



RESSOURCEN- UND
MATERIALEFFIZIENZ

Dutch Experience of sludge management and P-recovery pathways

Environ 2018 – 28 March 2018, Cork, Ireland

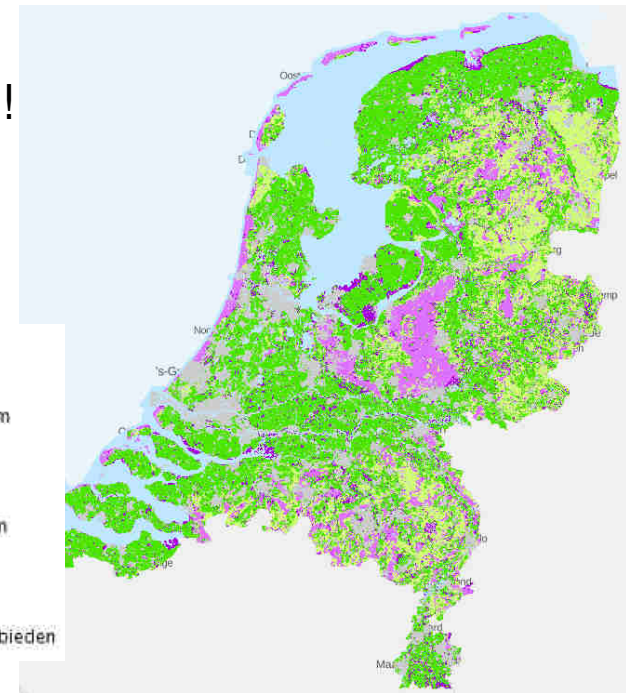
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Content

- 1. Sewage water treatment in NL**
- 2. Sludge management**
- 3. P-recovery pathways**

1. Dutch water management

- Small country (17 milj inhab, 41.500 km² =, 2 x smaller dan Ireland), delta area, fertile soils
- 4 levels of governments:
 - National (deep underground > 500 m, national water bodies)
 - Provinces (management of groundwater)
 - Municipalities (ground water in urban areas, sewerage systems)
 - 22 Water authorities → oldest WA > 762 years old!
- Water authorities responsibilities:
 - Water quantity (agriculture!)
 - Flood protection (dikes/dams)
 - Treatment of sewage water
 - surface water quality



1. Environmental Laws & regulations

Industrialisation

- **1875: Hinderwet** (about “danger, damage and annoyance”)

Increased population pressure, pollution, Rhine is sewer of Europe, after WWs construction of SWTPs, eutrophication of surface waters

- **1970: WVO (Law on pollution of surface water)** → **pollutor pays principle!**

Increased awareness and improved environmental management

- **2009: Waterwet (Water law)**

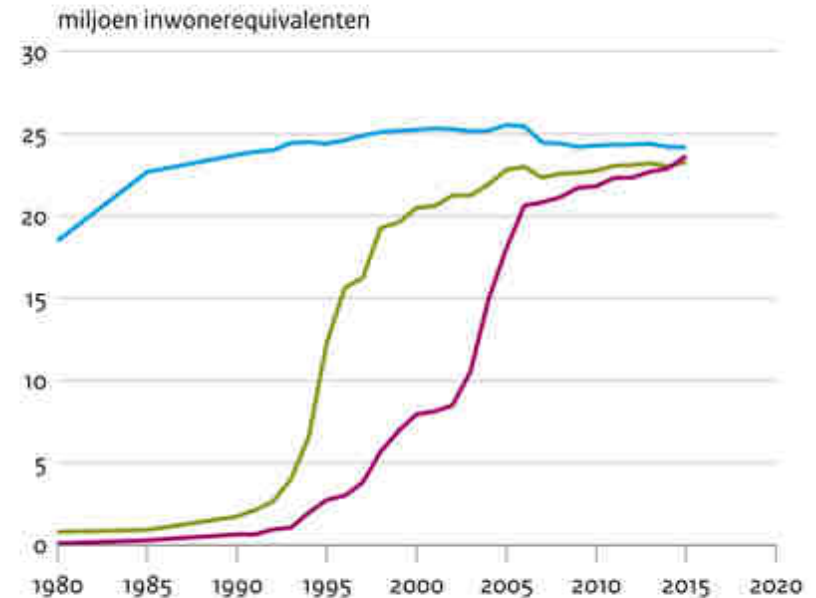


1. Trends WWTPs In Netherlands

- 330 SWTPs , > 99% of municipal waste water is treated
- After 1996 law → adjustment of SWTPs wrt P and N removal
- More biological treatment, less chemical use
- 50% of sludge is digested

