

INRAE



Expertise scientifique collective sur les plastiques utilisés en agriculture et pour l'alimentation

Paris, 23 mai 2025


**MINISTÈRE
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE,
DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ,
DE LA FORÊT, DE LA MER
ET DE LA PÊCHE**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

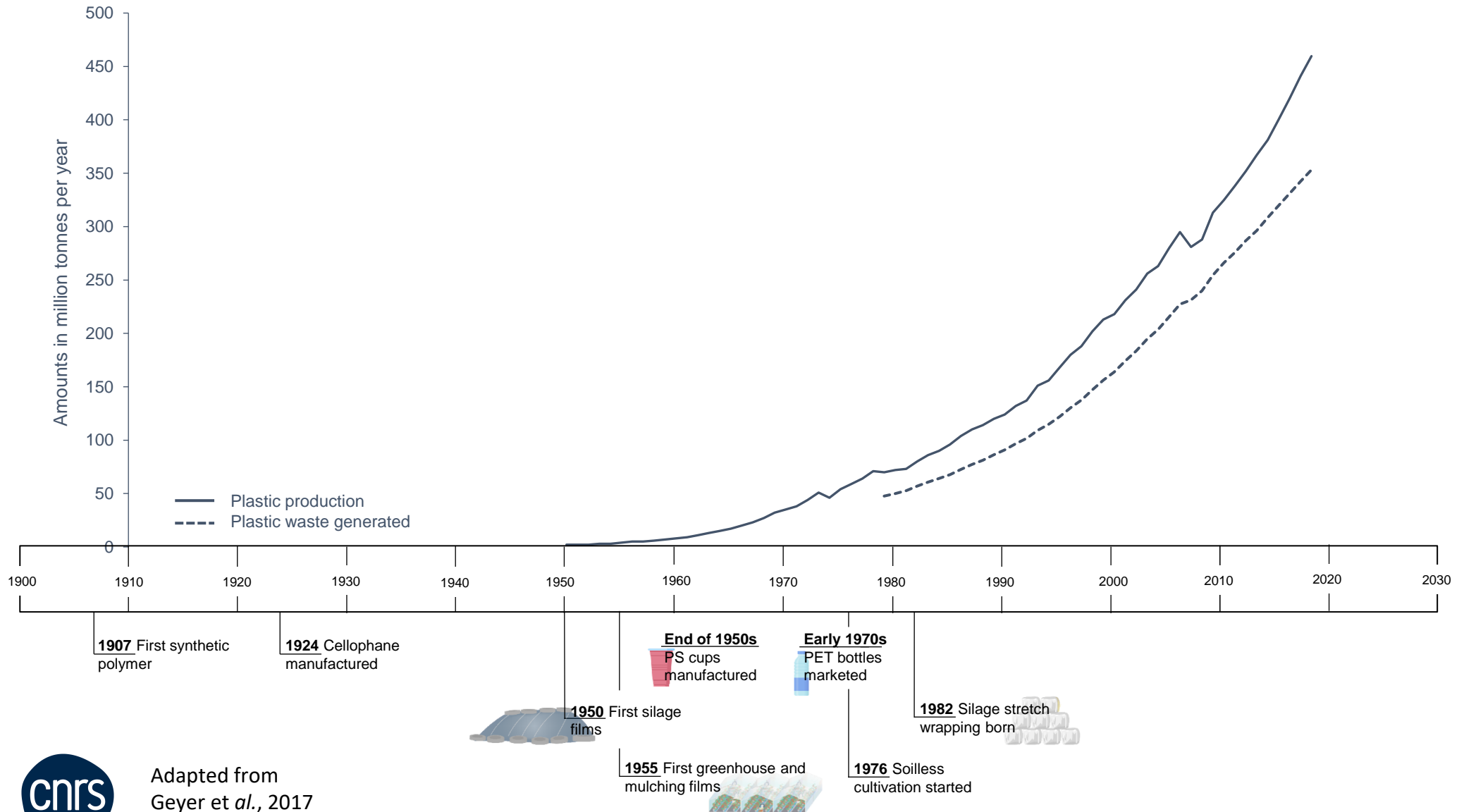

**MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ
ALIMENTAIRE**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



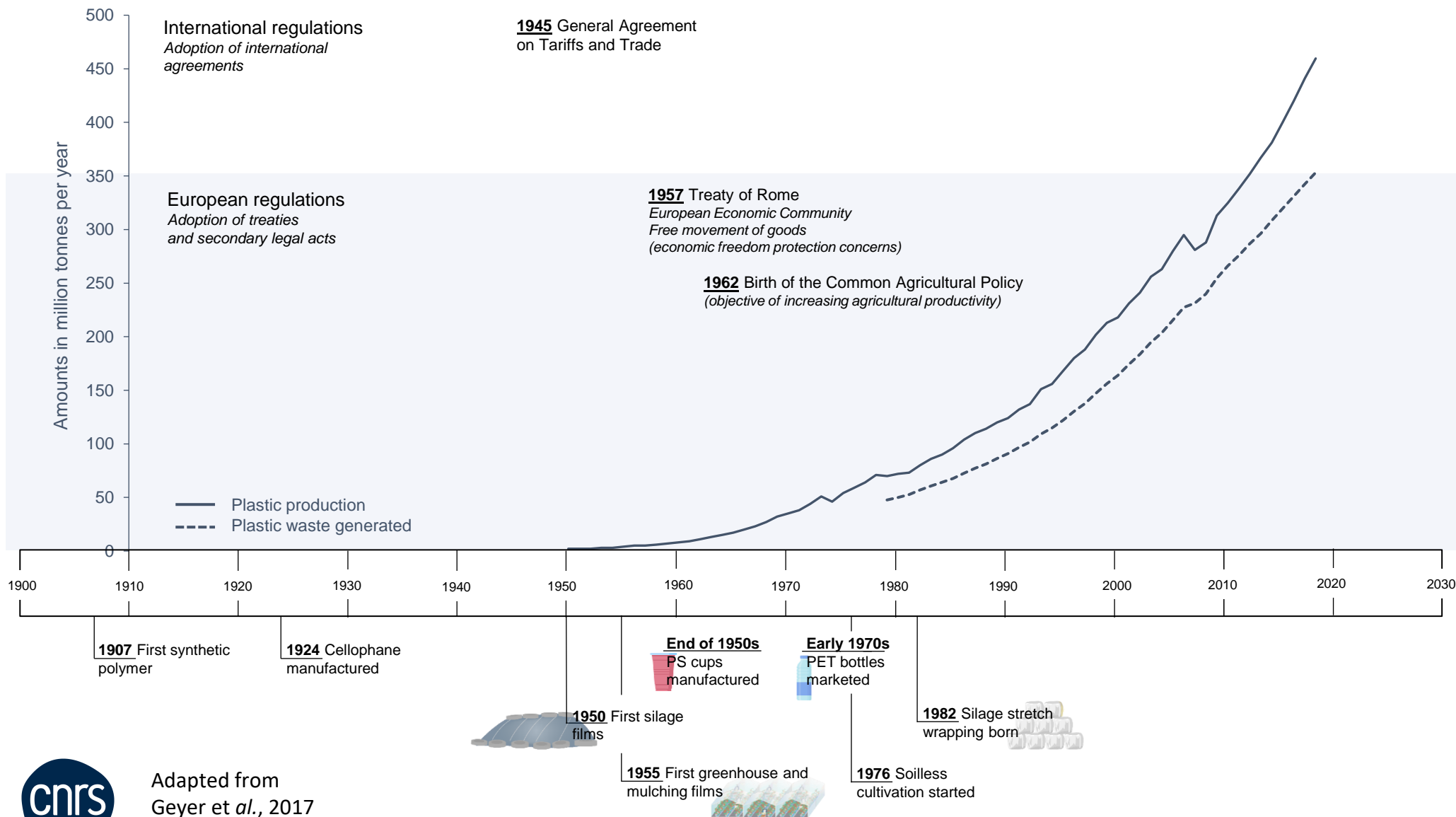
> Introduction

- 1. Why a collective scientific assessment?**
- 2. What are plastics, plastics used in agriculture and for food and the system under study?**

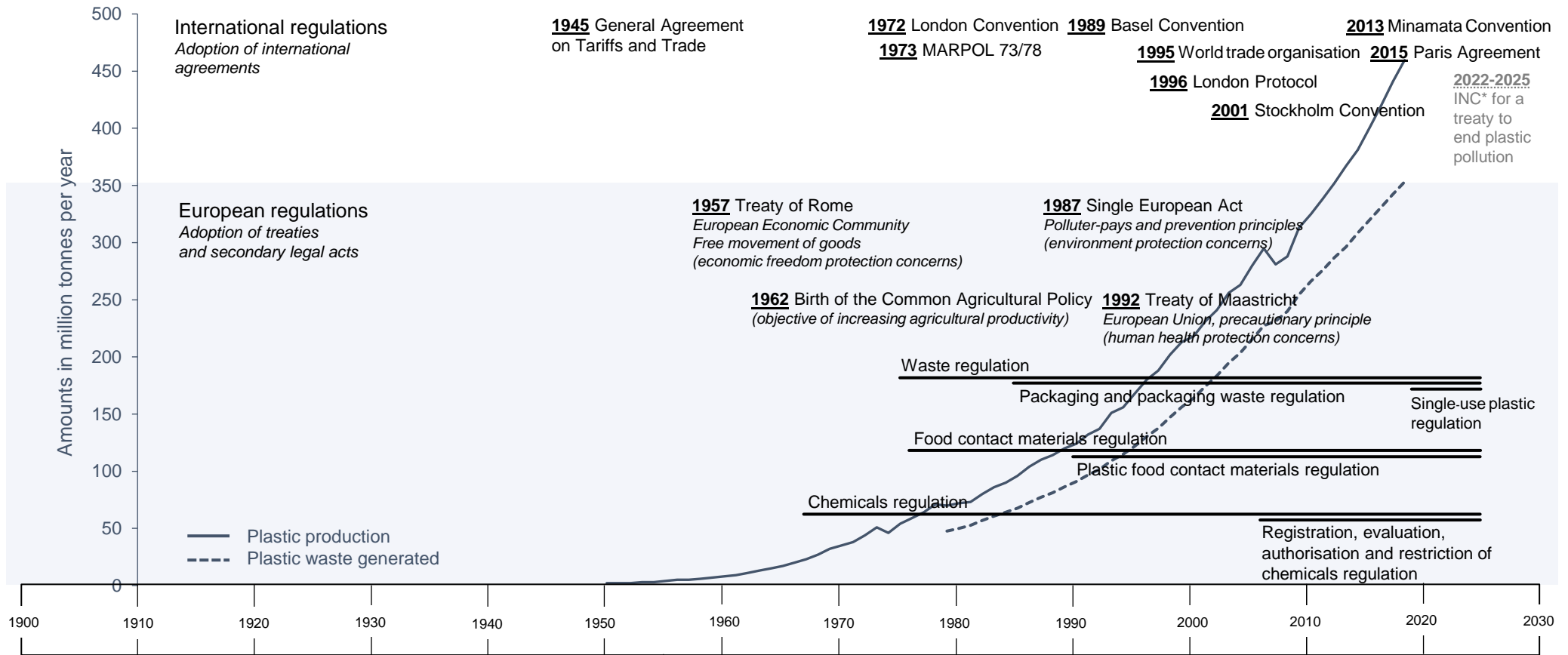
Why a collective scientific assessment?



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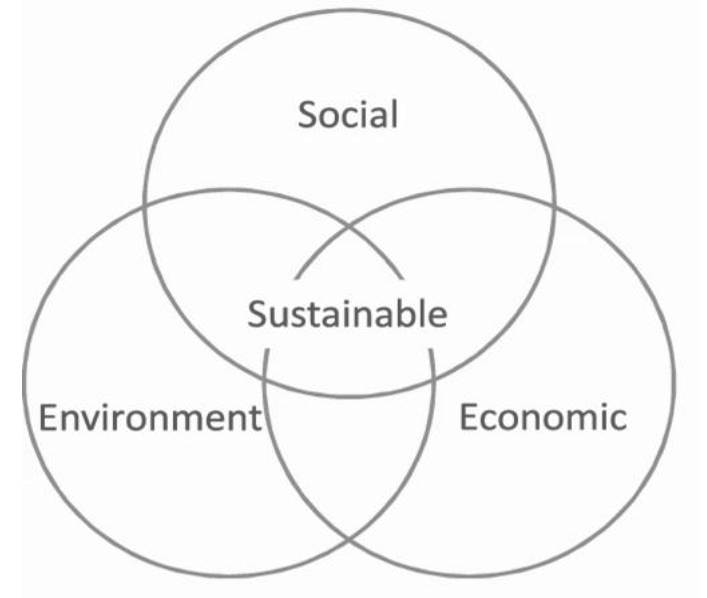
Why a collective scientific assessment?

A review of the scientific literature on the sustainability of plastics used in agriculture and for food



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A review of the scientific literature on the sustainability of plastics used in agriculture and for food

- Analysing trade-offs between benefits and costs, including human health and environmental costs



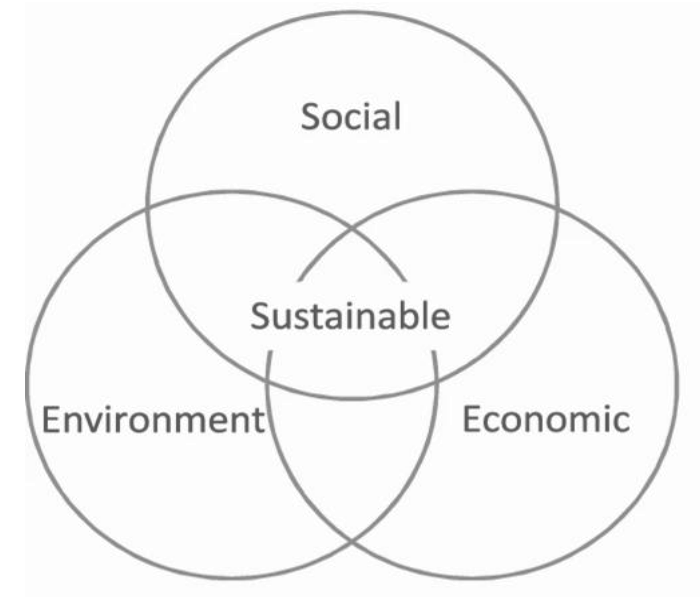
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Following four core principles

- Competence
- Plurality of disciplines and approaches
- Impartiality
- Transparency



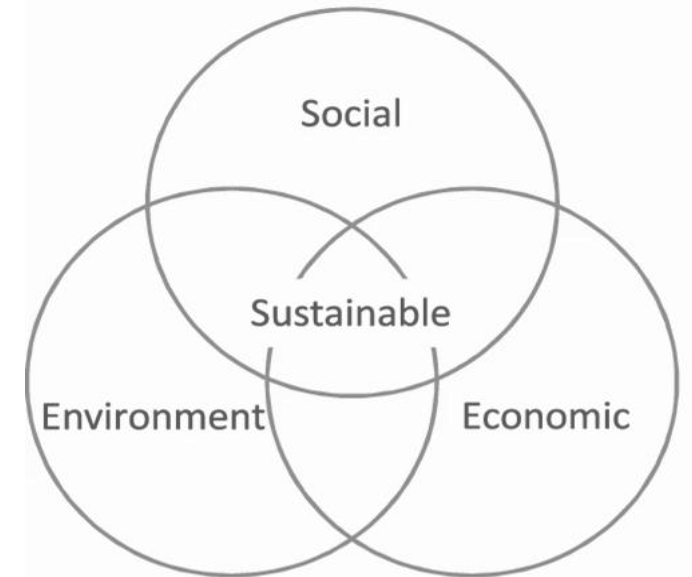
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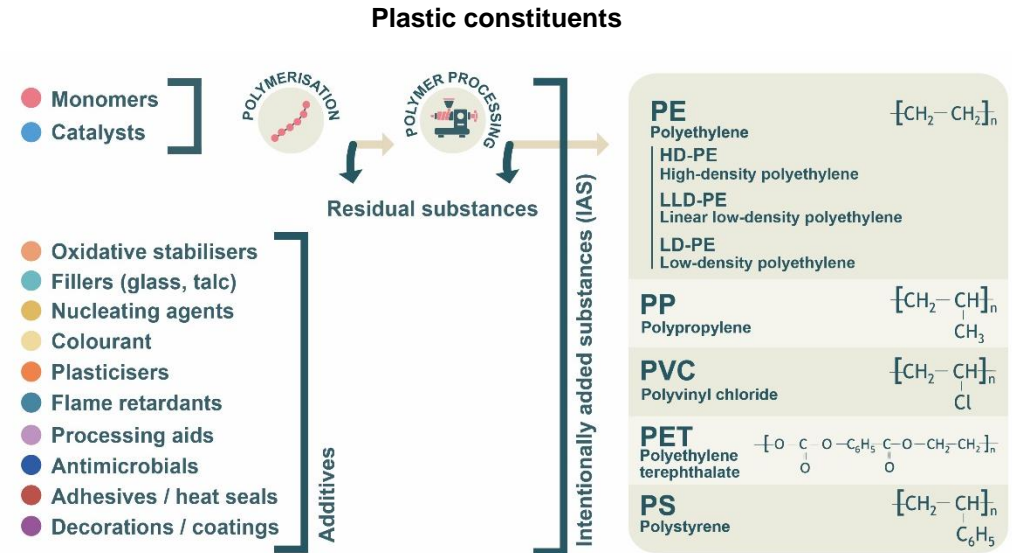
- **A multi-disciplinary group of 33 European experts from 24 public research organisations in 8 countries** involved
- Nearly **4500 publications** (published between 2000-2023) critically analysed, of which over 90% academic publications and about 100 legislative and regulatory texts.

What are plastics, and plastics used in agriculture and for food?

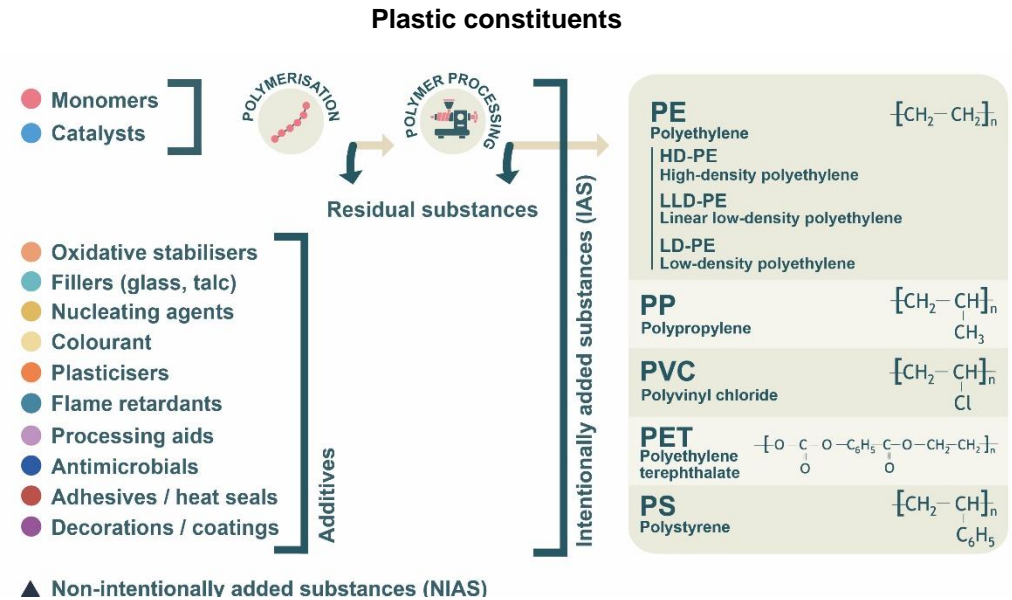
Plastic constituents

PE Polyethylene HD-PE High-density polyethylene LLD-PE Linear low-density polyethylene LD-PE Low-density polyethylene	$[\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2]_n$
PP Polypropylene	$[\text{CH}_2-\underset{\text{CH}_3}{\text{CH}}]_n$
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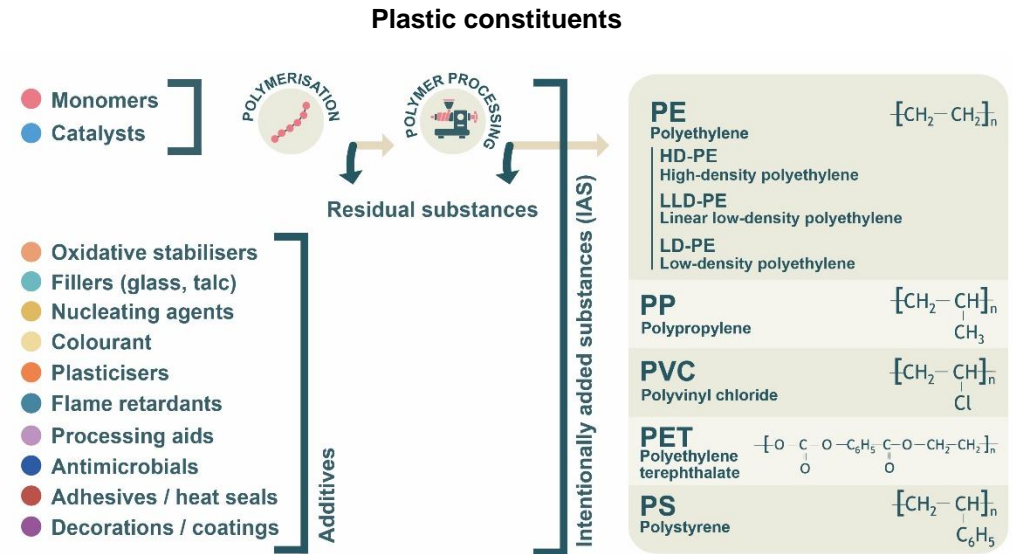
What are plastics, and plastics used in agriculture and for food?



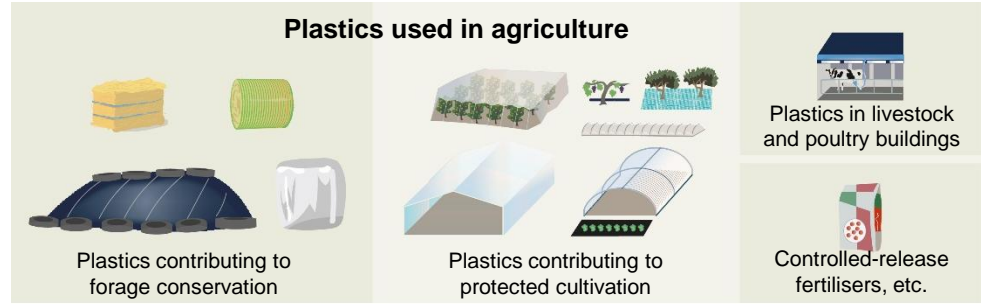
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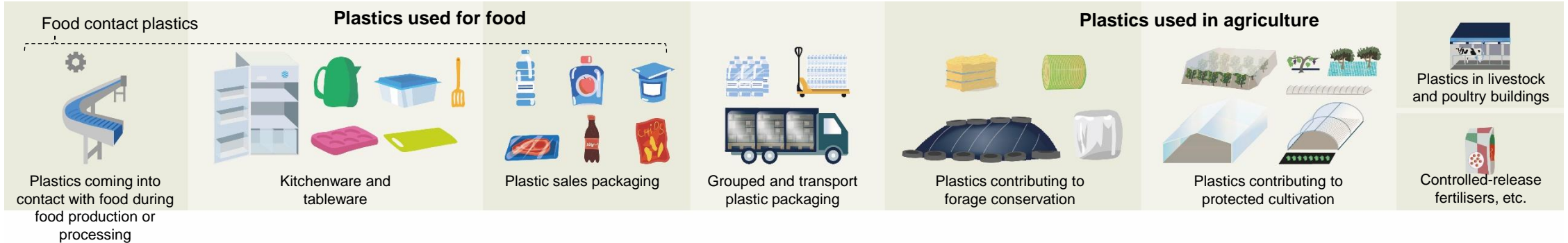
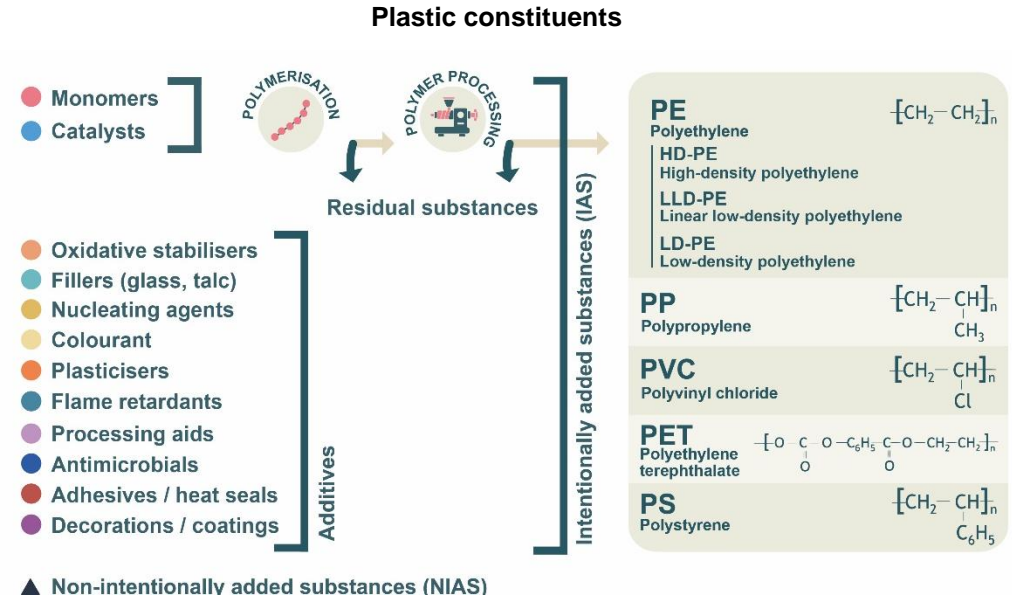
What are plastics, and plastics used in agriculture and for food?



▲ Non-intentionally added substances (NIAS)



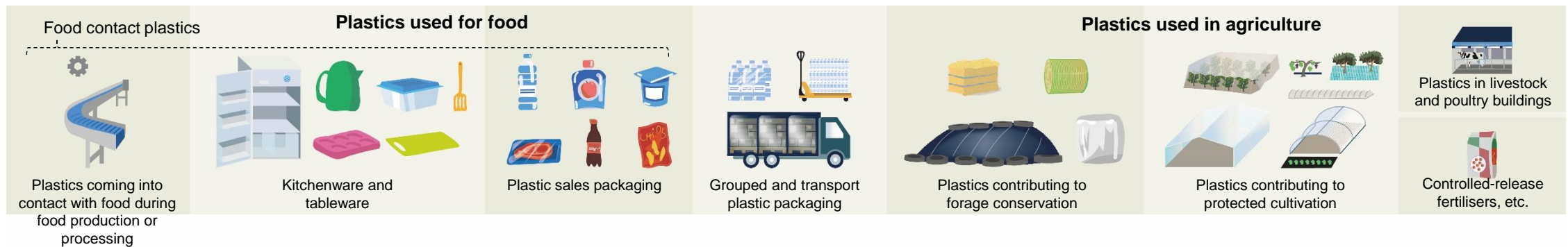
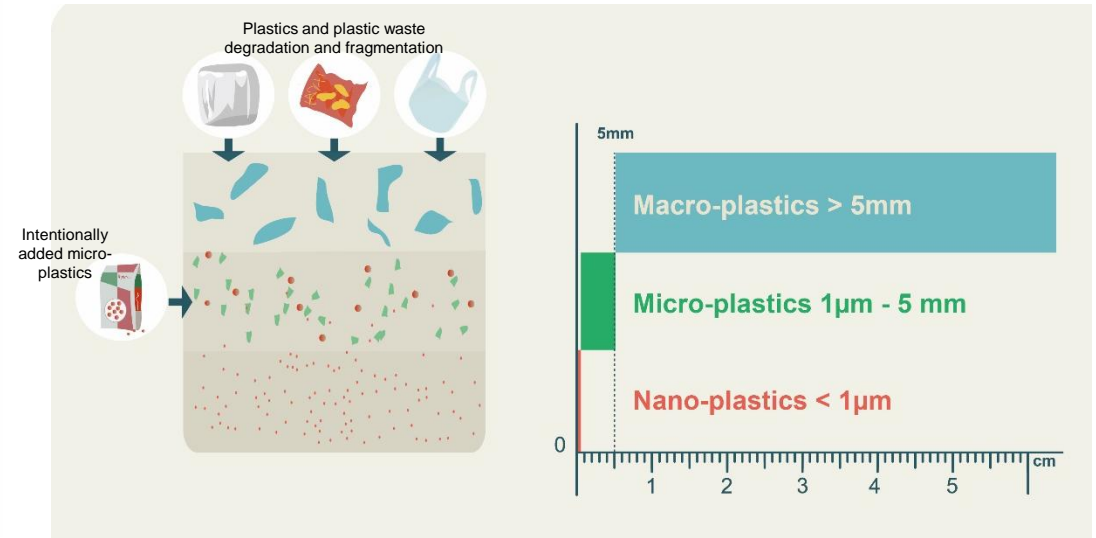
What are plastics, and plastics used in agriculture and for food?



What are plastics, and plastics used in agriculture and for food?



Plastic particles found in the environment



What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

Production



What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

Uses

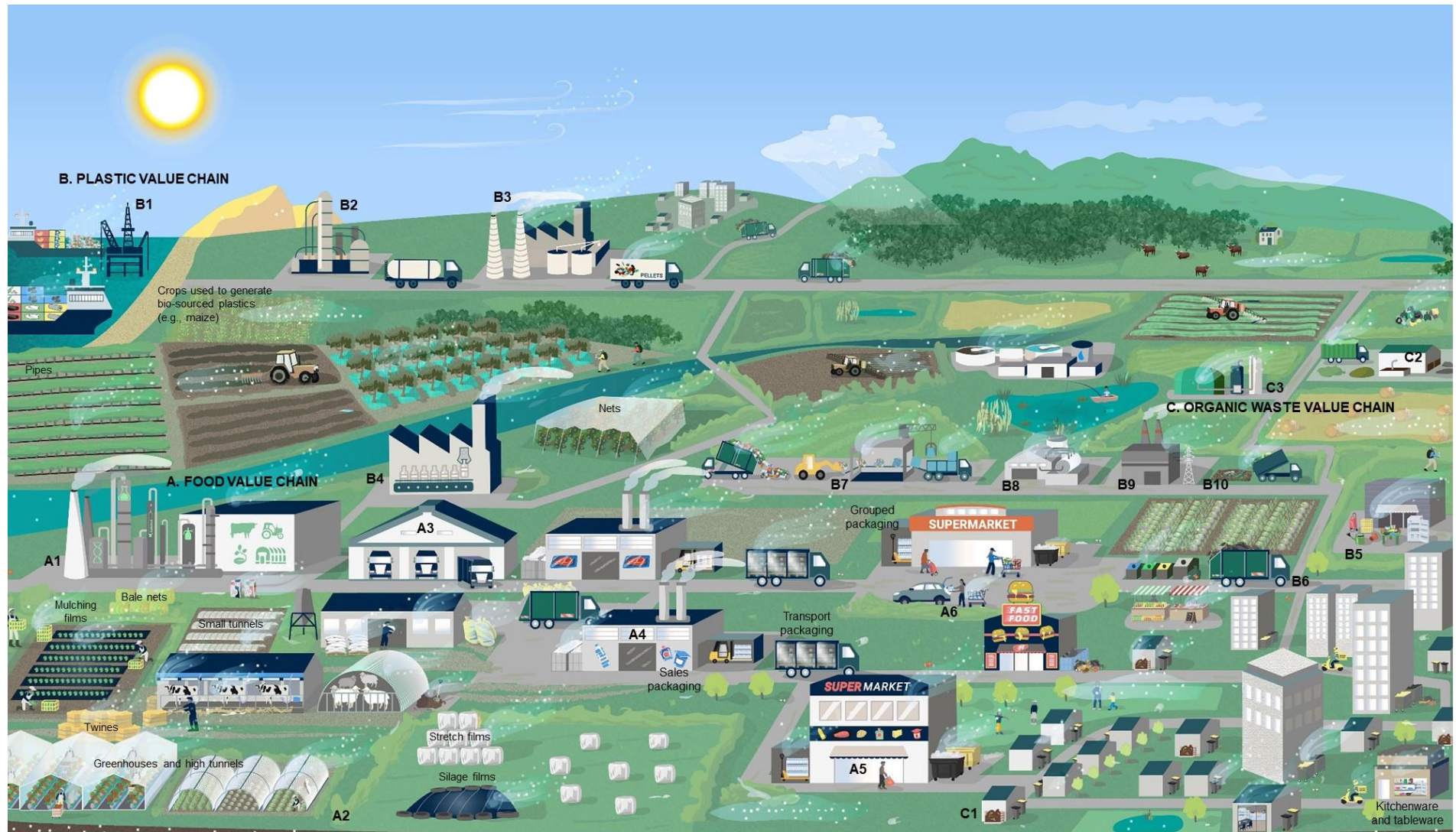


What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

Waste management



What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?



What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

Focus on
uses in
Metropolitan
France



What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

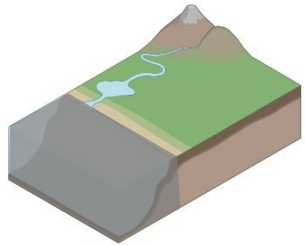


Broader geographical boundaries considered regarding **production, waste management, and impacts**

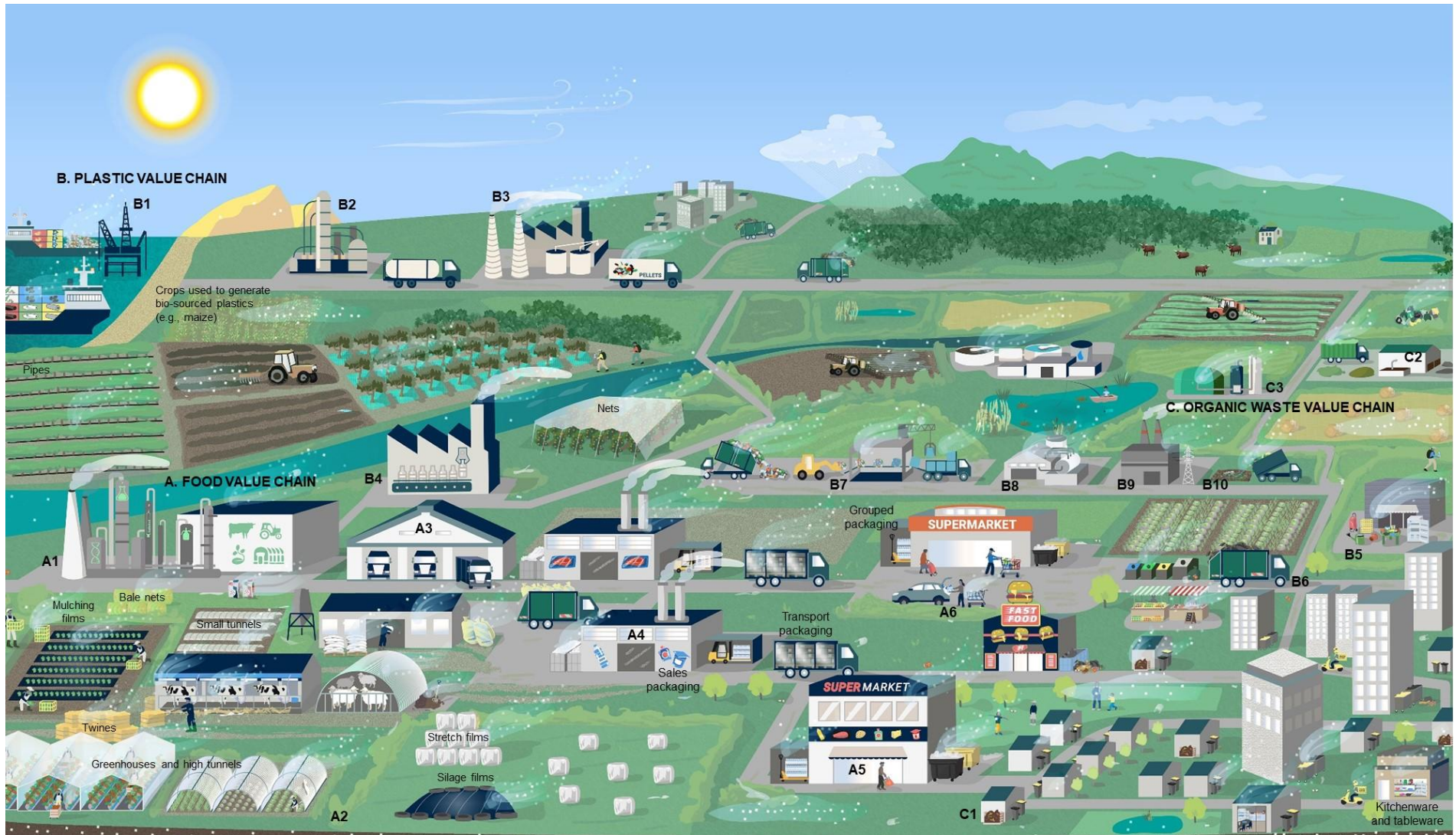


What is the system of plastics used in agriculture and for food?

Impacts on continental (terrestrial & freshwater) ecosystems



marine ecosystems not considered



➤ Key messages

Key messages

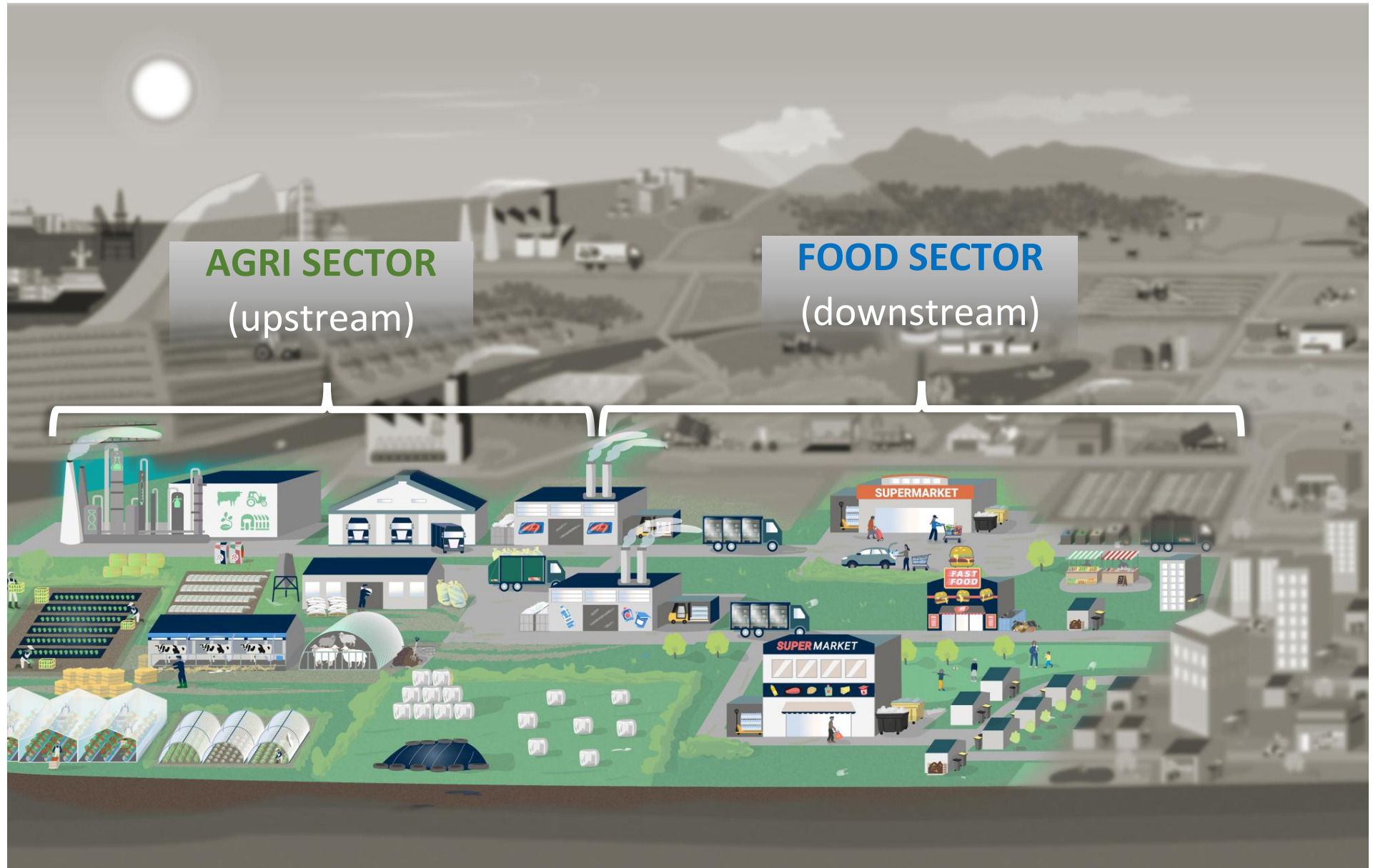
- Plastics have spread throughout food value chains
- The plasticity of plastics encourages their complexity
- Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice
- Plastics are ubiquitous, hazardous & have multi-scale impacts
- Is a sustainable system of plastics used in agriculture and for food possible?

