



# Hydrolysis of biomass: effect of different pretreatments and process strategies

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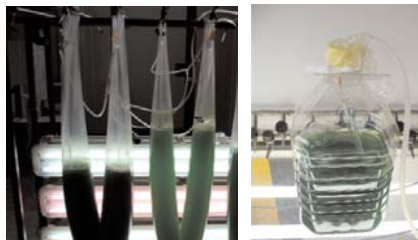
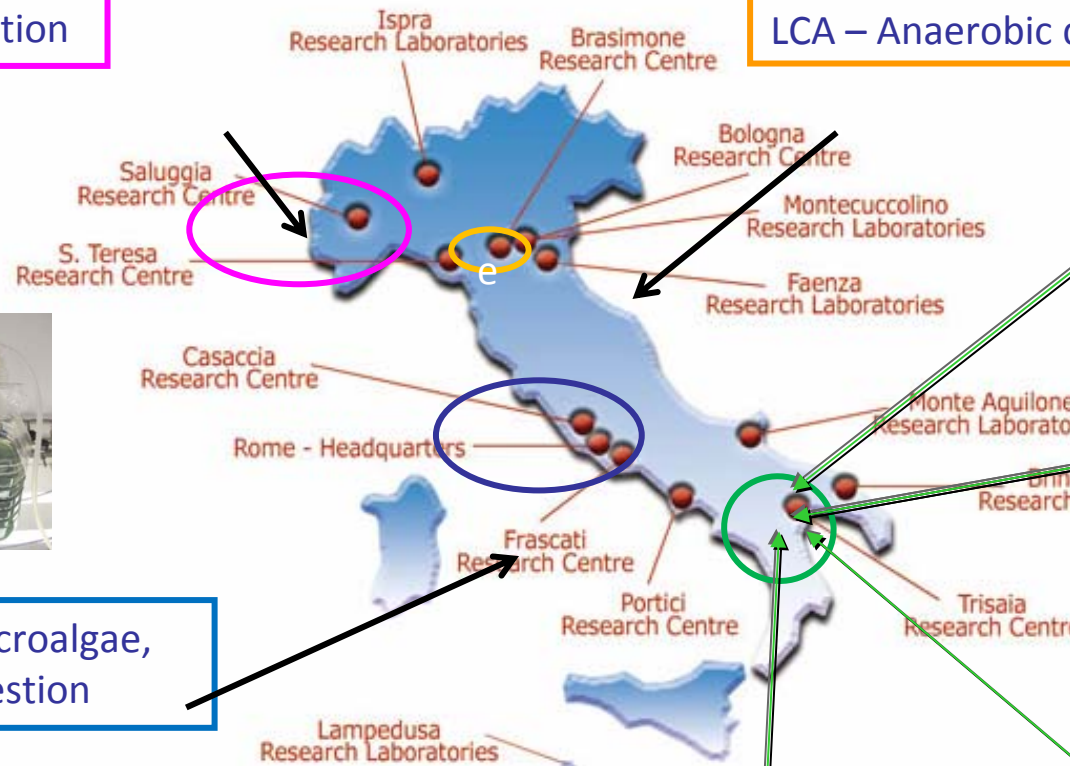
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Brussels, 4 December 2013



Biomass combustion



LCA – Anaerobic digestion



Biodiesel from microalgae, anaerobic digestion

ENEA TRISIAIA (involved in the BIOLYFE project)

Energy crops, thermochemical processes, biomass pretreatment and fractionation, biotechnological processes





## OUTLINE

- Effect of the pretreatment on the biomass hydrolizability
- High gravity hydrolysis of biomass
  - test of various enzymatic mixtures (*CTEC*, *CTEC2*, *NS22140*, *CTEC3*)
  - Effect of the process strategy
- Hybrid simultaneous saccharification and fermentation
- Conclusions





# Raw Material



Biomass component	%
Glucan	34.75
Xylan	20.10
Galactan	0.27
Arabinan	2.12
Acetyl group	3.50
Lignin Klason	22.0
Ash	7.70
EtOH Extractives	10.22

*Arundo donax* contains significant percentages of C5 sugars. This implies the importance of selecting pretreatment conditions that minimizes the degradation of pentoses



# Biomass pretreatment

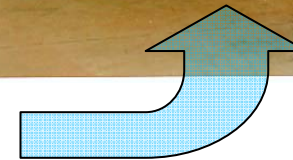


**ENEA' CONTINUOUS PLANT (300 kg/hr)**



## HIGH BIOMASS DESTRUCTURATION + HIGH C5 RECOVERY

1. mild thermal conditions along with small amounts of acid catalysts (i.e.  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ )
2. Chemtex process , two steps process: hemicellulose is separated before steam explosion







## Before



## After



After the pretreatment, the solids were separated from the liquid and then recombined up to the desired DM level

### Composition of the slurry after acid catalyzed steam pretreatment [200°C, 5 min]

glucose monomers%	0.29±0.03
xylose monomers%	1.1 ± 0.1
glucose soluble oligomers%	0.07 ± 0.01
xylose soluble oligomers%	0.44 ± 0.03
insoluble glucose%	5.73 ± 0.38
insoluble xylose%	0.66 ± 0.05
acetic acid%	0.16 ± 0.01
5HMF%	0.05 ± 0.01
furfural%	0.09 ± 0.01
lignin%	3.85 ± 0.2

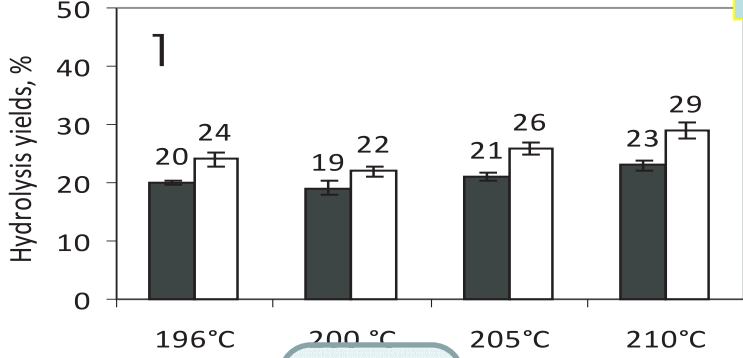
**C5 RECOVERY: 71%**



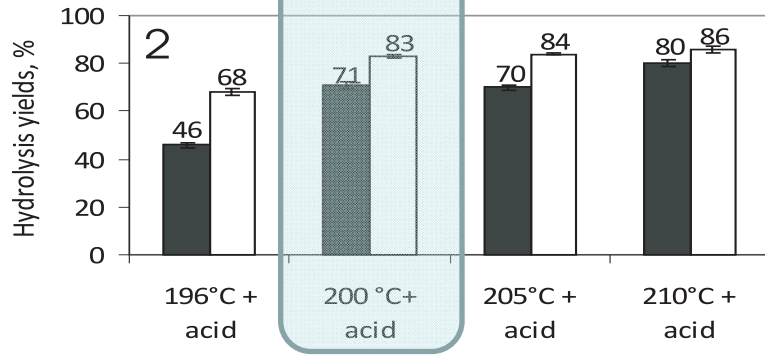
Improving the pretreatment

■ 3 FPU/g DM □ 15 FPU/g DM

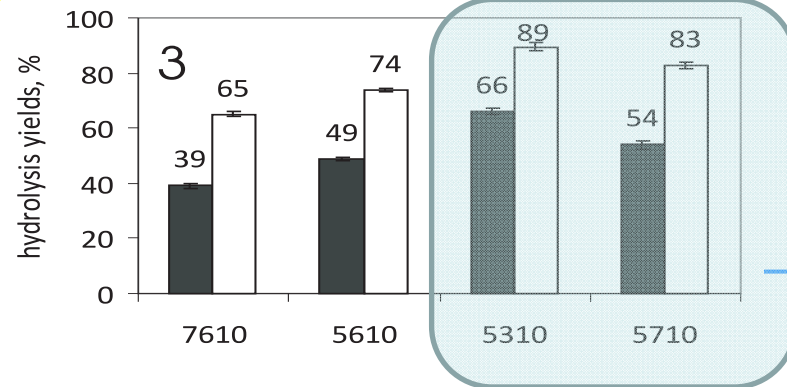
*S/L 2%; pH 4.8; T 40°C,  
Enzyme used: CTEC*



**STEAM EXPLOSION IN BATCH DIGESTOR**



**ACID CATALYZED STEAM EXPLOSION IN BATCH DIGESTOR**



**HYDROLIZABILITY OF THE ARUNDO DONAX FIBER FROM THE TWO STEPS CHEMTEX PRETREATMENT**





## OUTLINE

- Effect of the pretreatment on the biomass hydrolizability
- High gravity hydrolysis of biomass
  - test of various enzymatic mixtures (*CTEC*, *CTEC2*, *NS22140*, *CTEC3*)
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**High gravity hydrolysis = process in which the solids content is above 20%**

**Higher concentration of the final product**

**Reduced distillation costs**

**Reduced bioreactor capacity  
(→ lower installed costs)**

**Lower amounts of waste waters**

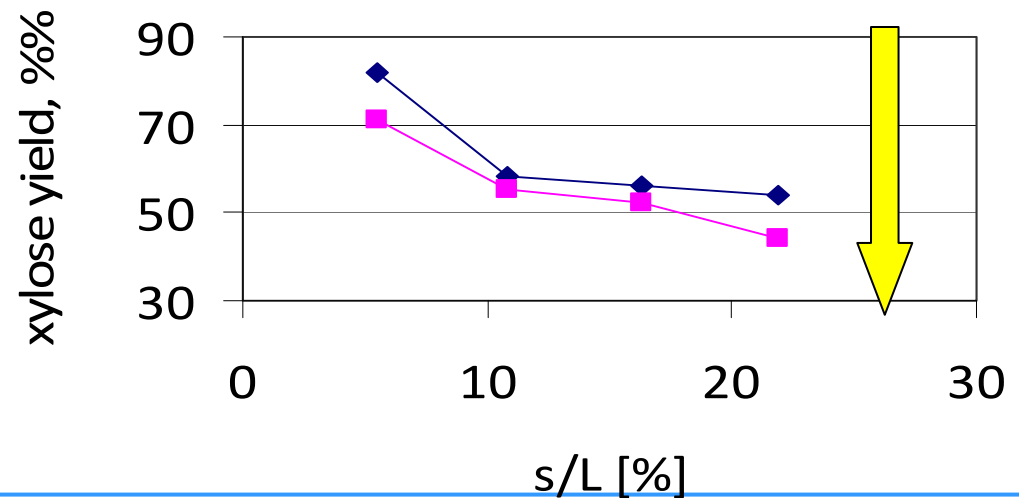
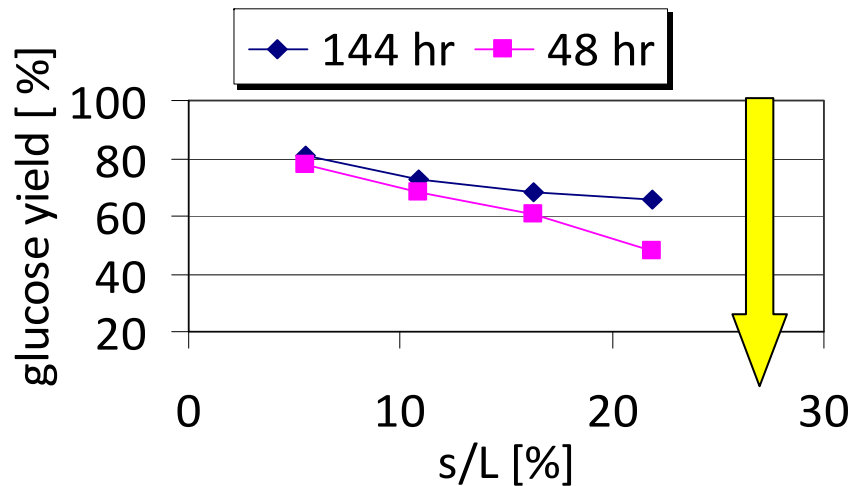