— Total
— With de-phosphating
— With N-removal

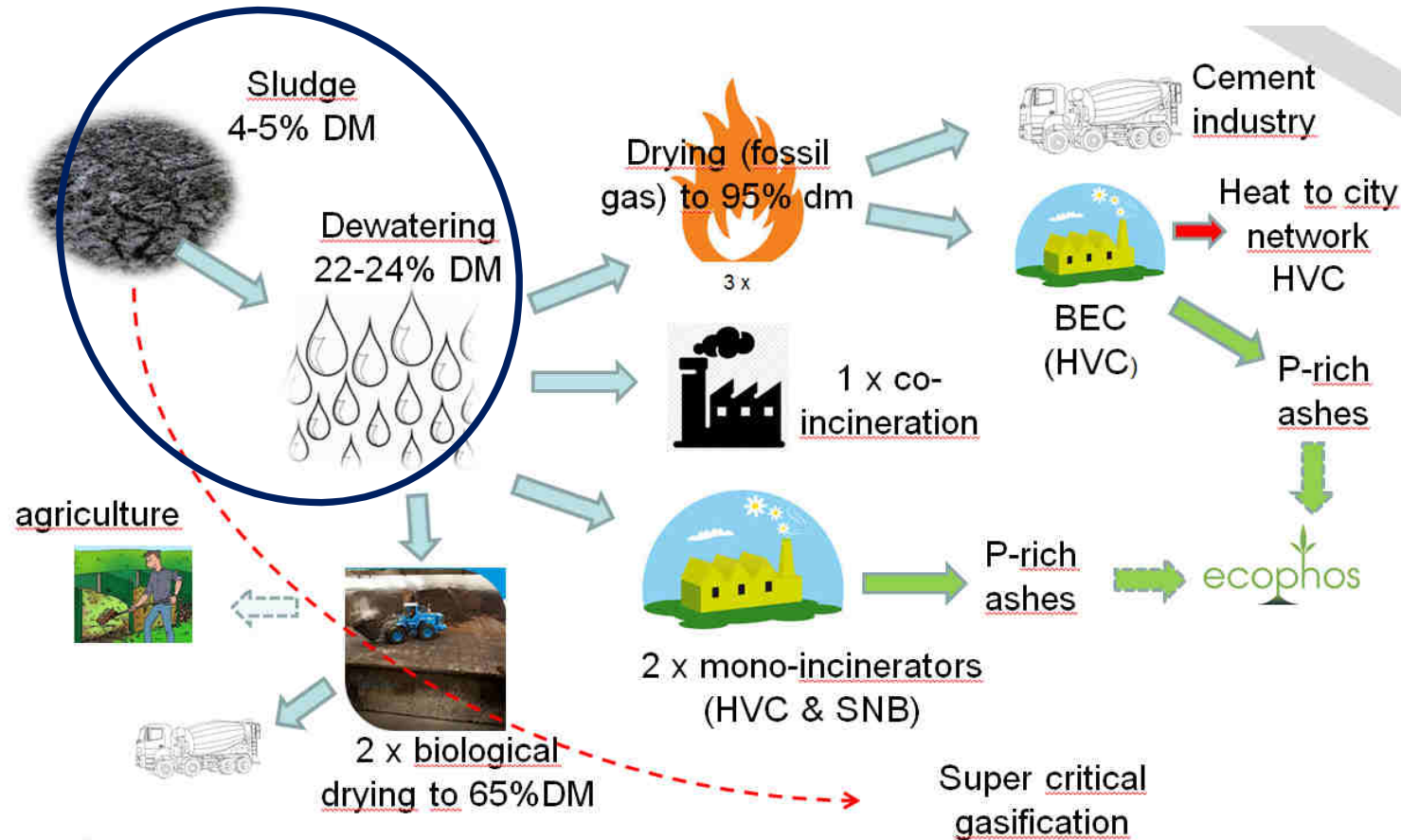
Capaciteit van rioolwaterzuiveringsinstallaties