➤ **Plastics have spread throughout food value chains**

Plastics have spread throughout food value chains



Plastics have spread throughout food value chains



Food value chain overview

➤ Plastics have spread throughout food value chains

Historical perspective: The Plastic Age

Mathieu Baudrin

Based on a contribution by Mathieu Baudrin and Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent

Historical perspective. The Plastic Age

Plastics changed food value chain starting with downstream



Couverture de Villermet, Jean-Marc (1965-) Auteur du texte. Au Carrefour d'une révolution, la naissance de l'hypermarché : 1959-1963 / Jean-Marc Villermet ; préf. d'André Palluel-Guillard, 1990.
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k3394942g>.

- Plastic packaging appeared in the 1930s, coinciding with **refrigeration, storage and transport** advancements, later with the rise of **supermarkets** in the 1960s
- Plastic packaging became a **market device** in the 20th century, structuring the contemporary global food value chain (logistics, retailing and consumption)
- Plastics **changed the way we eat**, and contributed to **change the very nature of food**

Historical perspective. The Plastic Age

Petrochemical and packaging industries promoted a new way of life, based on plastics uses

- A pragmatic and profit-oriented **industrial research**
- **Role of marketing**
- After WW2, **single use**, or **disposability** of plastics were promoted as symbols of modernity, shaping **consumerist practices**



Throwaway Living
Life Magazine, 1955

Plastics as a factor of the **modern way-of-life.**

Historical perspective. The Plastic Age

Plastics changed agriculture

- Since 1962, **European Agricultural Policy** facilitated the adoption of plastics in agriculture, as technologies able to achieve its goals (greenhouses, tunnels or mulches).
- Plastics utilisation created **new agricultural practices**: in France, plastic mulches eased **intensive cultivation** of fruits and vegetable for the global market (esp. melon and strawberries).
- Plastics changed **agricultural labour** (more seasonal, thus precarious).



U.S. Department of Agriculture (Source)



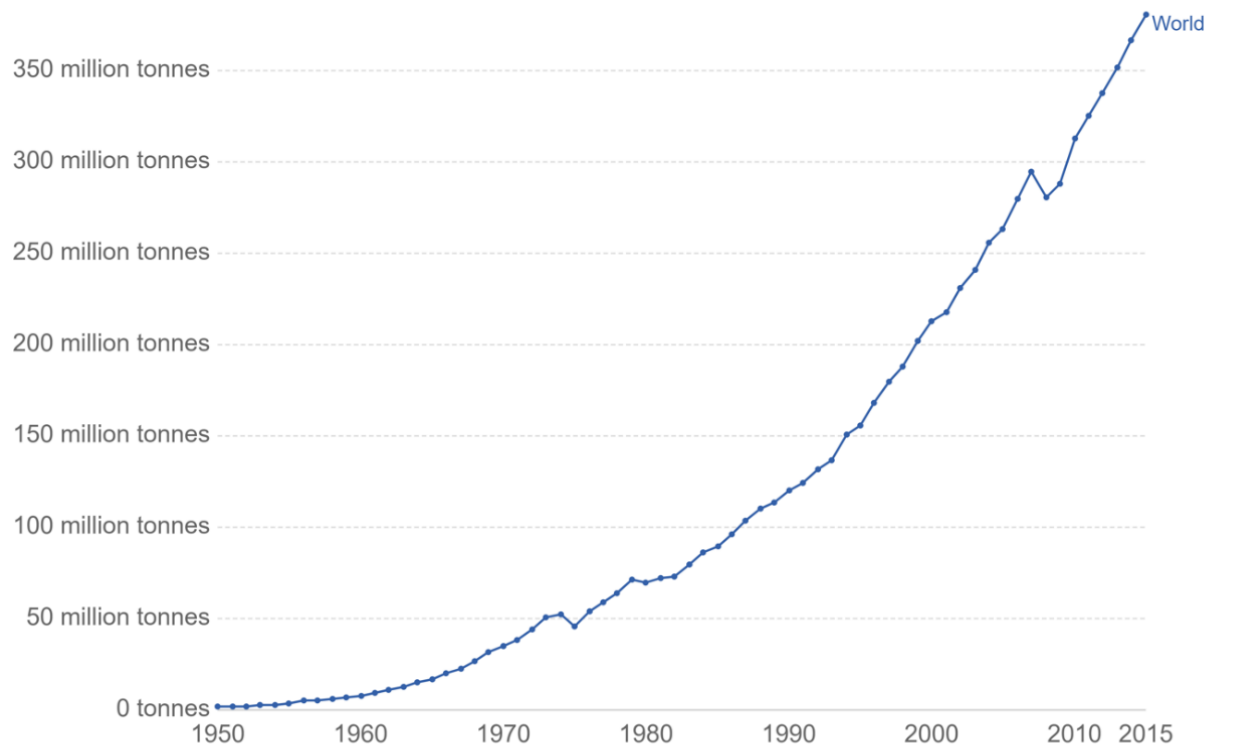
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Plastics contributed to **the emergence of industrial agriculture.**

Historical perspective. The Plastic Age

Global plastics production

Annual global polymer resin and fiber production (plastic production), measured in metric tonnes per year.



Source: Geyer et al. (2017)

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Research needs:

- Need to develop historical research on **plastics uses in agriculture**
- Need to document **history of plastics uses** in general (biography of objects as a stimulant methodology)

The **lockin** of the **sociotechnical** plastic system.

➤ **Plastics have spread throughout food value chains**

Today, downstream food supply chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

All plastics consumed in France:
2022 \approx 6.4 Mt

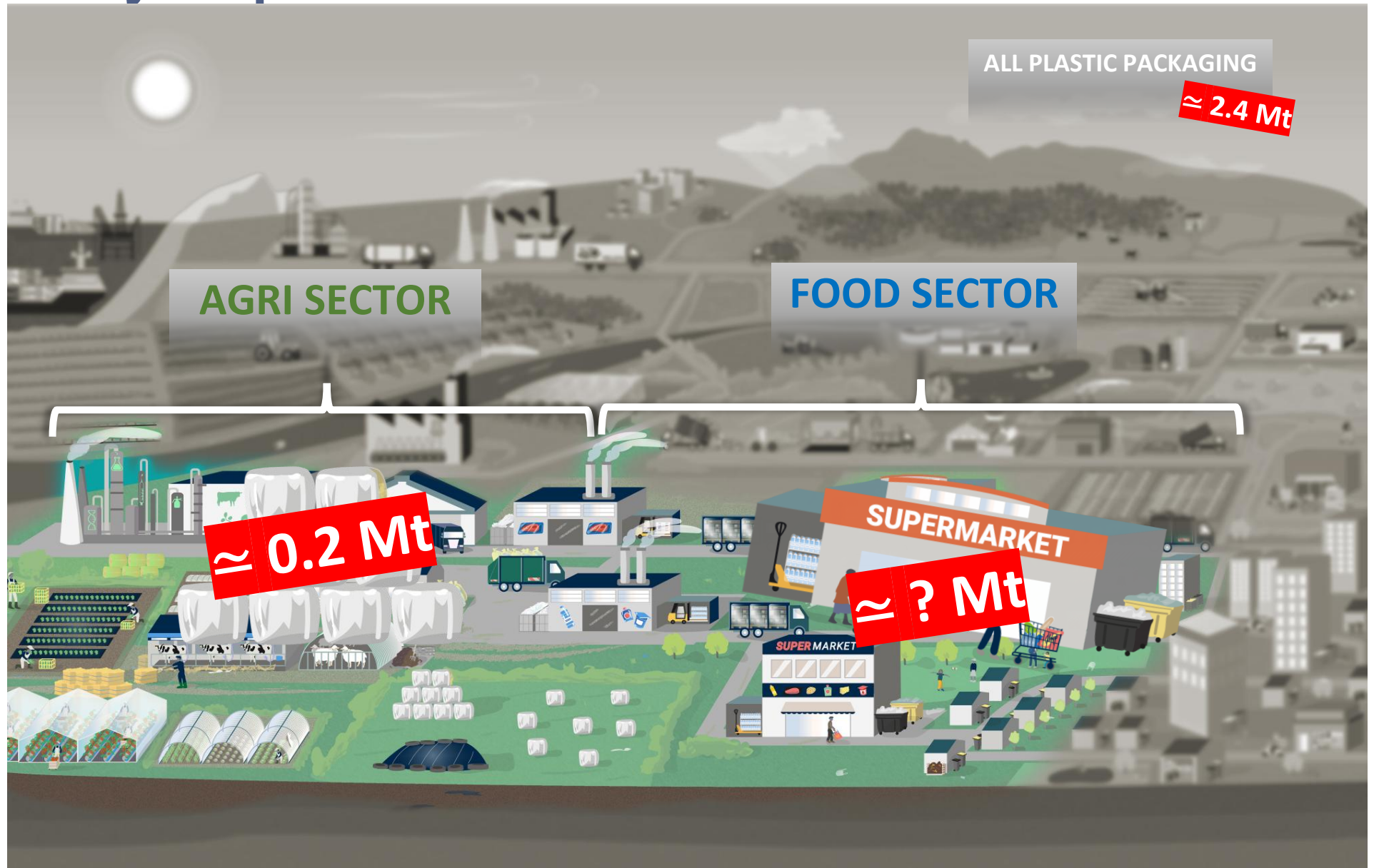
Plastic consumption in food value chain – France – 2022 (Data, Plastic Europe, 2024)



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

Food value chain represents about 20 % of all plastics consumed in France (estimation)

Plastic consumption in food value chain – France – 2022 (Data, Plastic Europe, 2024)



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics



Downstream
food value chain

Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

In downstream food value chain, plastics packaging are market devices that make food manageable

Downstream
food value chain



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

Plastic packaging is the **skin of commerce** as it is mainly used to **protect, preserve, transport and promote food products in line with regulation**, as well as it serves **practical purposes** that directly benefit supply chain actors.

In downstream food value chain, plastics packaging are market devices that make food manageable



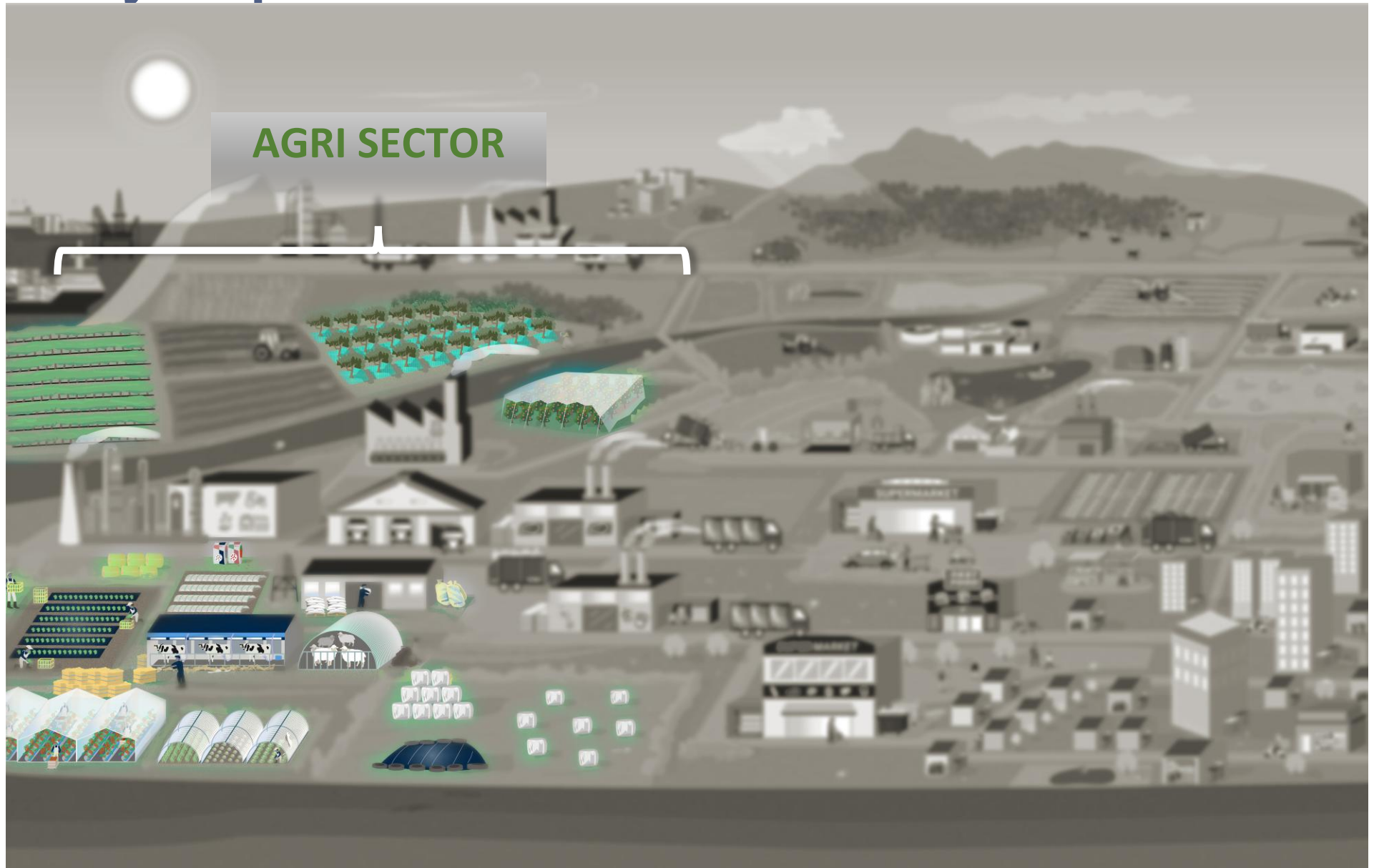
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In downstream food value chain, plastics packaging are market devices that make food manageable

Distinction between objectives of use of packaging in general and plastic packaging in particular is often blurred in the literature.



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics



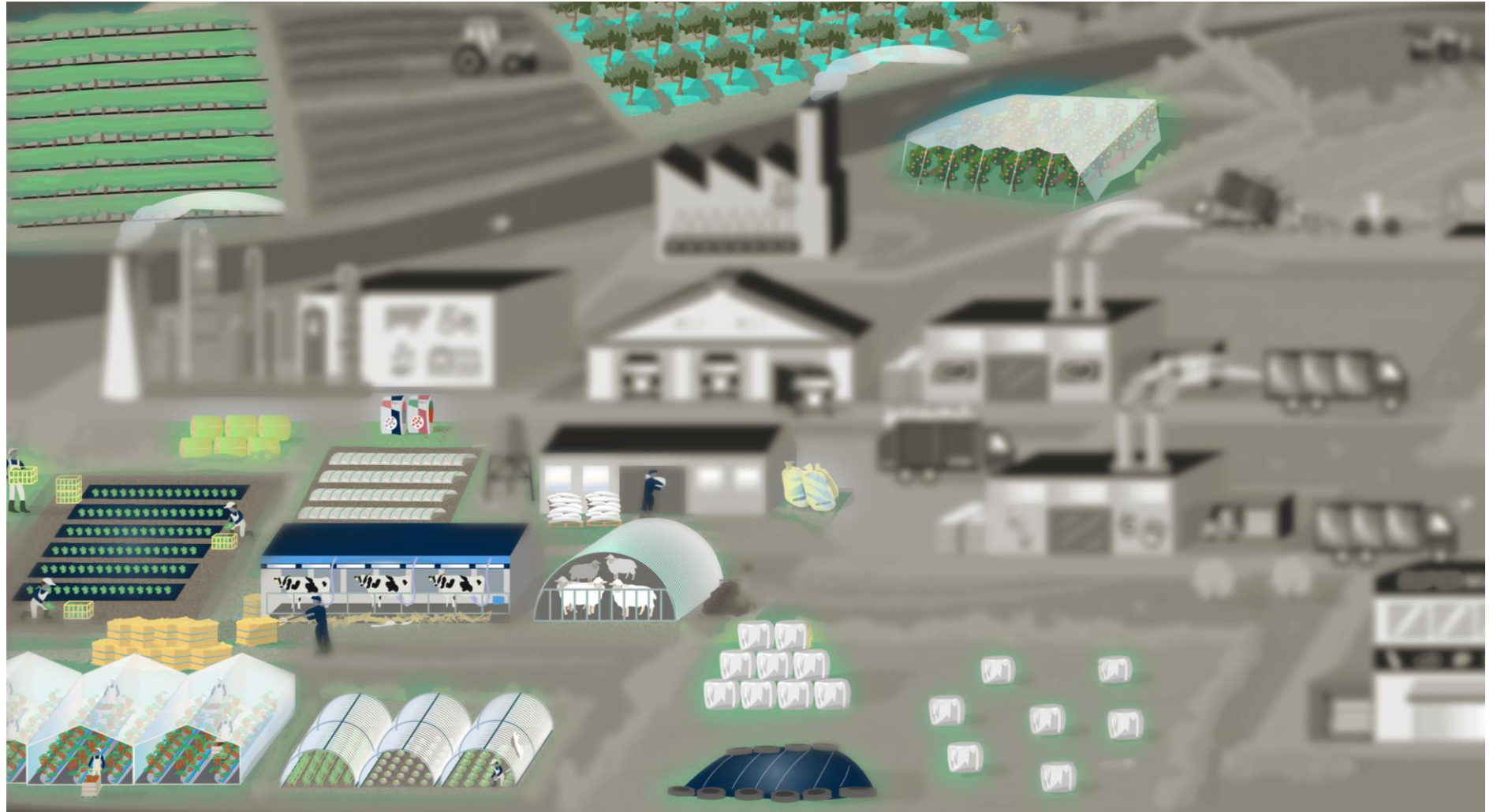
Upstream
food value chain

Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

In upstream food value chain, among agricultural systems, cattle systems and mainstream horticultural practices rely on plastics

In agriculture, plastics are mainly used as **agrochemical inputs** and **infrastructure** to **optimise forage conservation** and **short-term yield**.

Upstream
food value chain



Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

In upstream food value chain, among agricultural systems, cattle systems and mainstream horticultural practices rely on plastics

More than 50% of agriplastics = forage conservation (APE, 2019)

France = 73% (CPA, 2023)

Cattle systems plastics uses

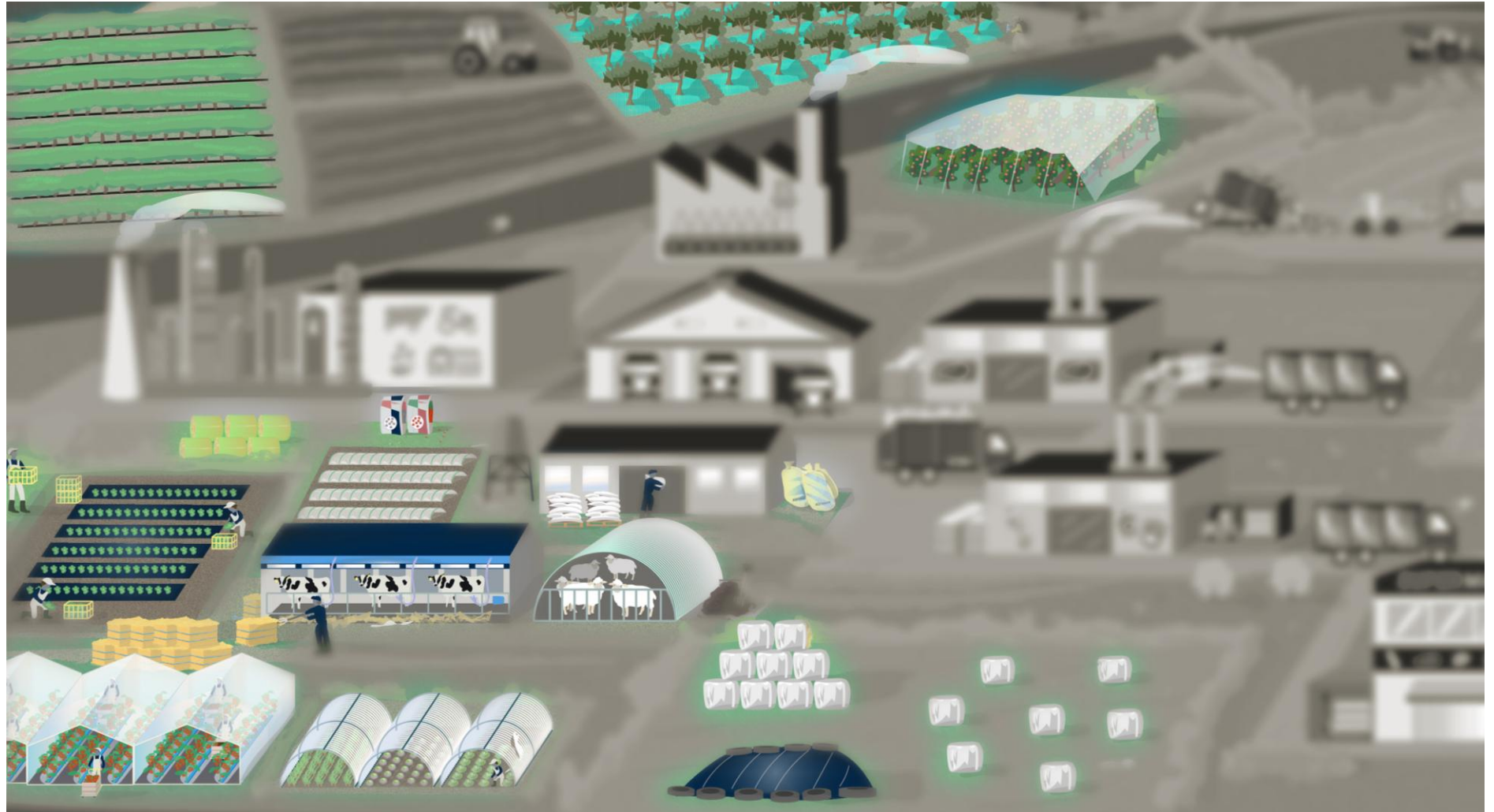


Today, downstream food value chain and mainstream agriculture rely on plastics

In upstream food value chain, among agricultural systems, cattle systems and mainstream horticultural practices rely on plastics as an agrochemical input and infrastructure



Literature does not consider socioeconomic needs of farmers, their constraints and practices, neither alternative system level solutions to meet these needs.



➤ **The plasticity of plastics encourages their complexity**

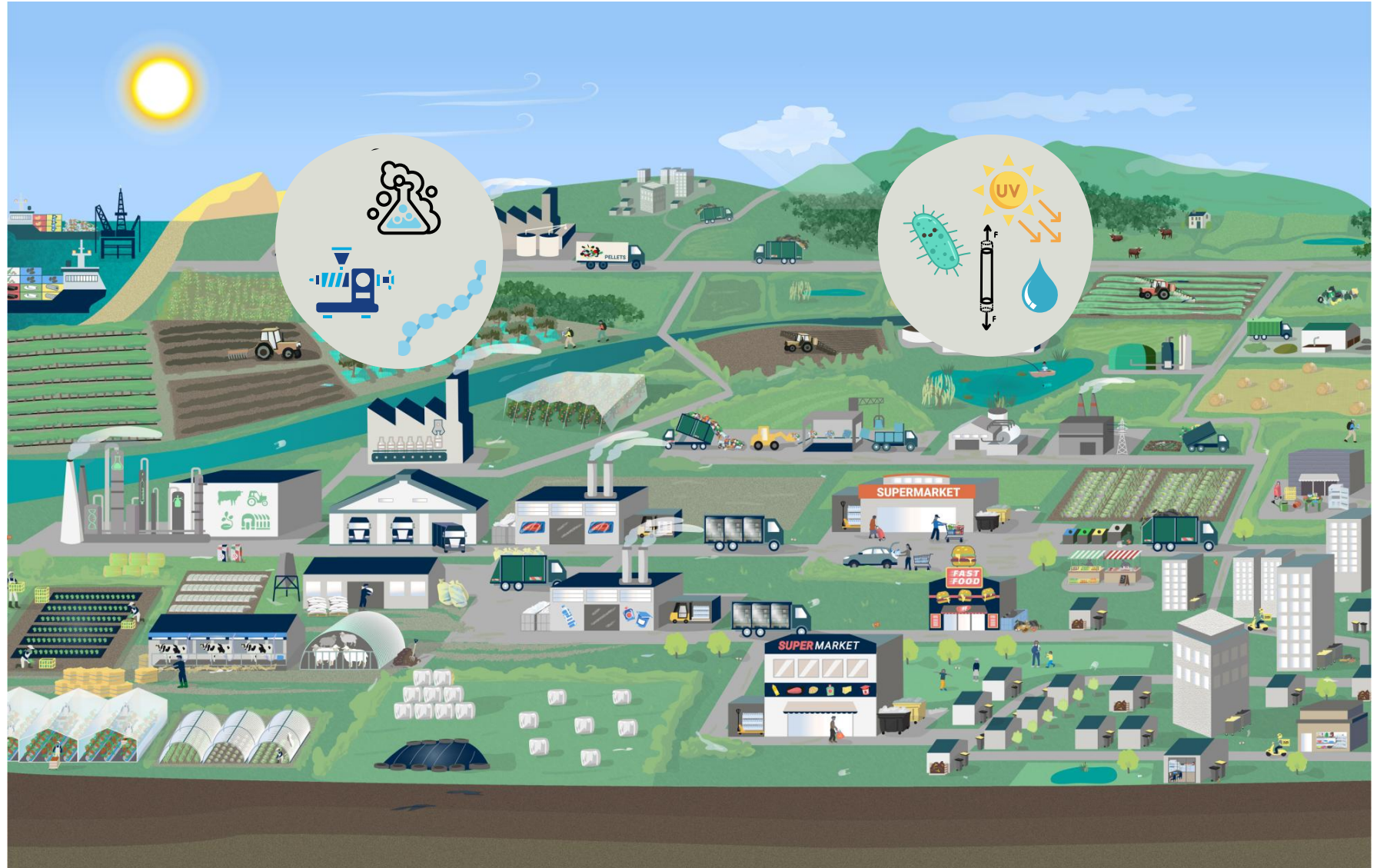
Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses



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Plastics are complex materials – many polymers, chemical substances in particular additives, formulations and processes

Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses



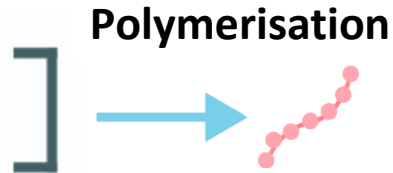
The uses and objectives of use of plastic materials for agriculture and for food will impose the type of plastics and process to consider

Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses



The uses and objectives of use of plastic materials for agriculture and for food will impose the type of plastics and process to consider

- Monomers
- Oxidative stabilisers
- Catalysts



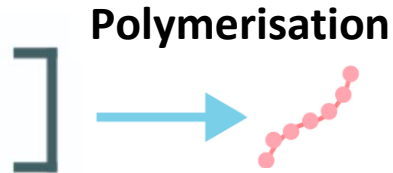
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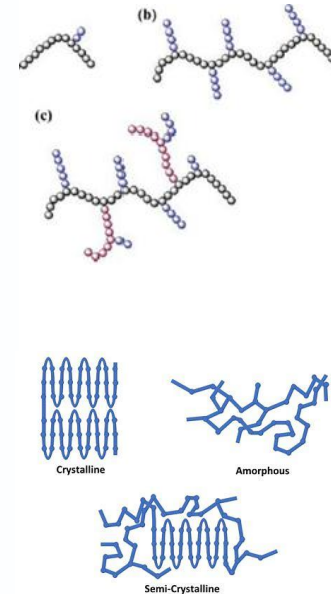
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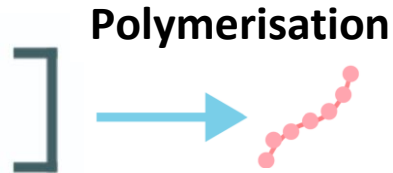


Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses

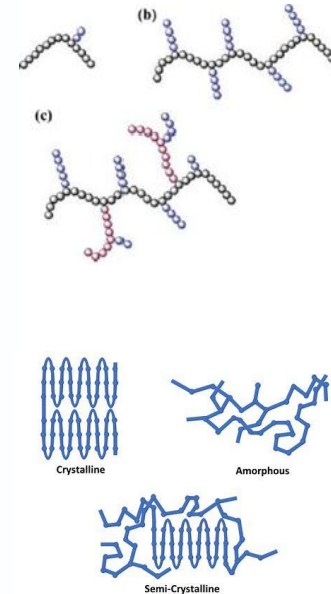
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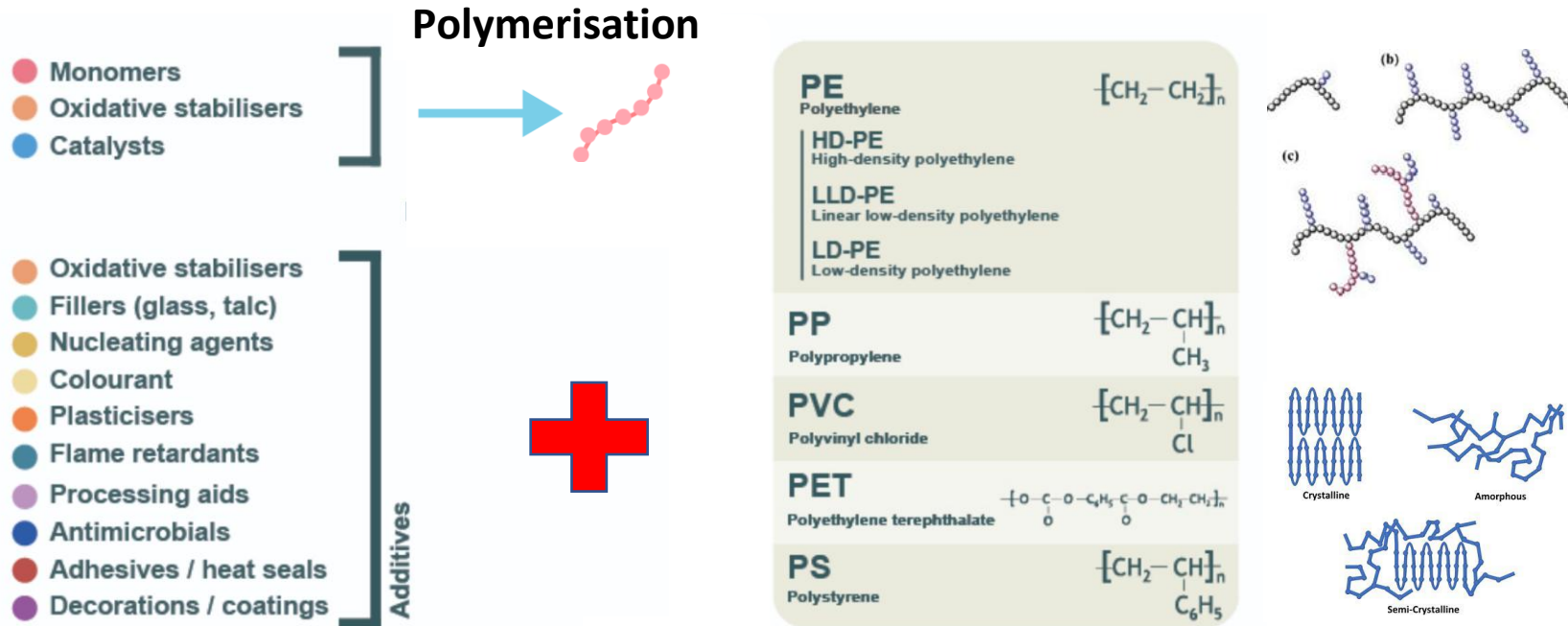
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➔ One polymer cannot easily replace another polymer

Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses

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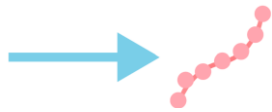
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- Monomers
- Oxidative stabilisers
- Catalysts

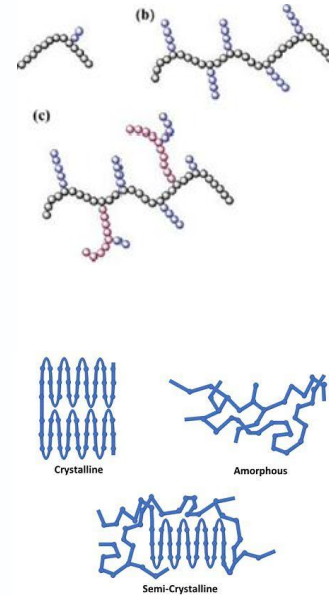
- Oxidative stabilisers
- Fillers (glass, talc)
- Nucleating agents
- Colourant
- Plasticisers
- Flame retardants
- Processing aids
- Antimicrobials
- Adhesives / heat seals
- Decorations / coatings

Polymerisation

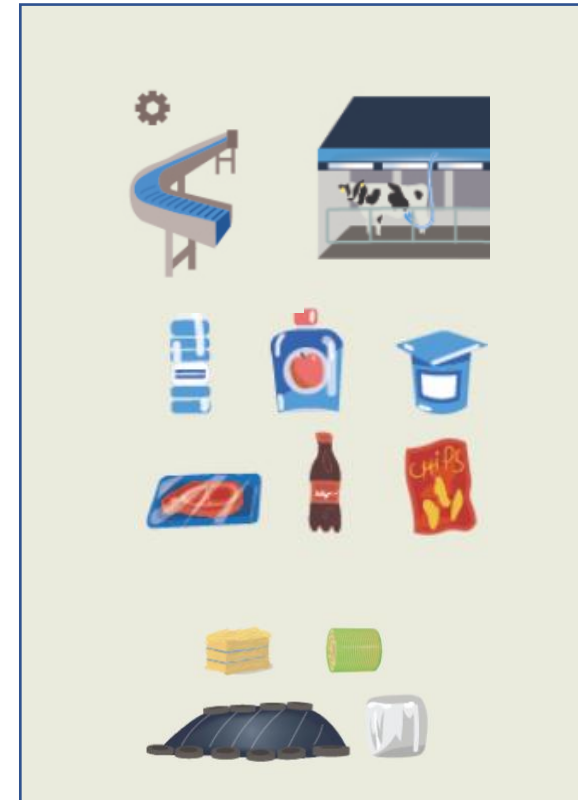


Additives

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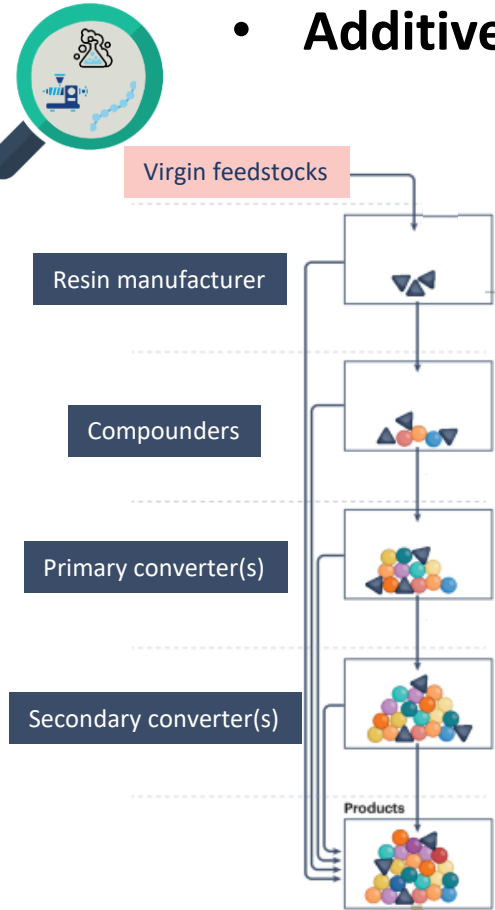
Processing



⇒ One polymer cannot easily replace another polymer

Plastics are complex materials : many polymers, chemical substances in particular additives, formulations and processes

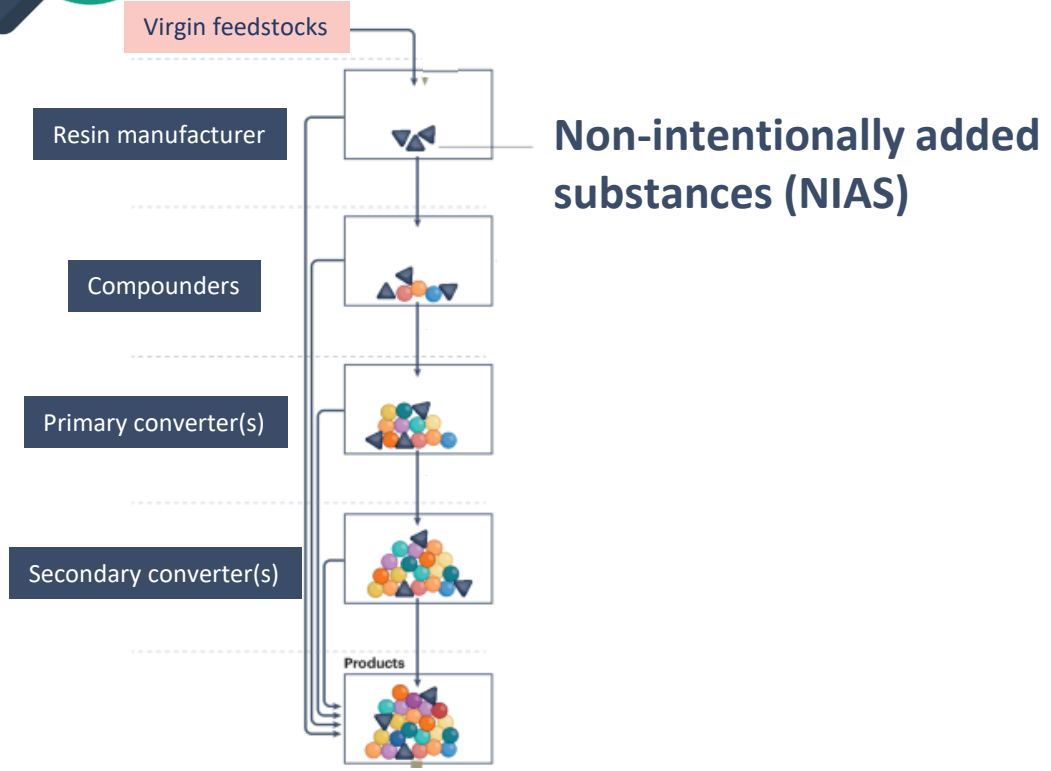
- Additives are used during the whole life cycle of plastics