### The Challenges of high gravity hydrolysis:

- ❑ High viscosities → mass transfer limitations → poor mixing
- ❑ Inhibition by end-products

### The Challenges of high gravity fermentation:

- ❑ High concentration of microbial inhibitors
- ❑ Osmotic stress due to high solutes concentration
- ❑ Toxic effect of ethanol (synergistic inhibition)



Process scale: 500 mL shaken flasks



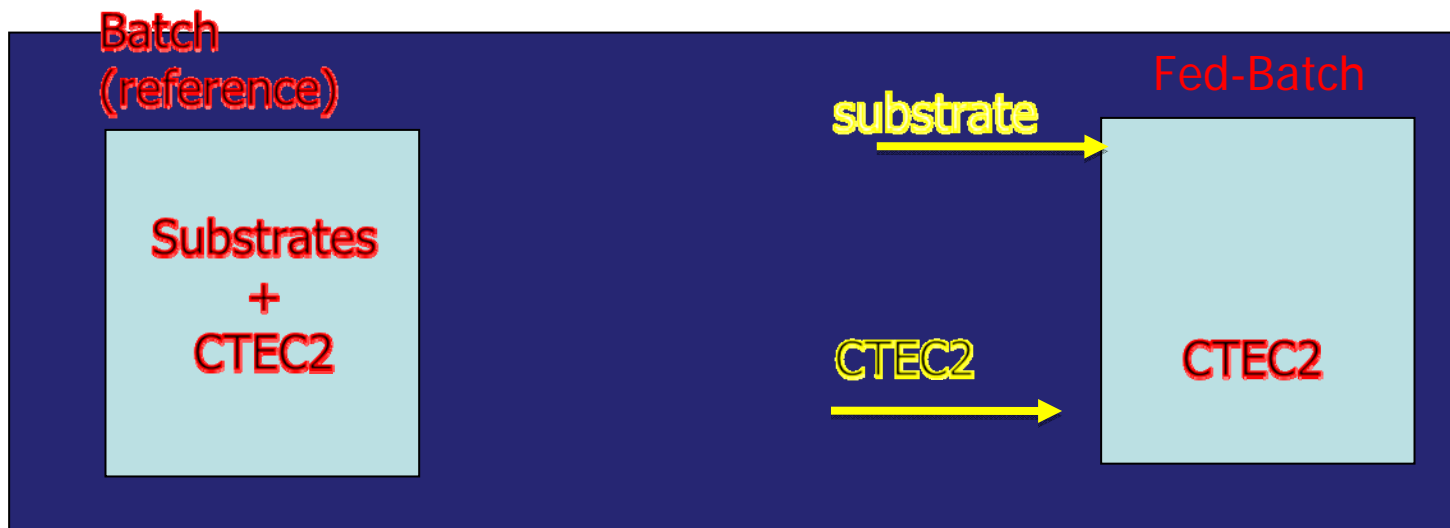


# AIMS

- 1. Assess the effect of various feeding strategies on the cellulose hydrolysis**
  - 2. Assess the performances of the enzymatic blends provided by Novozymes**
  - 3. Assess the effect of the reactor geometry and mixing**
  - 4. Find the optimal process strategy (SSF, SHF, hybrid process)**
  - 5. Testing the resistance of some yeast strains at industrial relevant process conditions**
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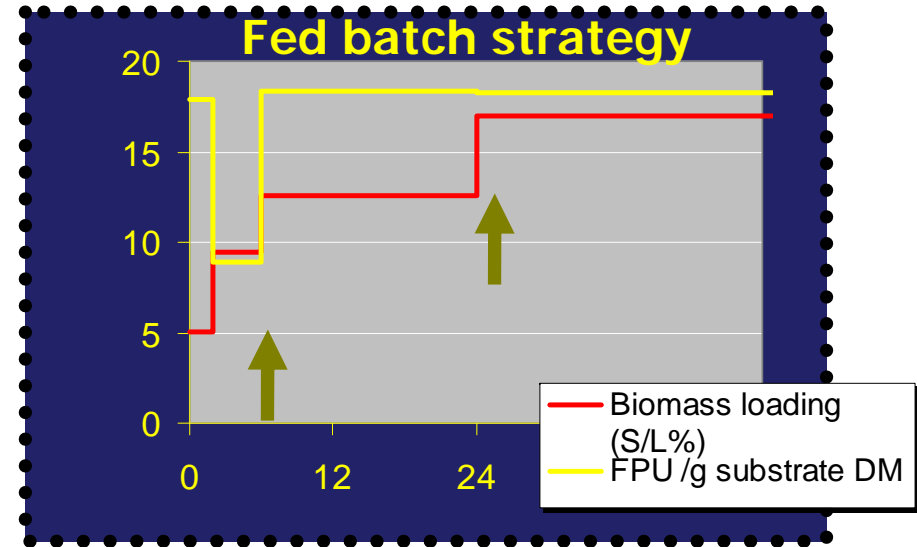
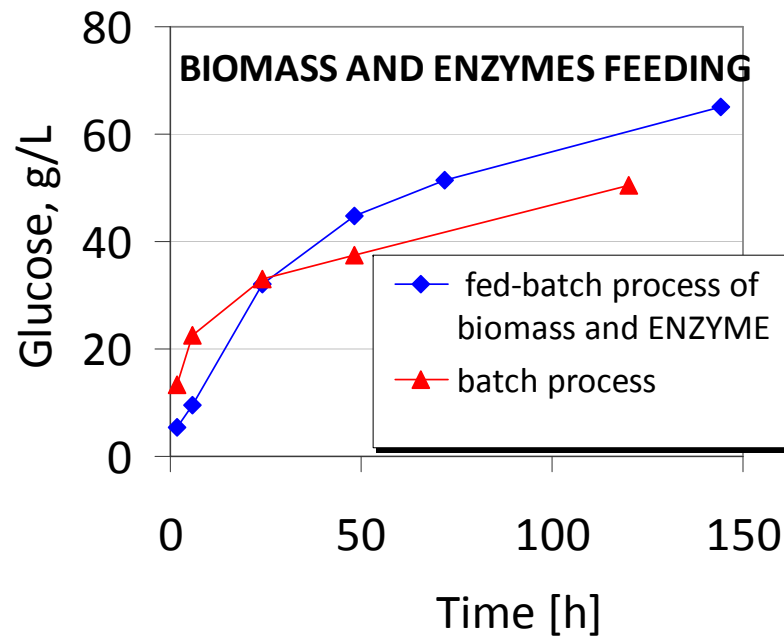
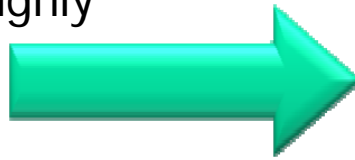
Fed-batch processes avoid high viscosities → poor mixing  
 Fed batch of biomass and enzymes ensure that the same specific activity is maintained



- Fed batch with respect to the biomass and extra  $\beta$ -glucosidase
- Fed batch with respect to the biomass and enzymes
  - Tests of various biomass feeding rates
  - Tests of various enzymes feeding rate



biomass and enzymes were loaded to keep their internal ratio roughly constant



Glucose yields improved as effect of the feeding strategy.

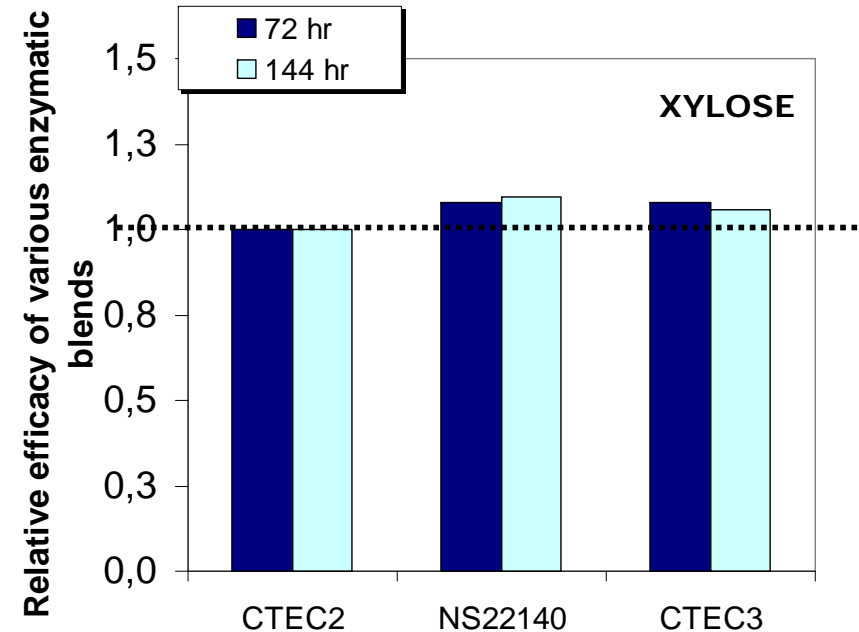
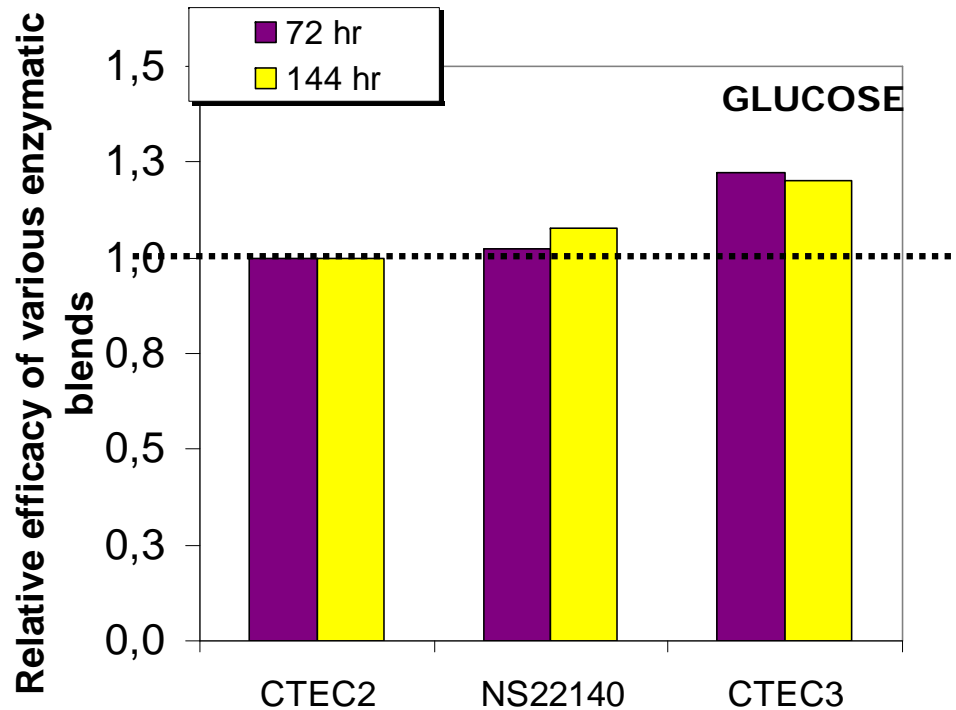
*Arundo fiber CTX 5710 pH5.5, 50°C. solids load 18%.*