Bron: CBS

2. Sewage sludge processing ways

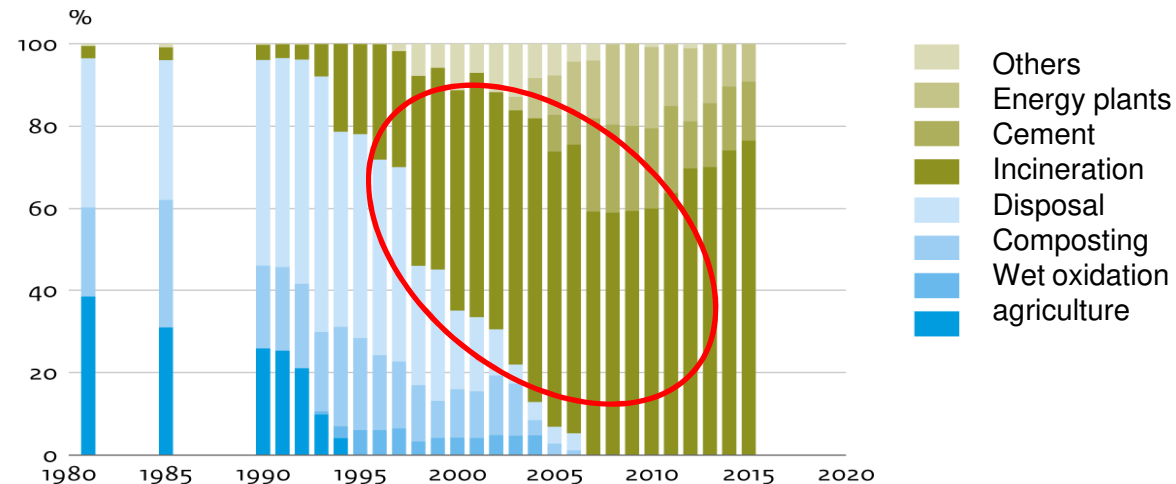
1,5 milj ton dewatered sludge



2. Trend of sludge processing in NL





- Since 1 Jan 1995 ending of sludge to agriculture (decree on quality and use of 'other' nutrients). Disposal of sewage sludge is strongly limited by regulation (1997).
- Dutch Water authorities took initiative to set up 2 sludge mono-incinerators, started operations in 1993 and 1995:
 - SNB (5 water authorities in prov of Brabant)
 - HVC (5 water authorities in West-NL)