Law et al., 2024

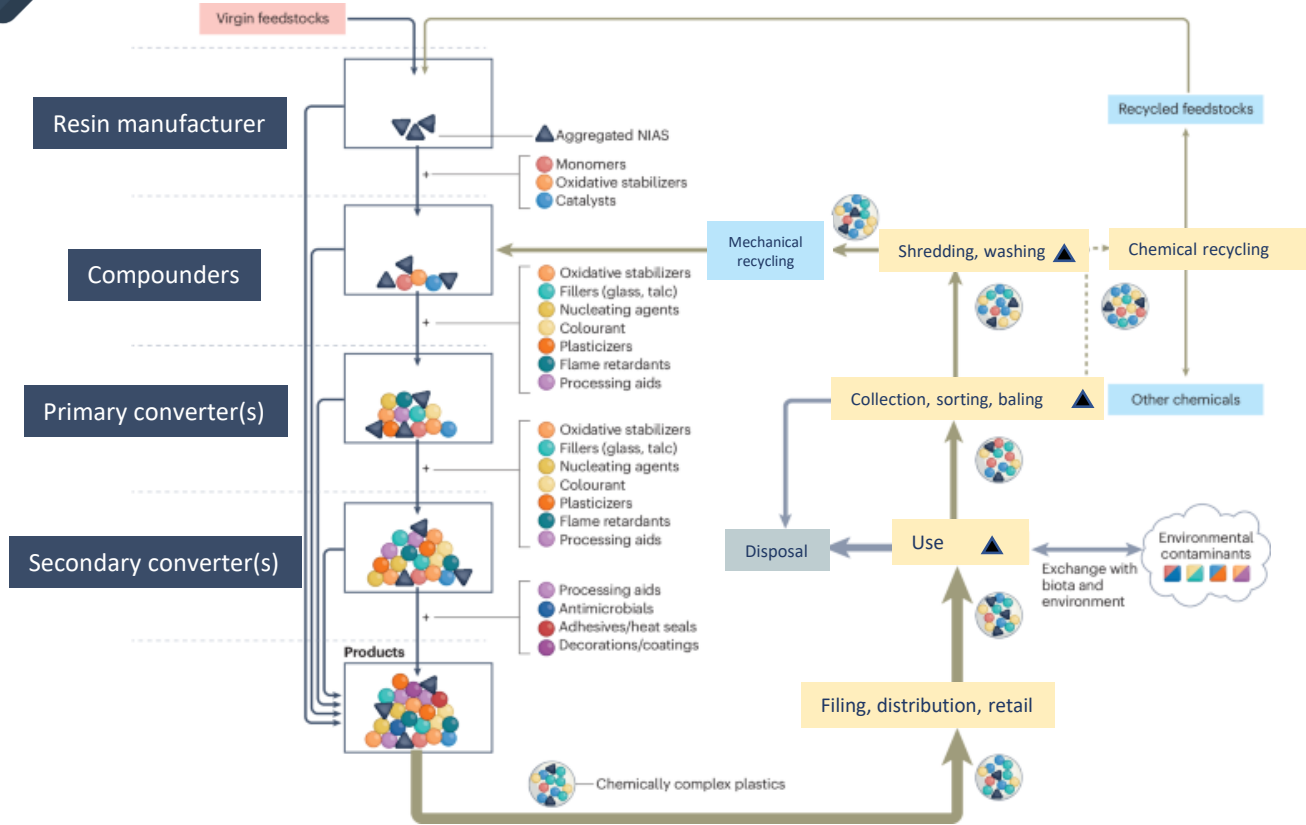
Plastics are complex materials : many polymers, chemical substances in particular additives, formulations and processes

- Additives are used during the whole life cycle of plastics
- Plastics may also contain IAS and NIAS



Plastics are complex materials : many polymers, chemical substances in particular additives, formulations and processes

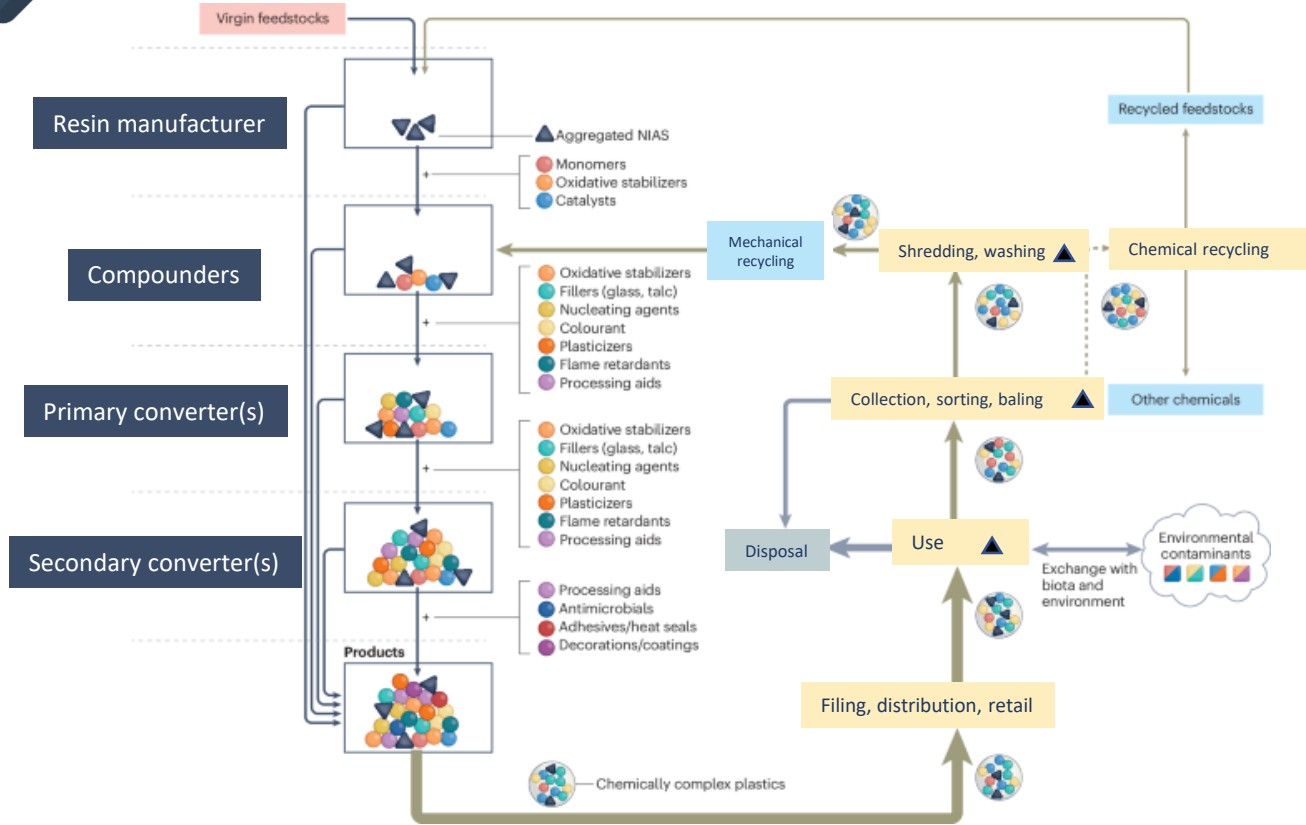
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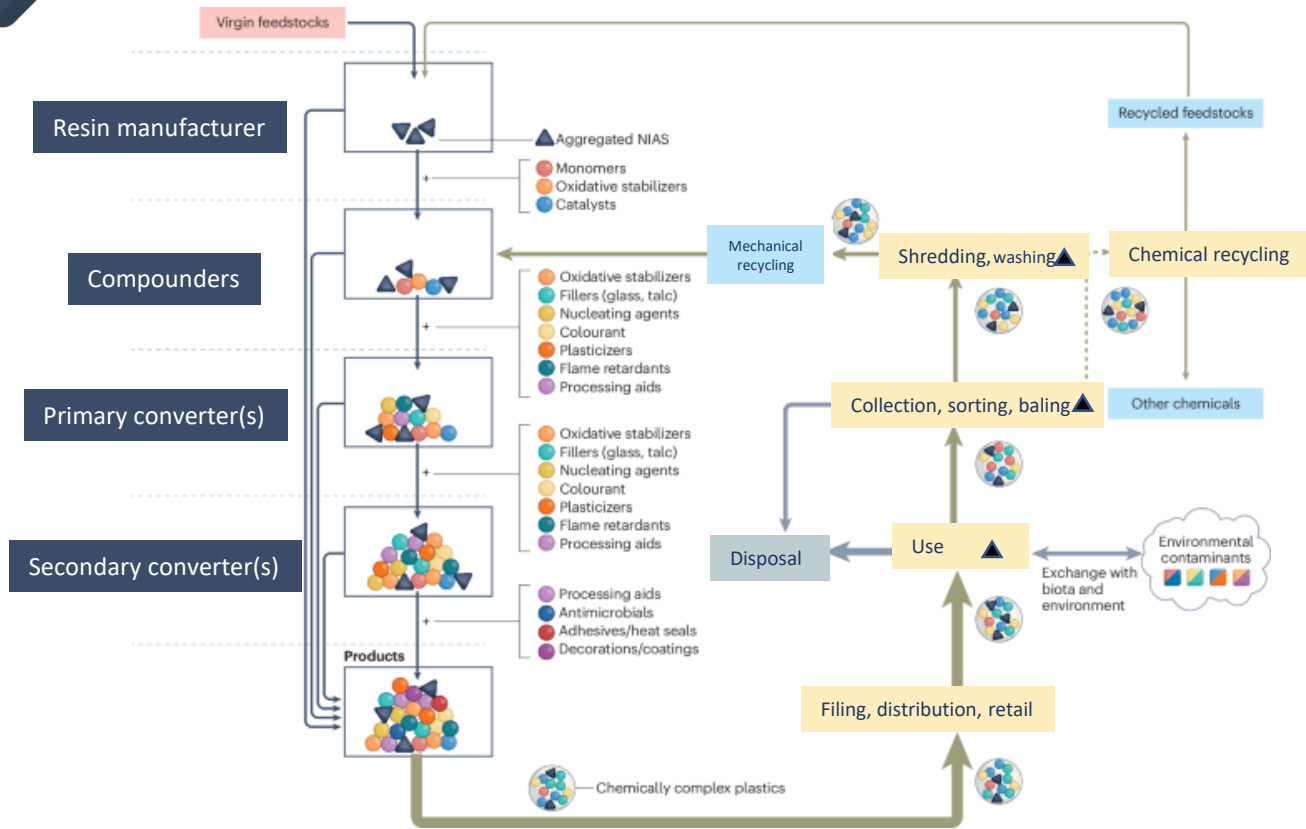


Law et al., 2024

➔ The chemical substances composing a plastic are numerous and difficult to track along its whole life cycle

Plastics are complex materials : many polymers, chemical substances in particular additives, formulations and processes

- Additives are used during the whole life cycle of plastics
- Plastics may also contain IAS and NIAS



Simplification: Pathways to simplify plastic formulations were not investigated in the literature

Traceability: Chemical complexity resulting from the formulation of plastics becomes even more complex, difficult to trace and less transparent throughout their life

Law et al., 2024

➔ The chemical substances composing a plastic are numerous and difficult to track along its whole life cycle

➤ Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses.

The existing literature in the field of polymers formulation is abundant and reports complex systems that are designed to reach specific functional properties.

Pierre Ovlaque

Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses

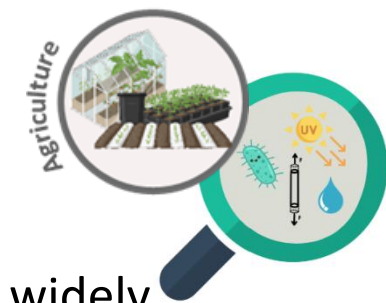


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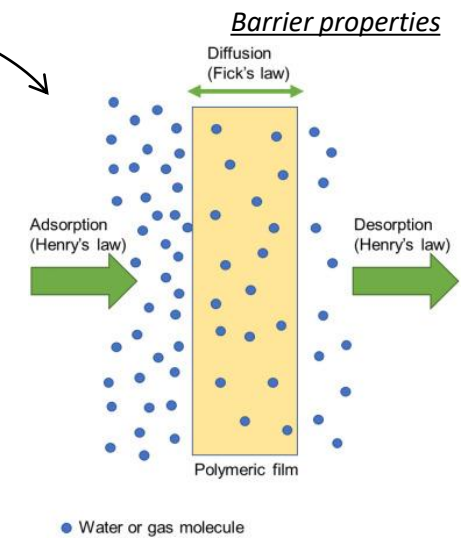
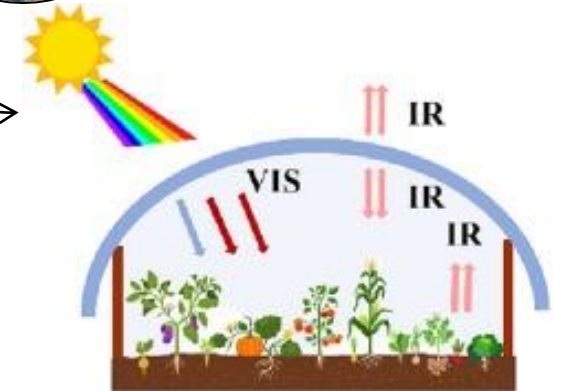
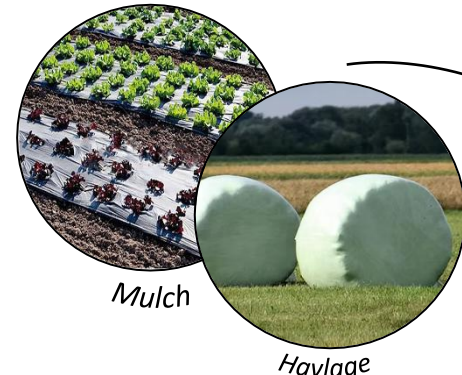
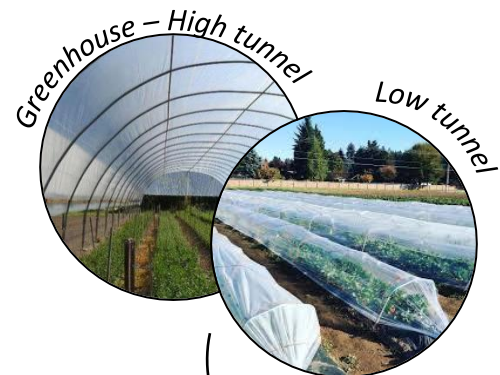
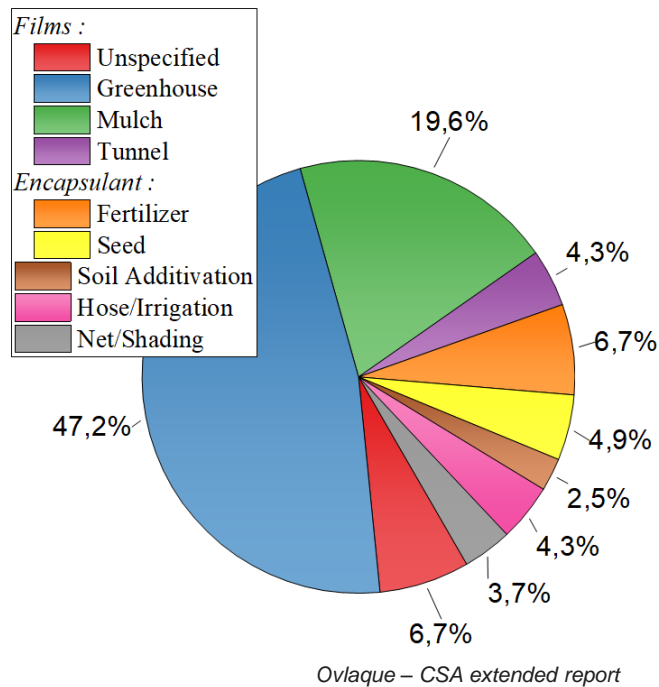
The existing literature in the field of polymers formulation is abundant and reports complex systems that are designed to reach specific functional properties

Complex systems that are designed to reach specific functional properties



In the field of crop production, publications mainly considered films – Principal functions are related to radiometric properties, surface properties, mechanical properties, permeability.

In the livestock production, plastics are widely used for forage preservation. The principal function of the film is to seal the forage and allows to establish anaerobic conditions.



Adibi et al. 2023

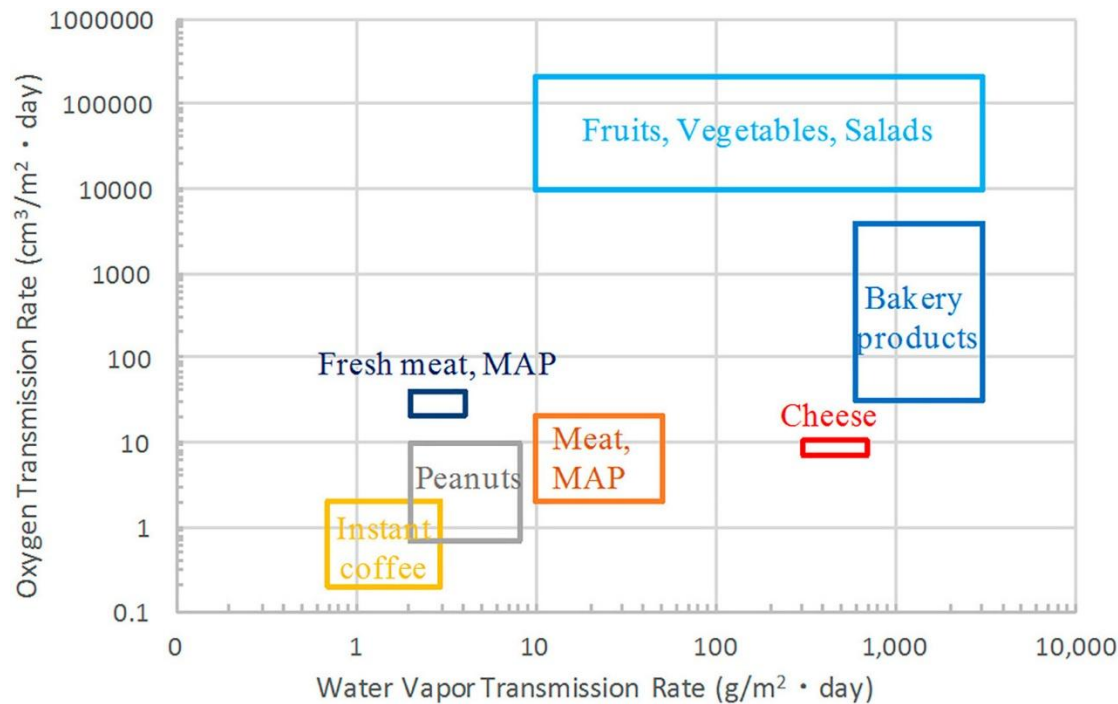
Wang et al. 2023

Complex systems that are designed to reach specific functional properties



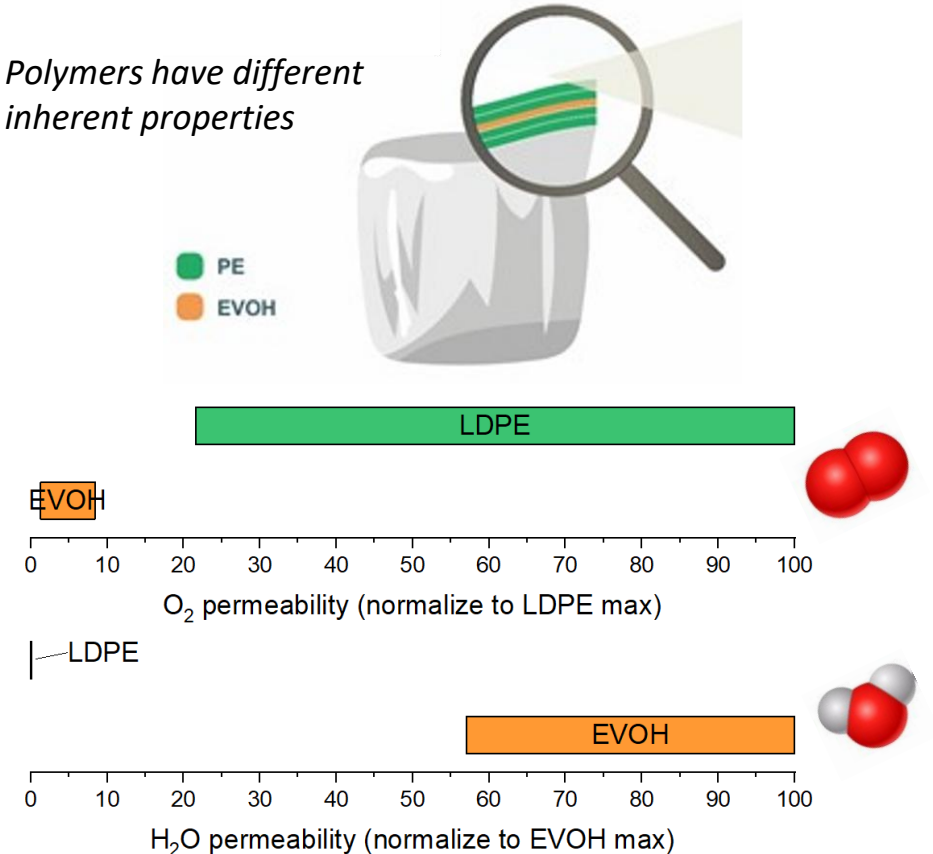
In the food sector, the main functional properties that have been studied are the thermal, mechanical, barrier and optical properties.

Properties are adapted to the use



Adibi et al. 2023

Polymers have different inherent properties



Adapted from Bai et al. 2024

20 years of research focusing on bio-based and/or biodegradable plastics as well as on nanocomposites



Bio-based plastics

Literature focus on bio-based and/or biodegradable plastics presented as a sustainable alternative for petro-based plastics

- Bio-based plastics represent 1% of the plastics production in Europe - 20% of the scientific publications on agricultural plastic systems address the problematic's related to this 1%.
- Bio-based plastics require additives to reach the in-use properties expected for agricultural or food packaging applications – fate of the additives is not discussed.

Table 2. Main limitations of biobased polymer packaging materials [44].

Main Properties	Limitations of Biobased Polymers
Moisture and gas barrier	Low to moderate barrier compared to conventional synthetic polymers
Mechanical Resistance	Weaker mechanical resistance in some cases
Thermal properties	Insufficient thermal properties in terms of heat resistance and processing temperature range

20 years of research focusing on bio-based and/or biodegradable plastics as well as on nanotechnologies



Potential risks they pose to humans and the environment are overlooked

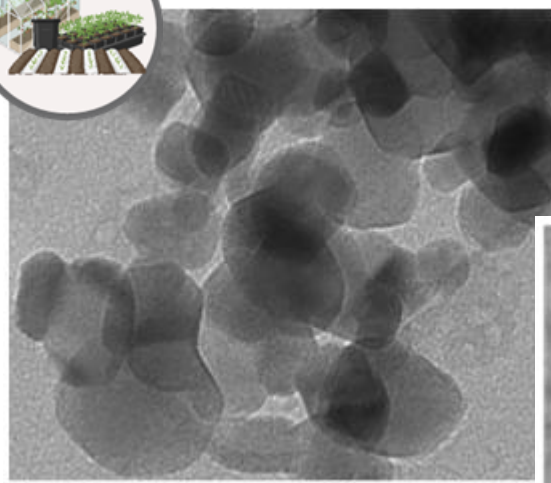


Nanotechnologies

- Nanotechnologies were investigated in both agriculture sector and packaging

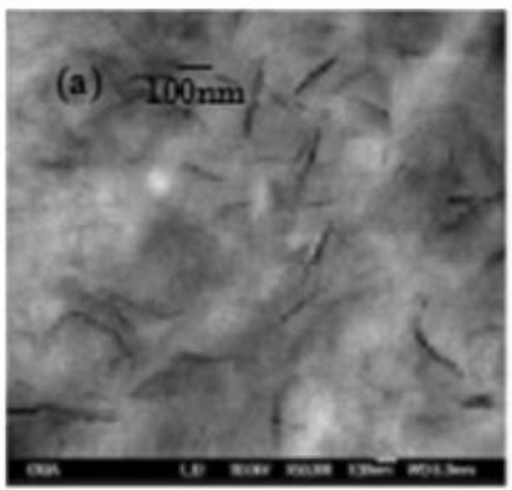


Titanium dioxide nanoparticles to extend agricultural film service life

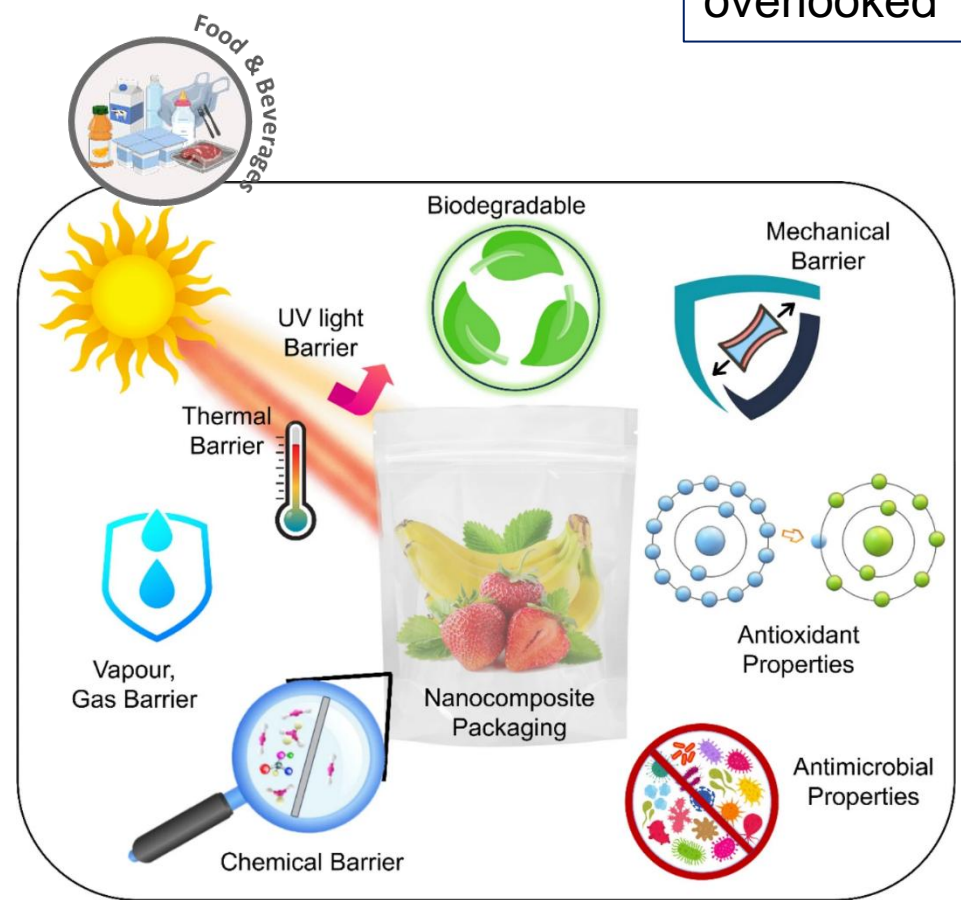


Direct Mag: 150000x HV= 100 kV 20 nm
Apata-Tello et al. 2019

Nanoclay to modify radiometric properties of PE in greenhouse cladding applications.



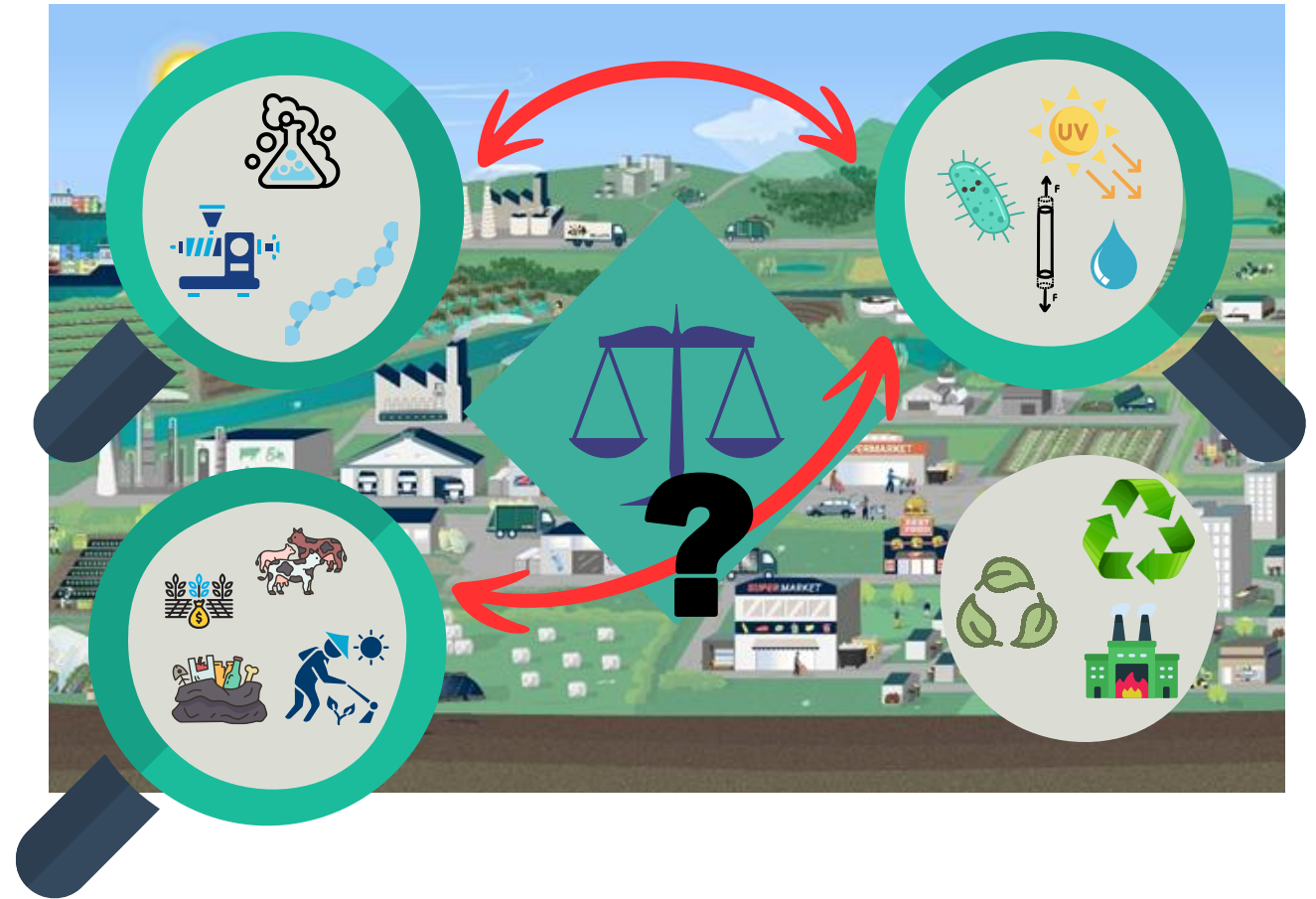
Sanchez-Valdes et al. 2010



Ghosh et al. 2025

Plasticity of plastics: lots of ingredients and processes to reach and balance various properties, functions and uses

*Fit for properties of use ...
but not for objectives of use.*

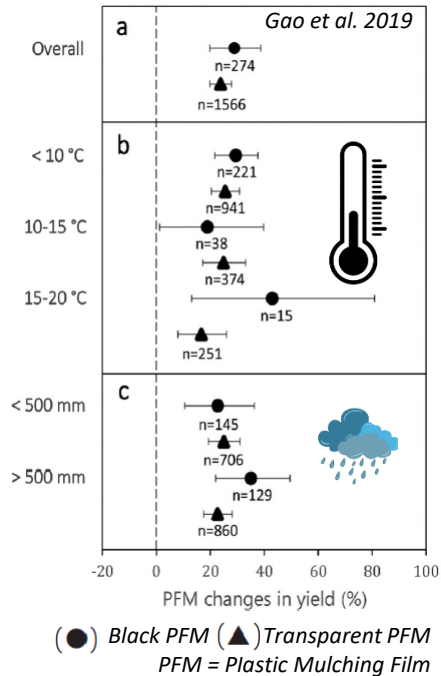
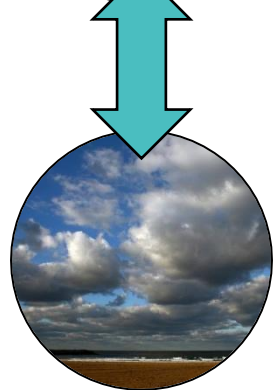


Fit for properties of use ... but not for objectives of use

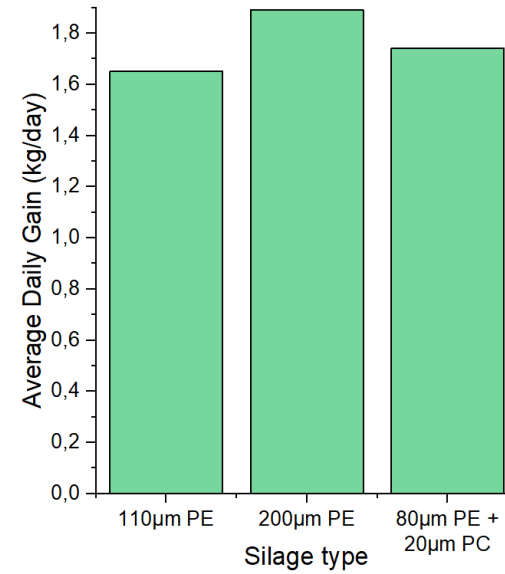
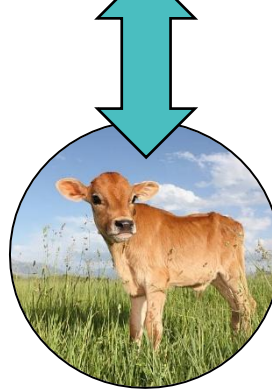
Publications that thoroughly explore the relationships between the chemical structure of macromolecules, the formulation of plastics, their properties, and their impact on the expected benefit of uses are rare

- Overlap multiple scientific fields
- Detailed formulations of industrial plastic products are unknown

Even when formulations are known, there are no clear relationships between the film composition, properties and productivity



In the field of livestock production, most publications consider the nutritional quality of the maize or grass silage



There is a need to consider the relationships between formulations or design and actual needs and associated benefits for users, whether they are farmers, food companies, retailers or final food consumers

Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics



Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics



- Trade-offs may concern the service life of plastics

Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics

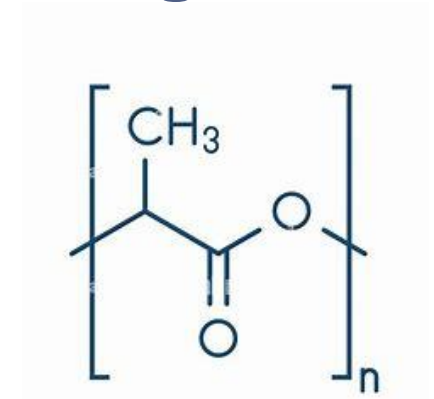


- Trade-offs may concern the service life of plastics
- Trade-off may also concern the end-of-life of plastics

Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics



- Trade-offs may concern the service life of plastics
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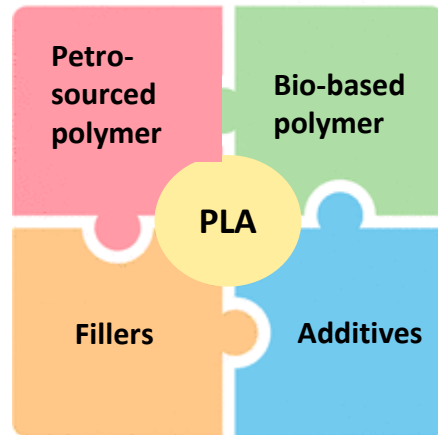
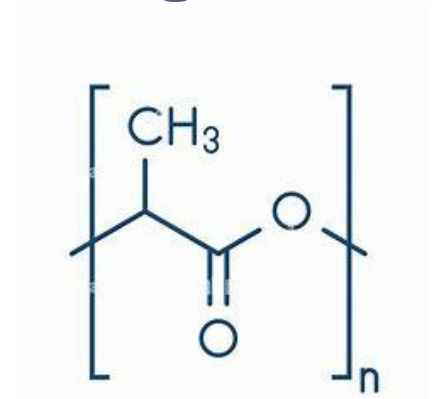


PLA

Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics



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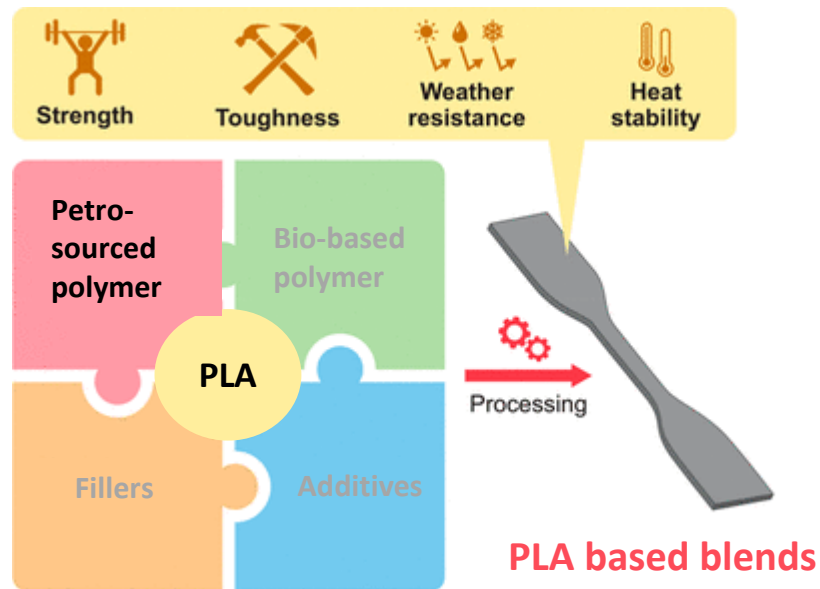
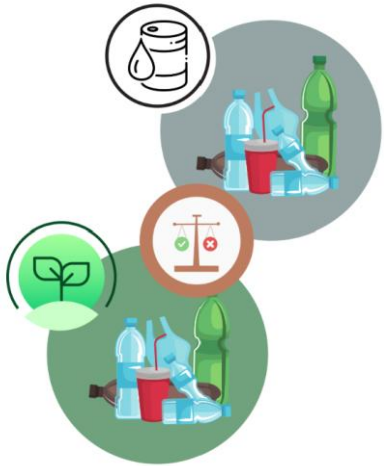
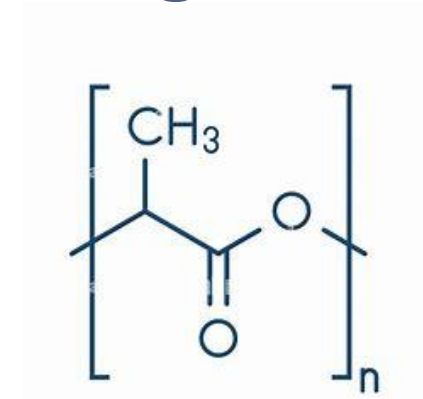


