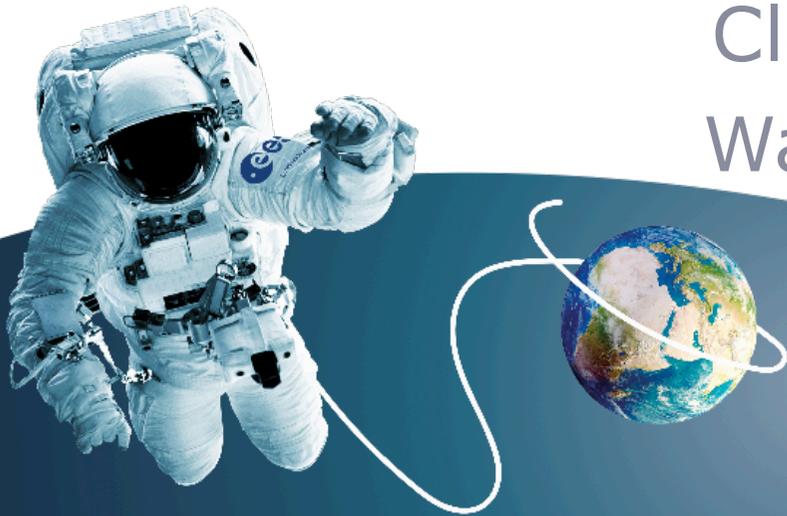




CREATING  
A CIRCULAR  
**FUTURE**

# FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE

Closing the loops in the Urban  
Water, Energy and Food Nexus



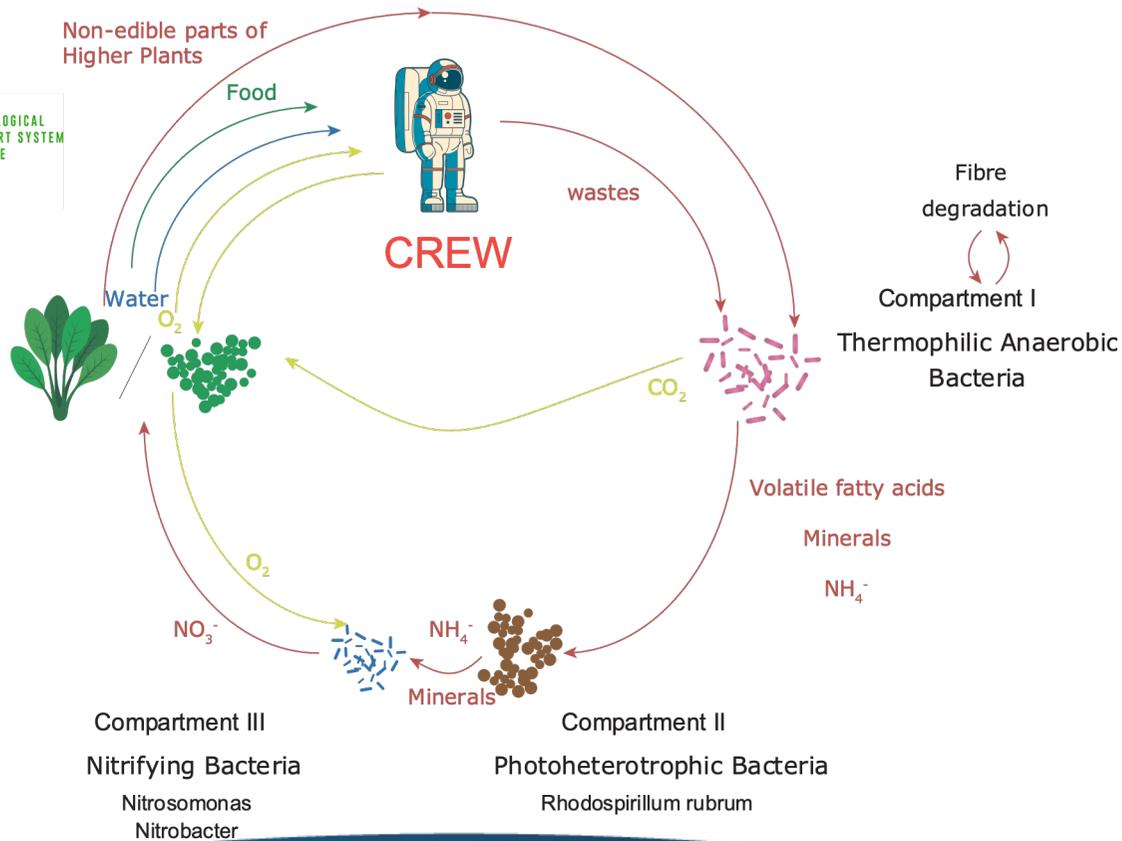
Radu Giurgiu, *PhD*  
radu.giurgiu@semilla.io