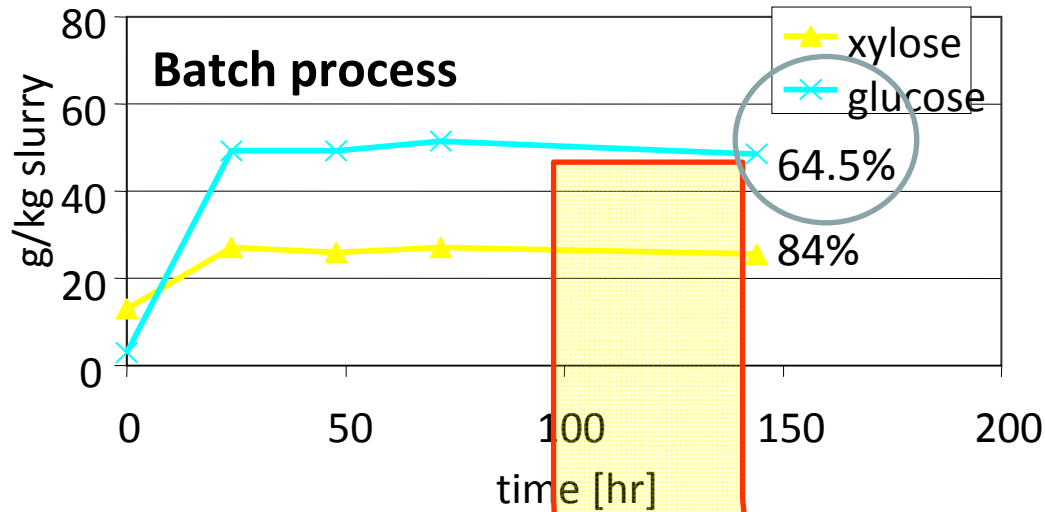


# ENZYMATIC COCKTAILS

COMPARISON OF VARIOUS ENZYMATIC BLENDS DURING THE HYDROLYSIS OF CONCENTRATED SLURRY (27% S/L) OF ARUNDO STEAM PRETREATED (fiber).



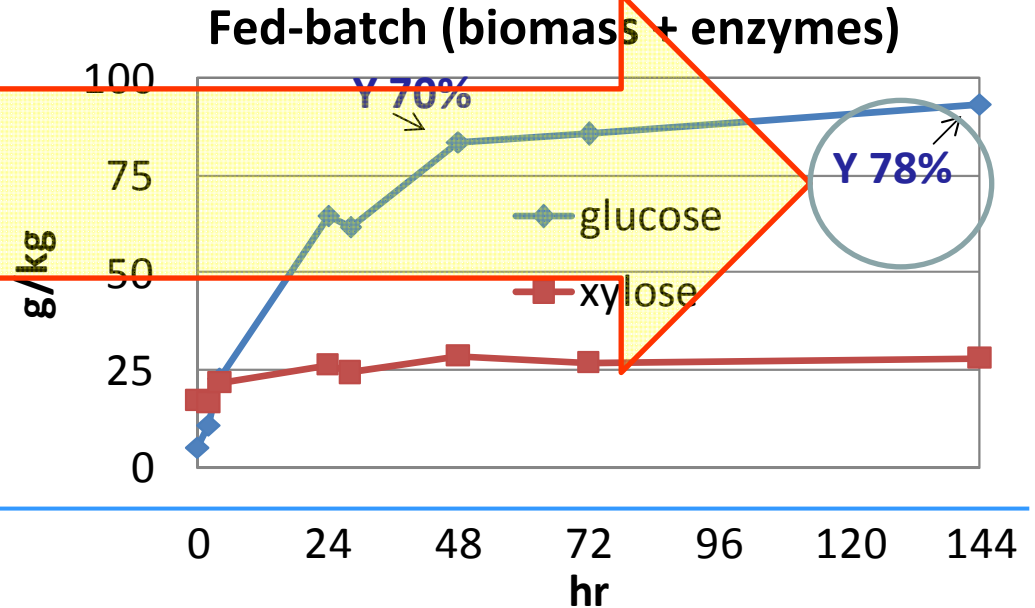
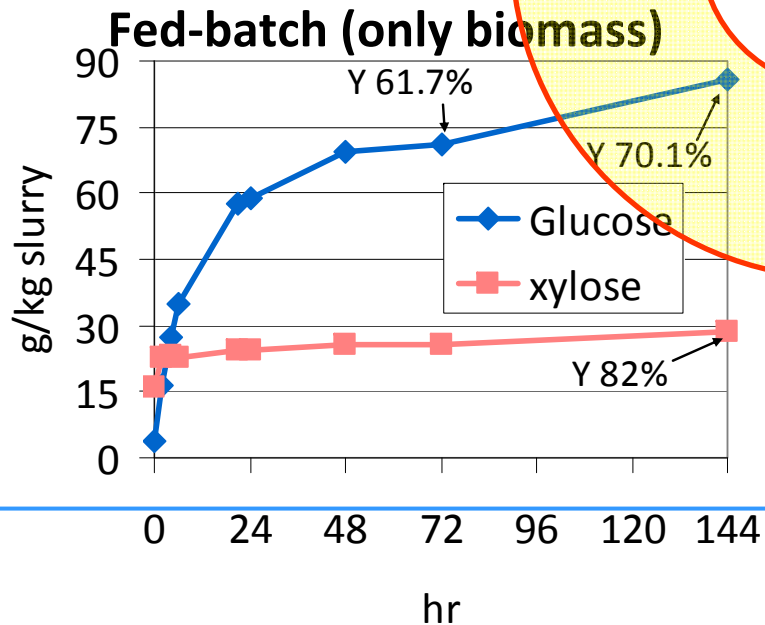
Inhibition by xylooligomers could have an important effect. Hemicellulases could improve the process yields



## PROCESS STRATEGY+IMPROVED ENZYMATIC COCKTAIL

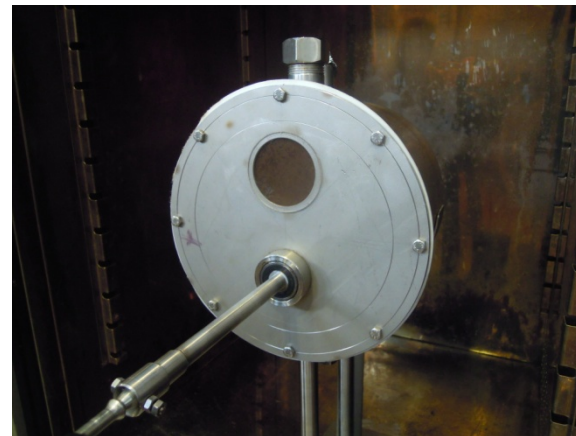
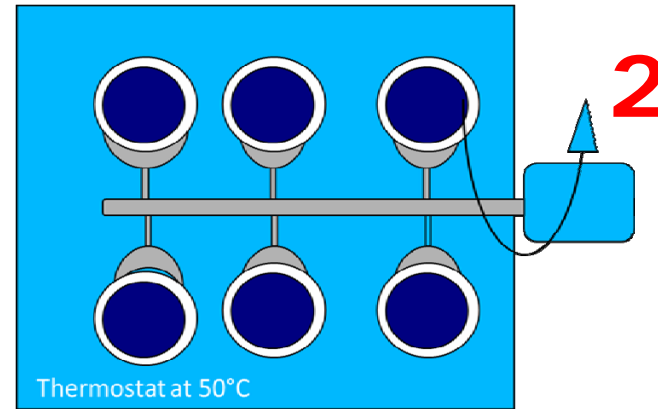
Pretreatment : acid catalyzed steam explosion at 200°C and 5 min

Process scale: stirred bioreactor;  
pH 5; T 50°C, NS22140: 0.2  $\frac{\text{g}_{\text{enzyme}}}{\text{g}_{\text{glucan}}}$   
s/L% 19





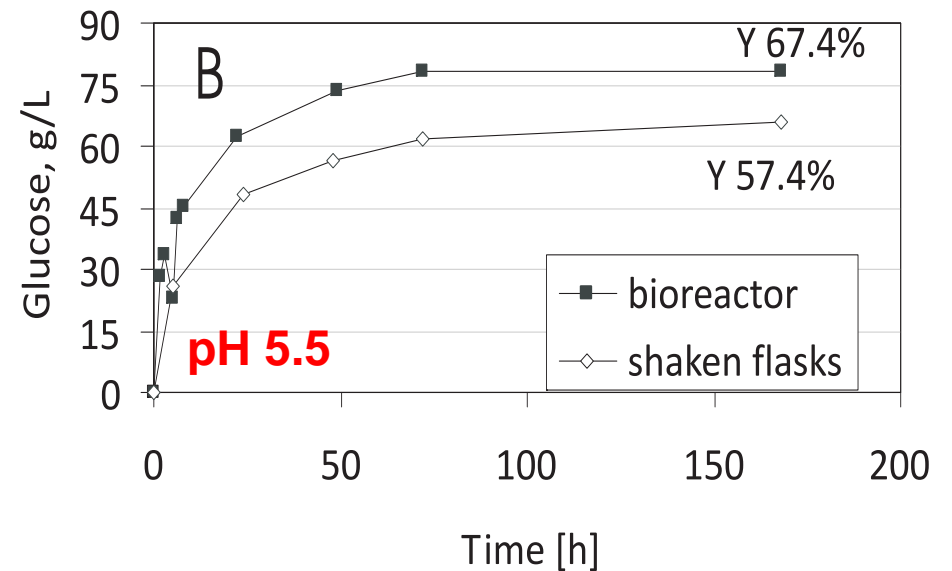
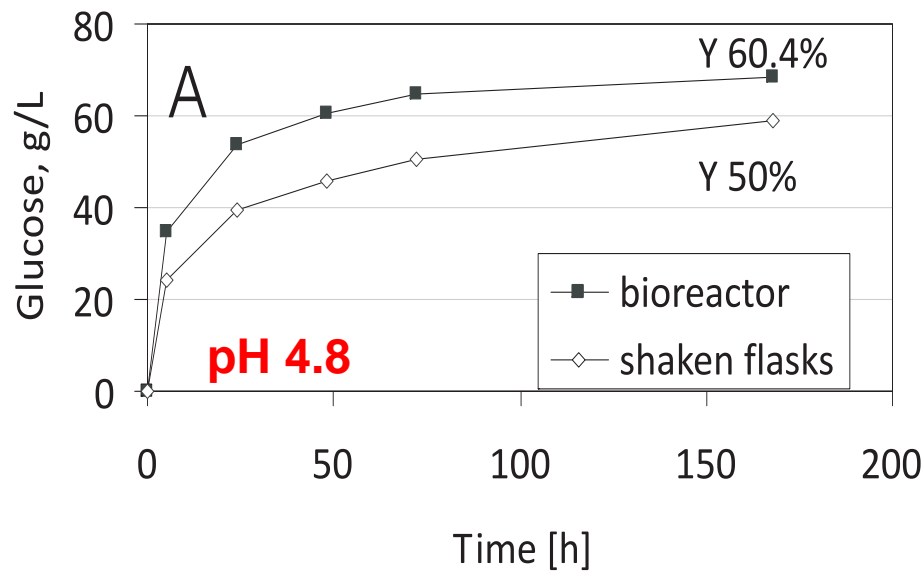
## Effect of the mixing