Adapted from Tripathi et al., 2021

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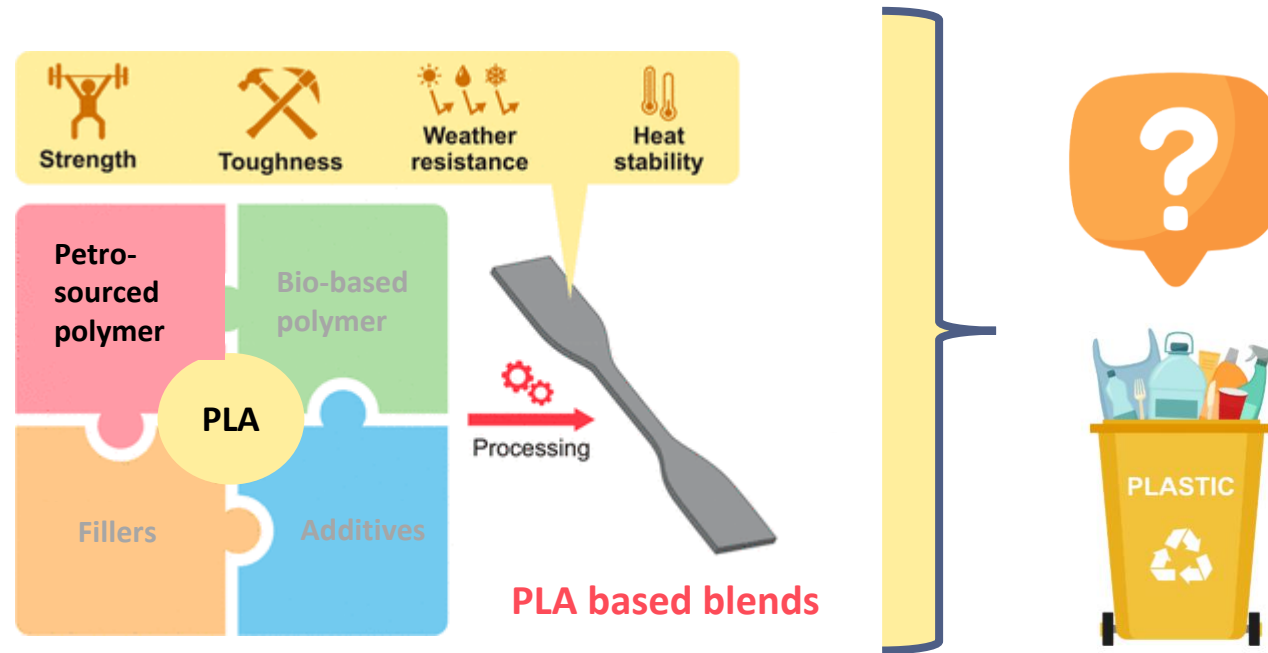
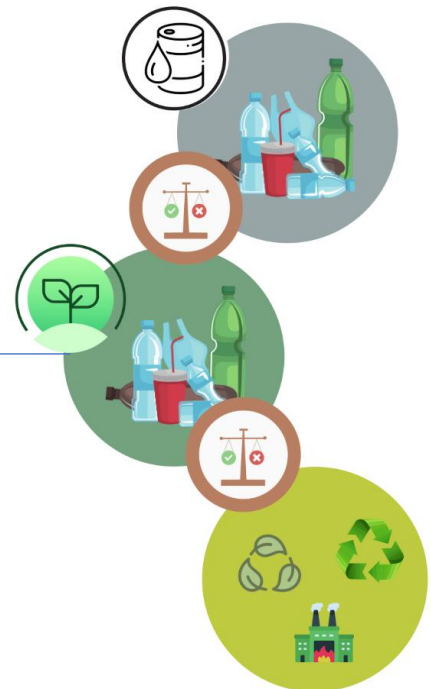
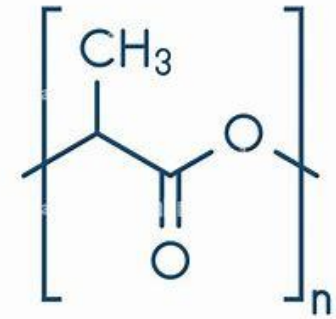


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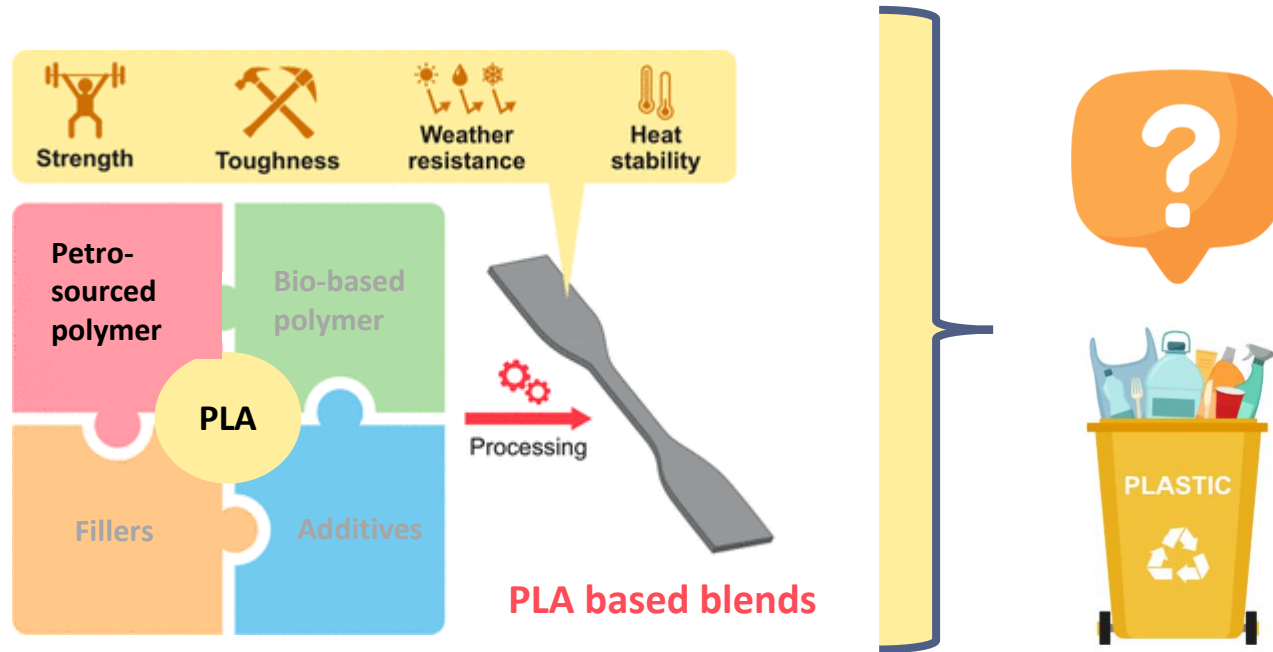
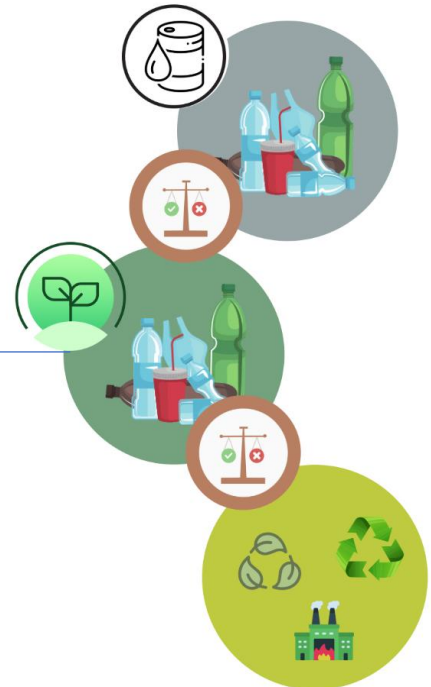
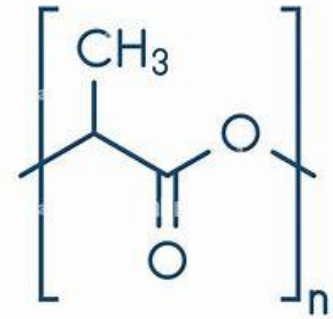


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Trade-offs and adaptation strategies are needed along the life cycle of plastics



- Trade-offs may concern the service life of plastics
- Trade-off may also concern the end-of-life of plastics



 Trade-offs and adaptation strategies have to be considered as global

 Window of opportunities is broader when considering higher system level

Adapted from Tripathi et al., 2021

Q&A session



➤ **Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice**

Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice



Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice



A picture of plastic waste management in France difficult to draw



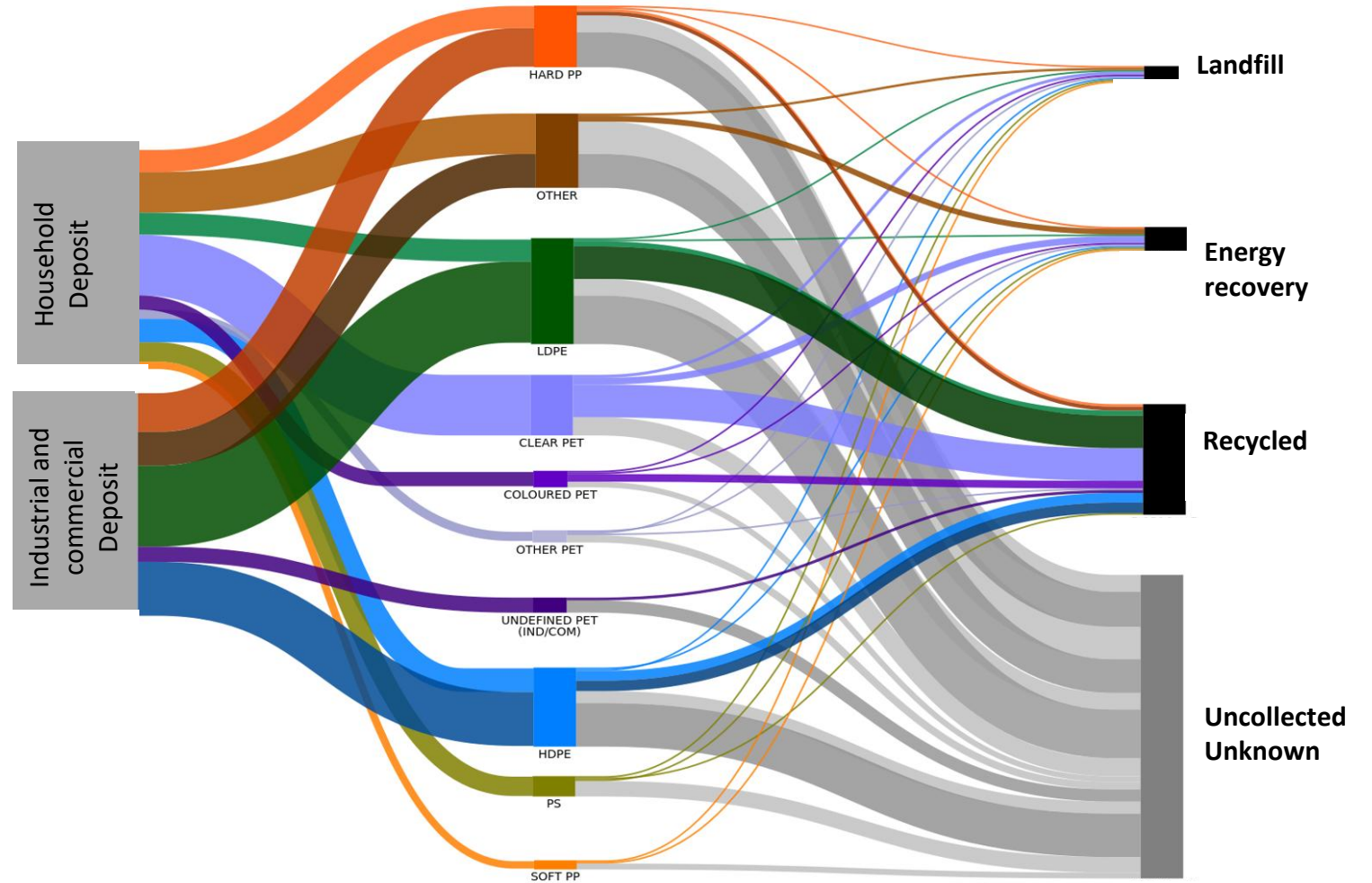
- **The complexity of data collection**
 - Scarcity and reliability of data

A picture of plastic waste management in France difficult to draw



- **The complexity of data collection**

- Scarcity and reliability of data
- Fragmented and inconsistent data collection



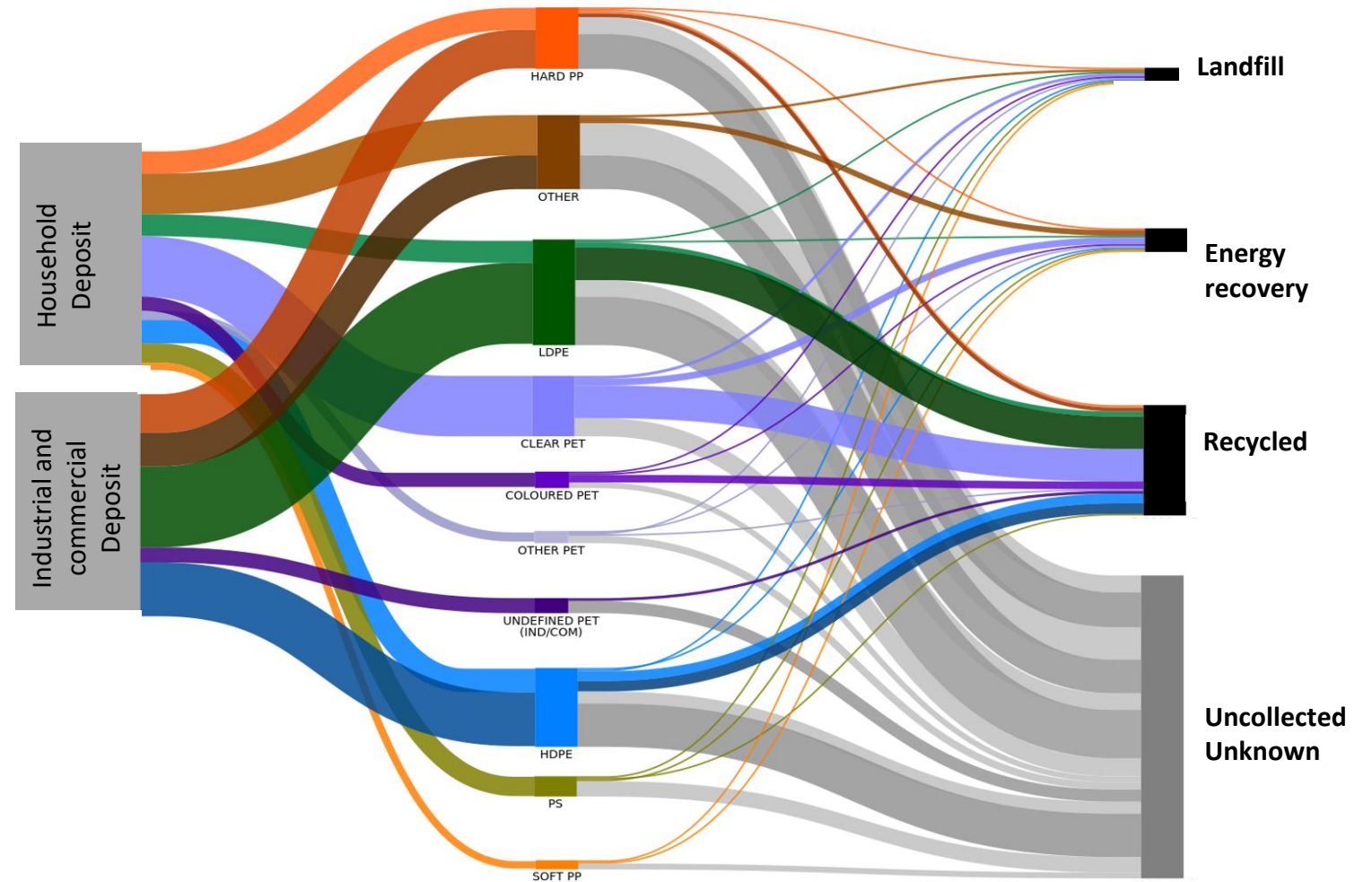
Plastic packaging waste flows by resin in France in 2022.

A picture of plastic waste management in France difficult to draw



- **The complexity of data collection**

- Scarcity and reliability of data
- Fragmented and inconsistent data collection
- Lack of transparency in data collection methods



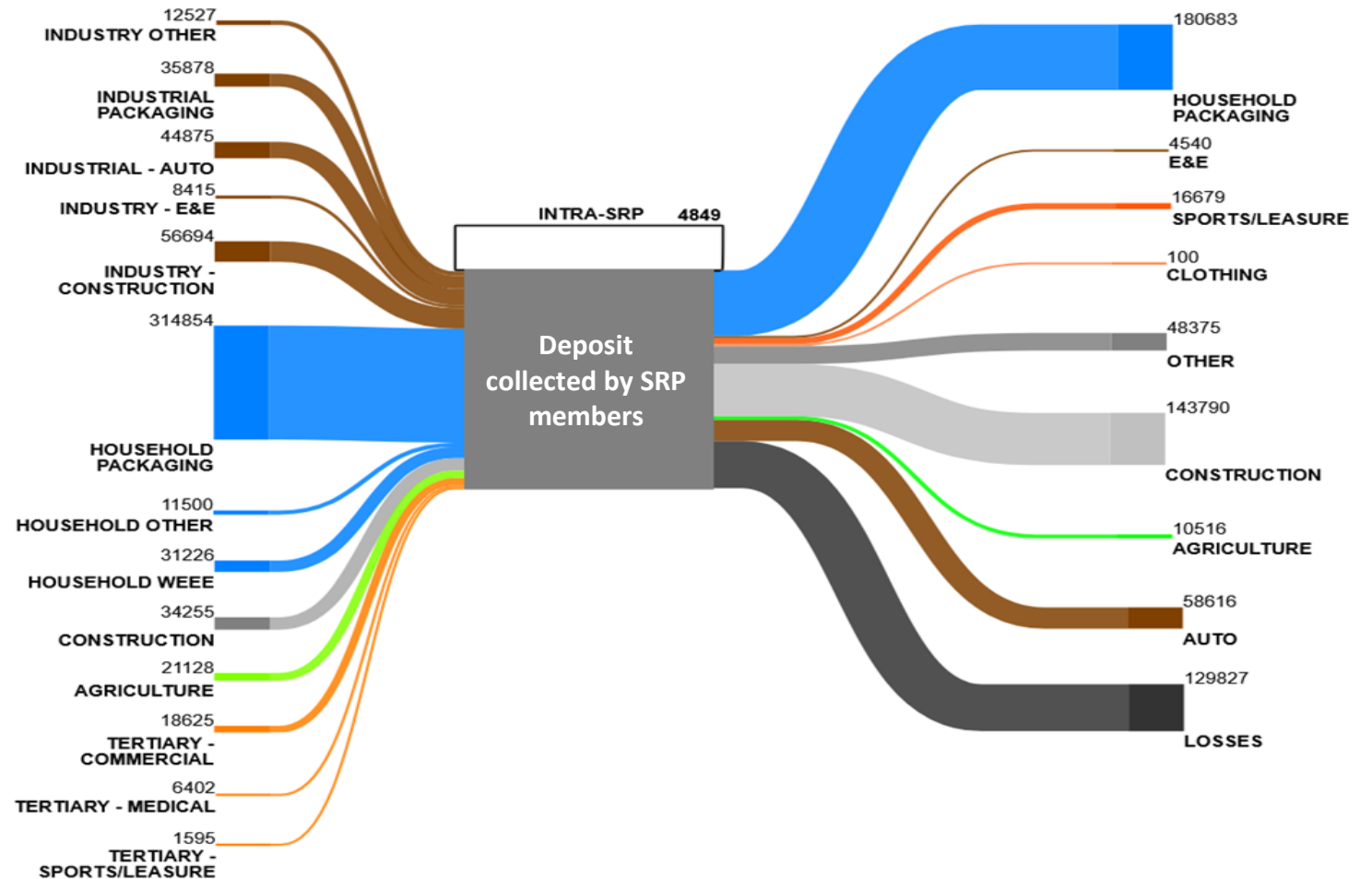
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- **The complexity of data collection**

- Scarcity and reliability of data
- Fragmented and inconsistent data collection
- Lack of transparency in data collection methods
- Sector-specific issues
- Challenges in cross-sectoral comparisons



Economic sectors of origin of plastic waste collected by SRP members and economic sectors of destination of recycled resins by SRP members

Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice



Collection and sorting: key steps with low attention

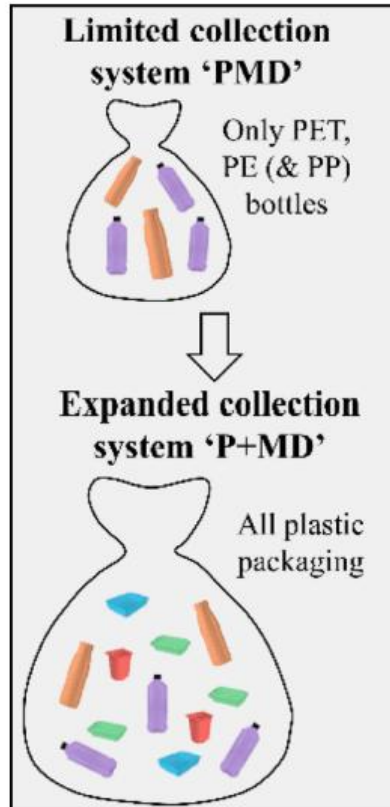


Collection and sorting are scarcely studied by the scientific community but are essential

Collection and sorting: key steps with low attention



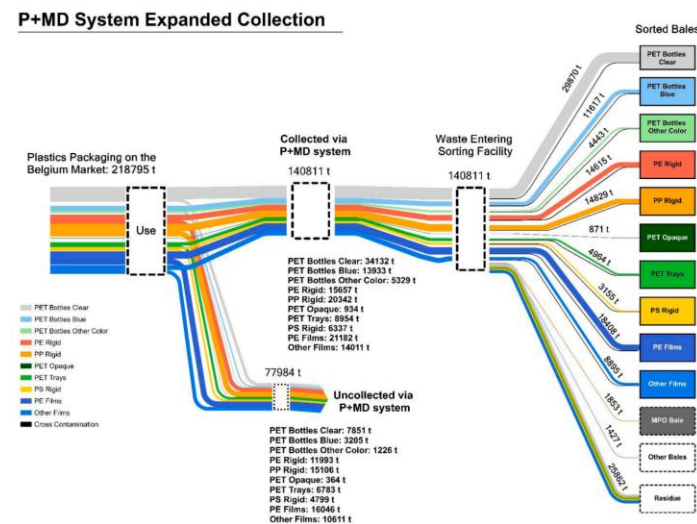
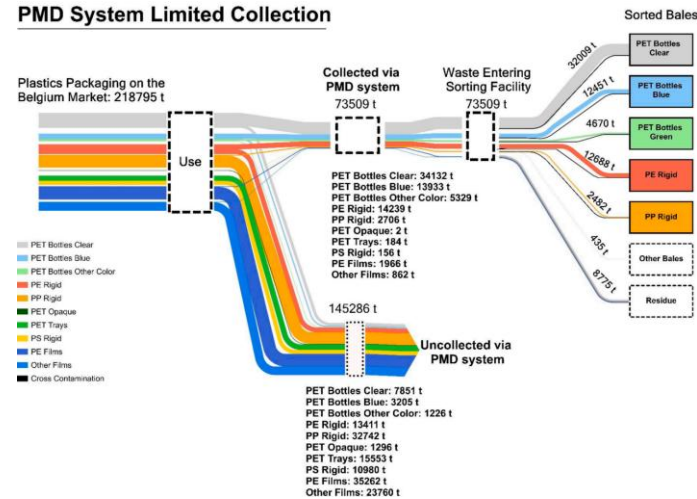
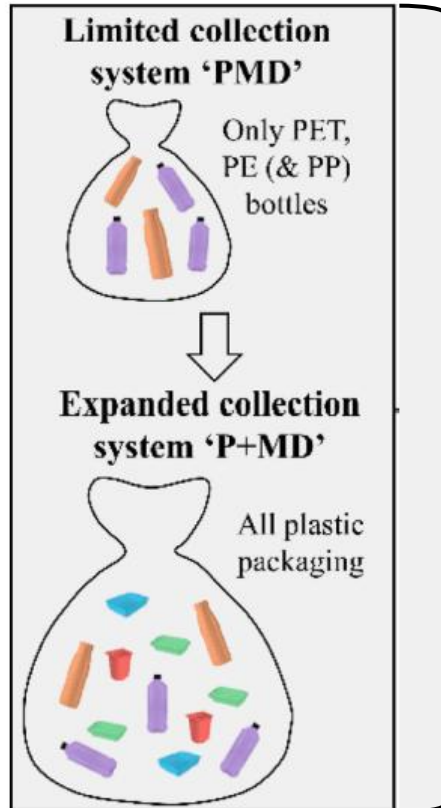
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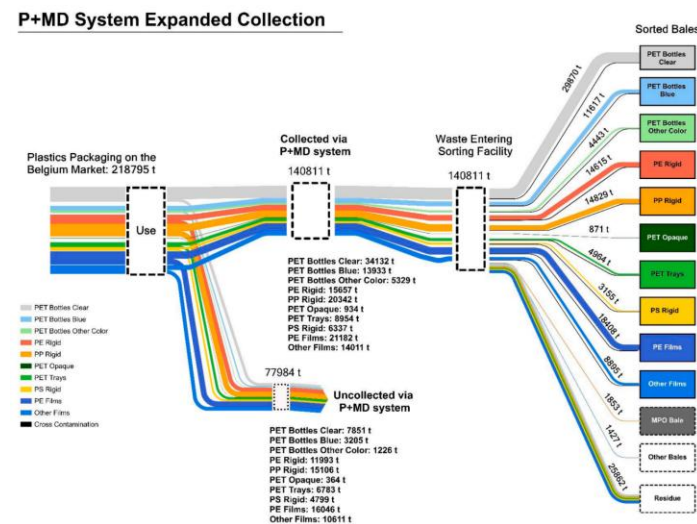
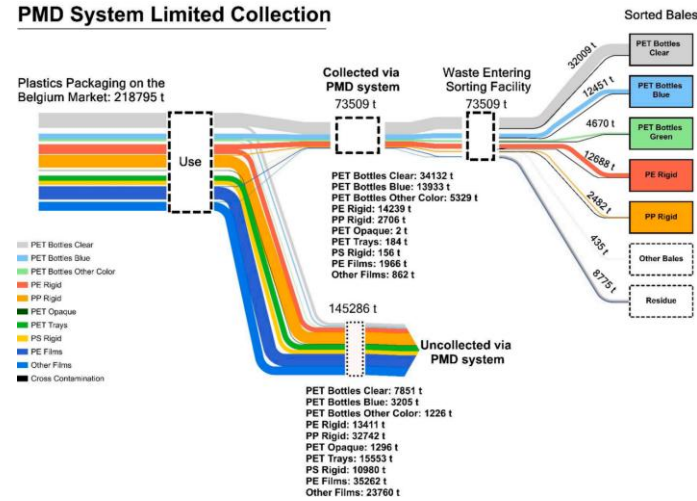
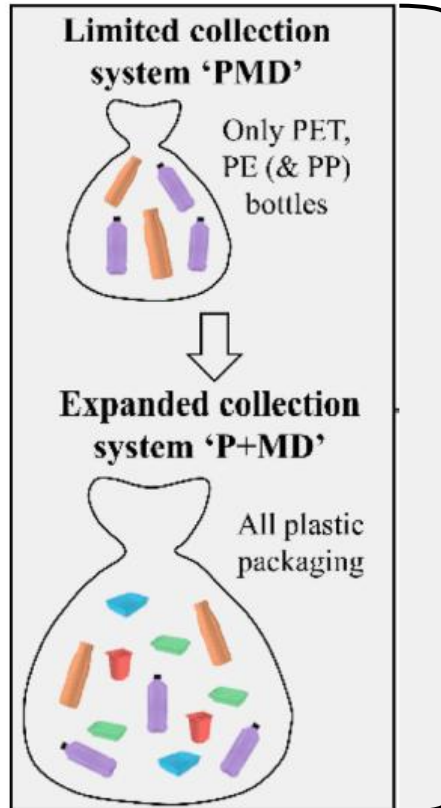
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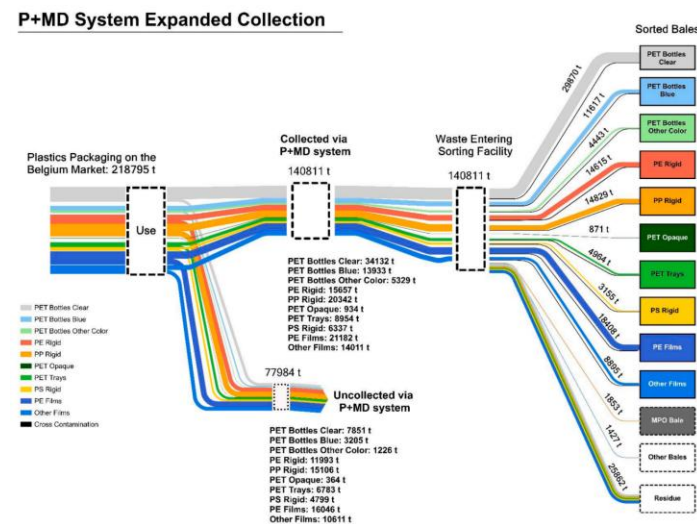
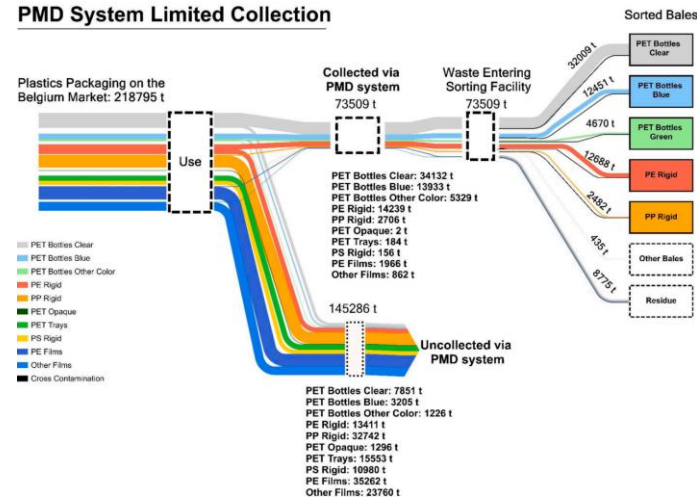
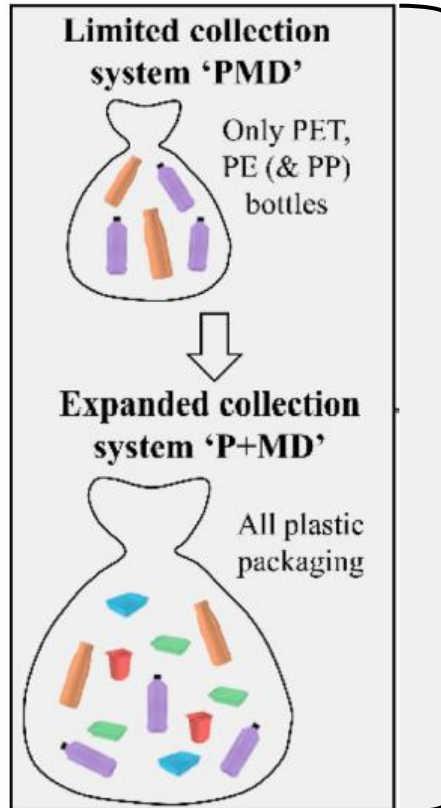


	Sorting recovery (%)		Net recovery (%)	
	PMD	P+MD	PMD	P+MD
PET bottles clear	92.9	87.0	75.5	70.7
PET bottles blue	88.5	83.3	72.0	67.7
PET bottles other color	87.4	83.3	71.1	67.7
PE rigid	89.0	91.0	45.8	51.5
PP rigid	90.0	72.8	6.9	41.8
PET opaque	-	84.3	-	60.6
PET trays	-	53.0	-	30.2
PS rigid	-	49.8	-	28.3
PE films	-	79.0	-	45.0
Other films	-	52.2	-	29.7
Total	86.8	77.3	29.2	49.7

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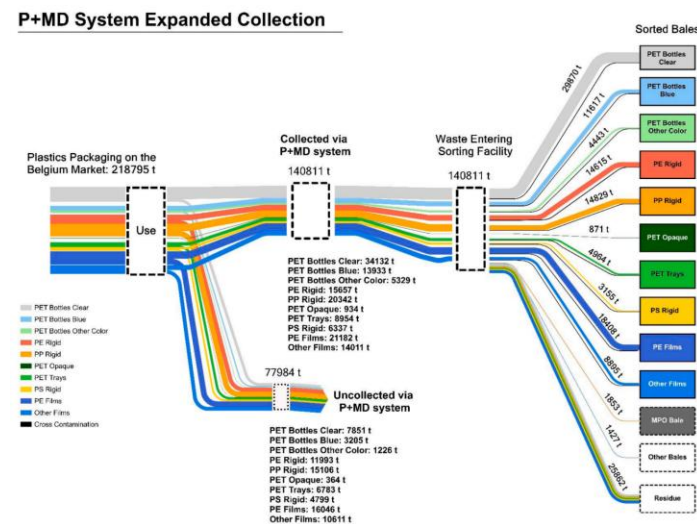
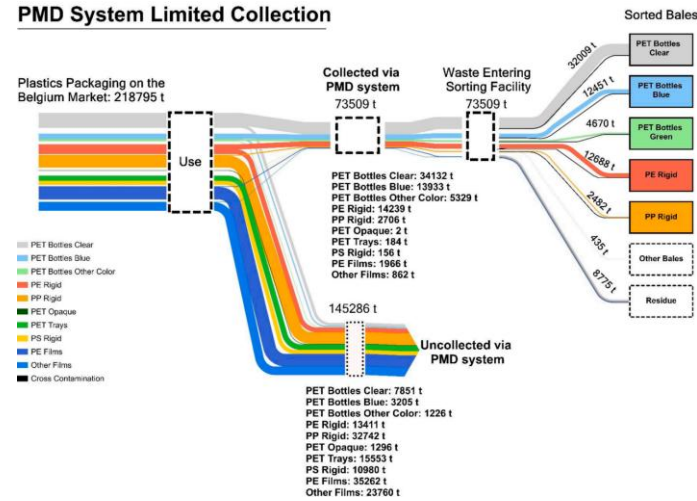
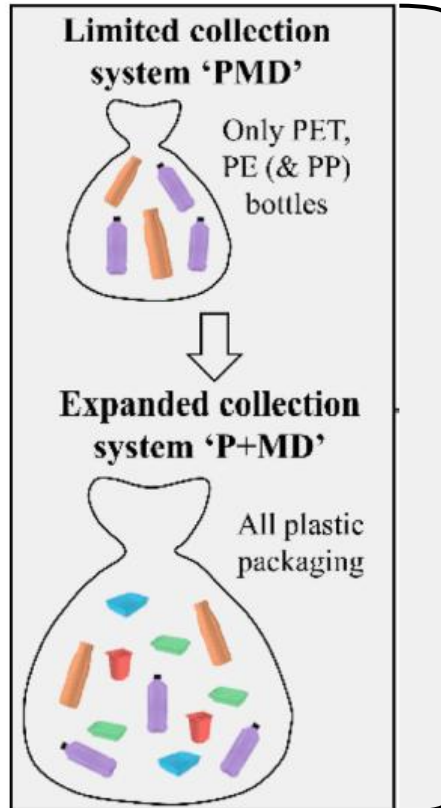


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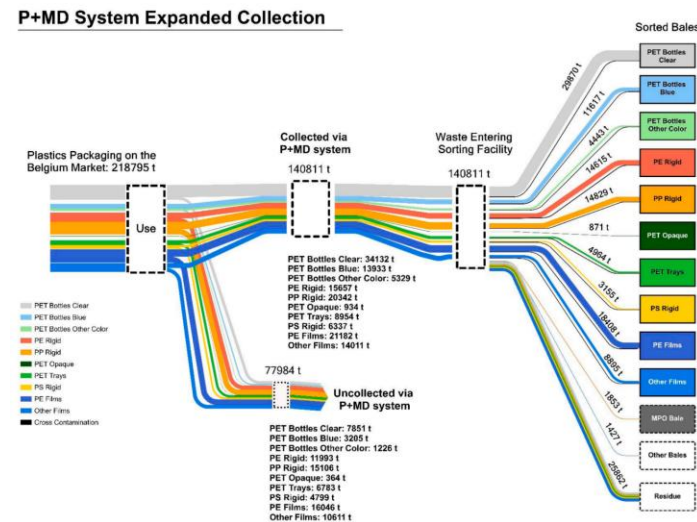
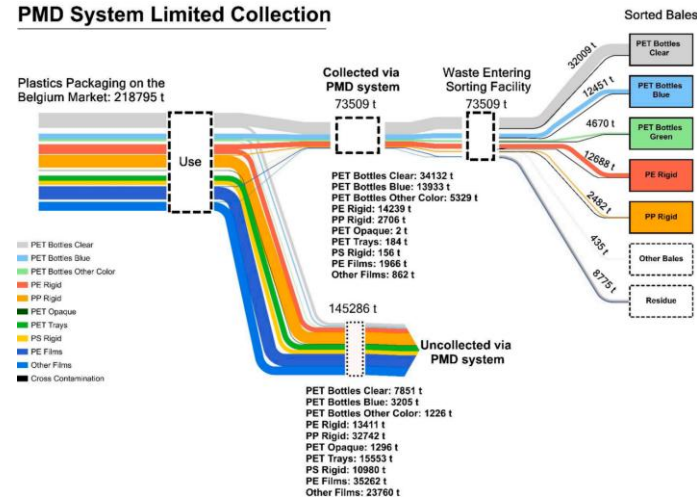
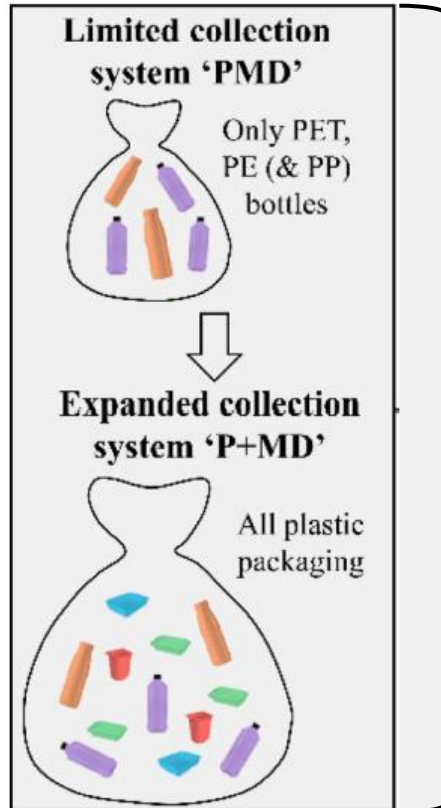


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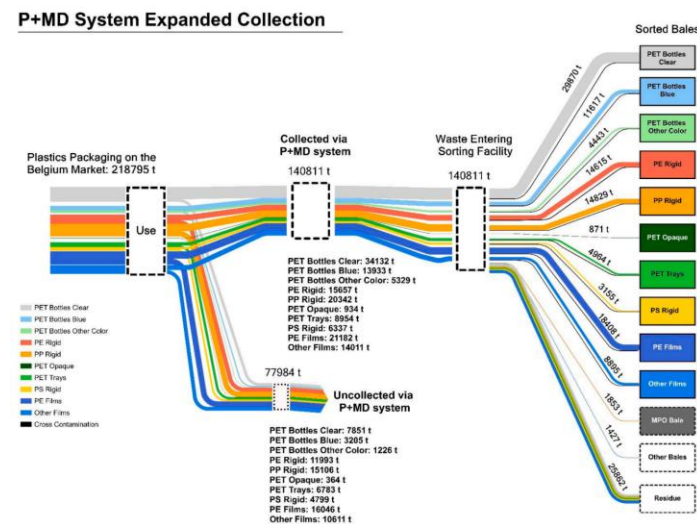
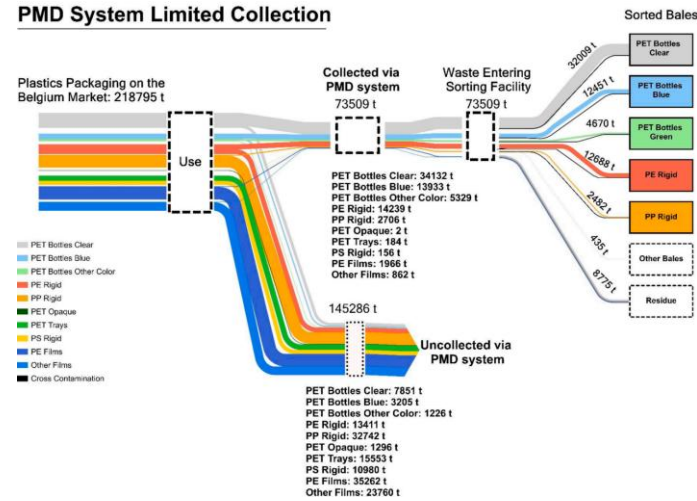
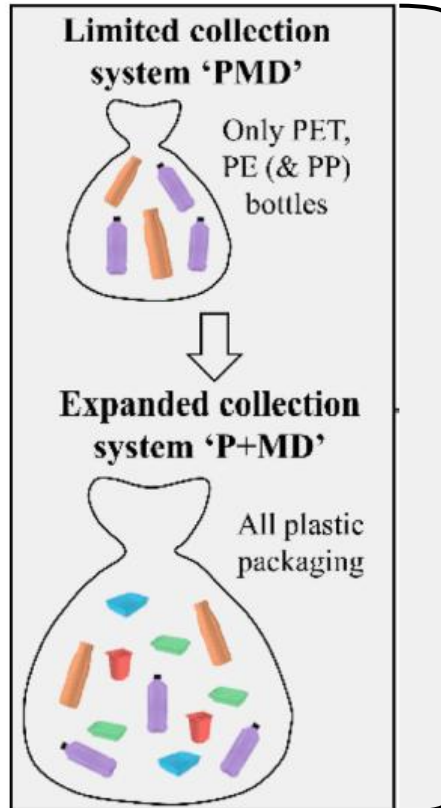


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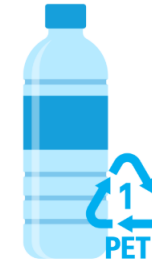
➔ Higher collection rates do not necessarily result in higher sorting rates

Collection and sorting: key steps with low attention



Collection and sorting are scarcely studied by the scientific community but are essential

➔ PET bottles, HD-PE and, in some cases, PP are the main sorted plastics sent to recycling



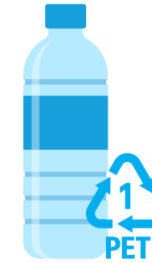
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⇒ Current sorting systems do not yet allow to sort complex objects (composite, multi-layered...)