Destination of sewage sludge

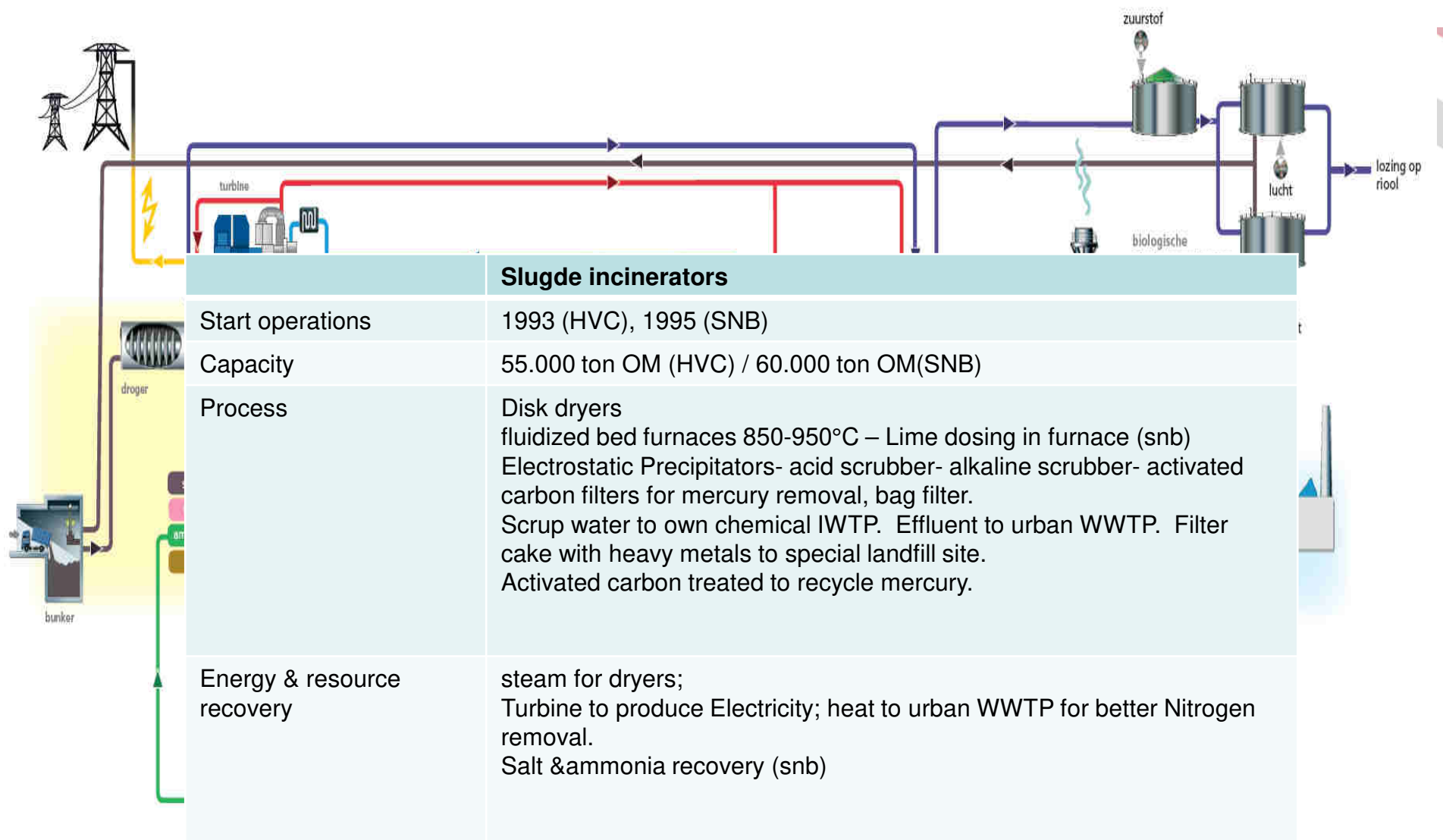


2. Current situation on sludge processing in NL

**Treatment of $\pm 1.500.000$ ton/year sludge
(22 % DM)**

-  Mono-incineration (50%, 2 plants SNB & HVC)
-  Drying and co-incineration (in Bio-Energy Plant/HVC, and in and cement plants) (25%, 4 plants)
-  Composting (biological drying) and co-incineration in power plant (19%, 2 plants)
-  Co-incineration in MSWI (6%, 1 plant)

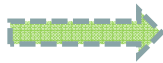




3. Ambitions Dutch water authorities

SWTP as resource of energy and recovery of valuable elements:

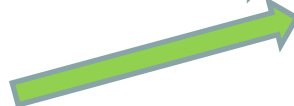
- Energy
- ALE
- Cellulose
- Bioplastics/PHA
- (rare) metals
- **Phosphate**



From condensate
effluent sludge incin



From fly ashes of
SNB & HVC



Super critical
gasification of
sewage sludge

Energy Transition
in NL: Reduction of
natural gas
consumption and
production
(Groningen!)

Climate change /
CO2 policies

Waste to energy
Resource from
waste

3. Sewage sludge fly ashes



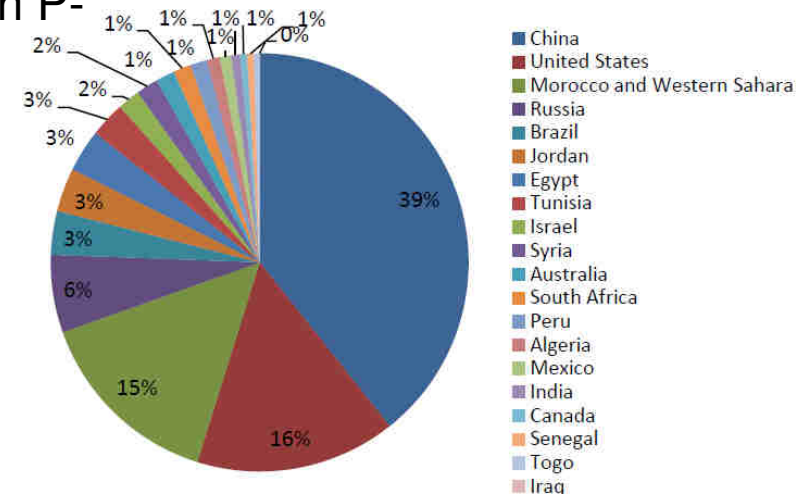
- HVC 22.000 ton ashes/y 25-27% P₂O₅
- SNB 35.000 ton ashes/y 20-22% P₂O₅

→ 14.000 ton P₂O₅/y



3. Global P-market

- Largest producers: China, Morocco, US, Russia, middle east (>70% of world's total)
- Largest importers: India, EU, Indonesia, US, Brazil
 - Environmental issues with P-rock mining (Cd, Uranium, high water consumption)
 - Decrease in quality of P-rock
 - Geo-political uncertainties
 - P on EU list of critical materials
 - EU's ambition to become less dependant on P-import
 - Increase P-efficiency in agriculture
 - Stimulate P-recovery
 - regulations
 - EU-programma's (Phos4You)