# Mixing in shaken flasks and bioreactor (1 and 3)

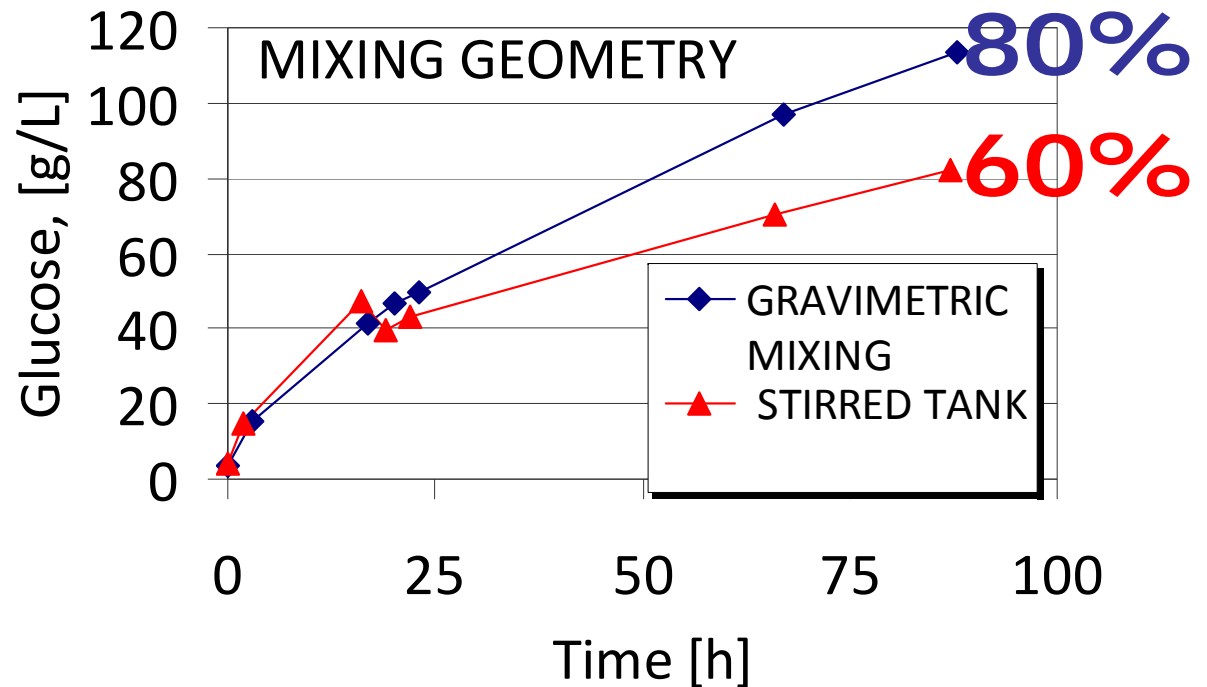
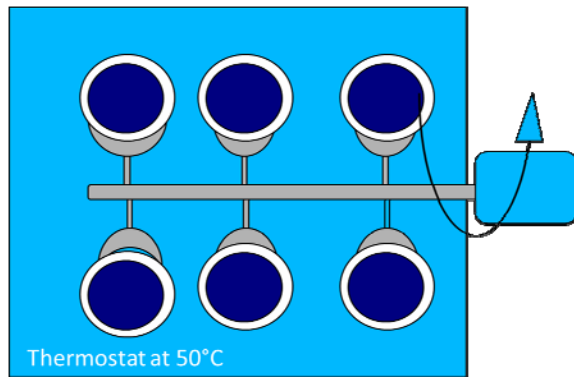


Arundo fiber 5310, 20% solids loading, 0.27 g Ctec2/g glucan, 50° C.



# Mixing in stirred bioreactor and gravimetric shaker (3 and 2)

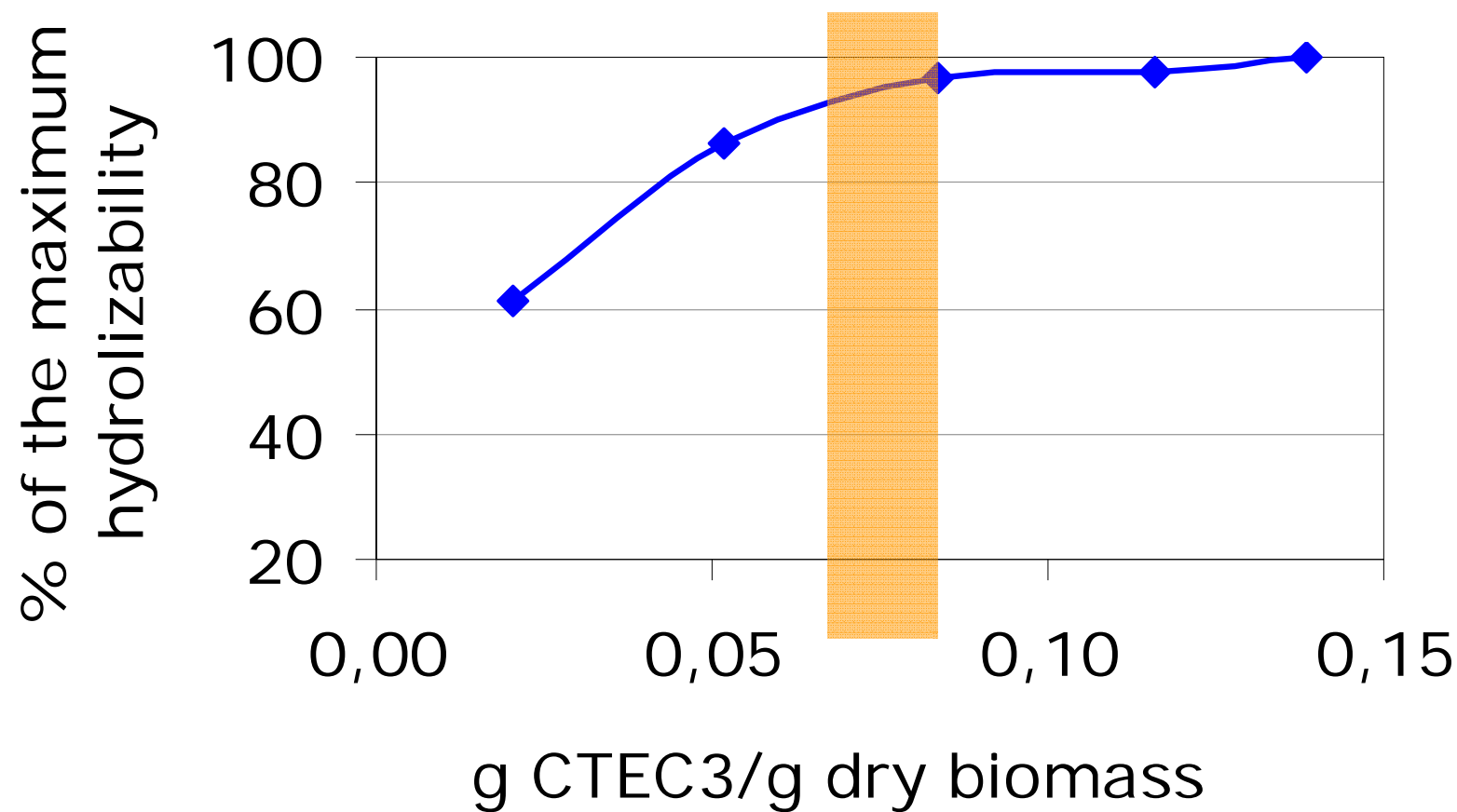
Gravimetric shaking in rotating drum system was much more effective. The final glucose yields are **80%**



Composition of the substrate 30% S/L, CTEC3 0.08 g<sub>ENZYME</sub> /g<sub>GLUCAN</sub>;



# CTEC3



**30% solids**

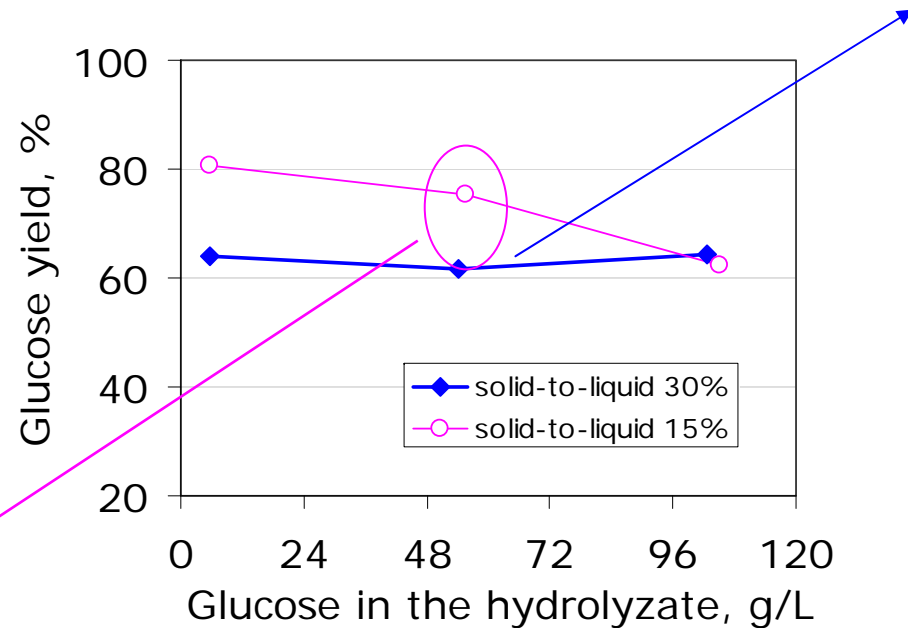


## Two main sources of inhibition: products and substrate inhibition

In a fed-batch process, hydrolysis of fresh biomass by enzymes can be affected by the amount of soluble glucose.

### Substrate inhibition

Process conditions:  $T=50^{\circ}$   
 $pH5$ ; CTEC3 0,10g/g glucan



Glucose was slightly inhibiting toward the hydrolysis of fresh biomass at 15% s/L and enzyme-to-glucose ratio of 0.15 g/g.