Collection and sorting : key steps with low attention

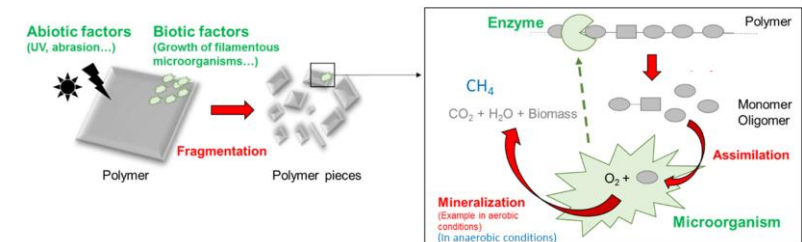
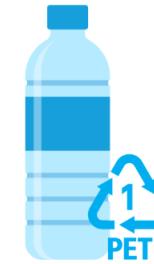


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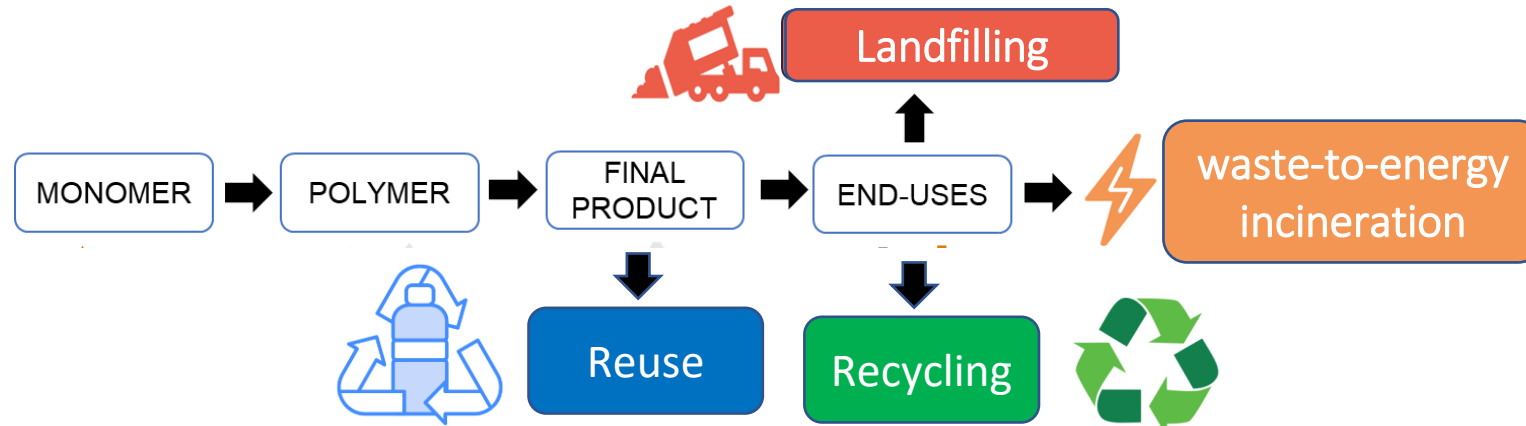
⇒ Collection and sorting systems are not adapted or made specific to biodegradable plastics



End of life scenario



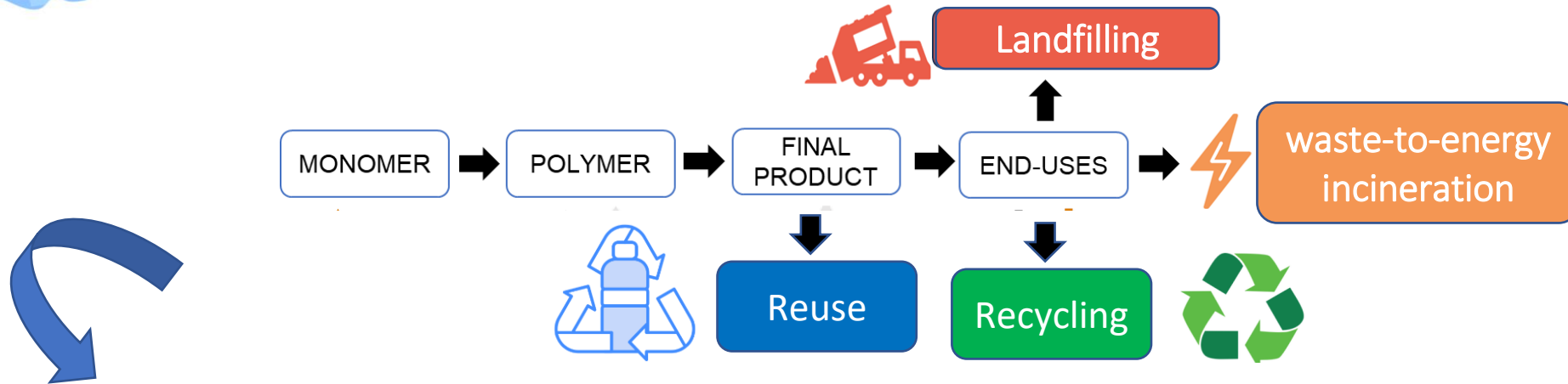
Subsequent treatment options include in descending order of quality, reuse, recycling and waste-to-energy incineration or landfilling



End of life scenario



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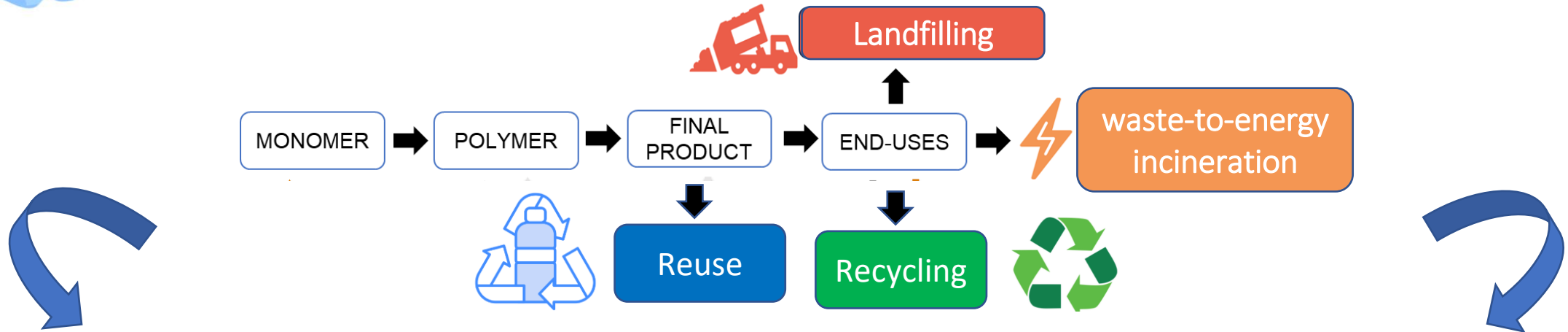


- In France, collected for recycling (35%), sent to incineration (33%) or landfill (32%)

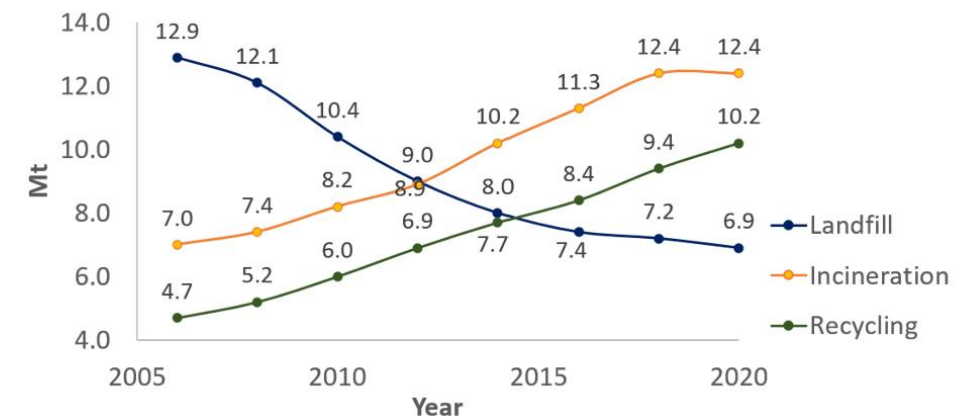
End of life scenario



Subsequent treatment options include in descending order of quality, reuse, recycling and waste-to-energy incineration or landfilling



- In France, collected for recycling (35%), sent to incineration (33%) or landfill (32%)
- At the European level, the amounts of plastic waste sent to recycling have doubled in 15 years reaching



Plastic waste management is difficult to monitor and implement in practice



Plastics may be recyclable but are scarcely recycled



Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method

Plastics may be recyclable but are scarcely recycled



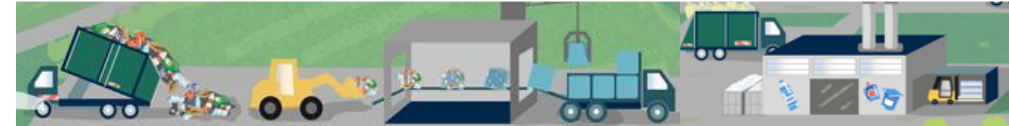
Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method
Mechanical recycling presents some limitations

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Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method
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⇒ Organisational and economic challenges

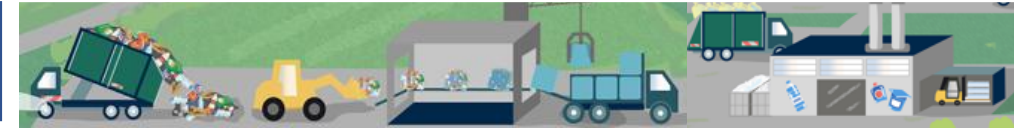


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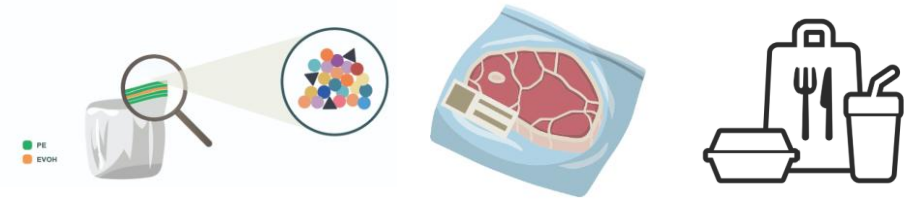


Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method
Mechanical recycling presents some limitations

⇒ Organisational and economic challenges



⇒ Contamination with other plastic waste or other waste and NIAS is further limiting

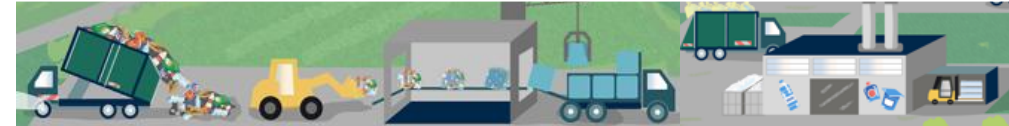


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Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method
Mechanical recycling presents some limitations

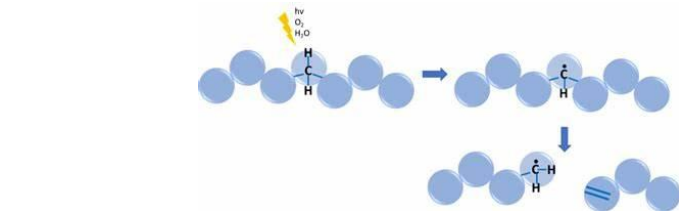
⇒ Organisational and economic challenges



⇒ Contamination with other plastic waste or other waste and NIAS is further limiting



⇒ Mechanical recyclability of plastics is limited by their degradation



Plastics may be recyclable but are scarcely recycled



Mechanical recycling is the predominant recycling method
Mechanical recycling presents some limitations

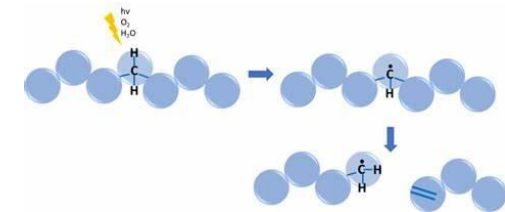
⇒ Organisational and economic challenges



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⇒ Mechanical recyclability of plastics is limited by their degradation

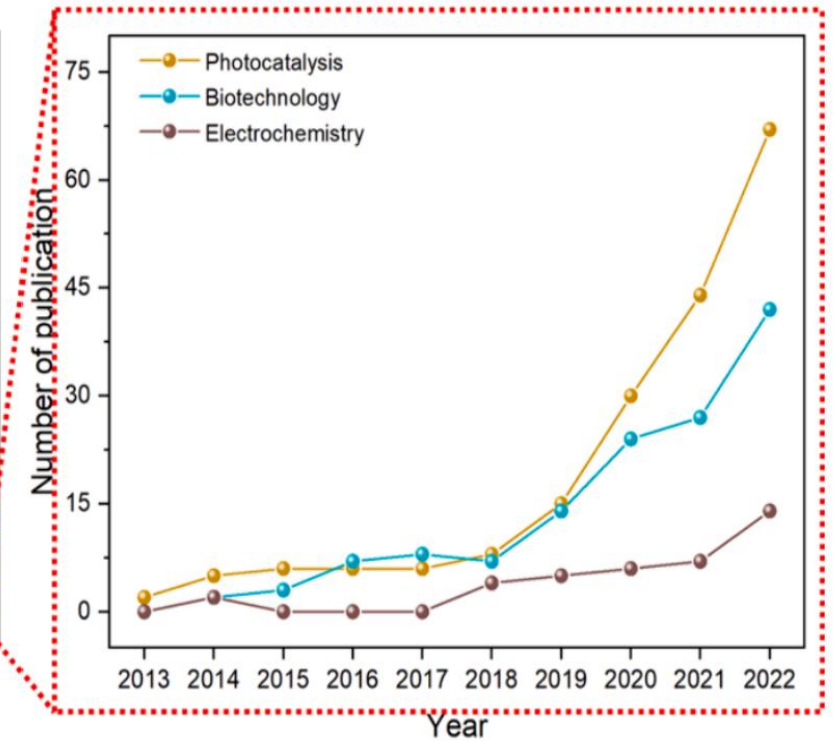
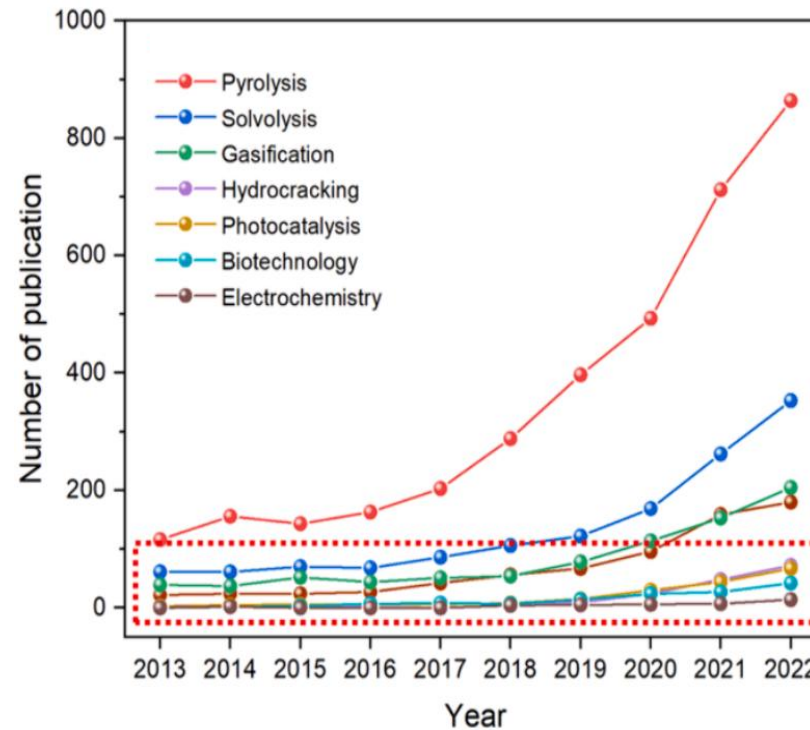
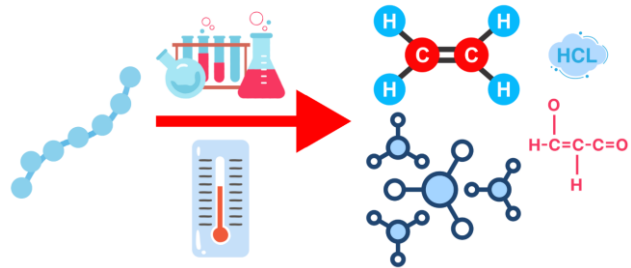


Research for technological solutions to overcome mechanical recycling limitations is very active, but only under laboratory conditions

Plastics may be recyclable but are scarcely recycled



Chemical and enzymatic recycling routes are at their early stage



Chen et al., 2024

➔ Chemical recycling becomes difficult when plastic waste are heterogeneous in composition and/or contaminated

The difficult waste management of plastics



Plastics including the so-called biodegradable plastics are not biodegraded in soil environmental conditions

➤ **Plastics including the so-called biodegradable plastics are not biodegraded in soil, compost and anaerobic digestion conditions**

Patrick Dabert

What is plastic (bio)degradation?

A clear definition, but many misuses

What is plastic (bio)degradation?

A clear definition, but many misuses

Deterioration

alteration of material properties

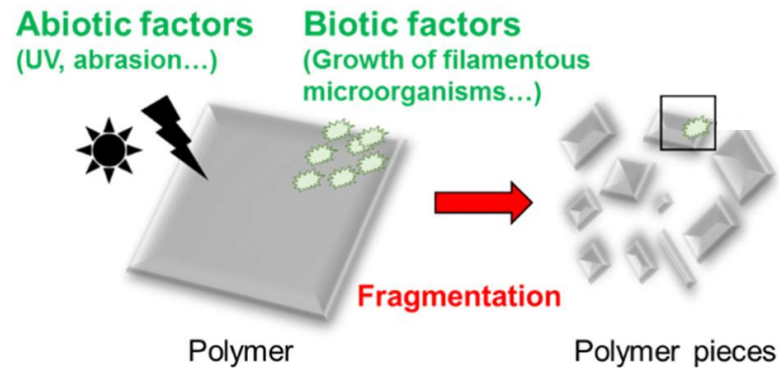
Fragmentation /

Disintegration

microplastics release

Biodegradation

consumption by microorganisms



What is plastic (bio)degradation?

A clear definition, but many misuses

Deterioration

alteration of material properties

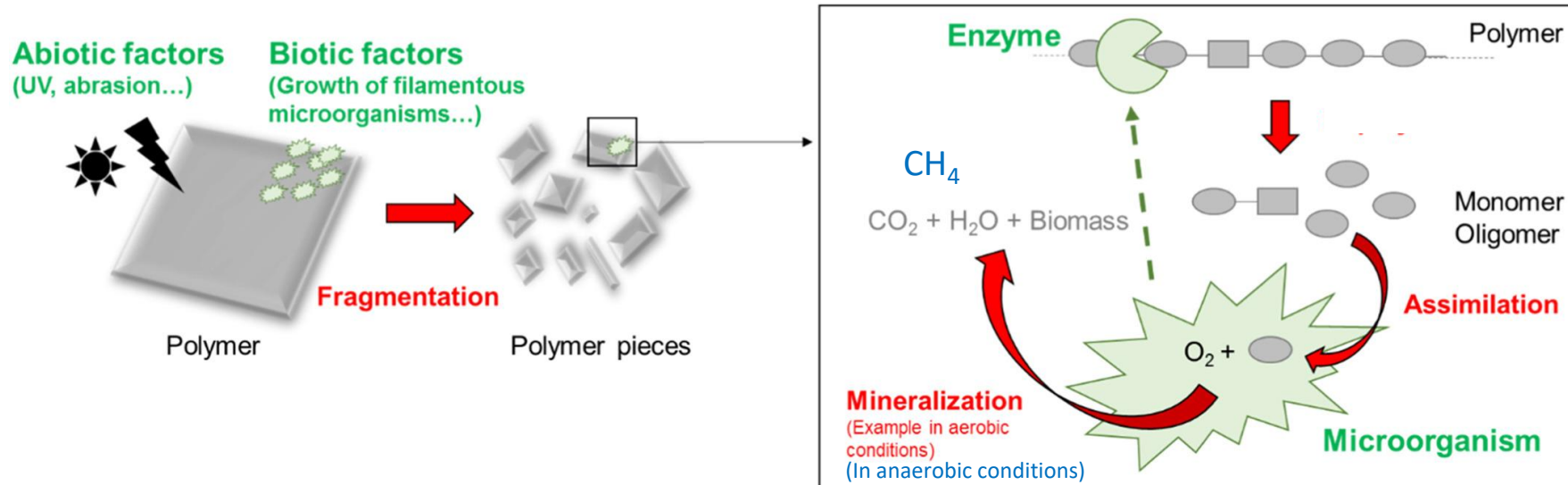
Fragmentation /

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microplastics release

Biodegradation

consumption by microorganisms



What is plastic (bio)degradation?

A clear definition, but many misuses

Deterioration

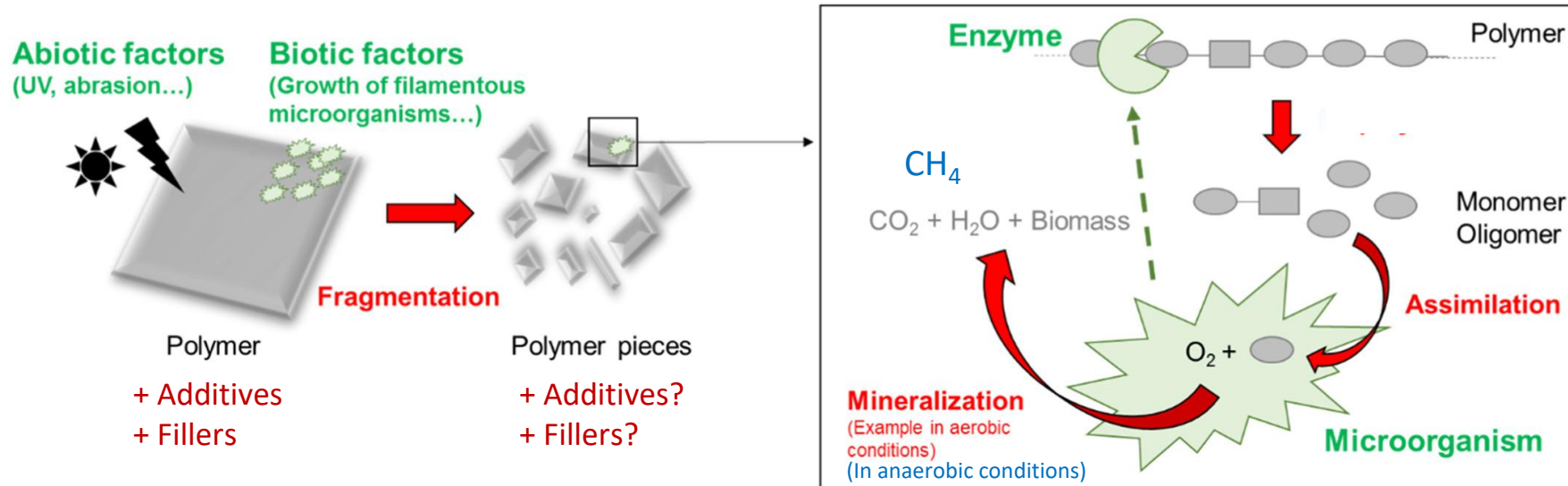
alteration of material properties

Fragmentation / Disintegration

microplastics release

Biodegradation

consumption by microorganisms



- Too many publications assume that disintegration means biodegradation => microplastics accumulation
- Biodegradation is very difficult to measure on real processes => Lab-scale studies
- Fate of additives and fillers is poorly reported

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Conventional plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
PE, PP, PS, PET, PVC, PUR, PA	Null or negligible degradation				

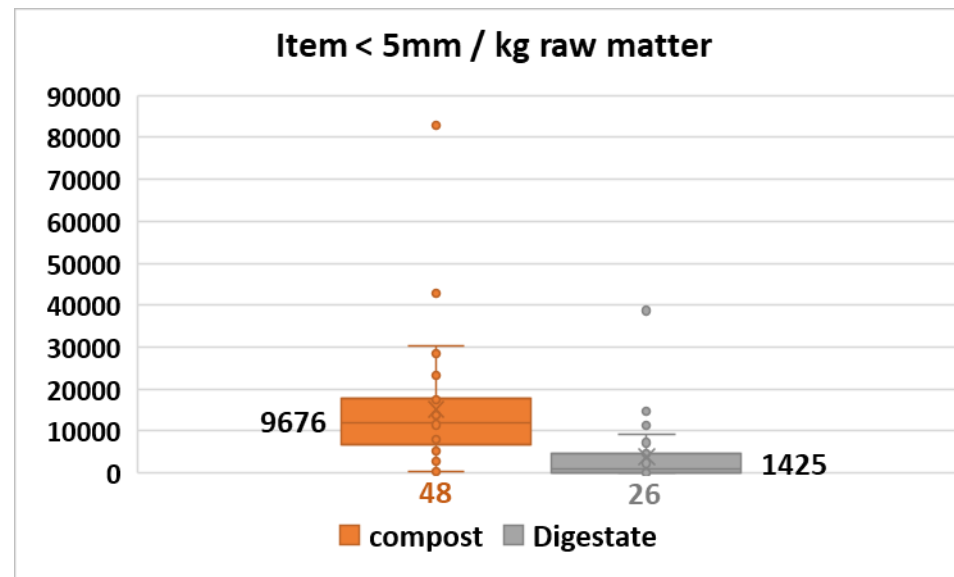
Conventional plastics do not biodegrade in composting and anaerobic digestion facilities
=> presence of microplastics in compost and digestate

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

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=> presence of microplastics in compost and digestate



Coming primarily from:

- sewage sludge
- urban waste
- food packaging

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Fossil-based so-called “biodegradable” plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
PBAT					
PBS					
PCL					

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Fossil-based so-called “biodegradable” plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
PBAT	Controversial	Null or negligible		Controversial	OK
PBS	Null or negligible	Null or negligible	Low and slow	Controversial	OK
PCL	Medium to good	Low and slow	Good	OK	OK

The so-called “biodegradable” fossil-based plastics are only biodegradable effectively under industrial composting conditions

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Bio-based so-called “biodegradable” plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
PLA					
PHA (PHB, PHBV, etc.)					
Cellulose-based					
Starch-based					

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Bio-based so-called “biodegradable” plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
PLA	Null or negligible	Low and slow	Good	Null or negligible	OK
PHA (PHB, PHBV, etc.)	Medium to good	OK	Good	OK	OK
Cellulose-based	Usually good but depends strongly of the blend				
Starch-based	Usually good but depends strongly of the blend				

Only plastics based on bio-based PHA, cellulose or starch are effectively biodegradable under all composting and anaerobic digestion conditions

However

How biodegradable are today's plastics?

Bio-based so-called “biodegradable” plastics

Polymers	Soil (6-24 months)	Mesophilic AD (60-90 days)	Thermophilic AD (60-90 days)	Home composting (12 months)	Industrial composting (6 months)
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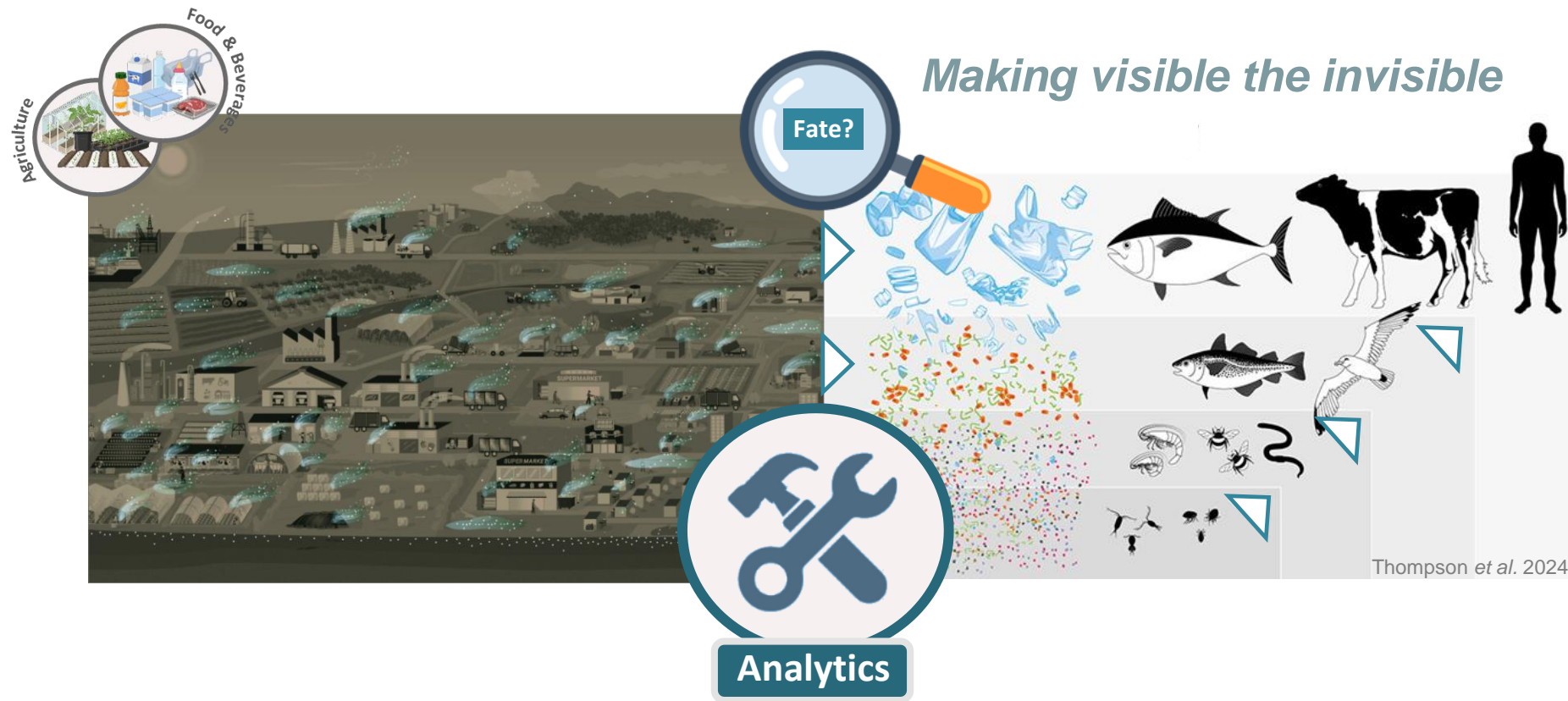
Only plastics based on bio-based PHA, cellulose or starch are effectively biodegradable under all composting and anaerobic digestion conditions

However

- They can lose their biodegradability when mixed with other polymers
- Little is known about the biodegradation of additives
- We need a better knowledge and transparency of the compounds present in plastics

- **Plastics are ubiquitous, hazardous & have multi-scale adverse impacts on living organisms, humans and continental ecosystems**

Dispersion in the environment, living organisms and along food chains



Experimental analytical methods for plastics exist but need to be improved for the wide range of matrices and plastic forms being considered

Complementary analytical methods & tools available



Direct or differential approaches

Organic molecules: GC and LC & **Trace metal elements:** ICP-OES/MS, X-ray Fluorescence, Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy

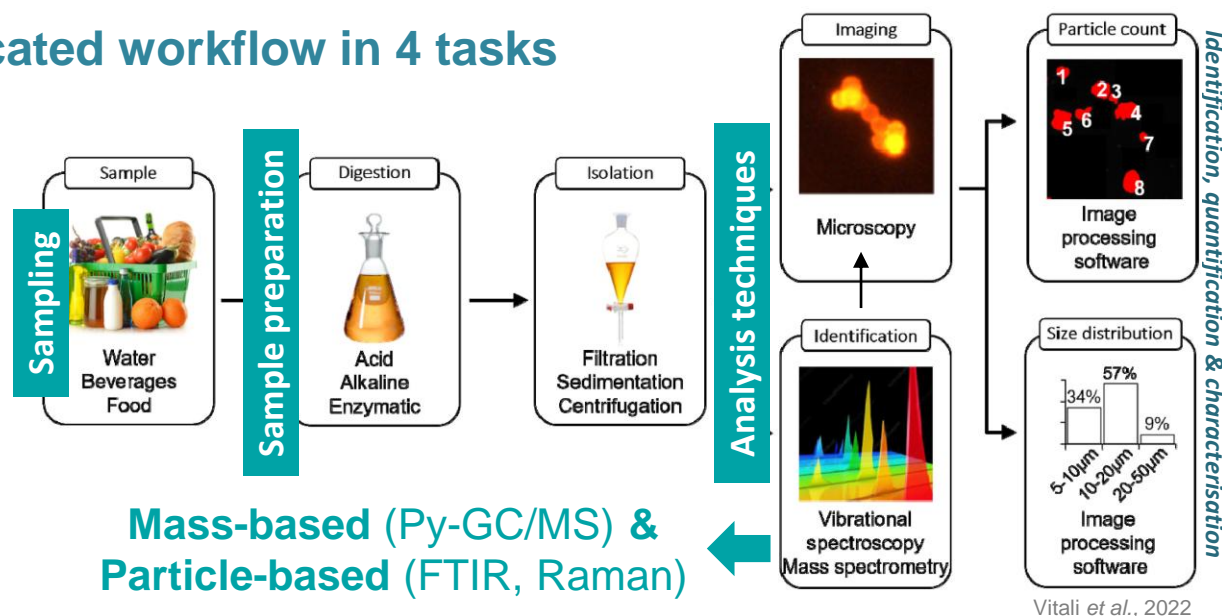
Accurate identification: HRMS (QTOF or Orbitrap)

Oligomers: LC or GC-MS for food samples, more challenging for environmental samples



A dedicated workflow in 4 tasks

Example of food & beverages

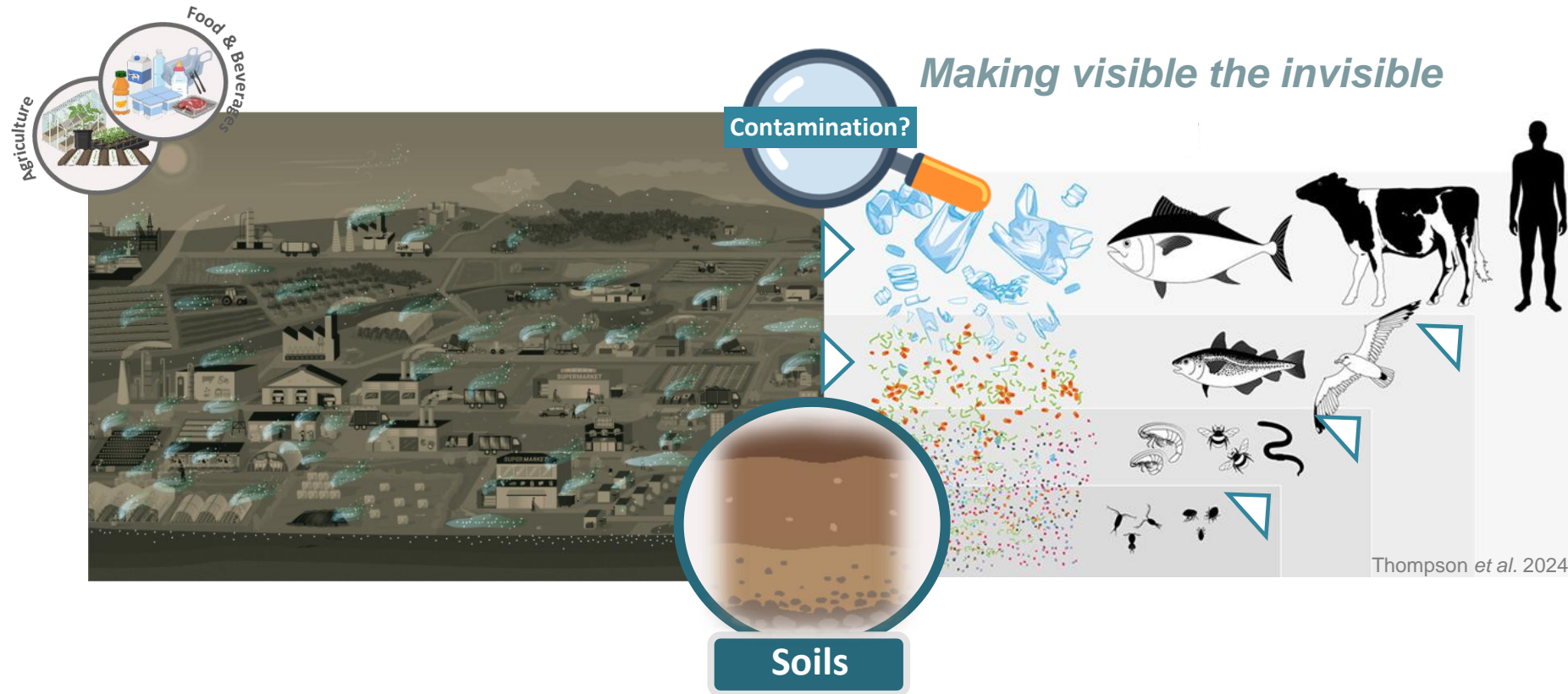


For a wide range of matrices:

- Environmental compartments (atmosphere, hydrosphere, pedosphere)
- Food & Beverages
- Living organisms

➔ **Current lack of harmonisation and standardisation of methods & analytical issues** (interference with the matrix, analytical biases...)