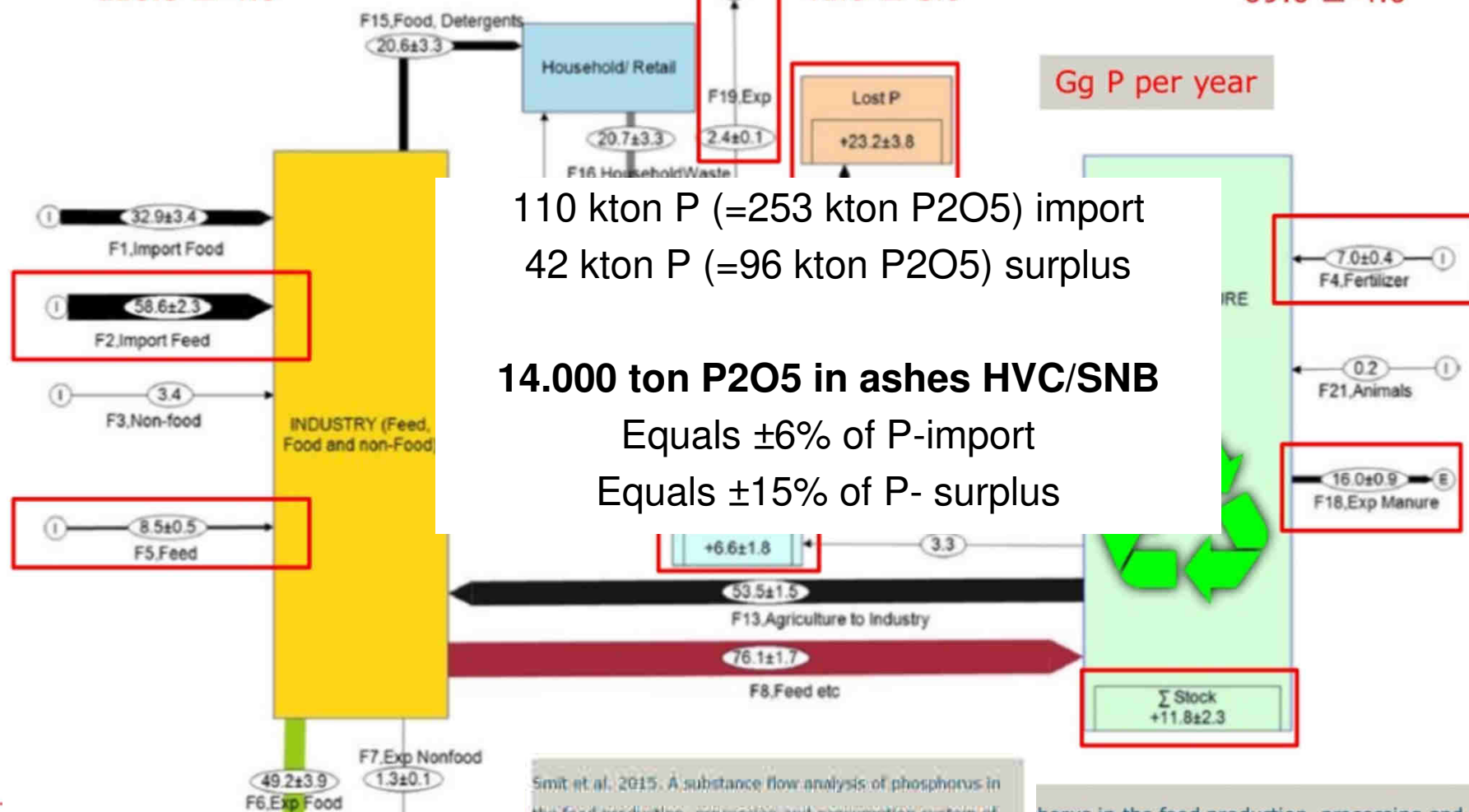


Phosphorus flows in NL for 2011

IMPORT
 110.5 ± 4.0

SURPLUS
 41.6 ± 3.9

EXPORT
 69.0 ± 4.0



Smit et al. 2015. A substance flow analysis of phosphorus in the food production, processing and consumption system of the Netherlands. DOI 10.1007/s10705-015-9709-2

phorus in the food production, processing and

3. P-recovery: ash–route or struvite-route?

Struvite (ammonium magnesium phosphate)

- P-removal on WWTP with sludge digestion
- produced struvite 2500 ton/y in NL
 - Direct use or mixed with conventional fertilisers
 - Market: new product, prices low or fluctuating
 - Struvite as waste can be traded as nutrient/fertilizer
 - No general EU end-of-waste regulation, so for each situation separately to be defined.
 - Strict monitoring on pathogens needed
 - Struvite production at SWTP affects sludge incinerators and fly ash quality!
 - Re-shaping of EU fertiliser regulation: in preparation for criteria voor struvite, biochar en fly ashes (Joint working groep STRUBIAS)

PhosPpaq,
Anphos, Pearl,
Crystallactor:
reject water or
stripper water

Airprex: from
sewage sludge

3. P-recovery: fly ash-route

- HVC & SNB: 57.000 ton/y SSA
- 20-27% P₂O₅ in fly ashes
- 14.000 ton P₂O₅/year
- Allowed to be exported
- No pathogens
- Quality strictly monitored
- Additional recovery of Al and Fe salts
- Waste status
- Re-shaping of EU fertiliser regulation: in preparation for criteria voor struvite, biochar en fly ashes (Joint working groep STRUBIAS)