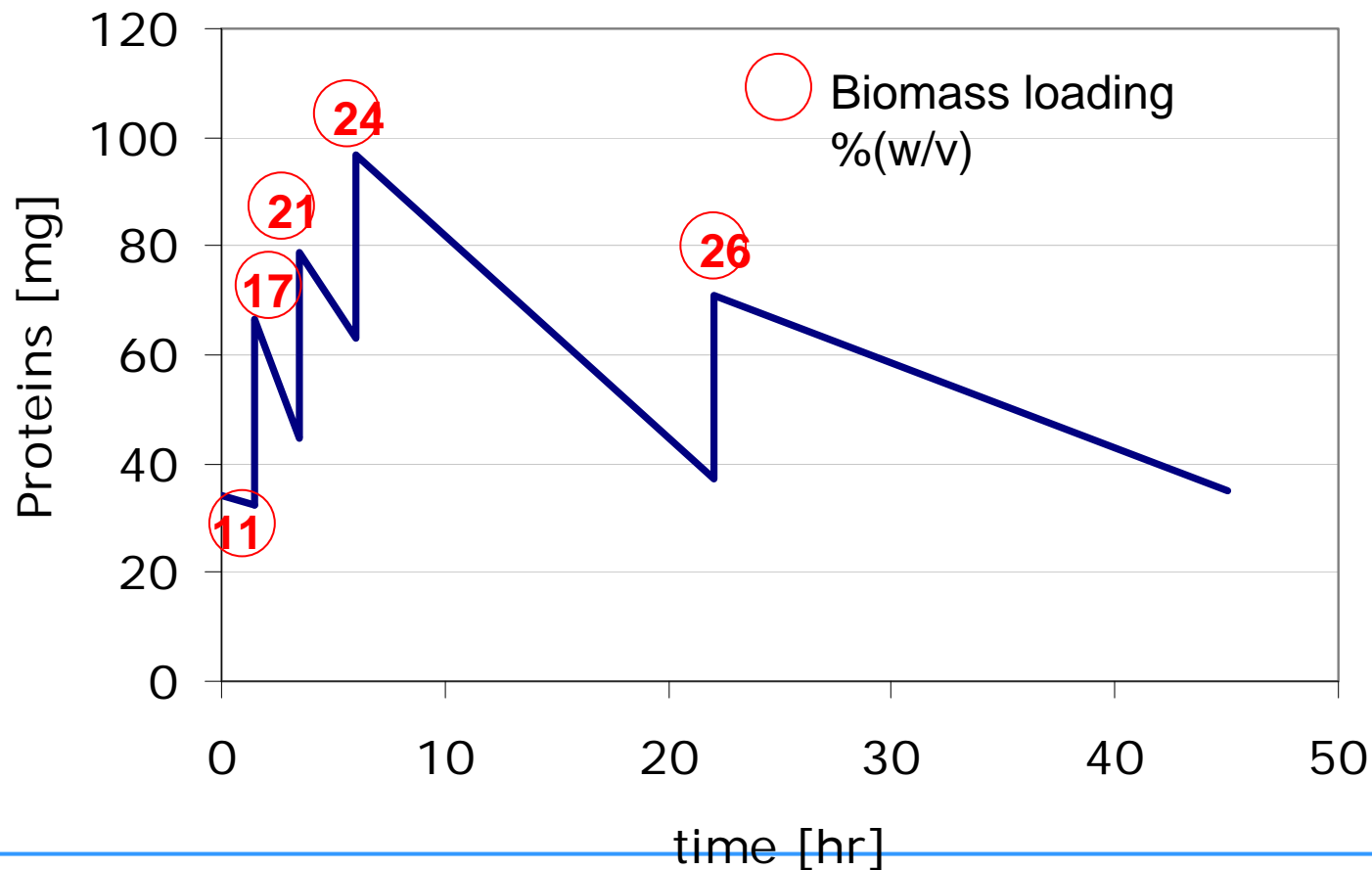
Higher glucose concentrations corresponding to 0.080 g/g enzyme-to-glucose ratio reduced the hydrolysis yield by 18% → product removal could reduce the enzymes inhibition





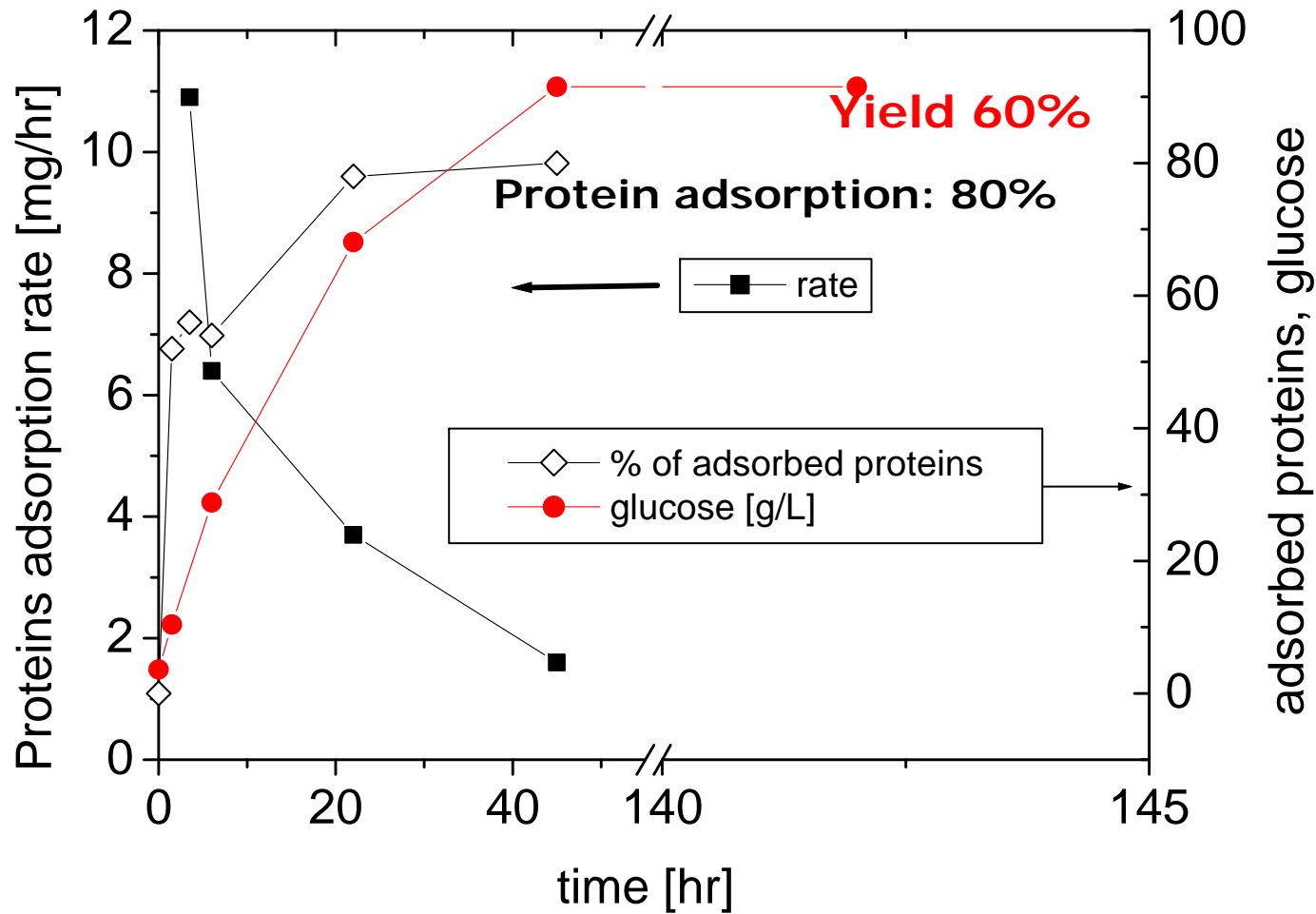
# Enzymes adsorption

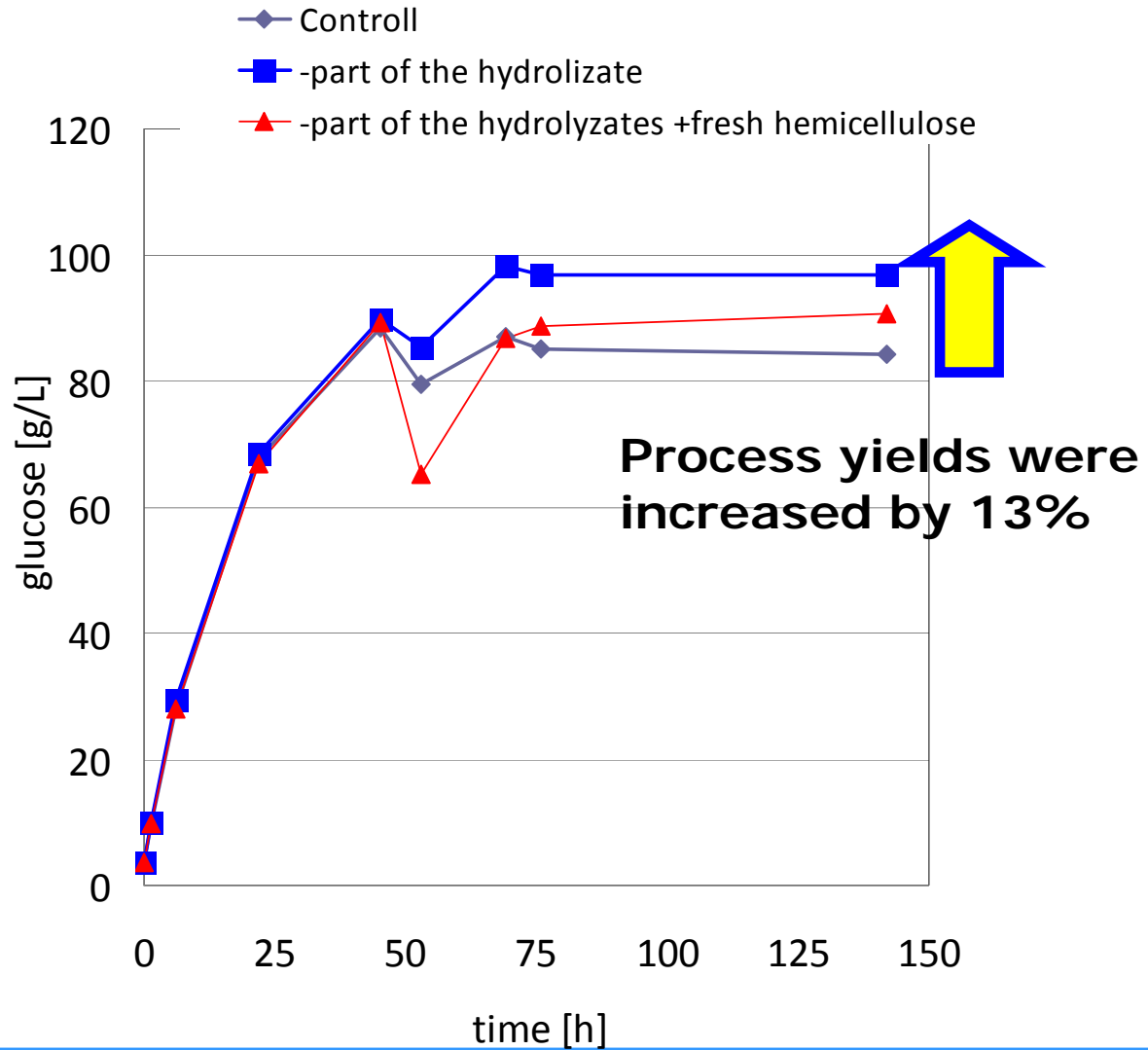
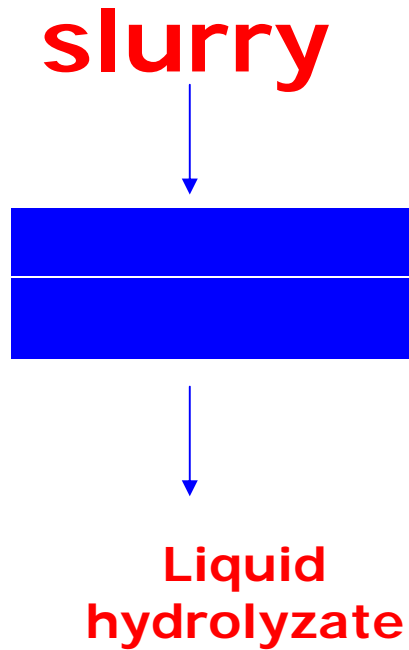
Proteins in solution during a typical fed batch process with respect to biomass and enzymes