Dispersion in the environment, living organisms and along food chains



Soil is the poor relation when it comes to studying plastic pollution in the environment, and yet...

➤ Dispersion in the environment, living organisms and along food chains: the example of soils

Bruno Tassin

Soil contamination by plastics: a new area of research

Soils are contaminated by plastics

- A wide range of sizes: from macroplastics (MaPLs) to micro- (MPLs) and nanoplastics (NPLs)
- A wide range of concentrations:



Even remote areas (deserts) contaminated: $100 \text{ MPLs kg}_{\text{dw}}^{-1}$

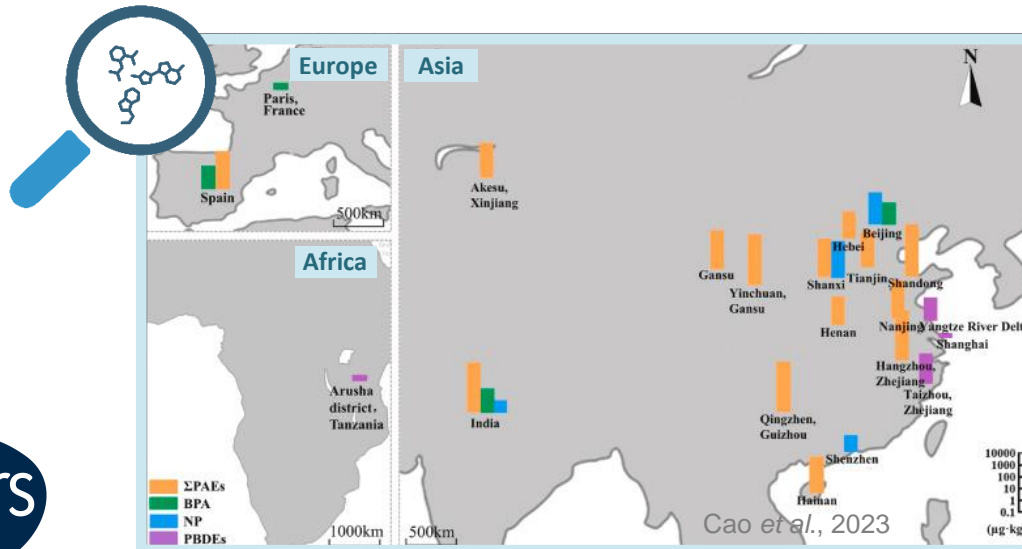
⇒ Agricultural soils: $1,000 \text{ MPLs kg}_{\text{dw}}^{-1}$

Dense urban areas: $10,000 \text{ MPLs kg}_{\text{dw}}^{-1}$

- Mass of MPLs in soils **larger** than in the oceans

Estimate for French agricultural soils: 244 kg ha^{-1} (Palazot *et al.* 2024)

Heavy MPL contamination



Distribution in agricultural soils

Phthalates, BPA, NP & PBDEs:
most commonly detected



BPA concentration of $0.42 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in Paris area

Soils: diverse human sources of plastic contamination



Soil sample from Mausud and Foan island reserve (Norway) (Cyvin *et al.* 2021)



Soil in Quevillon (Normandie, France).
Former accumulation zone along the
Seine estuary



Macroplastics on agricultural soils in
France: plastic mulch in Ustaritz
(Basque Country, France)



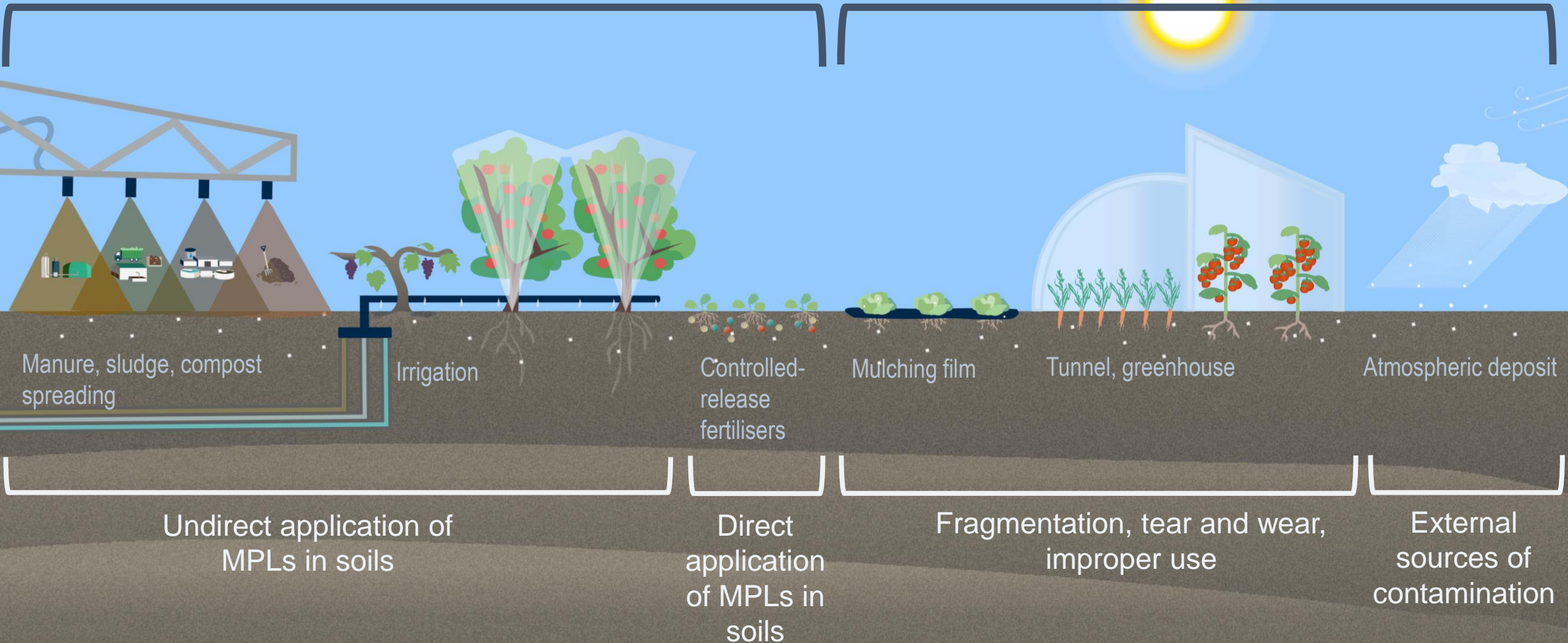
Fragmentation into MNPLs

Fragmentation processes known **BUT** quantification of fragmentation still an open question

Agricultural soils: diverse human sources of MPL contamination

Active application of MPLs

Passive application of MPLs



Most at-risk contamination sources linked to agriculture



Capsule-suspension
plant production
products, coated seeds
& polymer coated
encapsulated fertilisers



Bale knitted nets &
silage nets



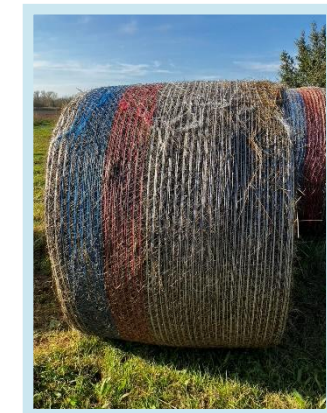
Containers of pesticides



Bale wrap films



Mulching films



Bale netwraps &
press films

Quantification of contamination sources: an attempt

B. Tassin - CSA Extended Report

Origin of contamination	Order of magnitude of contamination (MPLs·ha ⁻¹ ·yr ⁻¹)	
	Minimum	Maximum
Irrigation (wastewater)	millions	thousands of millions
Atmospheric deposits	hundreds of millions	thousands of millions
Sludge application	tens of millions	hundreds of millions
Manure application	millions	tens of millions

Based on the sources most frequently cited in the literature



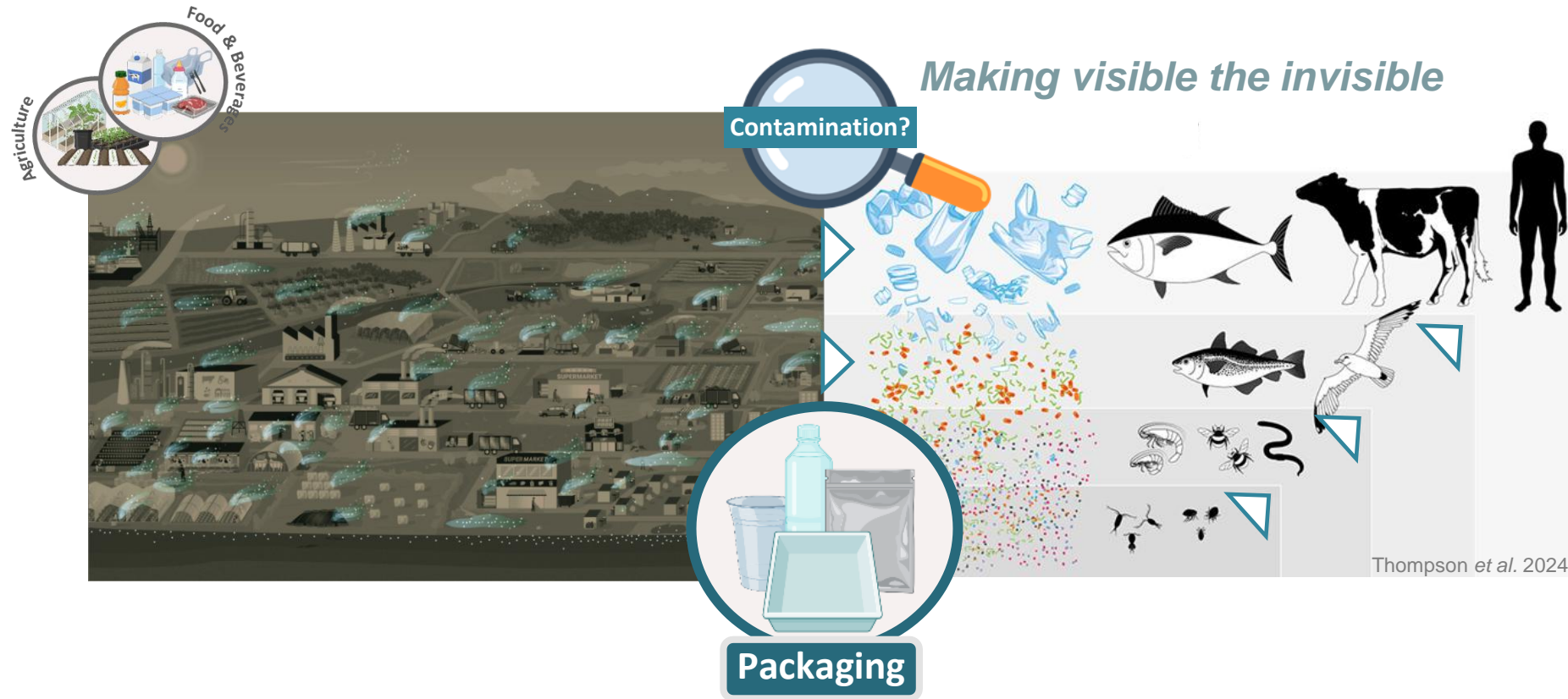
Numerous and cumulative uncertainties

Equivalent contamination sources?



Quantification of fluxes between compartments

Dispersion in the environment, living organisms and along food chains



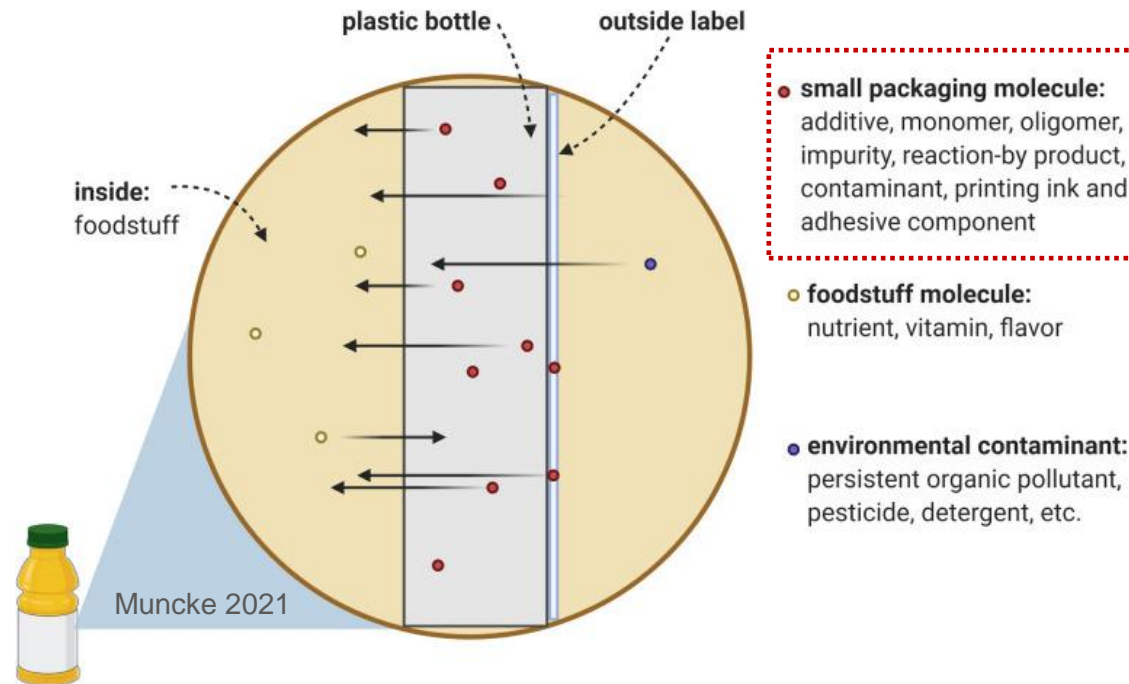
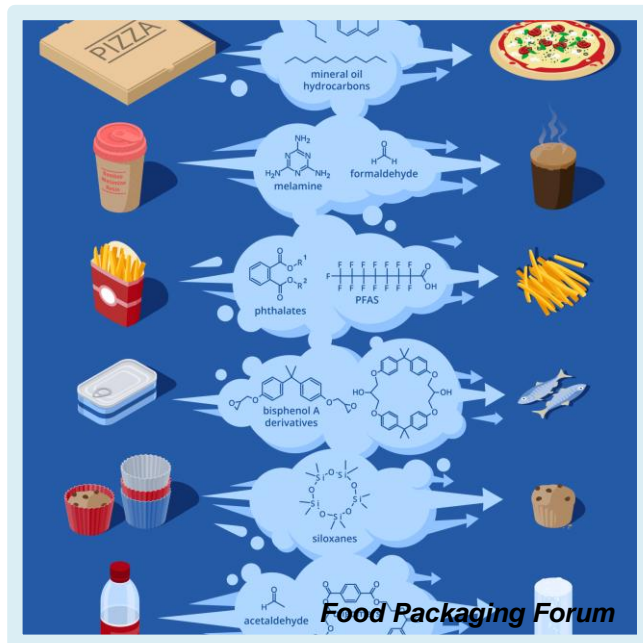
Food and drinks intended for human consumption are contaminated by plastics

Migration of chemical substances



Food contact materials (FCMs): chemical substances > 10,000

Positive List of Food Contact Substances (EU) & Databases e.g. Migrating and Extractable Food Contact Chemicals (FCCmigex)

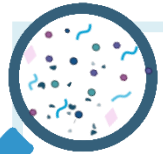


Food packaging and other food contact articles: migration of chemicals into food and drinks

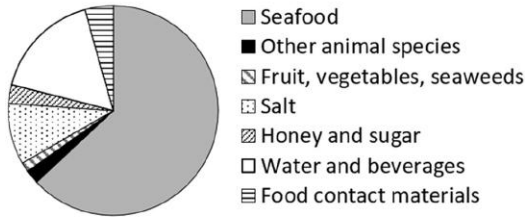
- **Food packaging:** phthalates, antioxidants (BHT, BHA), oligomers and bisphenols
- **Tableware and kitchen utensils:** melamine derivatives and formaldehyde - role of heating or contact with acidic/fatty foods

Mainly **conventional petroleum-based plastics** compared to bio-based plastics (88% vs 12%)

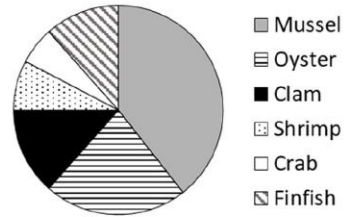
MNPLs and possibly oligomer submicrometre particles



Food, water and beverages



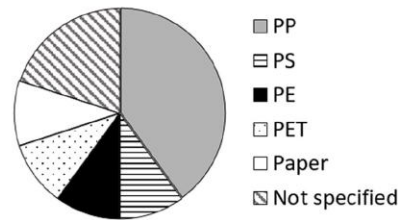
Seafood



Water and beverages



Food contact materials



Vitali et al., 2023

MPL contamination in drinking water:

- Highly variable: 0 to 5.42E+07 MPLs/L
- Water sources, geographical locations, quantification methods, inadequate analytical procedures

Potential sources of contamination:

- Food chain, environment, airborne particles
- Practices and processing, transport, storage,
- Food preparation (cooking methods, choice of kitchen utensils)

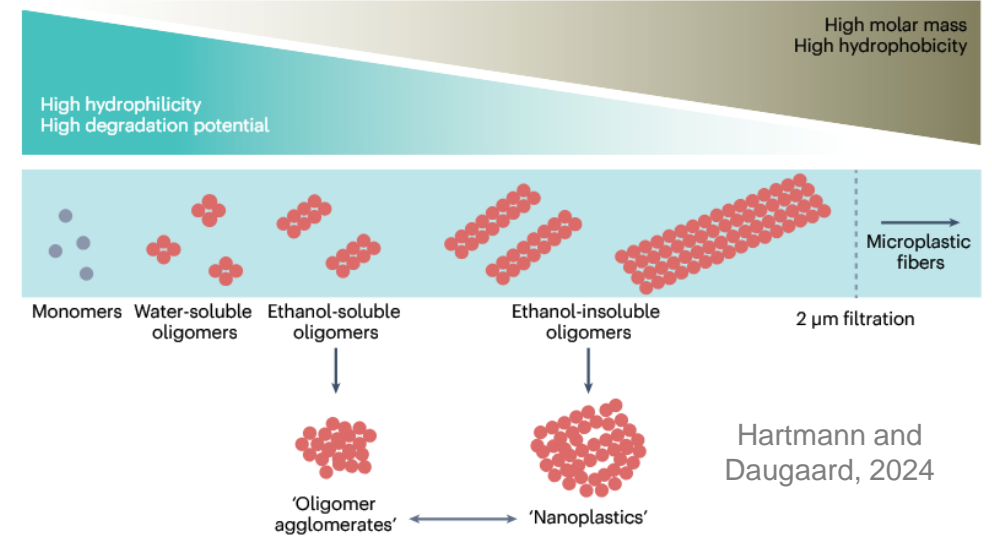
Release of MNPLs from packaging materials:

Mechanical stress (e.g. opening/closing of bottle caps) or thermal stress (heat, freezing)

Emerging problem with oligomer aggregates:

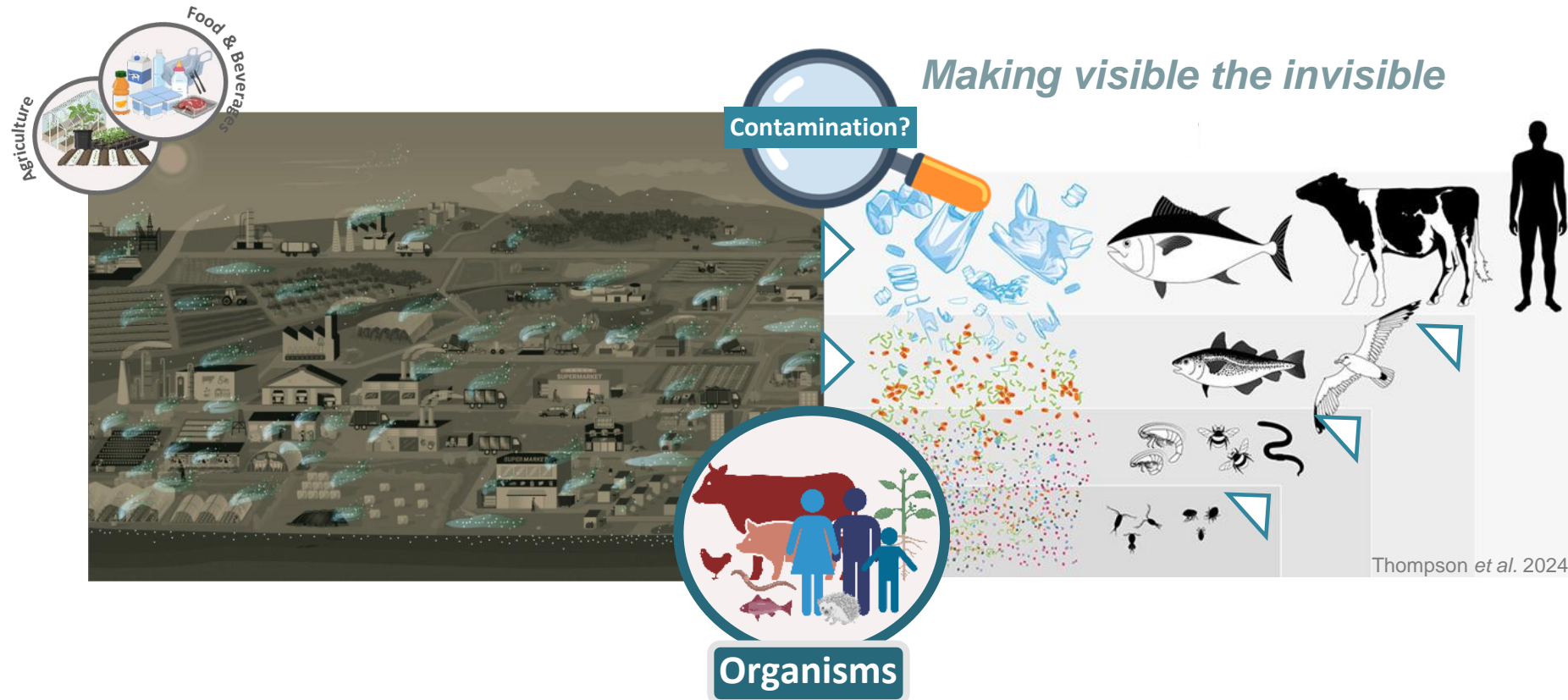
Chemical identification, distinction with NPLs (e.g. for PE and PET: ethanol pre-treatment)

Exploring the continuum between NPLs and oligomers



Hartmann and Daugaard, 2024

Dispersion in the environment, living organisms and along food chains



Biota are contaminated by plastics in their various forms and contribute to their dispersion

Contamination of living organisms by plastics



Ubiquitous contamination by plastics depending on e.g. their size
Mobile organisms: contribution to the long-range dispersion of MPLs following ingestion and subsequent egestion



Food contact chemicals

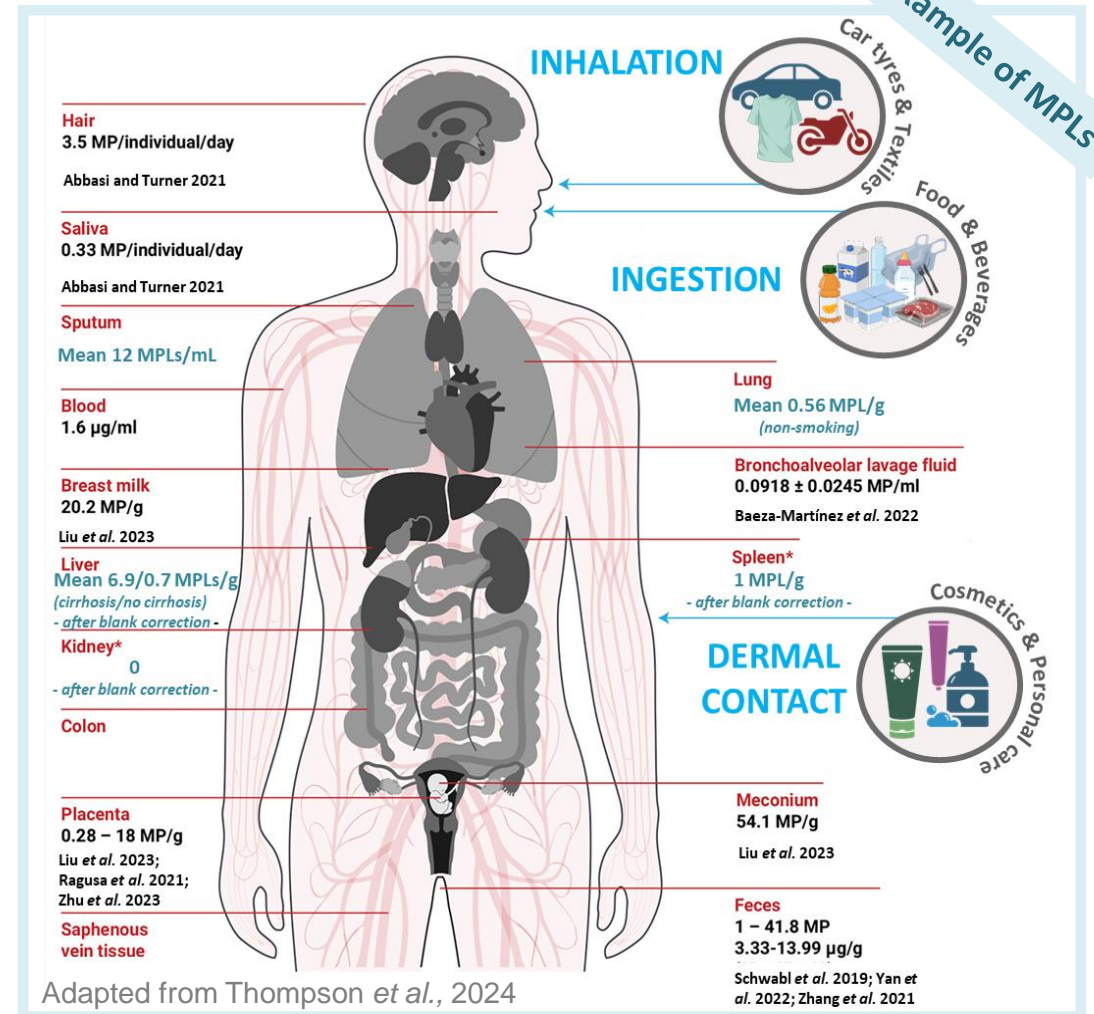
- Presence in human samples for a total of **3601 (25%)** of the 14,402 known food contact chemicals



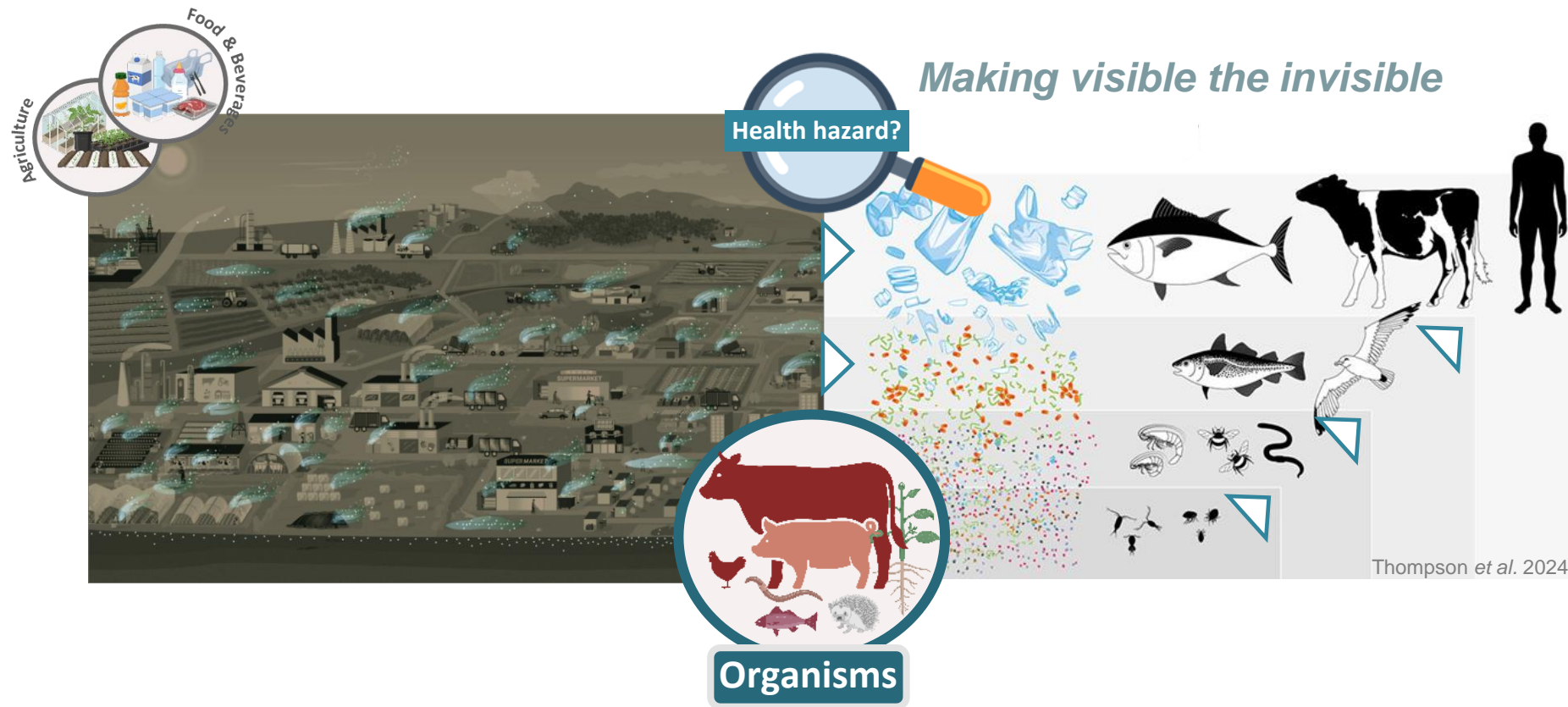
Main focus on MPLs

- Diversity of polymer types found in human samples** (petroleum origin; lack of data on bio-based and/or biodegradable plastics)
- Sometimes linked to **lifestyle habits**
- Exposure data: **no consensus yet**

Example of MPLs

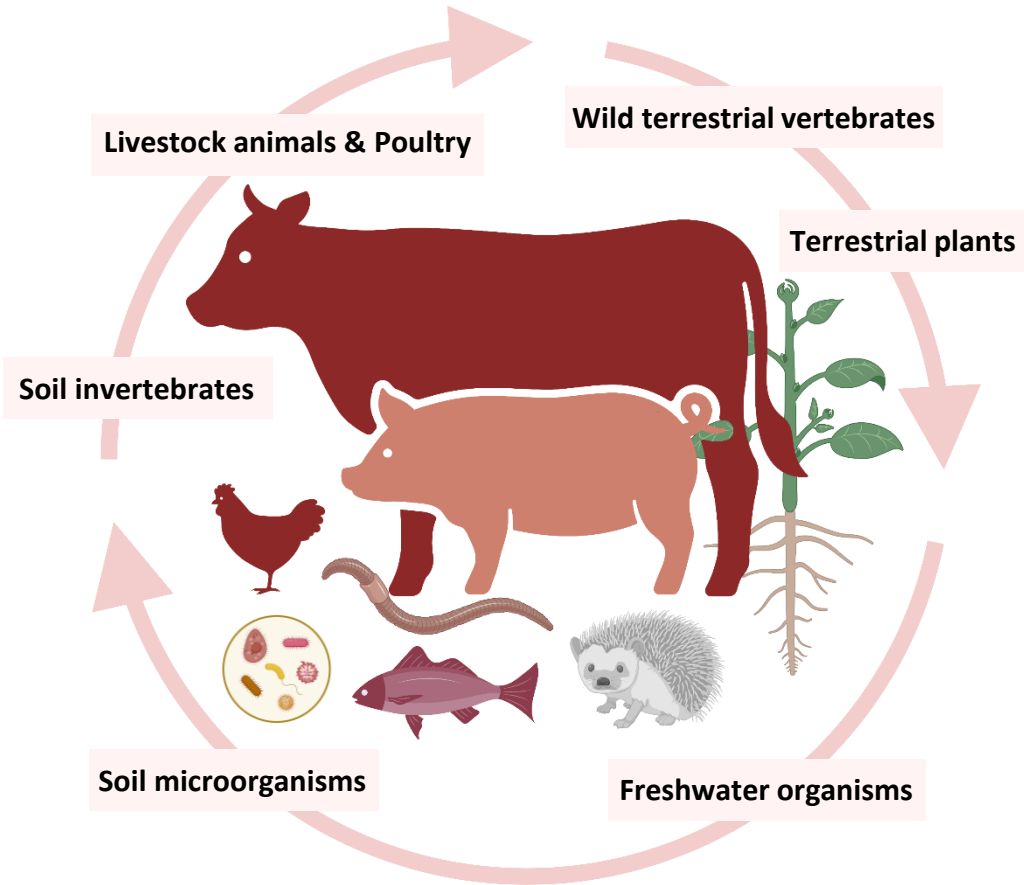


Health hazard to living organisms & Impacts on ecosystems through widespread contamination



Plastics have (eco)toxicological effects on living organisms at multiple scales

Effects of plastics on living organisms



Most well known for a limited number of chemicals

Endocrine disruptors (phthalates, bisphenols): impact on **reproduction**

Main focus on MPLs

Soil organisms: few species, effects through **soil-food web, plastisphere**

Wild vertebrates: few (lab-scale) studies

Livestock animals & poultry: impact on **yield, growth and meat quality**

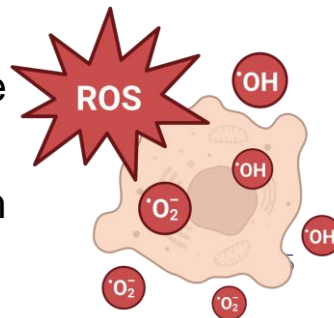


More in-depth research needed

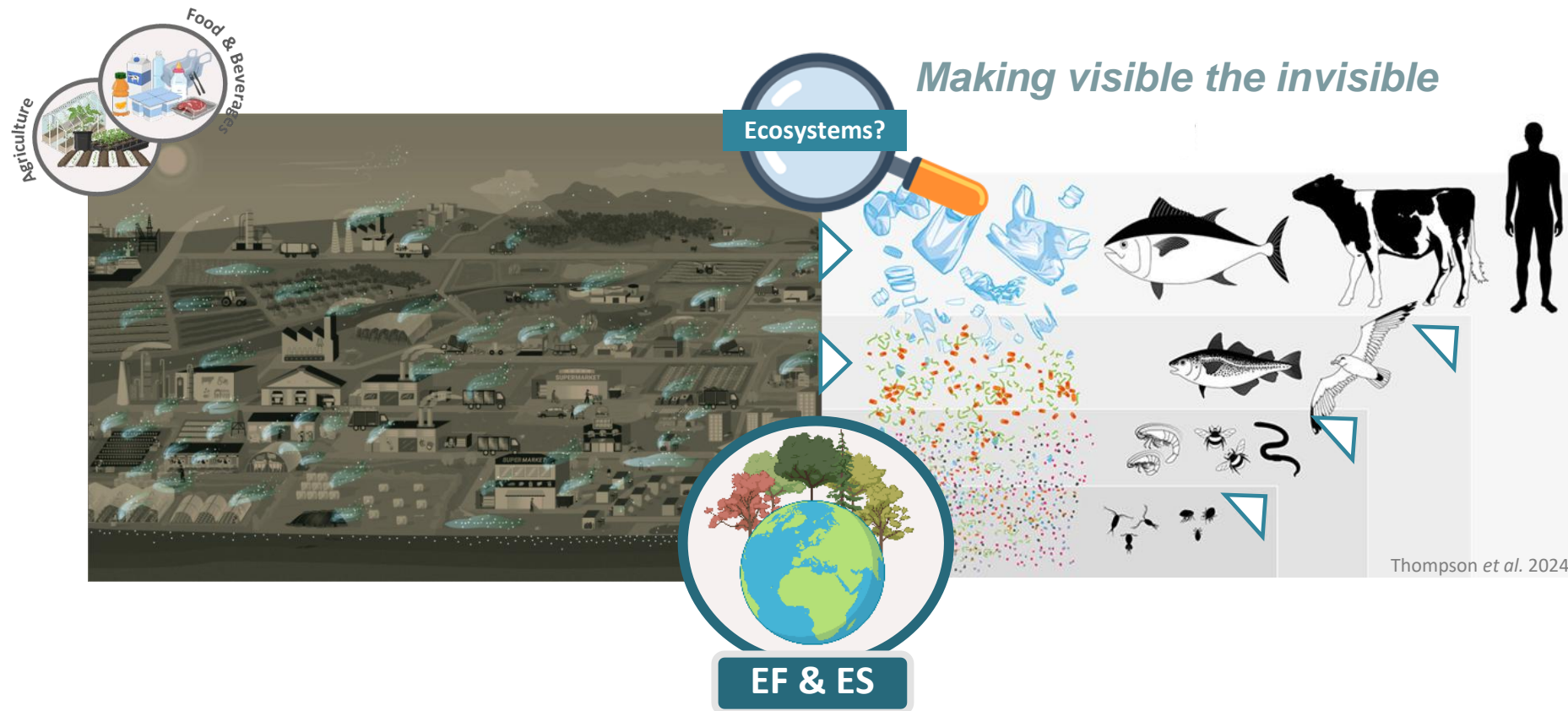
LIMITATIONS: few types of polymers (over-representation of PS), use of monodisperse, spherical and pristine particles (commercial sources)

