SIDISA 2024 XII International Symposium on Environmental Engineering Palermo, Italy, October 1 – 4, 2024



Treatment of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil with biosurfactants obtained from agricultural waste

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Palermo - October 3, 2024

Speaker: **Teklit Ambaye**





GITISA Gruppo Italiano di







RICREA project

Cereal waste for bioremediation (RICREA)













Duration: 33 months

Beginning: March 2022

PROGETTO RICREA: https://www.progetto-ricrea.org/

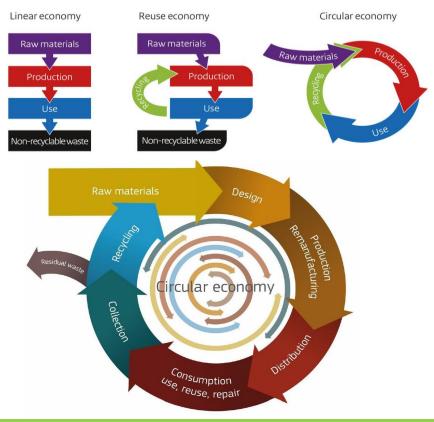






- The **circular economy** is an economic model designed to optimize the use of natural resources, reducing the production of waste and fostering material reuse/recycling in other production chains
- It involves sharing, lending, reusing, repairing, reconditioning and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible
- It is an alternative to the traditional linear economic model 'take-make-dispose', which is based on the accessibility of large amounts of resources and energy

From a linear to a circular economy

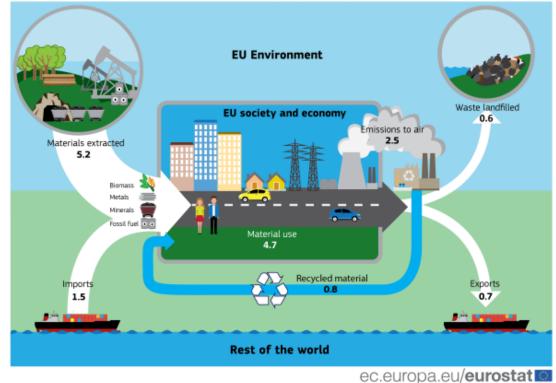


Source: https://www.government.n





Material flows in the EU, 2021, billion tonnes per year (GT/year)





The circularity rate of the use of material in the EU was 11.7%



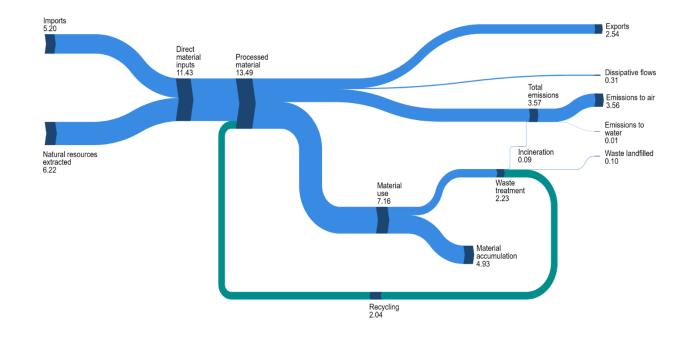


Material flow diagrams

Italy - year 2021 Tonnes per capita

Legend

Σ Total



Source: Eurostat (env_ac_mfa; env_ac_sd; env_wassd)

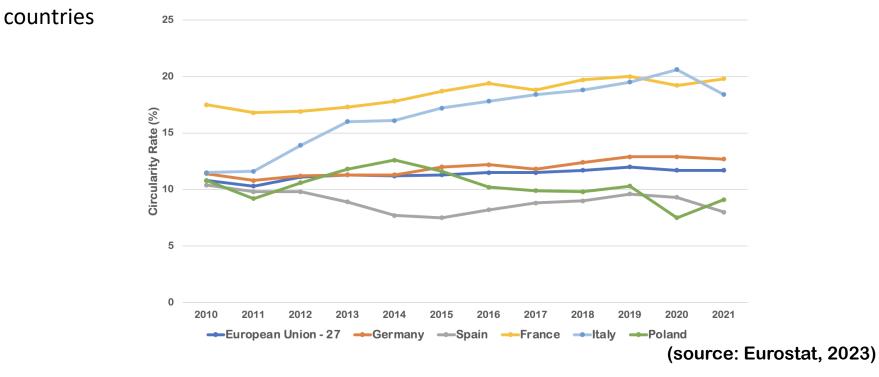
(Source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)