# Substrate inhibition





**ENZYME loading 0.07 gCTEC3/g<sub>glucan</sub>)**



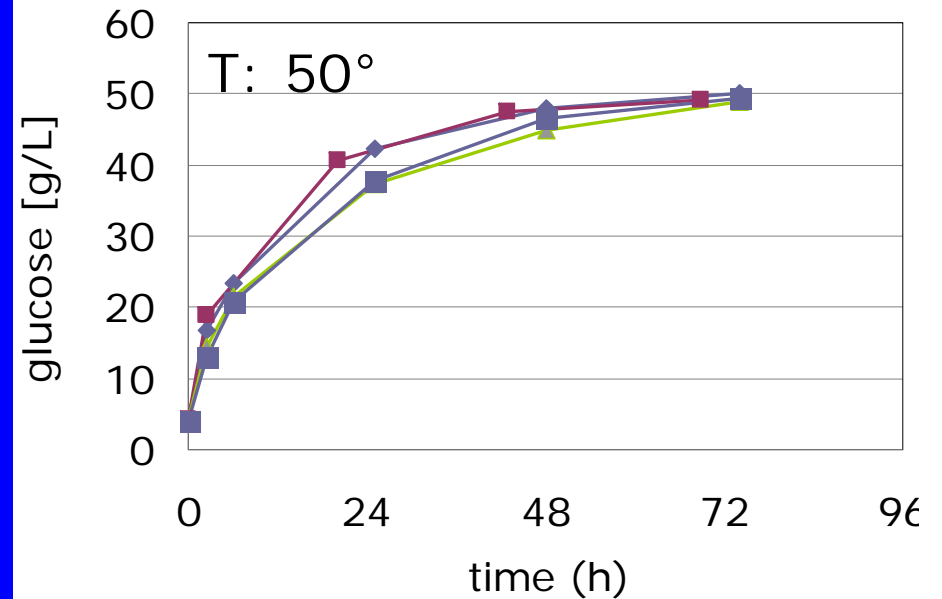
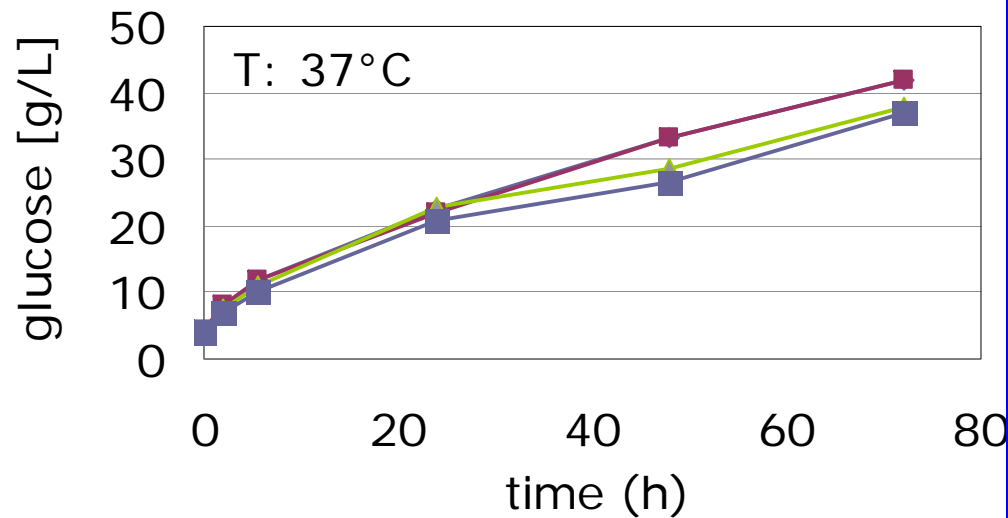
# Inhibition of CTEC3 by ethanol

**@37°C**

**@50°C**

- ◆ control
- ▲ plus 30g/L ETOH
- plus 10g/l ETOH
- plus 50g/L ETOH

- ◆ controll
- ▲ plus 30g/L ETOH
- plus 10g/l ETOH
- plus 50g/L ETOH

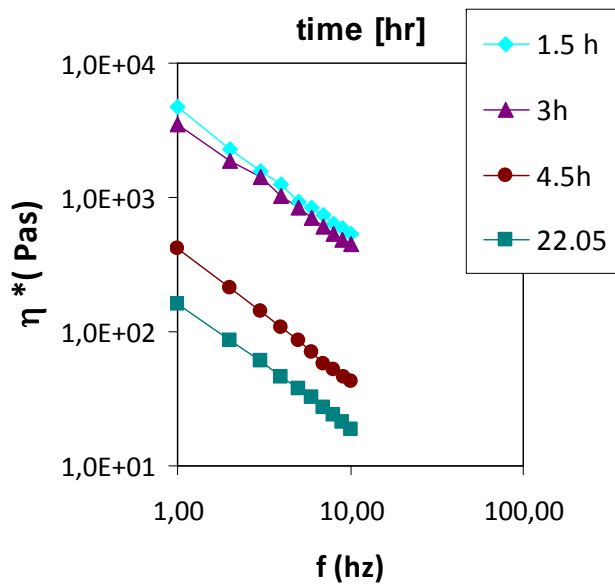
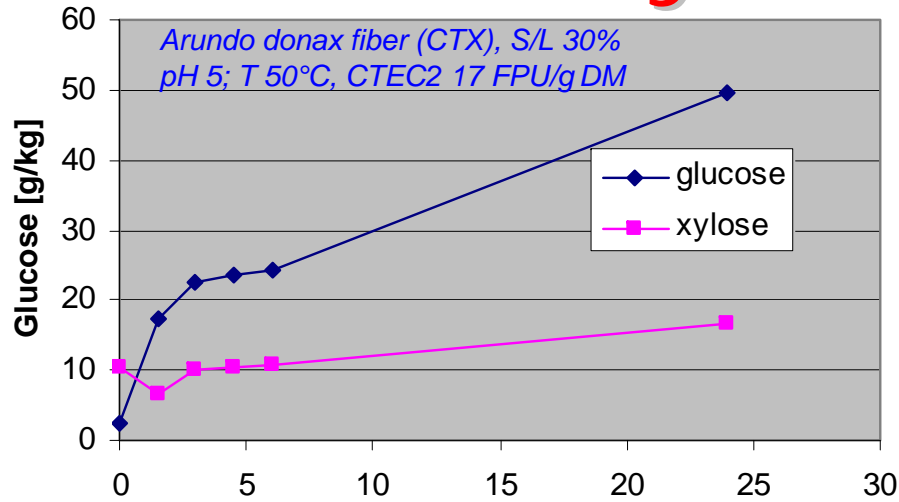




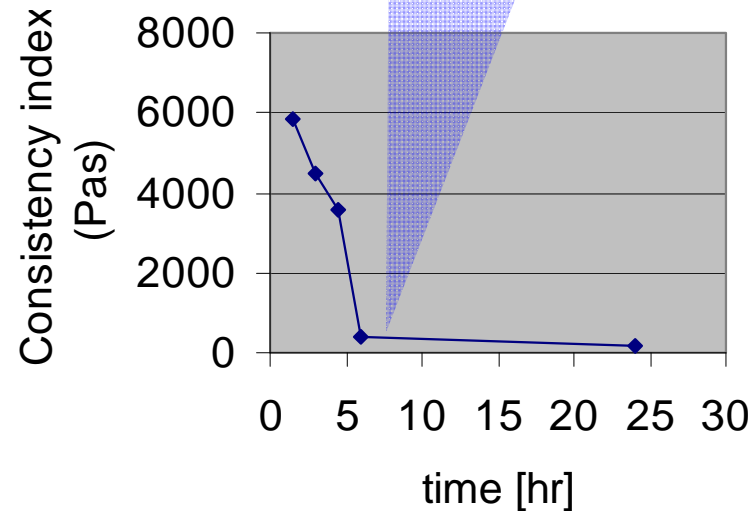


# Pure and hybrid SSF (HSSF)

The Chemtex product was liquefied in a stirred bioreactor in five hours



The hydrolysis extent was 32% of the maximum achieved at prolonged process time.





## Simultaneous saccharification and fermentation of pre-liquefied biomass

### YEASTS FOR FERMENTATION TESTS

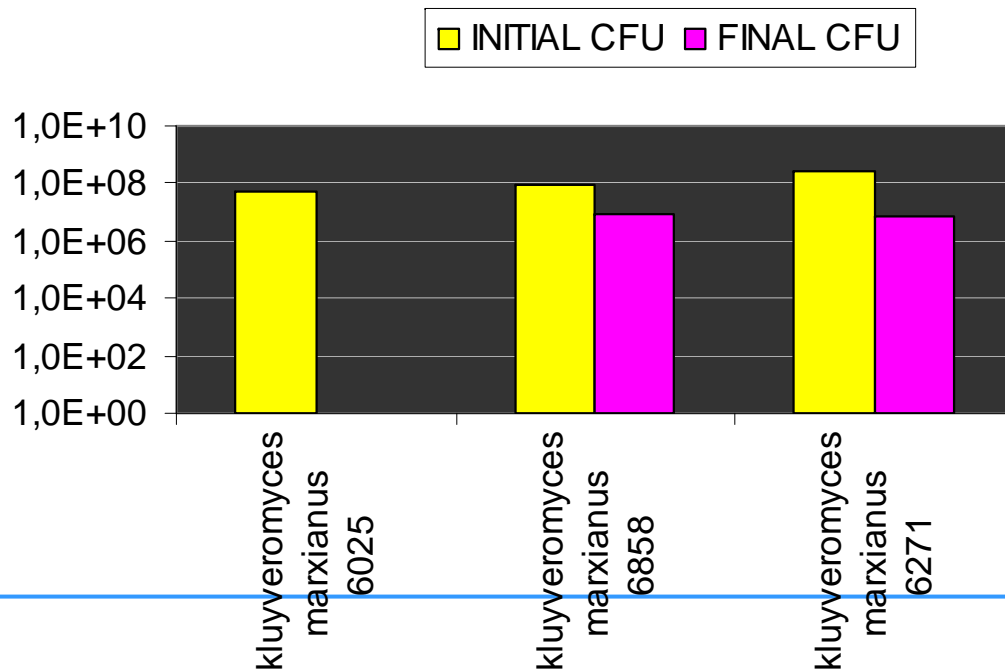


- Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (SIGMA II)**
- Saccharomyces cerevisiae* M861 (isolated by ENEA and alcohol tolerant)**
  
- Kluyveromyces marxianus* 6271 (DBVPG collection)**
- Kluyveromyces marxianus* 6858 (DBVPG collection)**



Besides *S. cerevisiae*, some *kluveromyces marxianus* species were tested with the aim of finding a temperature tolerant strain, able to coferment xylose