BUT: adverse effects on behaviour, biological activity, growth, reproduction, metabolism **WITH common players** (microbiota) **AND** mechanisms of action (**oxidative stress**)

INRAE



Health hazard to living organisms & Impacts on ecosystems through widespread contamination



The accumulation of particulate plastics has an impact on ecosystem functioning and is likely to affect the provision of ecosystem services

Effects of plastics on ecosystem functions

Ecosystem functions	
EF1	Gas regulation
EF2	Dissipation and mitigation of contaminants and wastes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF3	Resistance to disturbance
EF4	Water retention in soil and sediment
EF5	Water flow regulation
EF6	Albedo and reflection
EF7	Production and input of organic matter in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF8	Nutrient regulation in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF9	Formation and maintenance of soil and sediment structure
EF10	Dispersion of propagules in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF11	Provision and maintenance of biodiversity and biotic interactions in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF12	Provision and maintenance of habitats and biotopes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems



12 EFs considered based on a previous CSA
(Pesce et al. 2023)

Recent, still fragmentary, knowledge



More in-depth research needed

EF4, EF7 and EF9 the most well documented

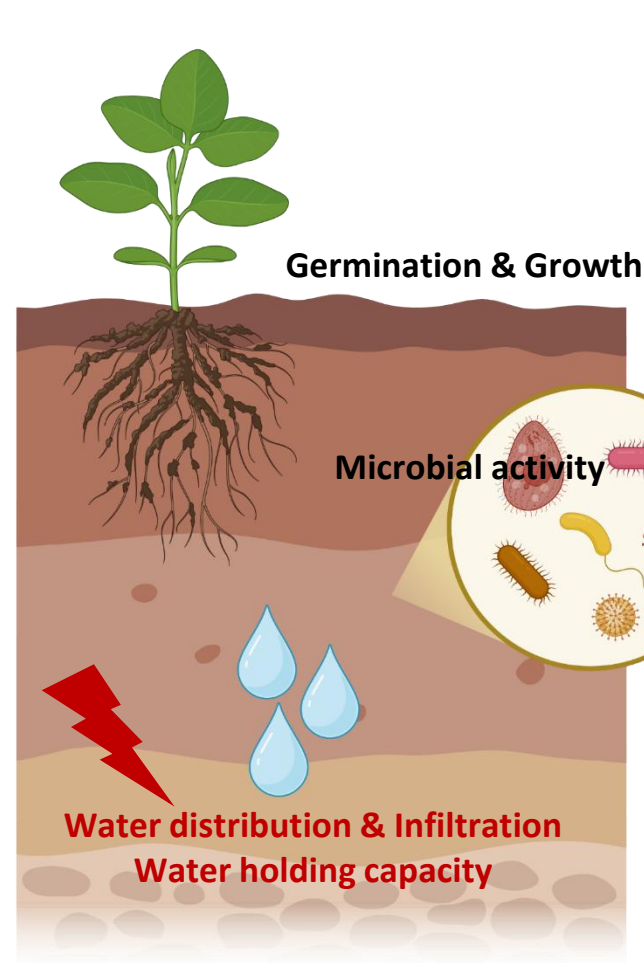


An illustration with EF4 ‘Water retention in SOIL and sediment’

Effects of plastics on ecosystem functions: example of EF4

Ecosystem functions

EF1	Gas regulation
EF2	Dissipation and mitigation of contaminants and wastes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF3	Resistance to disturbance
EF4	Water retention in SOIL and sediment
EF5	Water flow regulation
EF6	Albedo and reflection
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EF10	Dispersion of propagules in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF11	Provision and maintenance of biodiversity and biotic interactions in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
EF12	Provision and maintenance of habitats and biotopes in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems



Presence of plastic particles in soil systems: alteration of water distribution, infiltration pathways and subsequent water holding capacity, depending on the nature of the polymer

Plastic films, and probably fibres: potential alteration of water flow in soils by affecting water infiltration and absorption, with possible implications for plant germination and growth, and reduced soil microbiological activity

Effects of plastics on ecosystem services



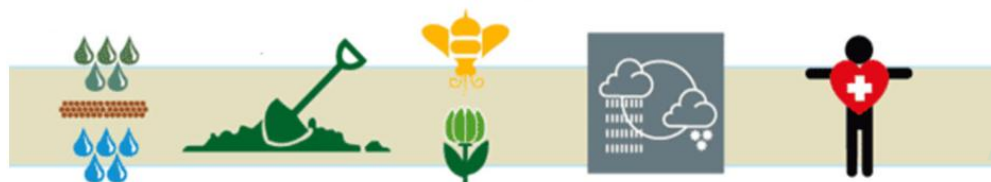
Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services

(Haines-Young and Potschin 2018)

Provision



Regulation & Maintenance



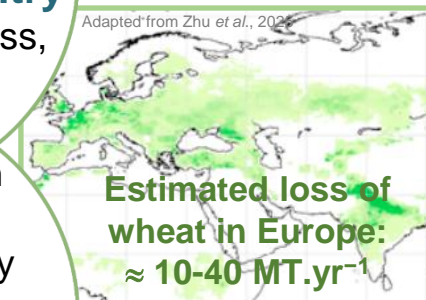
Cultural



Credit: Wilfried Sanchez

Crops
 ↓ biomass, productivity (rice, wheat and maize)
Livestock & poultry
 Anorexia, weight loss, reduced growth

OM degradation
 Soil alteration
 Nutrient & energy reserves
 Habitats for (micro)organisms
 Disruption of the food chain



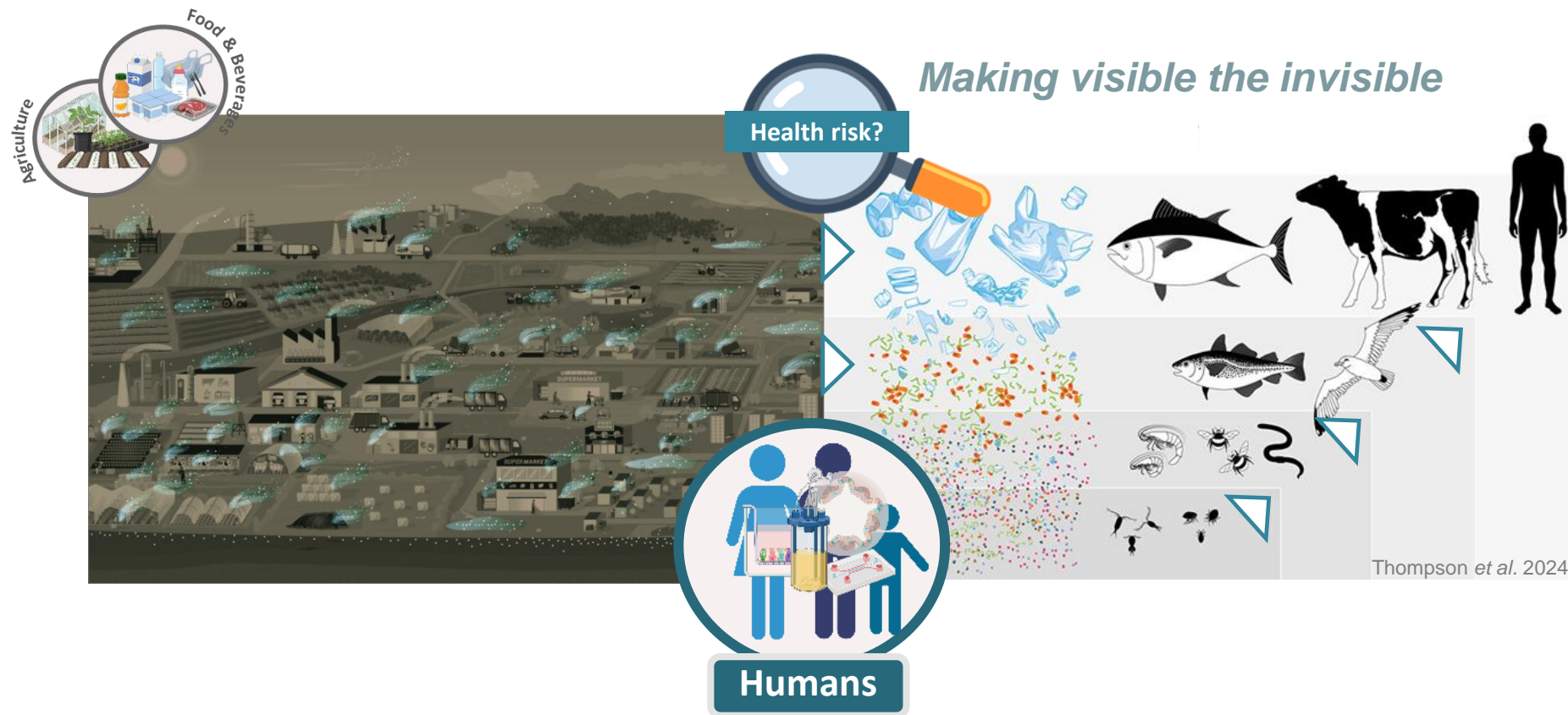
Plastics & their likely impact on human well-being to be further investigated (e.g. other anthropogenic stressors)



➤ Human health & translational research for better risk assessment

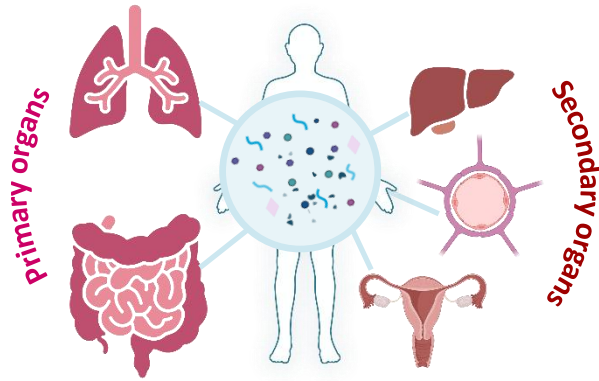
Mathilde Body-Malapel

Human health & Translational research for better risk assessment



In vitro approaches are a step forward in the identification of common mechanisms of plastic toxicity to the gut, lung and secondary organs

In vitro toxicity assessment



High doses & variable exposure scenarios

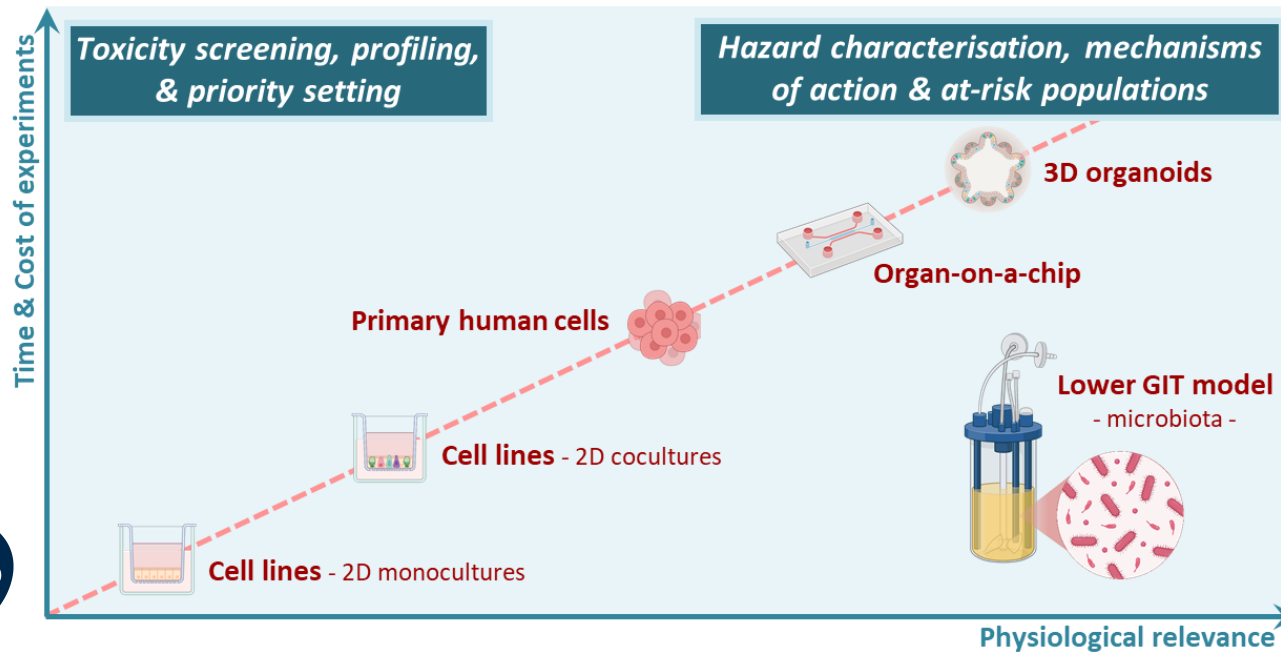


Mechanisms common to all organisms

Oxidative stress, cytotoxicity, genotoxicity, inflammatory response...



One Health for addressing the holistic adverse impact of plastics

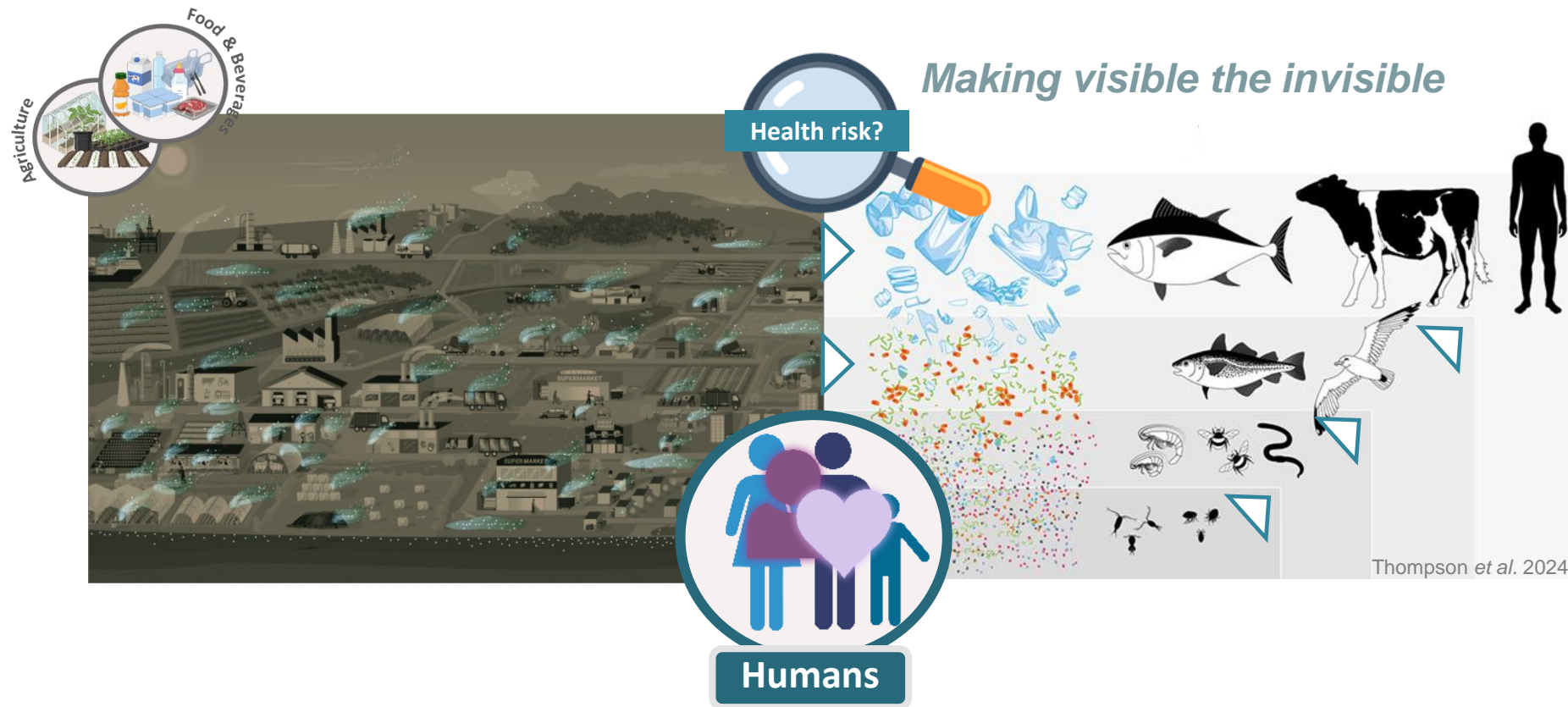


A necessary step from **basic** to more **advanced dynamic in vitro** models



Improved human health risk assessment

Human health & Translational research for better risk assessment

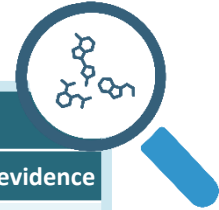


The role of plastics in promoting human disease is known to a different extent for plastic-related compounds than for particulate plastics

Plastic-related compounds & human disease: limited to additives



Only fully elucidated for bisphenol A and phthalates



	BPA		Phthalates	
	Preclinical level of evidence	Clinical level of evidence	Preclinical level of evidence	Clinical level of evidence
Asthma/allergy	Medium	High	High	High
Cancer	Medium	Medium	High	High
Cardiovascular diseases	Medium	High	Medium	High
Metabolic diseases	Medium	High	High	High
Developmental toxicity	High	High	High	High
Male reproductive toxicity	High	High	High	High
Female reproductive toxicity	High	High	High	High
Gastro-intestinal diseases	High	Low	Medium	Low
Hepatic diseases	Medium	NS	High	NS
Immune diseases	High	Low	Medium	Low
Neurological diseases	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Pulmonary diseases	Low	Low	Low	Low
Renal diseases	Medium	High	Low	High
Thyroid diseases	High	High	Medium	High

High: toxicity recognised either by EFSA or by at least 1 meta-analysis

Medium: toxicity recognised by at least 1 systematic review or by more than 3 consistent publications

Low: toxicity found in 1 to 3 publications

NS: not studied

The burden of human diseases: an economic cost for the society



Estimates of the disease costs associated with phthalates and BPA for USA, Canada and European Union

Contaminant	Life stage of exposure	Outcome	USA		Canada		European Union	
			Disease burden (# cases)	Economic cost (billion USD)	Disease burden (# cases)	Economic cost (billion USD)	Disease burden (# cases)	Economic cost (billion USD)
Phthalates	Adult	Obesity	5,900	1.7	2,093	0.6848	53,900	20.8
	Adult	Type 2 Diabetes	1,300	0.0914	225	0.0258	20,500	0.8072
	Adult females	Endometriosis	86,000	47.0	10,151	5.7	145,000	1.7
	Adult males	Male infertility	240,100	2.5	1,395	0.017	618,000	6.3
	Adults	Cardiovascular mortality	90,800	39.9				
Bisphenol A	Prenatal	Childhood obesity	33,000	2.4	1,023	0.059	42,400	2.0

The Endocrine Society

➔ **Lacking a comprehensive view for other diseases and countries**

Tolerable daily intake limits: protection of European citizens

Phthalates & BPA: recognised as endocrine-disruptive chemicals



Updated group tolerable daily intake (TDI) of phthalates in food

2019

Group TDI for:

1. DEHP (Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate)
2. DBP (Dibutyl phthalate)
3. BBP (butylbenzyl phthalate)
4. DINP (di-isononyl phthalate)
5. DIDP (di-isodecyl phthalate)

50 µg/kg bw/day

Updated tolerable daily intake (TDI) of BPA in food

2015

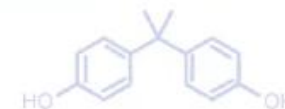
4 µg/kg
body weight per day
(temporary TDI)



2023

0.2 ng/kg
body weight per day
(full TDI)

BPA exposure is much higher than the new TDI*





BPA exposure
>>>
new TDI
=
health concern
for all age groups



*Based on 2015 exposure levels

Particulate plastics & human disease: limited to preclinical studies

	Microplastics		Nanoplastics	
	Preclinical level of evidence	Clinical level of evidence	Preclinical level of evidence	Clinical level of evidence
Asthma/allergy	Low	Not studied	Not studied	Not studied
Cancer	Not studied	Not studied	Low	Not studied
Cardiovascular diseases	Low	Not studied	Low	Not studied
Metabolic diseases	Low	Not studied	Low	Not studied
Developmental toxicity	Medium	Not studied	Medium	Not studied
Male reproductive toxicity	Medium	Not studied	Medium	Not studied
Female reproductive toxicity	Medium	Not studied	Medium	Not studied
Gastro-intestinal diseases	Medium	Low	Medium	Not studied
Hepatic diseases	Medium	Not studied	Low	Not studied
Immune diseases	Medium	Not studied	Not studied	Not studied
Neurological diseases	Medium	Not studied	Medium	Not studied
Pulmonary diseases	Medium	Not studied	Medium	Not studied
Renal diseases	Medium	Not studied	Low	Not studied
Thyroid diseases	Not studied	Not studied	Not studied	Not studied

High: toxicity recognised either by EFSA or by at least 1 meta-analysis

Medium: toxicity recognised by at least 1 systematic review or by more than 3 consistent publications

Low: toxicity found in 1 to 3 publications

Wide toxicity of PS MNPLs from 20 µg/kg bw/day

Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL)

	Spherical PS Microplastics	Spherical PS Nanoplastics
Asthma/allergy		
Cancer		
Cardiovascular diseases		
Metabolic diseases		
Developmental toxicity	20 µg/kg bw/day	20 µg/kg bw/day
Male reproductive toxicity	20 µg/kg bw/day	20 µg/kg bw/day
Female reproductive toxicity	20 µg/kg bw/day	20 µg/kg bw/day
Gastro-intestinal diseases	20 µg/kg bw/day	20 µg/kg bw/day
Hepatic diseases	20 µg/kg bw/day	
Immune diseases	80 µg/kg bw/day	
Neurological diseases	6.5 ng/kg bw/day	450 µg/kg bw/day
Pulmonary diseases	1.25 mg/kg bw/day	4.5 mg/kg bw/day
Renal diseases	20 µg/kg bw/day	



Spherical shape & only one polymer (PS)

M. Body-Malapel - CSA Extended Report



Bridging basic & clinical research
Bridging analytical developments & epidemiological studies

Q&A session



➤ **Is a sustainable system of plastics used in agriculture and for food possible?**

Plastics used in agriculture and for food are entangled in a complex sociotechnical system



Plastics used in agriculture and for food are entangled in a complex sociotechnical system



Plastics used in agriculture and for food are entangled in a complex sociotechnical system



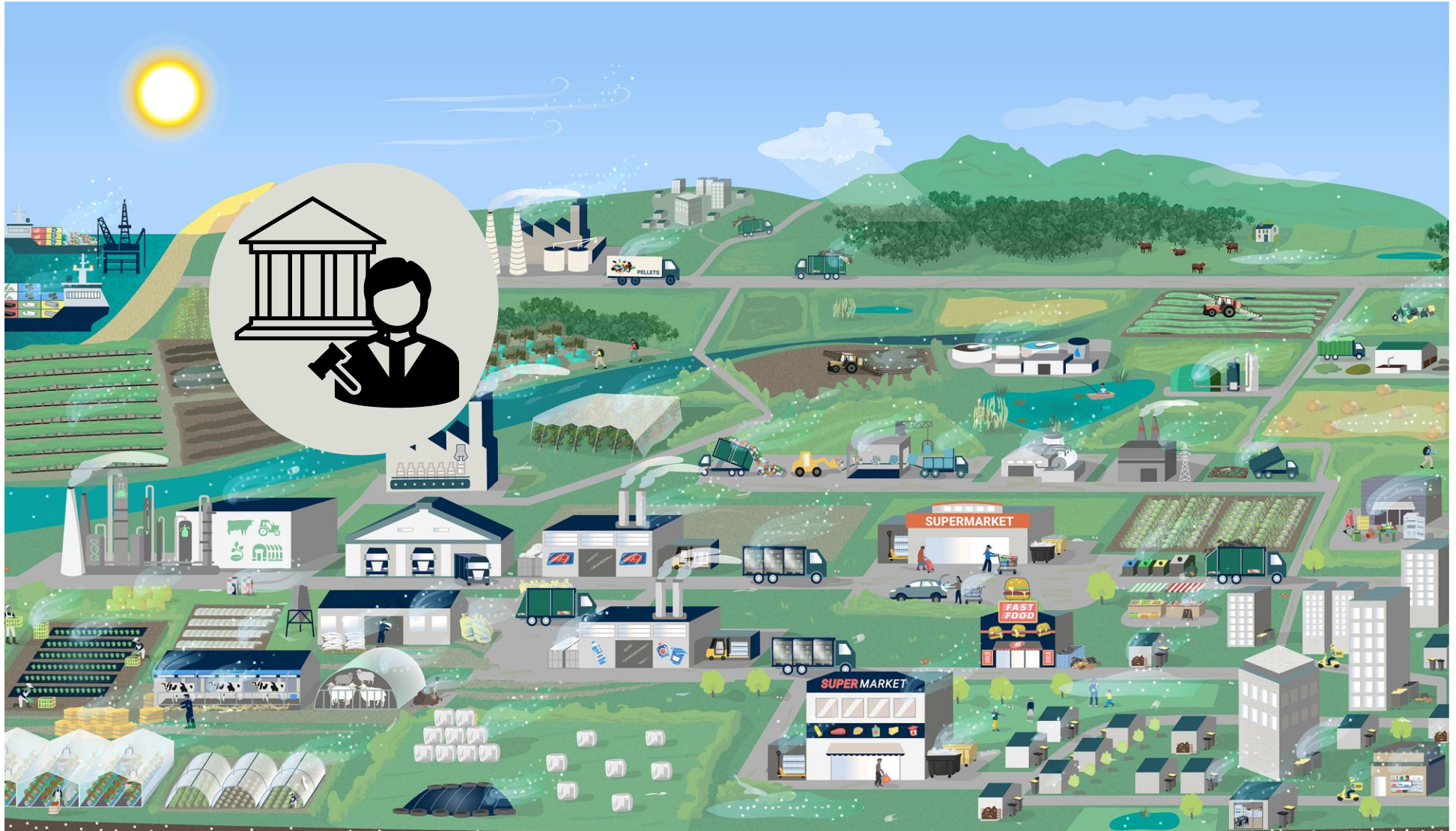
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Regulation of the plastics' sociotechnical system



➤ Regulation of the plastics' sociotechnical system

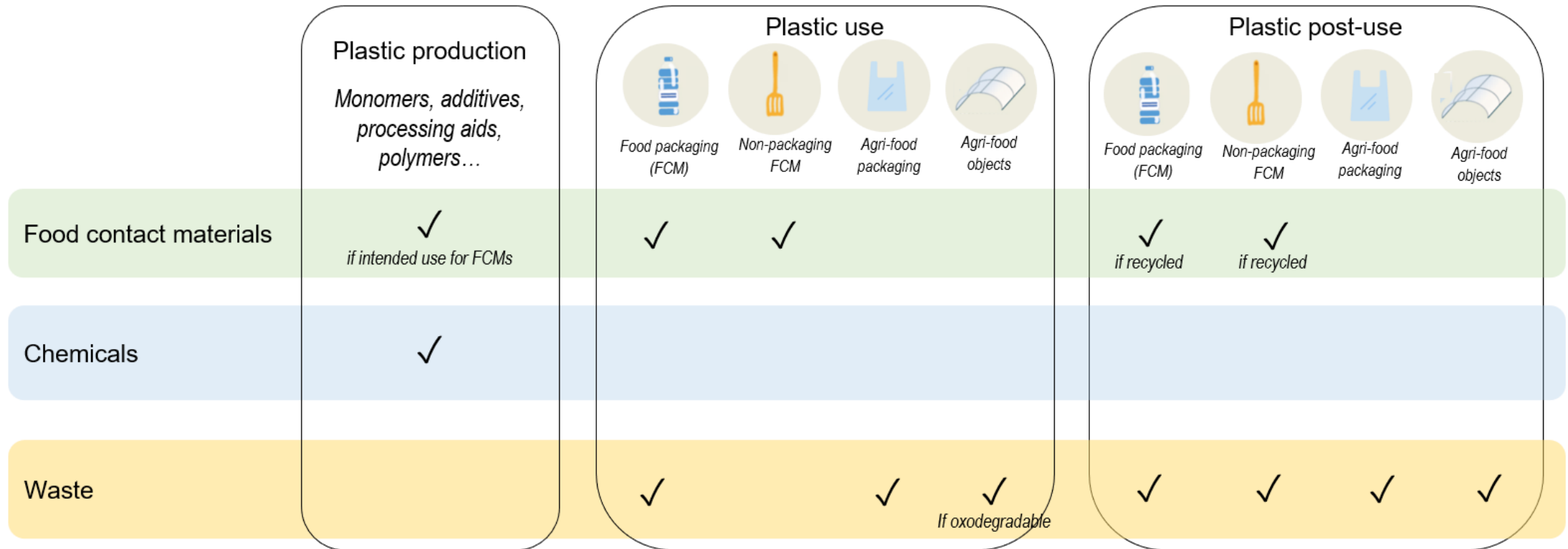
Pierre-Etienne Bouillot

based on a contribution by

Delphine Notelet, Pierre-Etienne Bouillot, François Dedieu, Eugenia Lampi, Anaïs Tibi, Lise Paresys

Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability

- A legal framework driven by:
 - economic freedom
 - health and environmental protection objectives
- divided into:
 - food contact material
 - waste
 - and chemicals regulations



Notelet et al., CSA extended report

Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability



Plastics lately addressed as a specific object of regulation

Plastics in the scope of plastic FCMs regulations, from the first definition of plastics to the regulation in force.

- Plastics are defined as a mixture of chemical substances, as a material or as an object, depending on the legal area
- An evolving (plastic) definition of plastics, also depending on the legal area considered

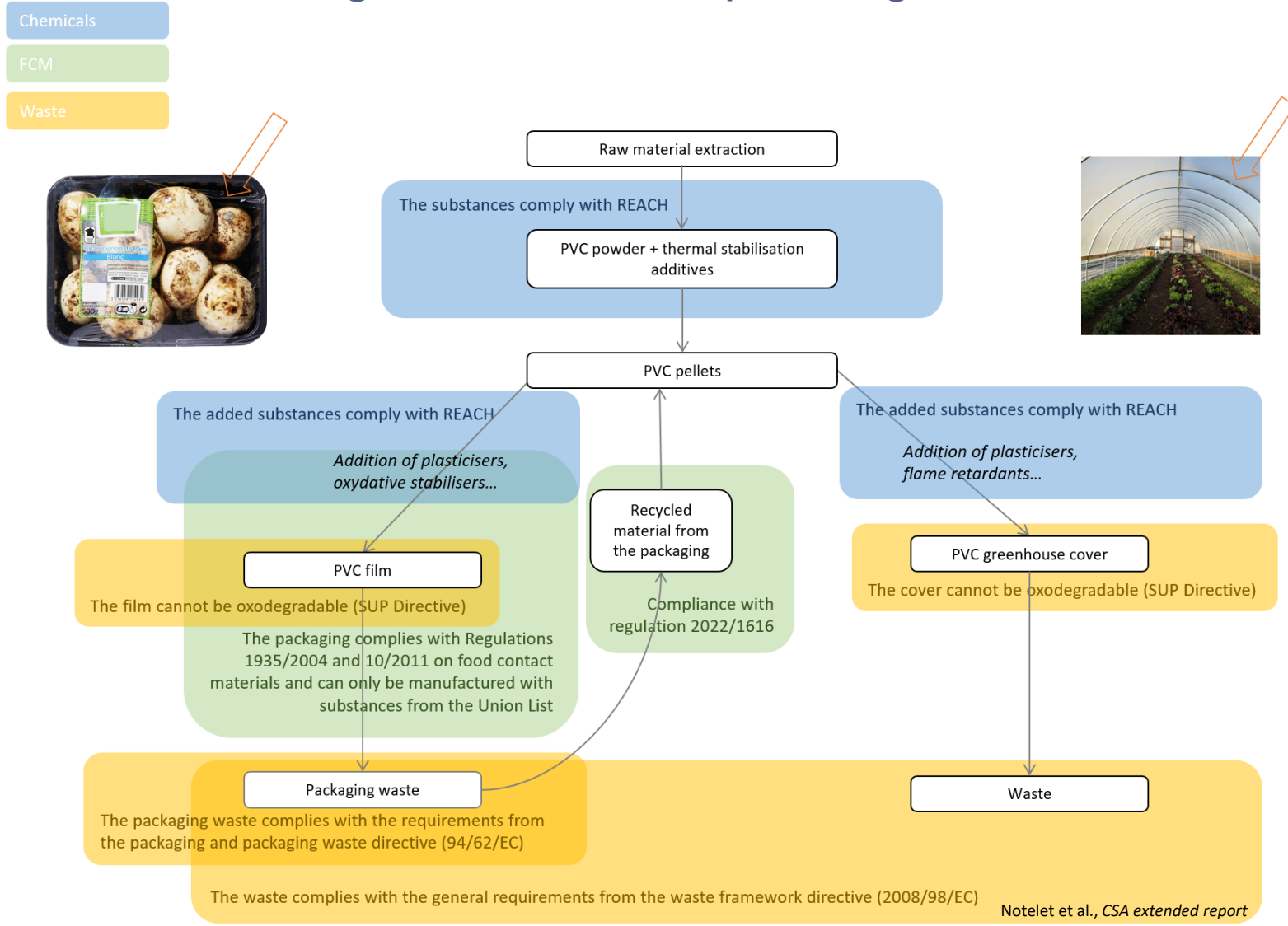
	Directive 82/711/EEC	Directive 90/128/EEC	Directive 2001/62/EC	Directive 2002/72/EC	Regulation (EU) No 10/2011
Elastomers	-	-	-	-	? (except for silicones)
Silicones	+ Because not considered as elastomers at the time	+	- Because considered as elastomers	-	-
Paper and cardboard modified or not by the addition of plastic	-	-	-	-	?
Coatings derived from paraffin or micro-crystalline waxes and mixtures of these waxes with each other and/or with plastics	-	-	-	-	?
Multi-material multi-layer (one of which is not plastic)	-	-	-	-	+

Notelet et al., CSA extended report

	In force
	Not in force
+	Regarded as plastics or in the scope of the text
-	Not regarded as plastics or not in the scope of the text
?	Not mentioned in the text

Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability

Diagram of the different legal treatment depending on use: case of PVC



Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability

Plastics regulation focuses on the tip of the iceberg

- A large proportion of plastic-related chemicals, including hazardous ones, are unregulated
 - regulations focus on certain molecules that are already relatively well known (e.g. phthalates, bisphenols)
 - Regulation overlooks the safety evaluation of polymers, for debatable reasons
 - Waste regulations focus on a handful of macroplastic objects, overlooking other macroplastics, other sectors and micro- and nanoplastics

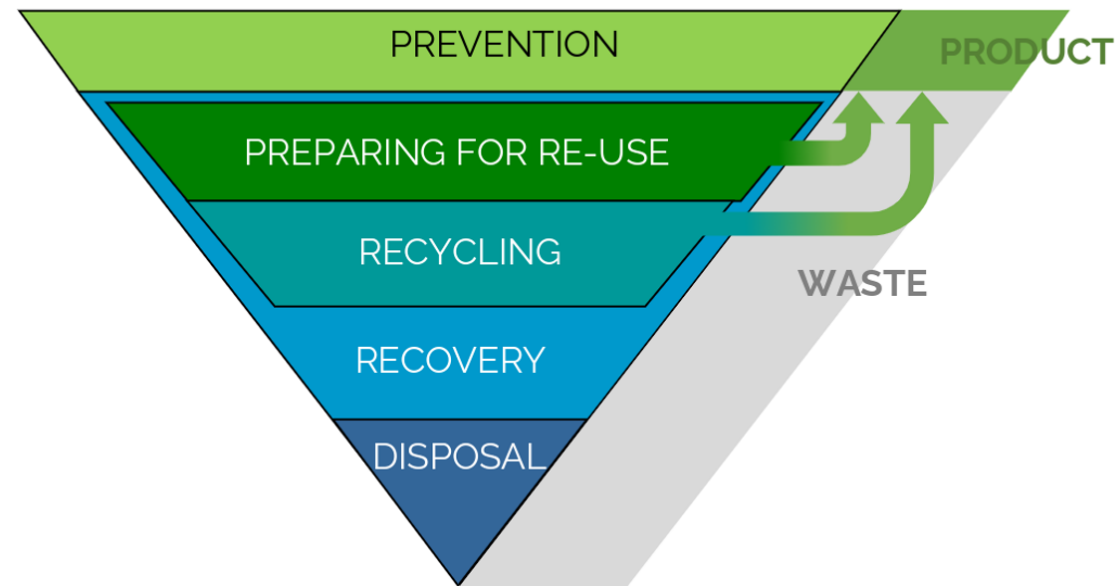
- Regulations do not take into account plastics in the early stages of the food chain value, even though they may come into contact with food

	FCM		Waste			Chemicals
	1935/2004	10/2011	94/62	2008/98	2019/904	REACH
Plastics used in agriculture	No	No	Yes (general)	Yes (general)	Yes for oxodegradable plastics	Yes (general + microplastics)

Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability

Plastics regulation is mostly curative

- Plastics regulation focuses on waste management, and plastics in particular
- No cap on the production of plastics
- Prevention and precautionary measures are limited



Hierarchy among prevention and waste management options

Regulation of the system of plastics: a difficult pathway towards sustainability

Corporate leverage on regulation

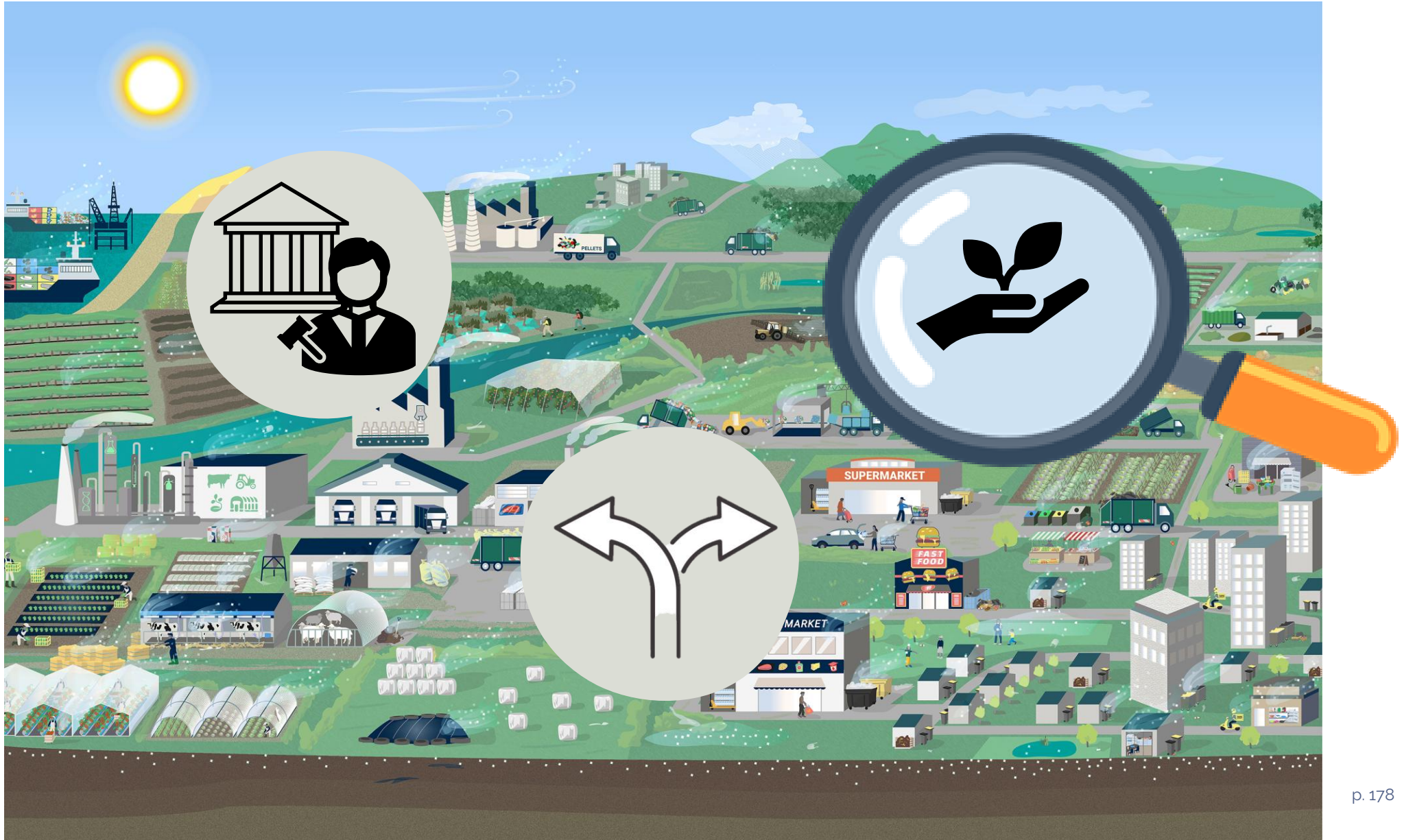
- Corporate **lobbying** uses tactics like **diversions**, **marketing**, and **opposing regulations**.
- Through promotion of circular economy, **industries emphasise consumer responsibility** and recycling, avoiding plastic production issues.
- **Public and corporate expertise interplay** in shaping plastic regulations.