Circularity rate of materials in the 5 biggest European







Agricultural economy and cereal sector in Italy

- In 2022, the value of agriculture in Italy was 65.3 billion euros
- Agriculture accounted for 2.2 % of total economic activity
- > Italy was **second in Europe** for added value of agriculture after France and ahead of Germany
- Compared to 2021, production decreased in volume (-1.4%) and value (-1.0%)
- Cereal sector accounts for 16.3% of the total value of agricultural crops
- Cereal production in Italy in 2022:
 - Soft wheat: 2.8 Mton
 - Durum wheat: 3.7 Mton
 - Barley: 1.1 Mton
 - Corn: 4.7 Mton
- In Lombardy region in 2022:
 - > 10.6% of national soft wheat production
 - 22.7% of national corn production
- Solid cereal waste produced during the cleaning grain process = 2-4% (up to 30% with mycotoxins)
 - Ivestock bedding, composting, biogas production, paper production (So

(Source: Istat, 2023)



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general aim of the project is the <u>valorization of cereal waste</u> for producing biosurfactants to <u>treat soil contaminated</u> with petroleum hydrocarbons by a <u>bioelectrochemical system (BES)</u>

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Development of a new biological strategy to **produce biosurfactants** using cereal waste
- Definition of the best operating conditions of the biosurfactant-assisted **BES** to treat soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons (PH)
- Assessment of the impact of the processes and products through LCA and LCC
- **Promotion of cross-sectorial synergies** among the companies working in the cereal, biotechnological and remediation sectors



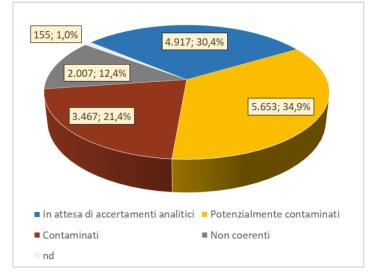




Contaminated sites in Italy



Figura 5-13: distribuzione dello stato della contaminazione per i procedimenti in corso

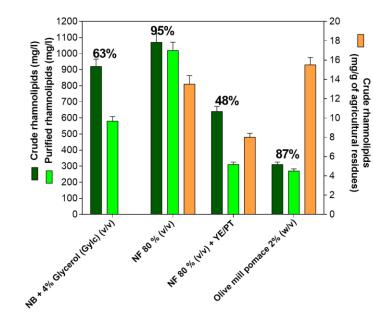


(Source: ISPRA, 2023)





Rhamnolipid production using nonfermented grape marcs and Burkholderia thailandensis E264



Waste and Biomass Valorization (2021) 12:4733-4743 https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-020-01315-8

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Potentials of Winery and Olive Oil Residues for the Production of Rhamnolipids and Other Biosurfactants: A Step Towards Achieving a Circular Economy Model

Alif Chebbl² · Andrea Franzetti² · Francine Duarte Castro¹ · Franco Hernan Gomez Tovar¹ · Massimiliano Tazzari² · Silvia Sbaffoni³ · Mentore Vaccari¹

Received: 14 March 2020 / Accepted: 28 November 2020 / Published online: 2 January 2021 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature B.V. part of Springer Nature 2021

Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology (2021) 105:3825–3842 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-021-11292-0

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

Check for updates

Burkholderia thailandensis E264 as a promising safe rhamnolipids' producer towards a sustainable valorization of grape marcs and olive mill pomace

Alif Chebbi¹ • Massimiliano Tazzari¹ • Cristiana Rizzi¹ • Franco Hernan Gomez Tovar² • Sara Villa¹ • Silvia Sbaffoni³ • Mentore Vaccari² • Andrea Franzetti¹ ©