**CELLS VIABILITY DURING GROWTH AND FERMENTATION ON CHEMTEX LIQUEFIED PRODUCT (VR)**



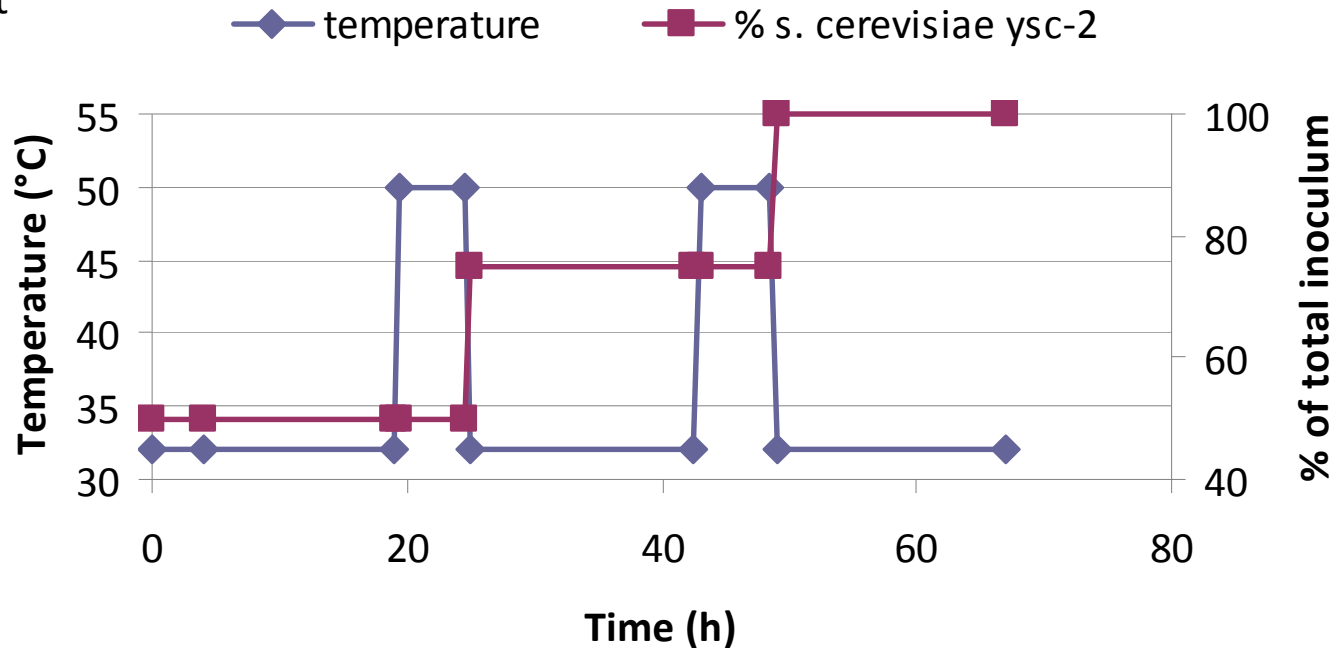
➤ Two of three *k.marxianus* strains showed a good tolerance to the VR composition

➤ One of the inhibitors tolerant *k.marxianus* consumed xylose in synthetic media



Two SSF set-ups were evaluated to increase the cellulose hydrolysis:

1. SSF at common process conditions
2. SSF with intermittent step-wise increase of temperature and fed-batch inoculation of the yeast

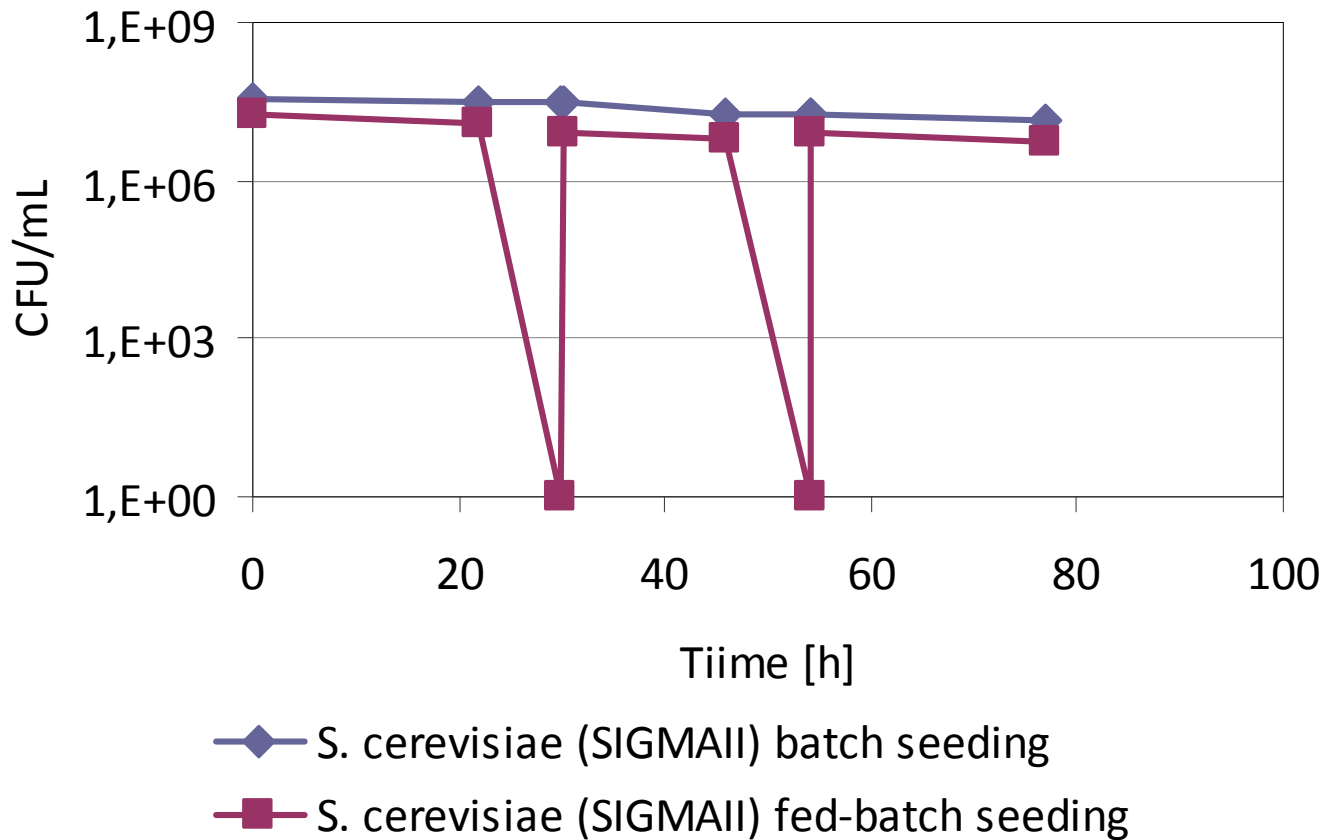


- FB 1** Fed Batch with 2 hydrolysis steps
- FB 2** Fed Batch with 2 hydrolysis steps 1.6 times wider than 1
- FB 3** Fed Batch with 1 hydrolysis step 1.8 times wider than 1