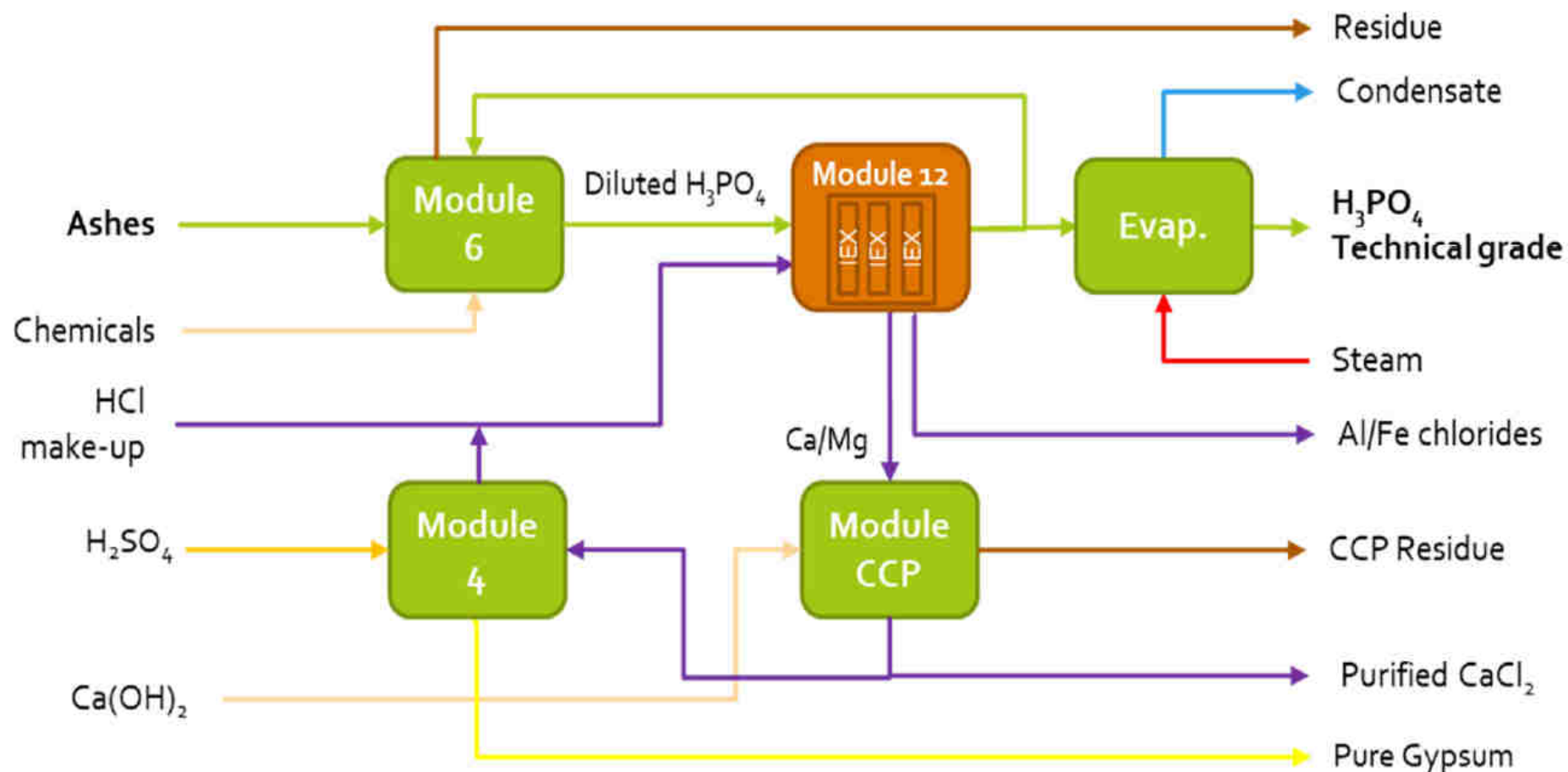


HVC & water authorities
WWTPs: keep struvite in
sludge, as to guarantee
high % of P in SSA!