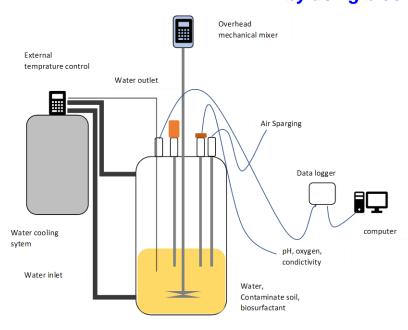








Rhamnolipid biosurfactant assisted bioremediation of soil contaminated with hydrocarbons by using bioslu<u>rry process</u>











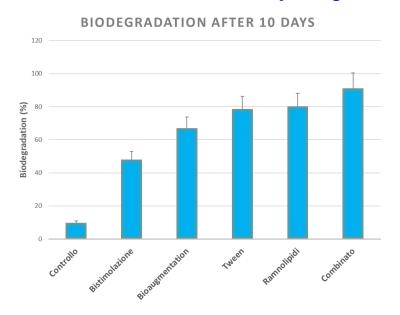


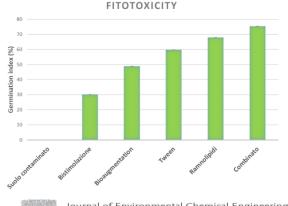






Rhamnolipid biosurfactant assisted bioremediation of soil contaminated with hydrocarbons by using bioslurry process







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Ex-situ bioremediation of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil using mixed stimulants: Response and dynamics of bacterial community and phytotoxicity

Teklit Gebregiorgis Ambaye * 우 의, Alif Chebbi ^b, Francesca Formicola ^c, Asia Rosatelli ^c, Shiv Prasad ^d, Franco Hernan Gomez ^a, Silvia Sbaffoni ^e, Andrea Franzetti ^b, Mentore Vaccari ^a





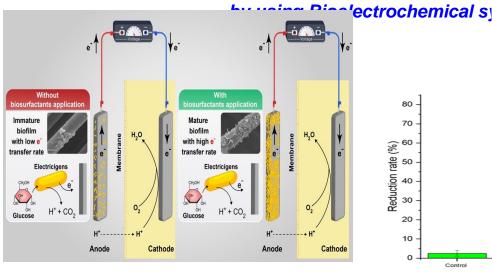








Rhamnolipid biosurfactant assisted bioremediation of soil contaminated with hydrocarbons



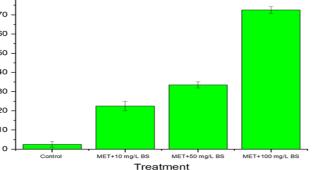


Chemosphere Volume 307, Part 4, November 2022, 136126

Insights into rhamnolipid amendment towards enhancing microbial electrochemical treatment of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soil

 Teklit Gebregiorgis Ambaye.^a
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- **Bioelectrochemical remediation** couple bioremediation with electrochemical remediation, in which bioremediation is enhanced by **electrochemically active bacteria (EAB)** exchanging electrons with the electrodes and generating a bioelectricity.
- When electrodes serve as the electron acceptor, electrons produced from contaminant degradation by EAB are transferred to the anode, and, by an external circuit to the cathode, where a final electron acceptor (e.g., O₂) is reduced.











Rhamnolipid biosurfactant assisted bioremediation of soil contaminated with hydrocarbons