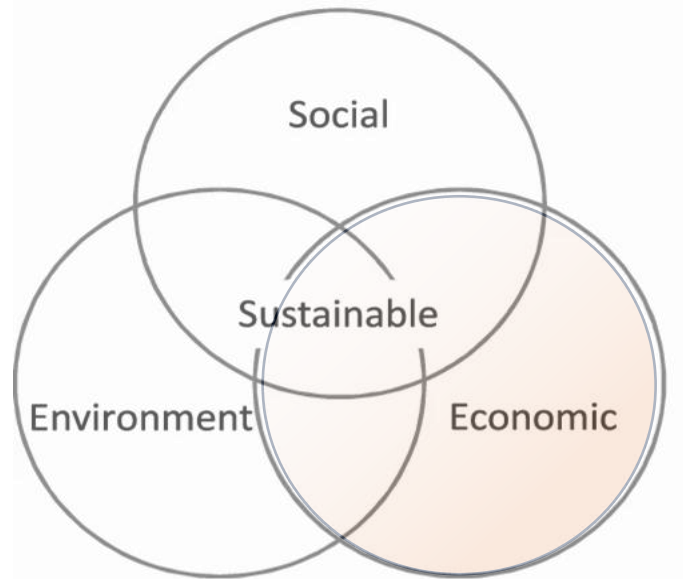
Research needs:

- **Expand legal research on plastics** to assess limitations of existing laws.
 - Focus on regulation of food contact materials (FCMs) for safety.
- **Explore regulatory measures** for micro- and nanoplastics.
 - F.i: MPL residues in organic fertilisers and address limitations in regulations concerning plastic residues in composting (MPLs<2mm).
- **Facilitate access to industrial archives.**

Assessment of plastics' sustainability and mitigation strategies



Sustainability of the system of plastics is mostly reduced to a promise to improve the circularity in economy, through recycling processes



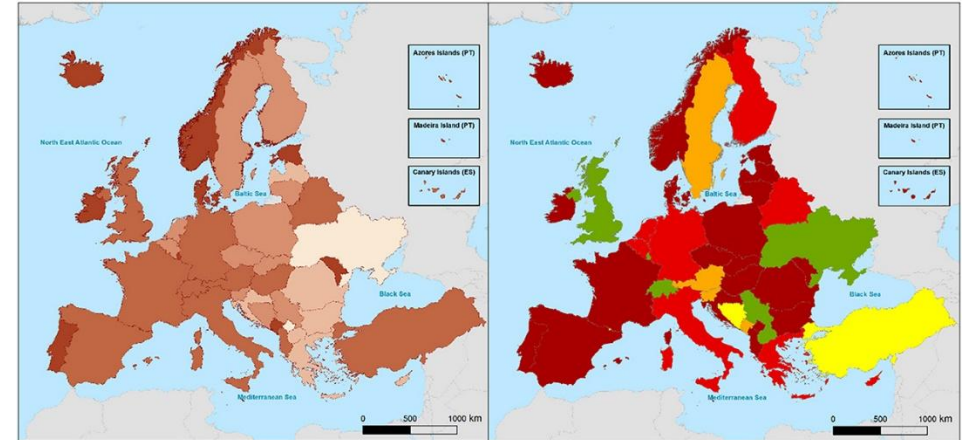
Sustainability ?
WCDE, 1987



The 4R scheme
source World Bank, 2012

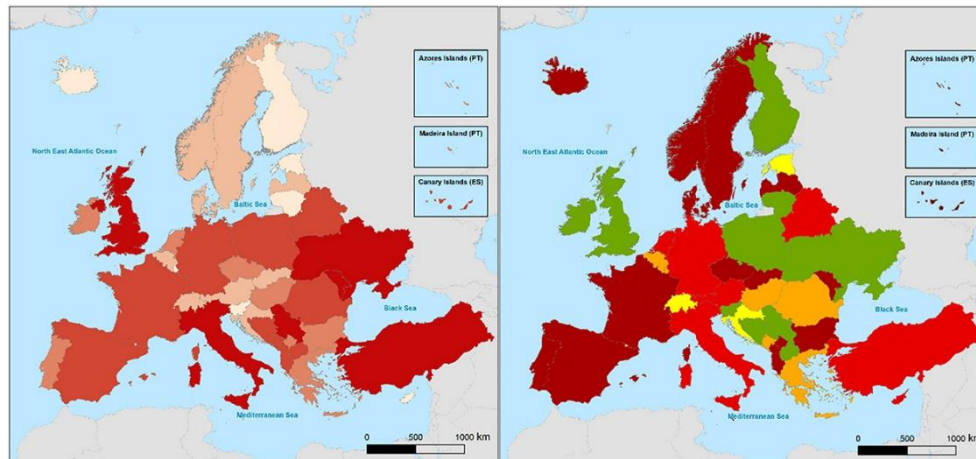
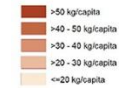
Circularity of plastic system is mostly focused on recycling strategies, where scientific literature explains that **prevention/reduction should be prioritised.**

Prioritising plastic recycling over plastic production reduction is a counterproductive mitigation strategy as...



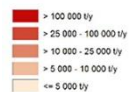
PPSi waste generated per capita 2018

PPSi waste generated per capita - Index of change 2018/2012



Mismanaged PPSi waste 2018

Mismanaged PPSi waste - Index of change 2018/2012

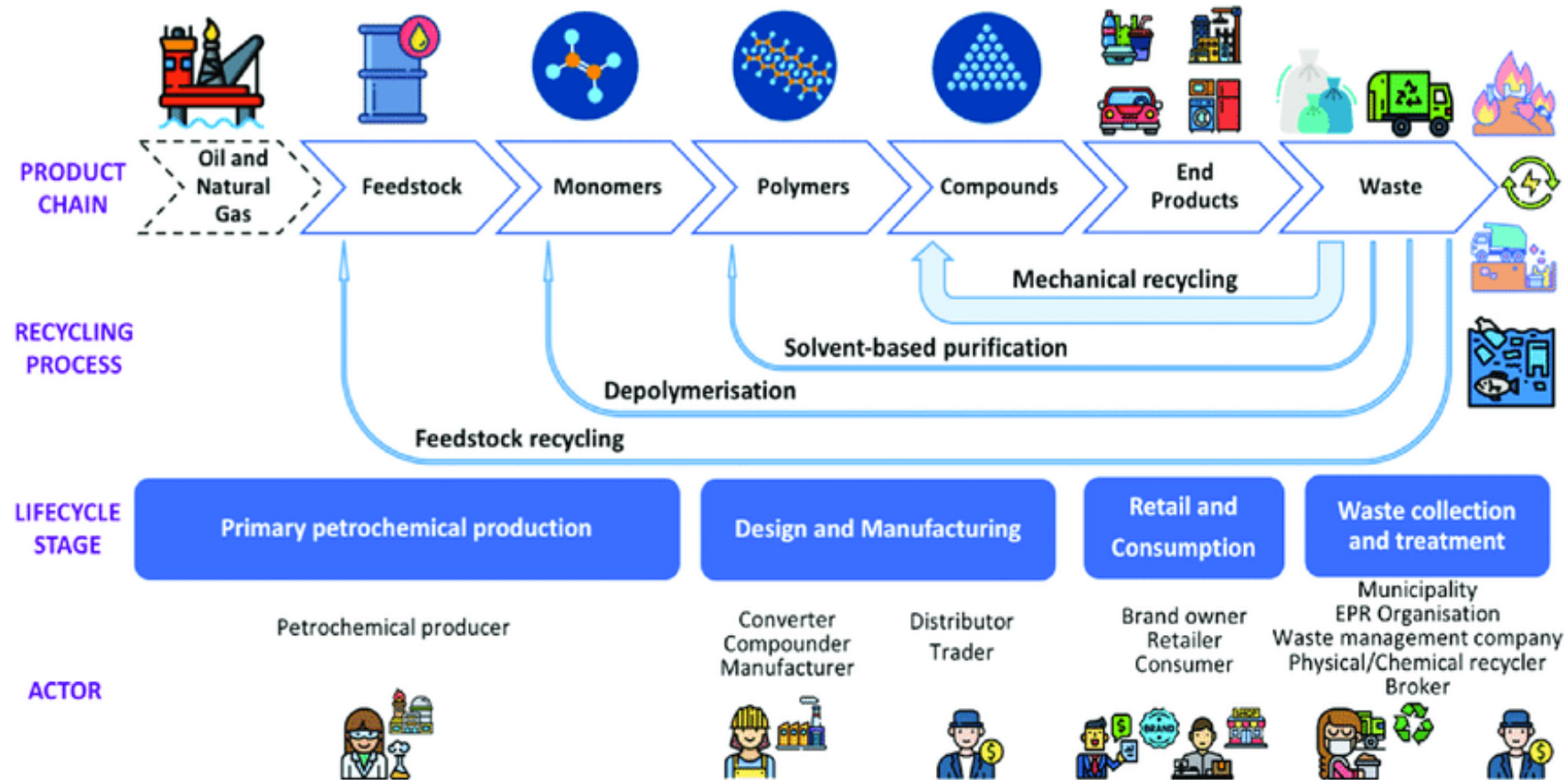


... plastic recycling alone cannot overcome the ever-increasing plastic consumption, mismanaged plastic waste and plastic pollution

In Winterstetter et al. 2023

Prioritising plastic recycling over plastic production reduction is a counterproductive mitigation strategy as...

Plastics recycling: many actors, many technologies, many materials



Hsu et al., 2022

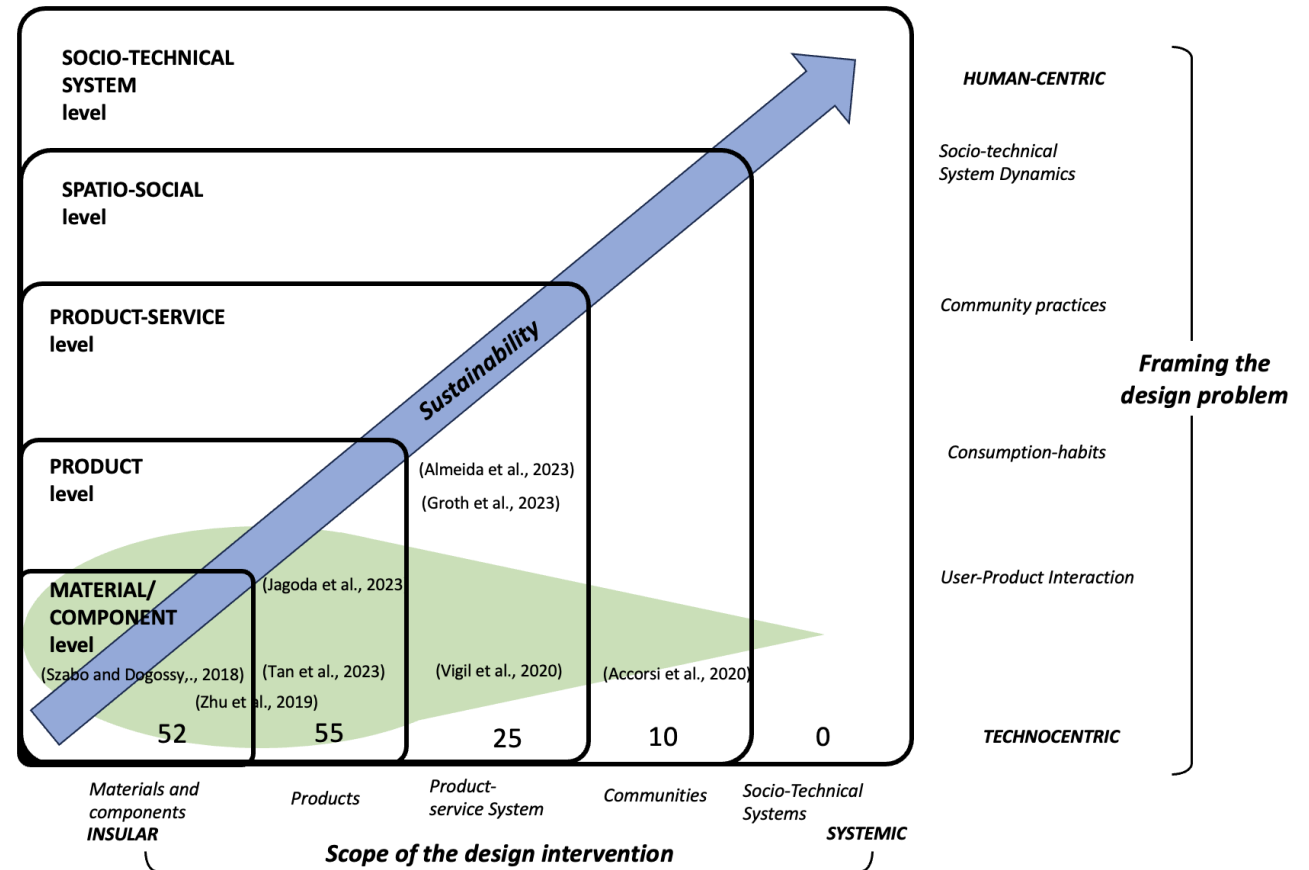
Profitability of plastics recycling is globally debated...

...and appears non profitable for other plastics than rigid PET and PEHD

A reductive assessment of plastic sustainability in decision-making processes...

LCA is a hegemonic but limited tool...

... leading to the implementation of irrelevant mitigation strategies



The design levels and scope of the DFS field including paper from the corpus. Adapted from (Ceschin and Gaziulusoy, 2019)

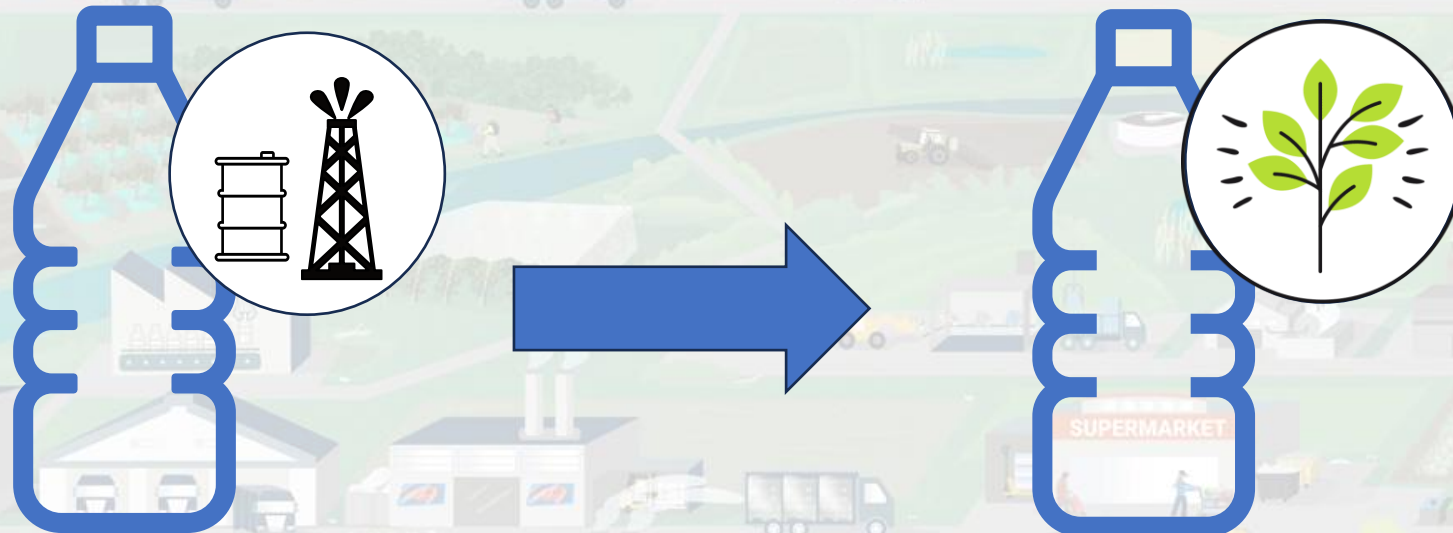
LCA is the main tool to assess plastic sustainability in all its dimensions (including human health) as well as to develop eco-design strategies, but is **too reductive and leads to irrelevant mitigation strategies.**

Alternatives: strategies of reduction



Strategies of reduction: reliable options have yet to be found

**Substitution: most of the studied alternatives to plastics are...
... plastics and not alternative materials or practices**

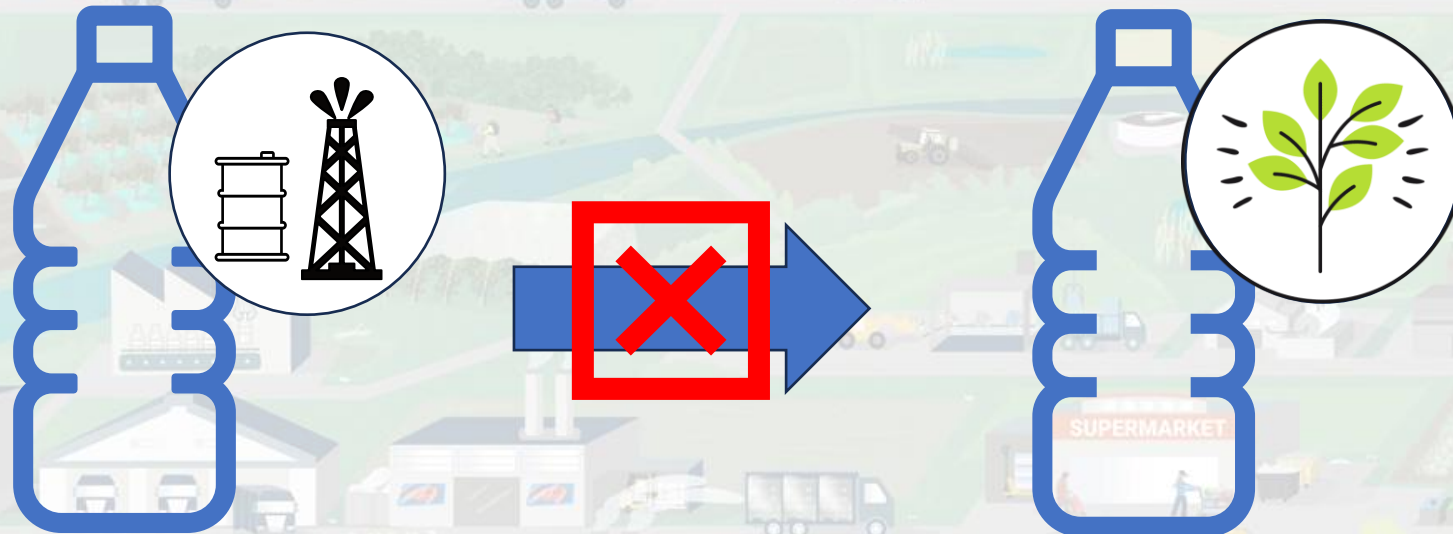


The scientific literature dedicated to approaches to sustainability **focuses on research for substitutes for conventional plastics** by looking for materials **with similar functional properties without questioning their objective of use**. Because bio-based and biodegradable plastics are still **not economically viable** and because they pose **environmental issues**, they are not a reliable option.

Strategies of reduction: reliable options have yet to be found

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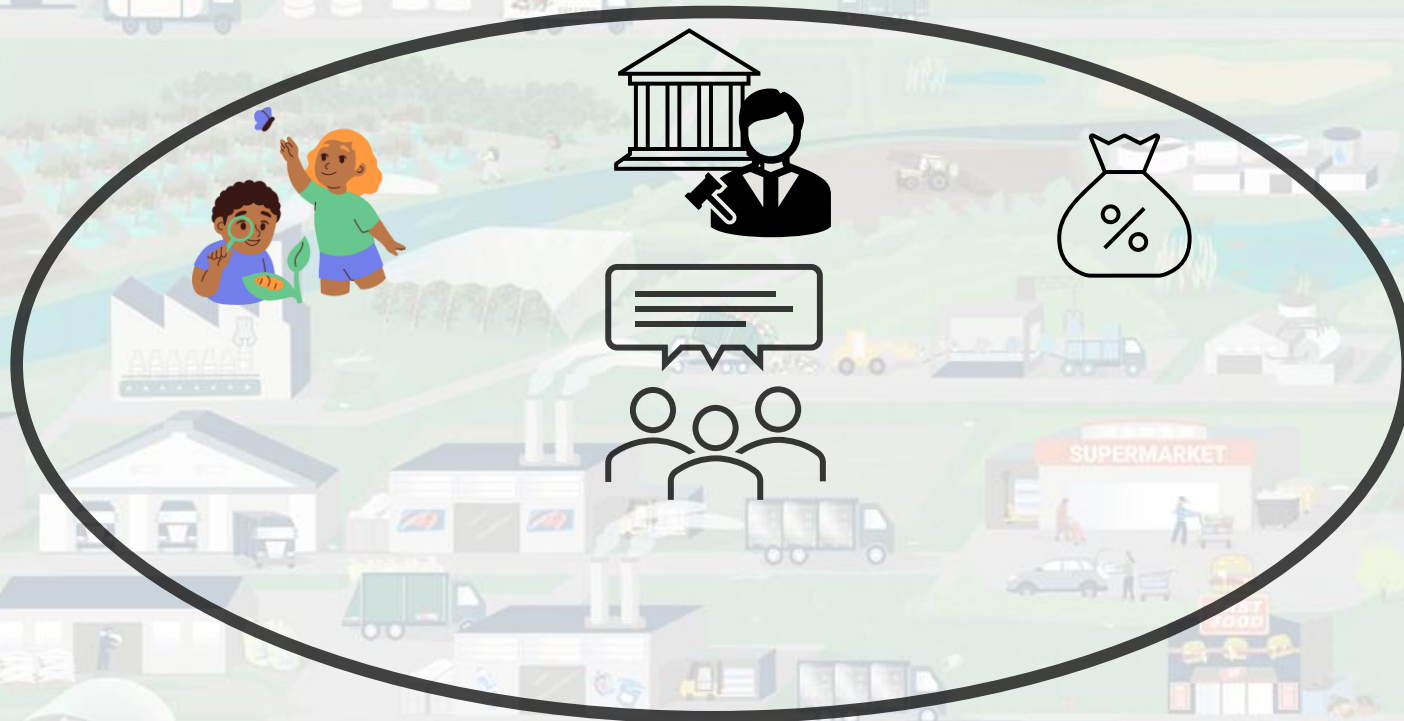
Strategies of reduction: reliable options have yet to be found

Upstream strategies are a priority to reduce the production and consumption of plastics



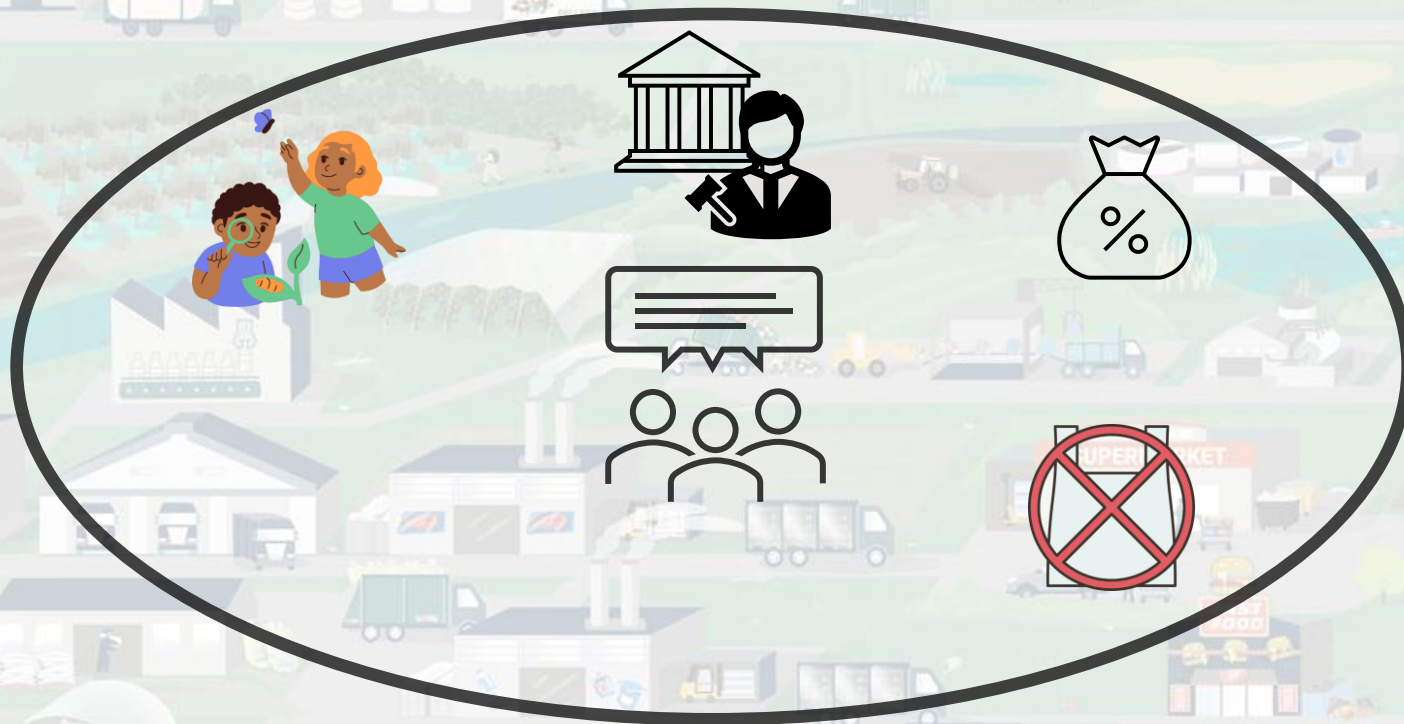
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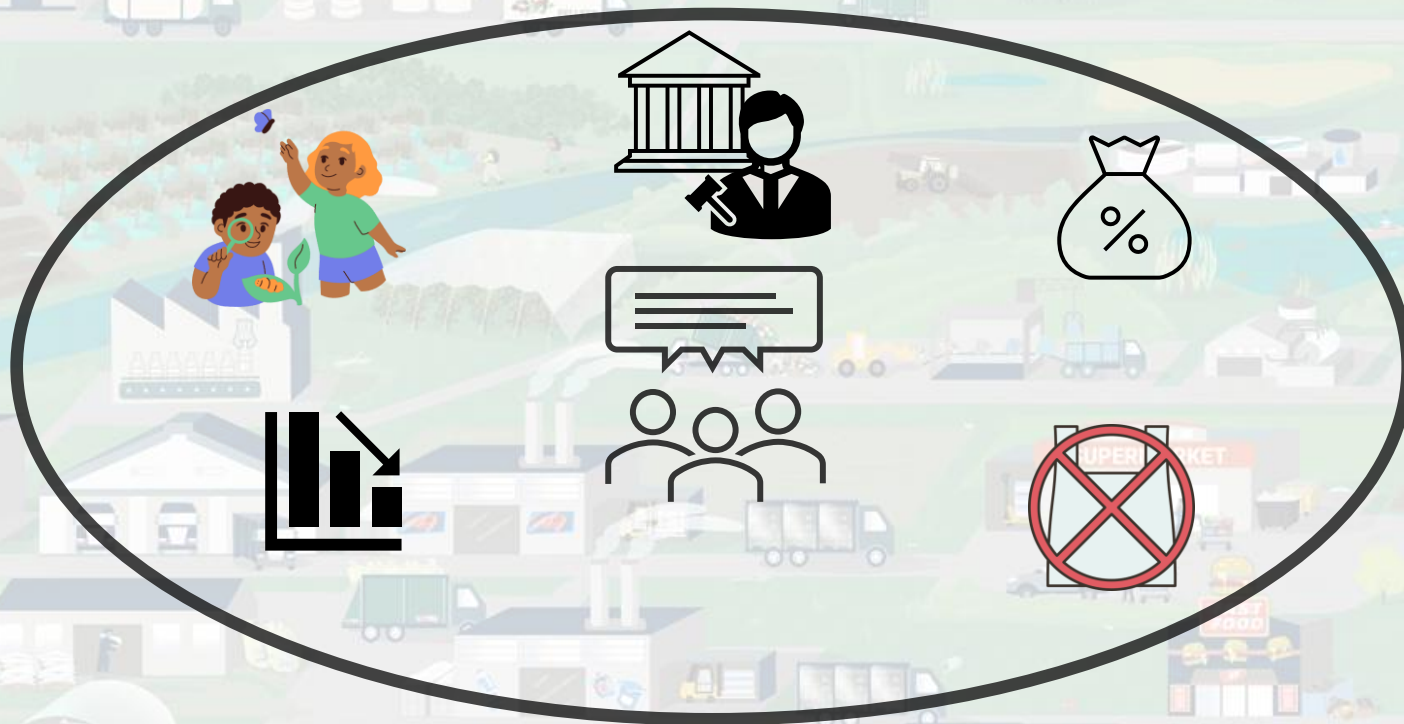
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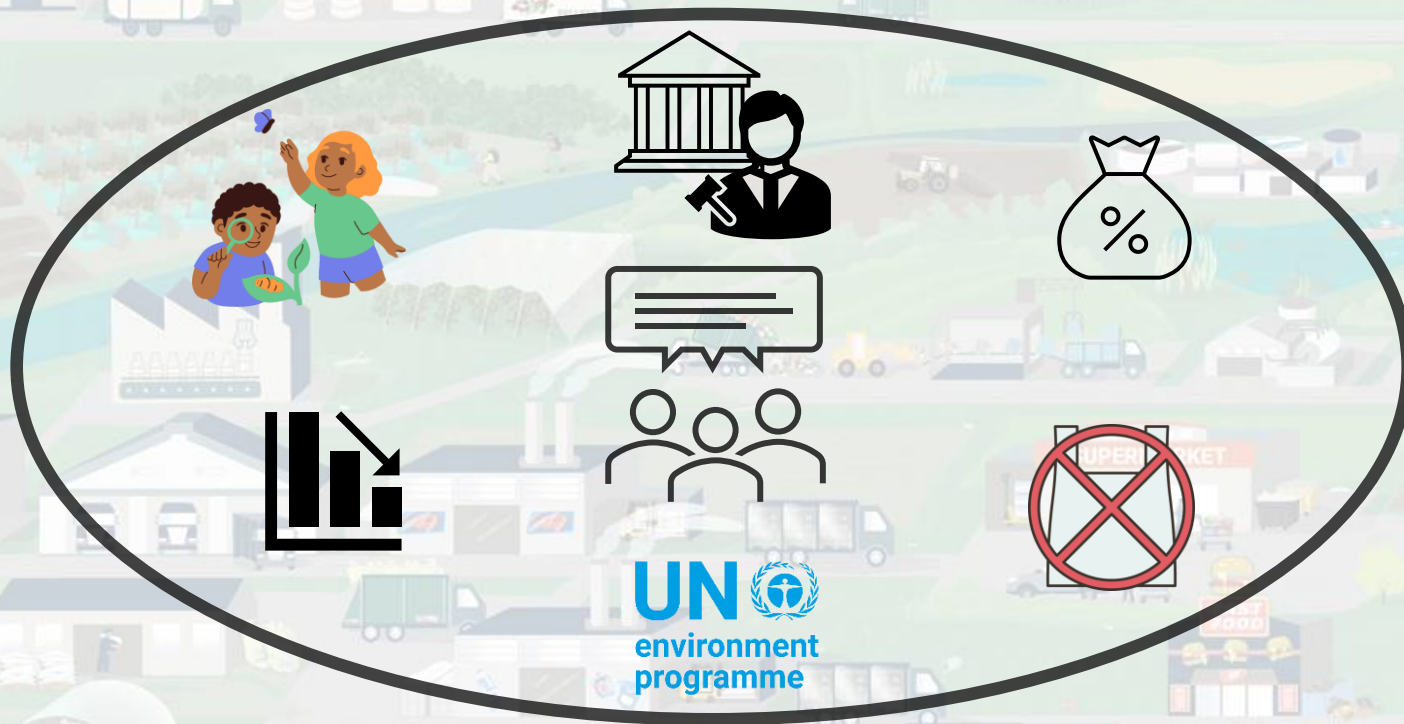
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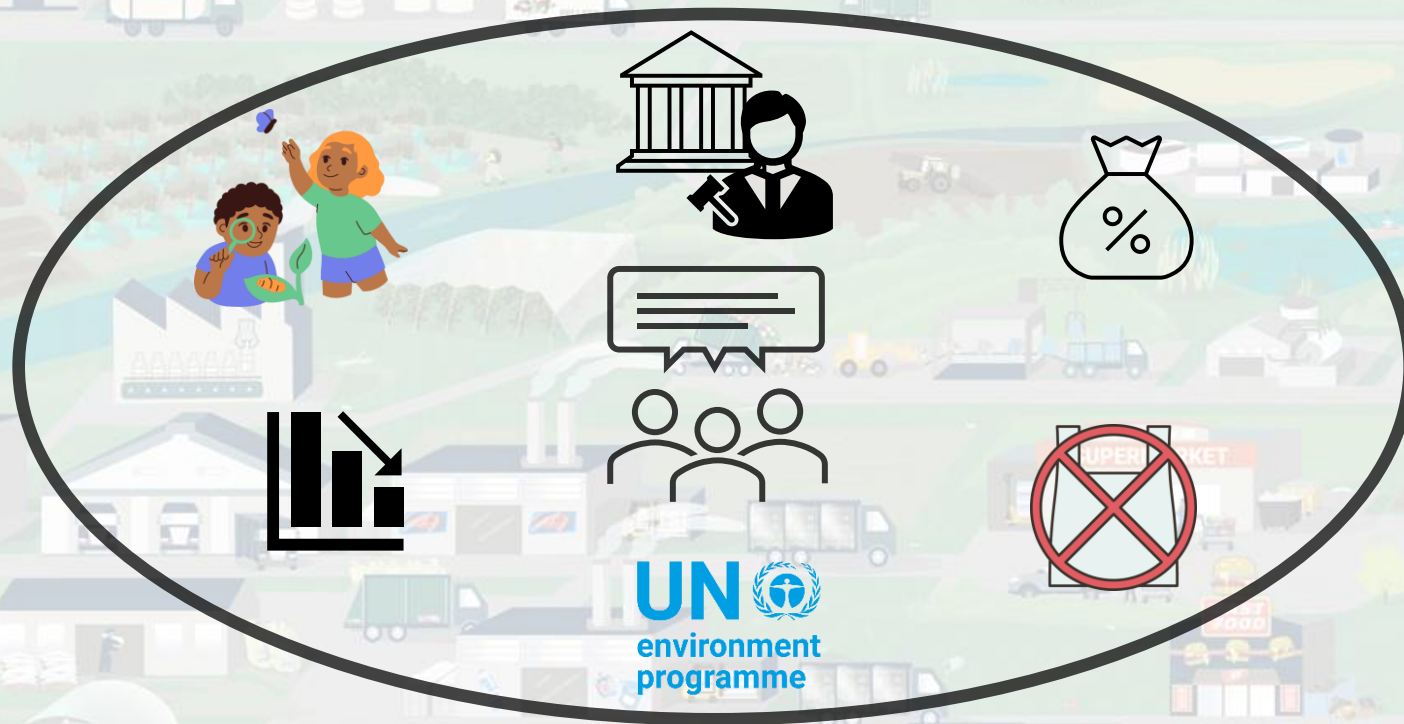
Upstream strategies are a priority to reduce the production and consumption of plastics



UN 
environment
programme

Strategies of reduction: reliable options have yet to be found

Upstream strategies are a priority to reduce the production and consumption of plastics




If the objective of **reduction of production and consumption of raw plastics** appears **consensual in scientific literature**, the research on actual means on how to achieve **reduction strategies** remains **limited**.

➤ Conclusion

In brief

Because of their many uses, plastics are now structuring both technically and culturally the food value chains, particularly downstream: their versatility has encouraged greater complexity in their formulations, making their waste management very difficult.

Their omnipresence in continental ecosystems and in the human body, and their proven impacts at all levels, therefore call into question the very possibility of making the use of plastics in agriculture and food sustainable.



Du fait de leurs usages nombreux, les plastiques structurent aujourd'hui tant techniquement que culturellement les chaînes de valeur alimentaire, en particulier à l'aval: leur versatilité a encouragé la complexification de leurs formulations ce qui contribue à compliquer très largement leur gestion à l'état de déchet.

Leur omniprésence dans tous les écosystèmes continentaux et dans le corps humain et les impacts avérés à toutes les échelles viennent donc questionner la possibilité même de rendre soutenables les usages des plastiques dans l'agriculture et l'alimentation.

Knowledge gaps & Research needs



- Strengthen **field research** to understand **plastic usage** in food value chains.
- **Track plastic flows** from production to waste **to assess their impacts.**
- **Address the hazardous nature** of plastics using a **One Health** research approach.
- Develop **scenarios for reducing plastic** production and consumption.
- **Clarify implications of plastic use** in food value chains.
- Focus on **simplifying plastic systems and formulations.**
- Contribute to **scientific efforts for systemic transformation** in food value chains.

> More Interdisciplinarity

INRAE



Expertise scientifique collective sur les plastiques utilisés en agriculture et pour l'alimentation

Paris, 23 mai 2025


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Table ronde

Philippe Bolo, Député, rapporteur de l'OPEST

Gilles Robillard, Président de Terres Inovia

Ronan Vanot, Directeur général d'ADIVALOR

Ariane Voyatzakis, Directrice de l'innovation et de la prospective de l'ANIA

Lauren Weir, Ocean Campaigner à l'EIA



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> More Interdisciplinarity

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La grande vague (2024) et Trash (2023), peinture éco-responsable sur herbe

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