3. EcoPhos proces

- Cooperation since 2009. Plan to start to deliver SSA to new plant in 2020.
- Valorization of low-grade phosphate rock and secondary phosphate resources such as SSA on the basis of soft digestion by phosphoric acid
- Modular process:
 - Flexible wrt raw materials quality
 - Capable to produce a variety of products (fertilizer, feed and food grade phosphoric acid (PA), animal feed (DCP and MCP) and solid or liquid NPK fertilizers).
- Robust process
- No expensive chemicals and equipment
- Yield > 90% P₂O₅
- Advantage of SSA: less Cd en no uranium

3. EcoPhos process

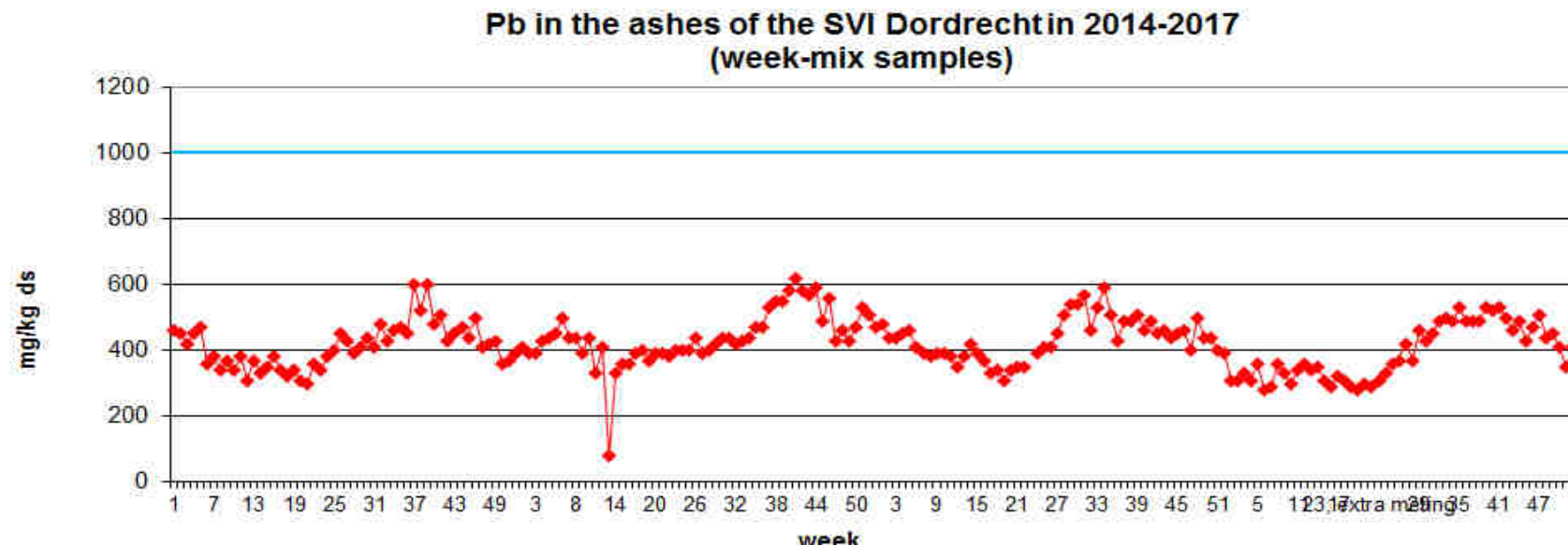




Element	Unit	Typical Fly ash	Typical LG rock	Standard grade rock
P ₂ O ₅	%	23.6	20-27	30-36
Ca	%	12.7	35	35
Si	%	10	1.1	0.9
Al	%	6	0.2	0.75
Fe	%	9.4	0.9	0.05
Mg	%	1.7	0.9	0.04
K	%	2.2	0.09	0.02
Na	%	0.77	1	0.5
As	ppm	35	9.3	16
Cd	ppm	3.8	49	14
Cr	ppm	130	200	120
Cu	ppm	1200	200	28
Ni	ppm	67	125	17
Pb	ppm	250	21	5.7
Ti	ppm	2900	160	360
Zn	ppm	3300	230	190
F	%	0	3.2	3.9
SO ₄	%	7.7	2.7	<2
TOC	%	0	3.35	0.3
CO ₂	%	0	7.2	5