hy using Ripelectrochemical systems

Type of	Initial	Predominant species of	Conditions	Max. current	Ref.
pollutant C	concentration	bacteria			
Petroleum	11.340 ± 3.260 mg/kg	-	Tubular BES consists of a Carbon felt anode and carbon cloth cathode at a temperature of 22 °C under an anodic moisture retention layer of unsaturated soil in 120 d	141 mA/m ²	Wang et al. (2020)
ТРН	103 mg/kg	Proteobacteria as dominant phylum)	In SMFC with activated carbon fiber felt as anode and cathode at temperature 30 °C, pH = 7.92 for Soil for 180 d	12,1 mA/m ²	Yu et al. (2017)
Petroleum hydrocarbon	7.258 mg/kg	Proteobacteria Desulfobacterota and Firmicutes	soil microbial electrochemical system with carbon felt combined with titanium wiring as anode and cathode stimulated with iron minerals incubated at a temperature of (30 °C), pH to 7–8 for 148 d	164 mA/m ²	Chen et al. (2022)
Petroleum hydrocarbon	7.942 mg/kg	-	soil microbial fuel cell with an anode of graphite rod and an activated carbon air-cathode stimulated with carbon fiber operated in a 30 °C, pH 8.3 for 144 d	203 mA/m ²	Li et al. (2016)
Petroleum hydrocarbon	11.460 mg/kg	Comamonas testosteroni, Pseudomonas putida, and Ochrobactrum anthropi	A tubular bioelectrochemical system with carbon cloth anode or biochar anode and activated carbon air-cathode were inserted into raw water-saturated soils containing petroleum hydrocarbons for enhancing in situ remediations, pH 6.1 for 64 d	86 mA/m ²	Li et al. (2014)
Total petroleum hydrocarbon	4.500 mg/kg	Geobacter, Desulfovibrio, Klebsiella, and Comamona Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, and Franconibacter	Soil microbial electrochemical system with granular graphite as anode and titanium net/mesh as cathode stimulated with rhamnolipid incubated at a temperature of (20 °C), initial pH = 7, duration = 20 d	9500 mA/m ²	Our study







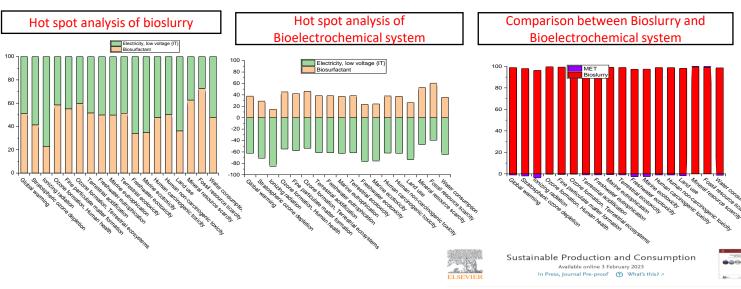








Evaluating the environmental impact of using LCA for the developed process used for the remediation of petroleum hydrocarbons via bioelectrochemical system and bioslurry reactor



Life cycle assessment of bioslurry and bioelectrochemical processes for sustainable remediation of soil polluted with petroleum hydrocarbons: An experimental study

 Teklit Gebregiorgis Ambaye * A
 Image: a constraints and constrai



























In collaborazione con CONFCOOPERATIVE LOMBARDIA

Ricrea – Raw materials

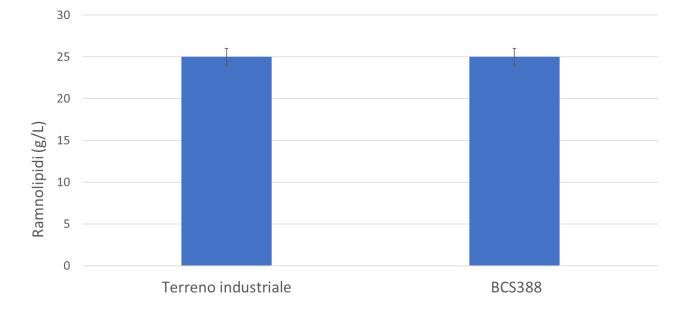


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Production of biosurfactant

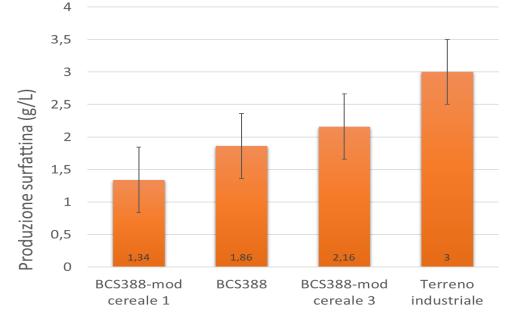


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Production of biosurfactant



Terreni saggiati

PROGETTO RICREA: https://www.progetto-ricrea.org/







LOMBARDIA











Microcosm tests - Contaminated soil 1 st



The soil contaminated with PH used in the experiment was taken from a polluted site in northern Italy.

