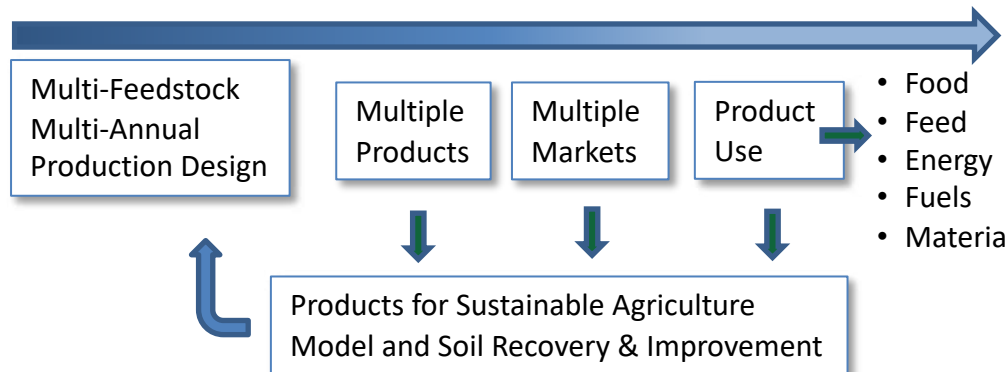




# BIOENERGY AS ENABLER OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY



***How** to make this linear biofuel thinking sustainable (GHG) enough?*



*Bioenergy & Bioeconomy can make agriculture more sustainable (beyond GHGs, towards **SDGs**) and support the Economic Recovery*

**From linear to circular, from energy-driven to sustain.agricultural models**

**Well-designed domestic biomass value chain support post Covid19 economic recovery & bring Carbon back to soil**

**Sector Integration/Coupling requires Policy Integration**



## CONCLUSIONS

Based on Covid-19 first analysis of impacts on the transport fuel sector, Policy Makers should consider acting at two different timescales:

- **SHORT/MEDIUM-TERM** goals – **Assist fuel companies to overcome the collapse of demand** and the economic shock, **preserving direct and indirect jobs and business**
- **MEDIUM/LONG-TERM** goals – Increase the ambition and promote **higher amounts of domestic Renewable and Low Carbon Fuels**, **injecting post-Covid recovery resources on green domestic supply and conversion chains.**

To be carefully monitored and accounted for:

- **Rebound effects** (shift to private transports)
  - **Systemic vs short-term business-oriented benefits**
  - **Resource spending** (Non-Performing Loans NPL - Zombie firms)
- **Farm-scale decentralized biorefinery models** will enhance benefits

*David Chiaramonti*

Polytechnic of Turin and RE-CORD

[david.chiaramonti@polito.it](mailto:david.chiaramonti@polito.it)