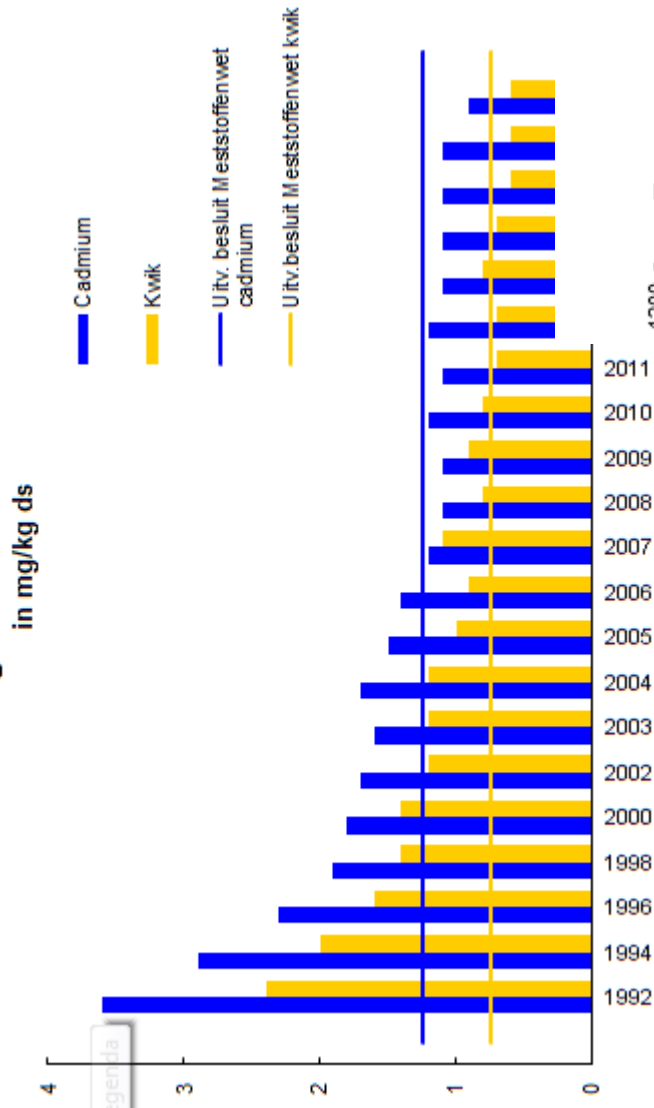
3. Quality Monitoring SSA

- Weekly mixed sampled analysed by independent laboratory
- (heavy) metals (ICP-MS)
- Twice per year in weekly mixed samples: dioxines
- Since 2014 all samples are stored
- Seasonal fluctuations!

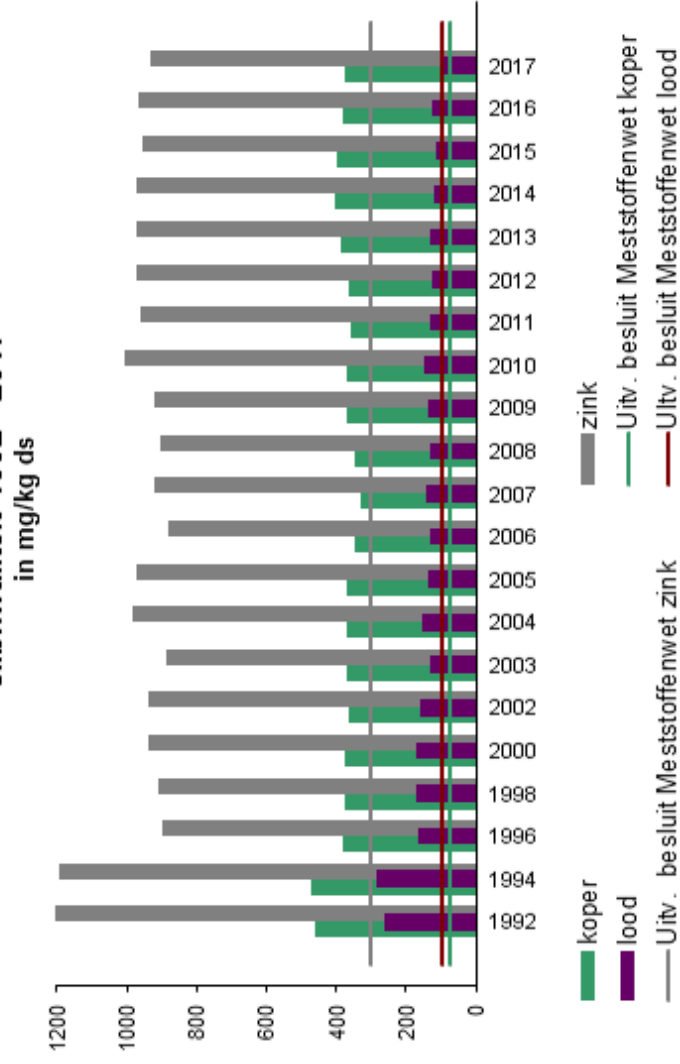




verbetering slibkwaliteit 1992 - 2017



slibkwaliteit 1992 - 2017



Conclusions & recommendations



- Sludge quality is reflected in ash quality
- More insight in sludge quality needed → why seasonal fluctuations?
- More knowledge needed on effects of struvite production on sludge incineration (N in condensate effluent from SIP)
- Recovery of (rare) metals from SSA
 - Fe & Al chlorides via EcoPhos process
 - other valuable metals to be considered
- Clear regulations on application in EU needed (STRUBIAS)
- Mono-incineration is still state of the art!

We deliver Phosphorus made in Europe

Interreg 
North-West Europe
Phos4You
European Regional Development Fund

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