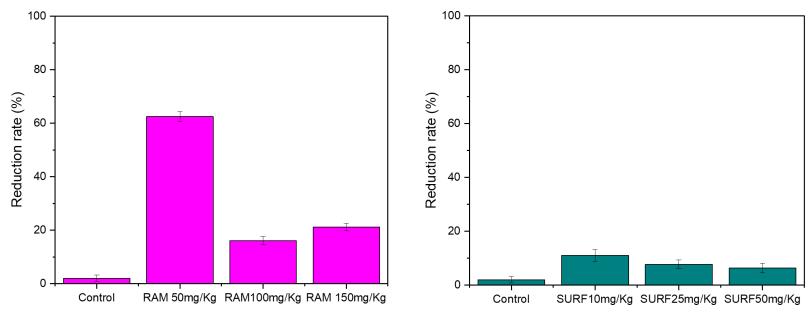
Parameter	Value
рН	7.6±0.1
Organic C(g/kg)	12 ± 1.1
Total N (g/kg)	0.25 ± 0.3
C/N (g/kg)	48 ± 0.3
Sand (g/kg)	801 ± 0.5
Silt (g/kg)	113 ± 0.4
Clay (g/kg)	87 ± 0.2
Conductivity (µS/Cm)	113.2 ± 0.1
Moisture (%)	8.14 ± 1.2
Total petroleum hydrocarbon	4500 mg/kg

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1st Microcosm tests - Landfarming

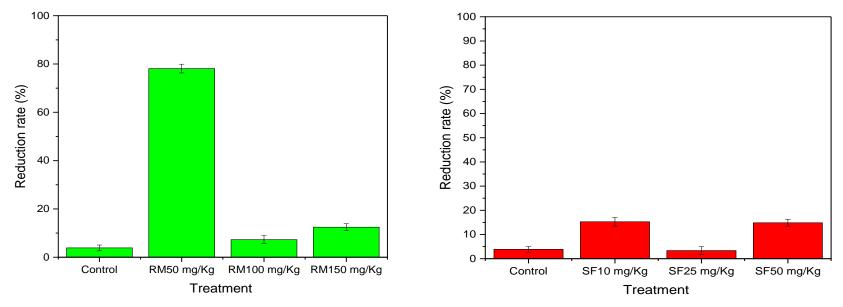


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1st Microcosm tests - BES treatment



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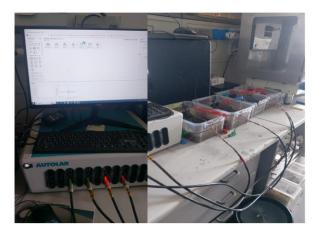








2nd Microcosm tests - Contaminated soil



Terreno contaminato da idrocarburi pesanti prelevato da sito reale

Parameter	Value
рН	7.6 ± 0.1
Total carbonates (g/kg)	200±0.1
Organic C(g/kg)	37.4±0.2
Total N (g/kg)	1.8 ± 0.14
C/N (g/kg)	20.7±0.17
Sand (g/kg)	518± 3.1
Silt (g/kg)	310± 2.1
Clay (g/kg)	172± 1.2
Conductivity (μS/Cm)	1767±0.3
Moisture (%)	54.36
Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH)	4917

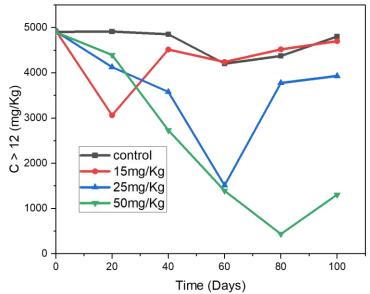
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2nd Microcosm tests – BES treatment