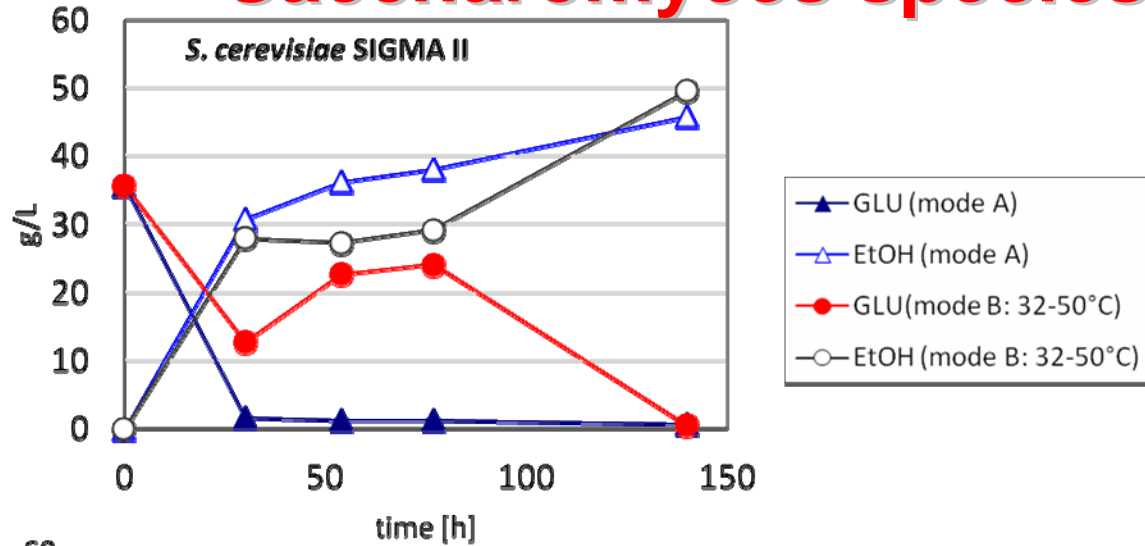


## Typical cells viability during SSF with modulation of temperature

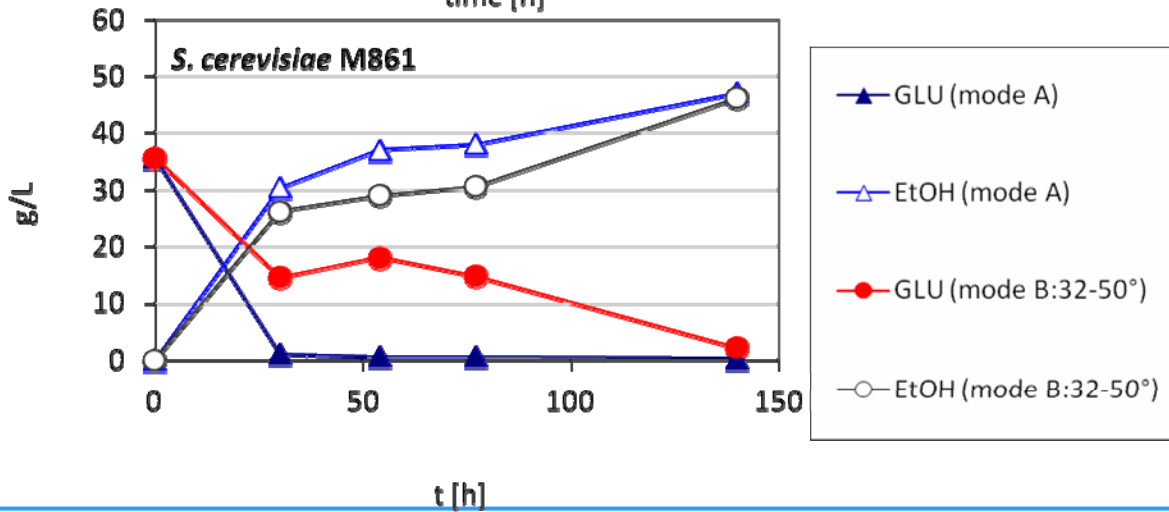




# Saccharomyces species

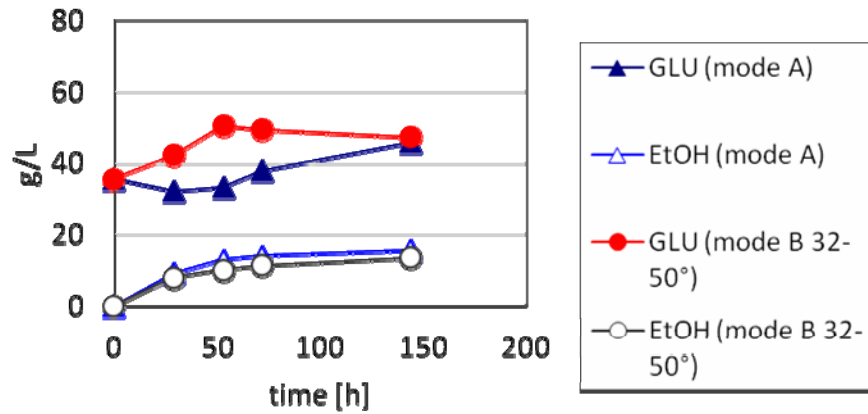


**M861 more rapid in the glucose uptake**

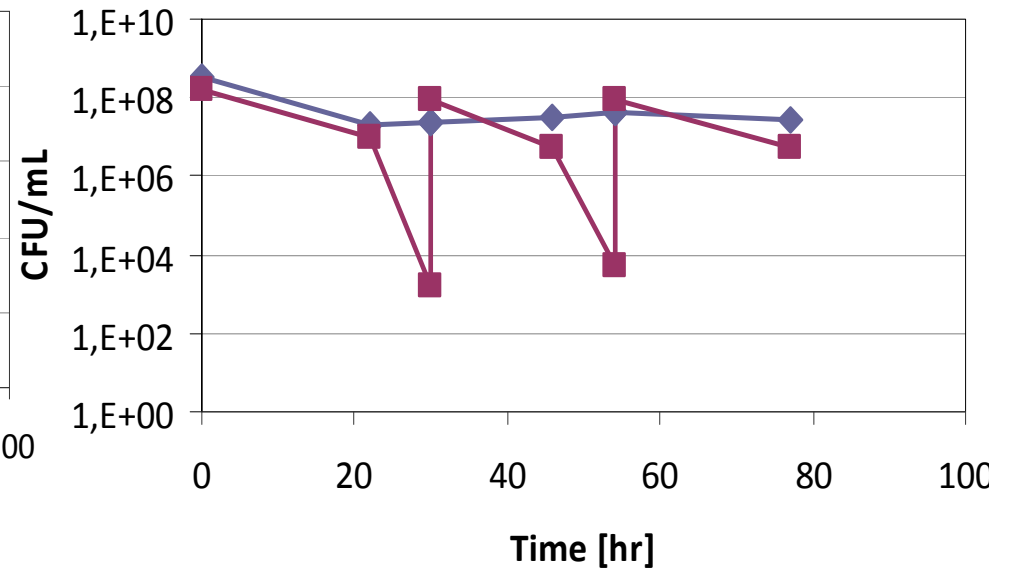
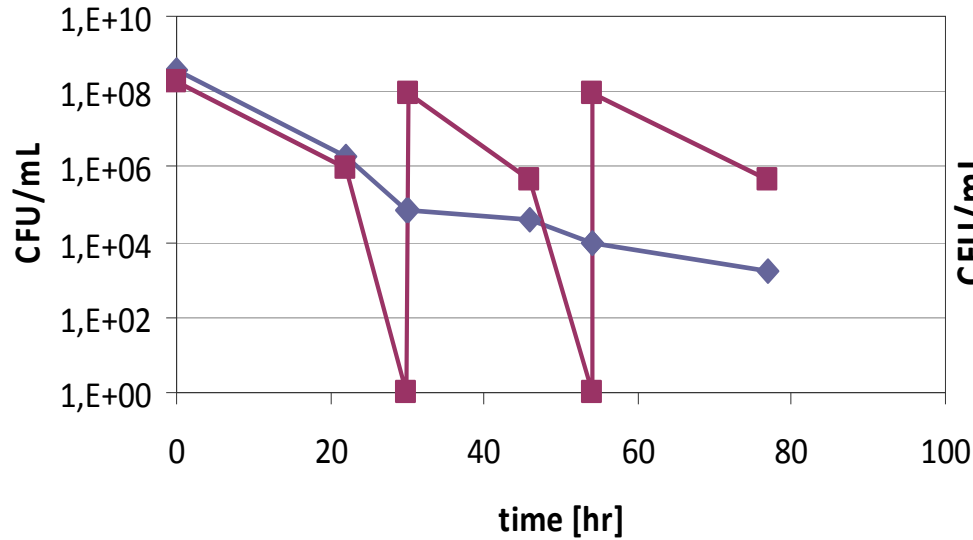
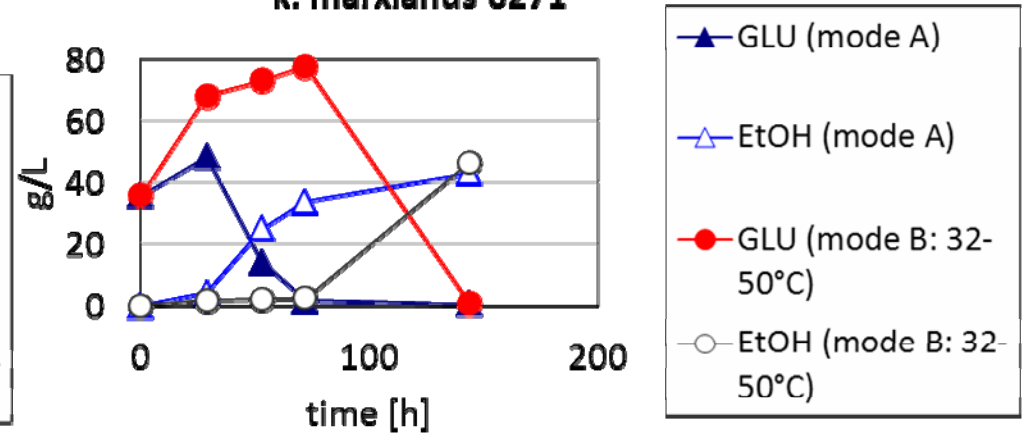




**k marx. 6858**



**k. marxianus 6271**



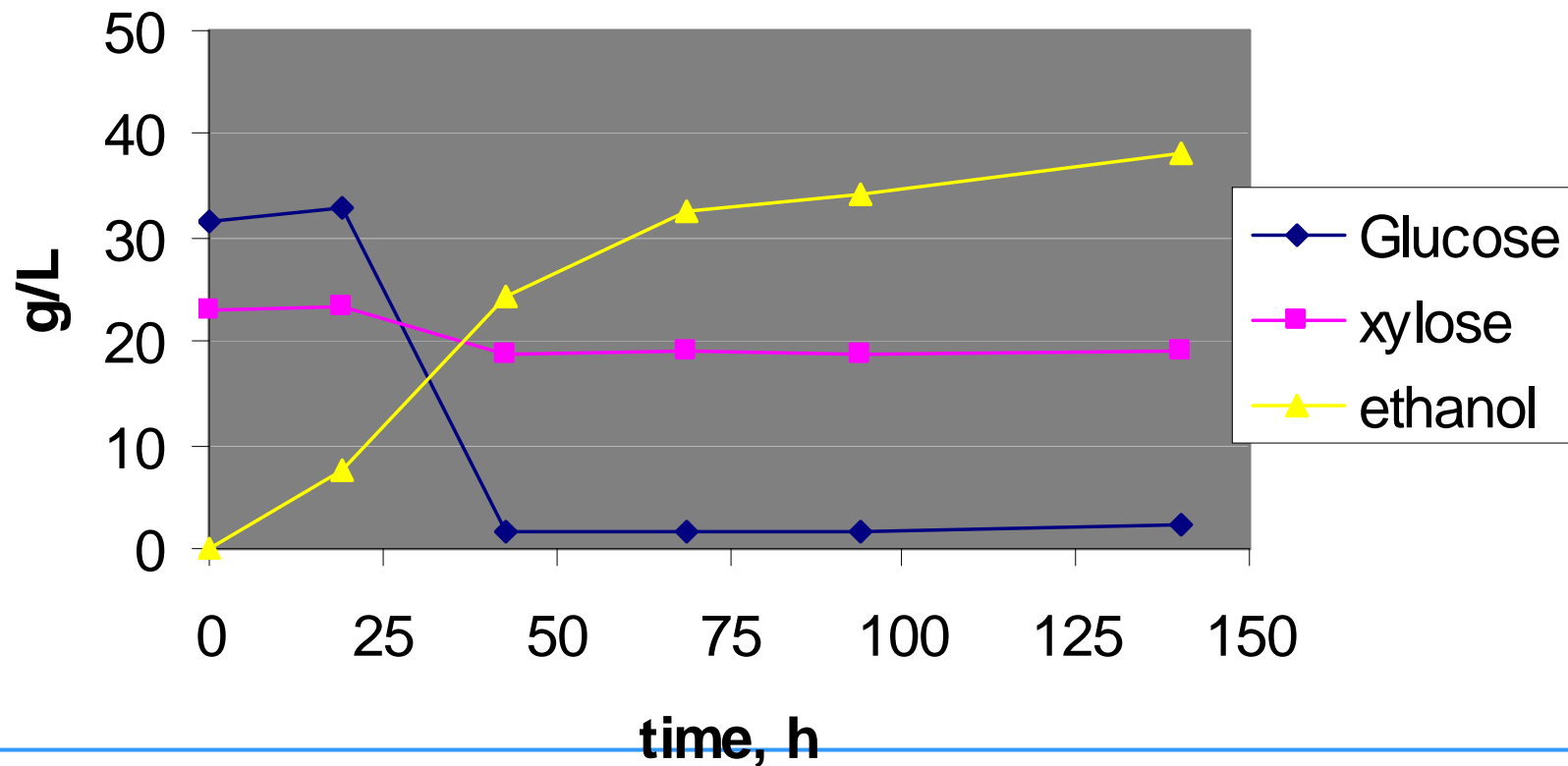
◆ K. marxianus 6858 batch seeding  
■ K. marxianus 6858 fed-batch seeding

◆ K. marxianus 6271 batch seeding  
■ K. marxianus 6271 fed-batch seeding



## Xylose consumption by *k. marxianus* 6271 in biomass hydrolyzates

**Xylose consumption was 10-17% but it mostly corresponded  
to xylitol production**







Enzyme dosage [g/g glucan]	Microrganisms	Process Type	Yeast Inoculation	T [°C]	Ethanol (%wt)	Overall glucose [g/L]
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (M861)	SHF	B	32°C	3,5	68
0,085	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	B	32°C	3,3	66
0,22	<i>K marxianus</i> k6858	H SSF	FB 1	32-50°C	1,4	74
0,085	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	FB 1	37-50°C	3,8	75
0,085	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	FB 3	37-50°C	3,8	75
0,085	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	B	37°C	3,7	75
0,22	<i>K marxianus</i> k6858	H SSF	B	32°C	1,6	77
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	FB 3	37-50°C	4,2	84
0,22	<i>K. marxianus</i> k6271	H SSF	B	32°C	4,4	85
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	HSSF	B	37°C	4,2	90
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	H SSF	B	32°C	4,6	91
0,22	<i>K. marxianus</i> k6271	H SSF	FB 2	32-50°C	4,7	91
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (M861)	H SSF	B	32°C	4,8	92
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (M861)	H SSF	FB 2	32-50°C	4,7	93
0,22	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (SIGMA II)	H SSF	FB 2	32-50°C	5,0	98

Reference

Glucose recovered

80%



## Conclusions

1. Chemtex pretreatment in which the SE step was carried out at 206 and 4 min produced a biomass hydrolizability similar to ACSEP at 200°C
2. Hydrolysis at high DM content (~30%) by using 80 mgCTEC3/g GLUCAN produced 80% glucose yields (GLU+XYL=137 g/L)
3. Optimization of the process strategy includes *fed-batch* feeding of biomass and enzymes along with optimized mixing conditions
4. Inhibition of enzymes by glucose was observed at 100 g/L glucose and enzymes-to-glucose ratio of 0.08 g/g
5. Enzymes adsorption on fresh biomass and product removal enabled the enzymes recovery and reuse.
6. Hybrid SSF (HSSF) process produced yields 1.4 higher than SHF.
7. ~2.5 times more enzyme than in the hydrolysis tests at optimized conditions (T 50°C) is required to achieve SSF process yields of 80%.



## Acknowledgements :

### to the ENEA's team:

*Alvino Elio*

*Ambrico Alfredo*

*Battafarano Agnese*

*Fanelli Emanuele*

*Nanna Francesco*

*Trupo Mario*

### To Biochemtex

for the project coordination

### To all the project partners

for cooperation

Thanks for the attention

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