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# Resource Recovery Potential of Wastewater Treatment: Industrial Enzymes

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## 1. Background

- Microorganisms in WWT produces enzymes to degrade organic matter in WW
- Industrial enzymes are worth >US\$ 5 billion globally (BCC Research, 2014)
- 75% from hydrolytic enzymes (Li & Zong, 2010)
- Used in various industries (Novozymes, 2015)



Agriculture







Food



Leather



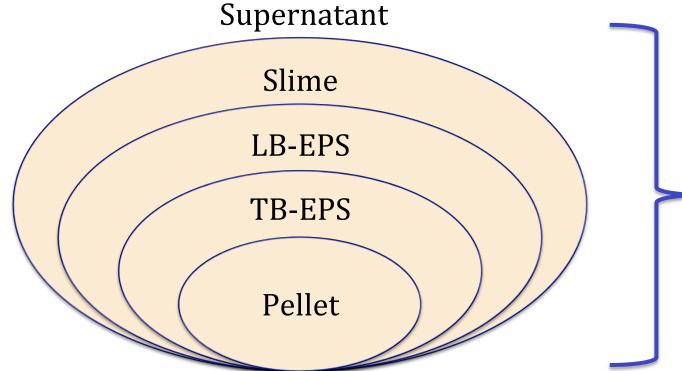
Paper



**Textile** 

# 2. Where are enzymes found in WWT?

• In activated sludge floc fractions (Yu et al., 2007, 2008)



Enzymes found:

- protease
- amylase
- lipase glucosidase
- phosphatase

Enzyme amount is wastewater

dependent

vary with

fractions

Enzyme types are

Enzyme activities

not fraction

specific

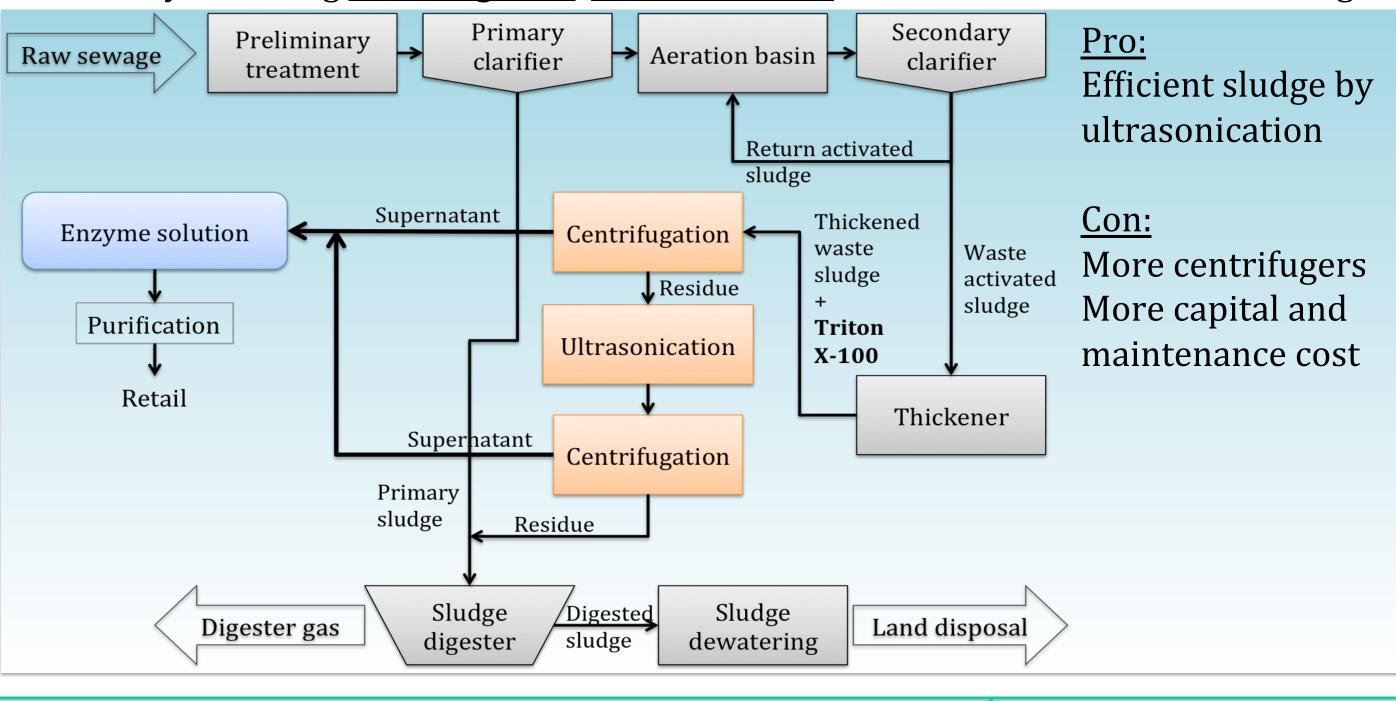
Diversifies sludge management

Bioenergy

## 3. How can enzyme recovery be integrated in WWTPs?

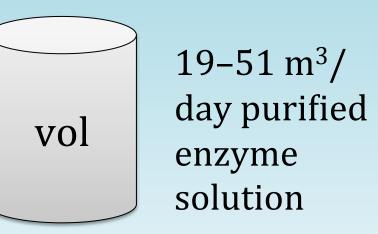
• By including centrifugation, ultrasonication and addition of non-ionic detergent Triton X-100

Housecare



#### Primary Secondary Preliminary <u>Pro:</u> → Aeration basin → Raw sewage clarifier clarifier treatment Less centrifugers Less capital and Return activated maintenance cost Thickened Enzyme solution Ultrasonication Waste sludge activated Con: sludge Less efficient cell Purification **Triton** disruption X-100 Retai Thickener Supernatant Centrifugation Primary Residue Sludge Sludge Land disposal Digester gas digester sludge dewatering

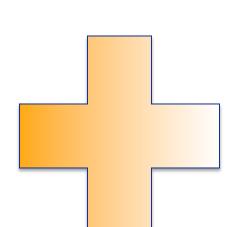
### A 50 000 m<sup>3</sup>/day WWTP produces:





24.7-65 M £/day of potential benefits

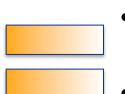
\*Enzymes retail at £1300/L (Sigma-Aldrich Co, 2015)



#### Enhances:

- Sludge degradation
- Sludge dewaterability
- Sludge settling
- Biogas production (Shao et al., 2009, Carrère et al., 2010, Xu et al., 2011)

## 4. How is WWT affected by enzyme recovery? 5. How does enzyme recovery from WWTP compare to industrial production?



- Microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi produce biomass
- Biomass cells are agitated by ultrasonication and solvent addition to release enzymes (Bankar et al., 2010)
- Enzymes from WWTPs have enzymatic activities within the range of industrially produced enzymes



Feedwater in industry is carefully chosen to maximize production Operational conditions such as pH and temperature are adjusted according to microorganism used

## 6. Conclusion

Enzyme recovery processes are both economically and technically viable due to its significant potential commercial benefits outweighing production costs and the familiarity of recovery methods, ultrasonication and centrifugation to both WWT and enzyme producing industries

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