Prove di laboratorio



100 Control - 15 mg/kg 80 — 25 mg/kg TPH reduaction rate(%) 50 mg/kg 60 40 20 n 60 80 20 40 100 Time (Days)

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1st Pilot test preparation

Contaminated soil and biosurfactants





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1st Pilot test preparation

Landfarming





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1st Pilot test preparation

BES treatment



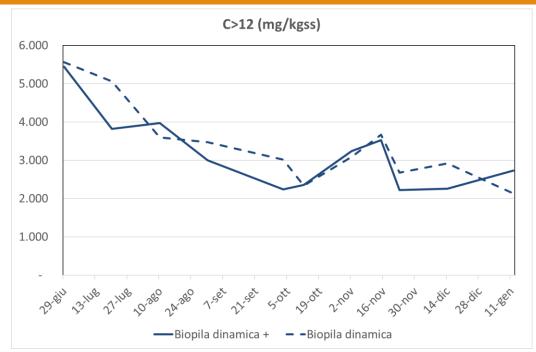




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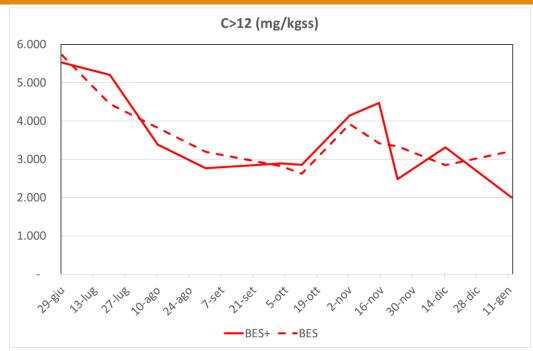




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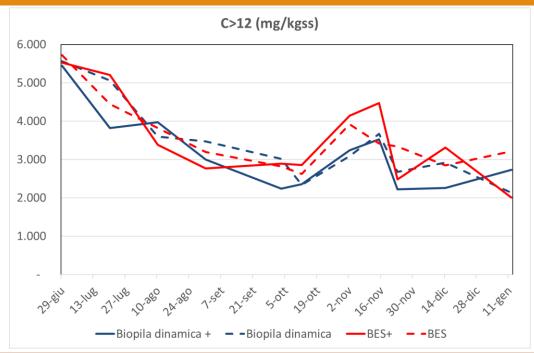




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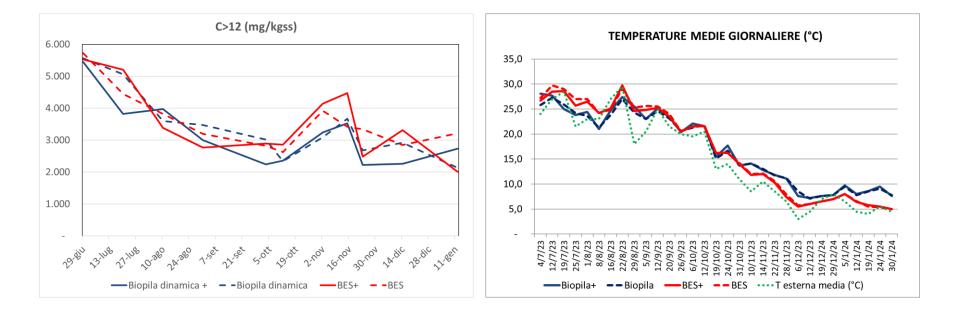




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Preliminary conclusions

- Cereal waste is suitable to produce rhamnolipids
- Lab scale tests:
 - biosurfactant addiction implies higher TPH removal rates
 - BES+ is effective
- First pilot scale test:
 - BES and landfarming TPH removal rates are similar
 - biosurfactant addiction causes improvements in first months
 - biological process heavily decelerates at low temperature
 - ✤ operating cost and maintenance of BES are lower than landfarming
- Continuation of the activity:
 - different dosage methods of biosurfactants
 - different moisture values
 - LCA and LCC studies









Thank you!

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