# ESA - MELISSA Space Heritage



Compartment IV  
Higher Plant Compartment/  
Photoautotrophic Bacteria  
*Athrospira platensis*

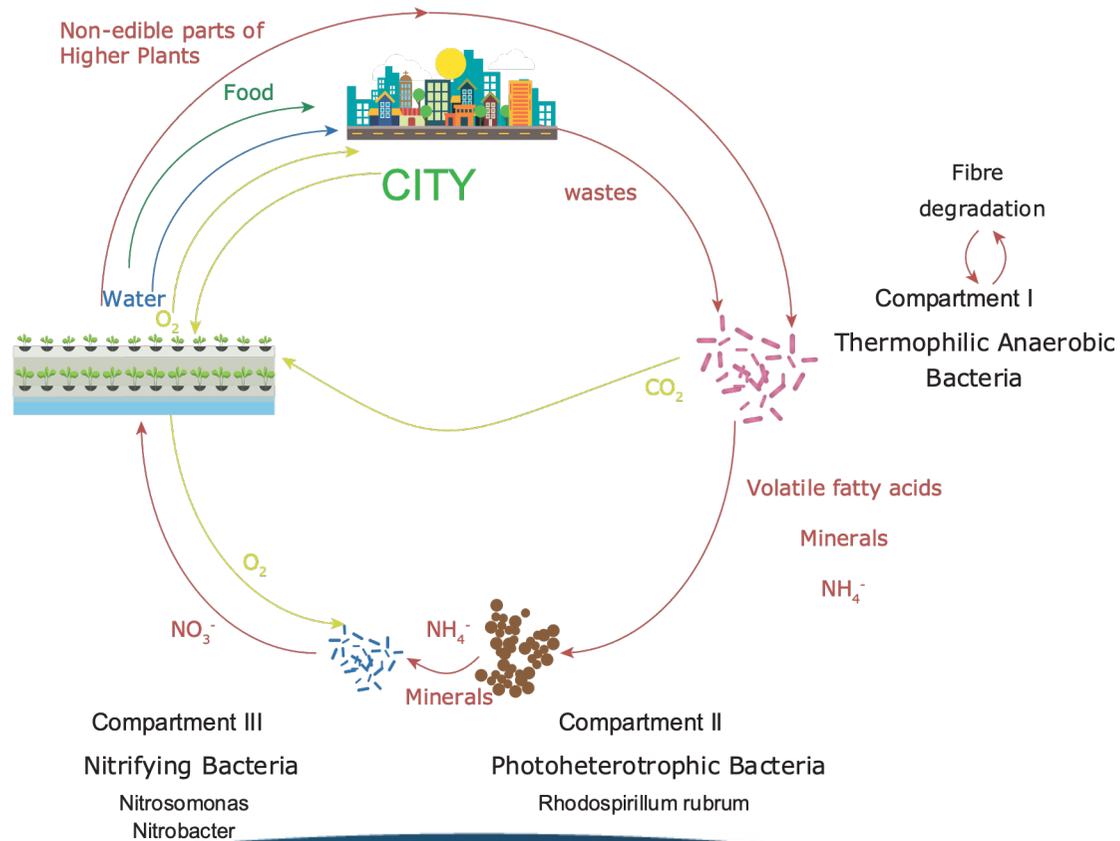




# MELISSA - Earth Application



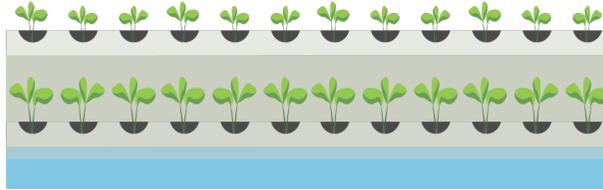
Compartment IV  
Urban Vertical Farming  
Plant Factories with  
Artificial Light





# Circular Food Systems - FS context

Resources



Food

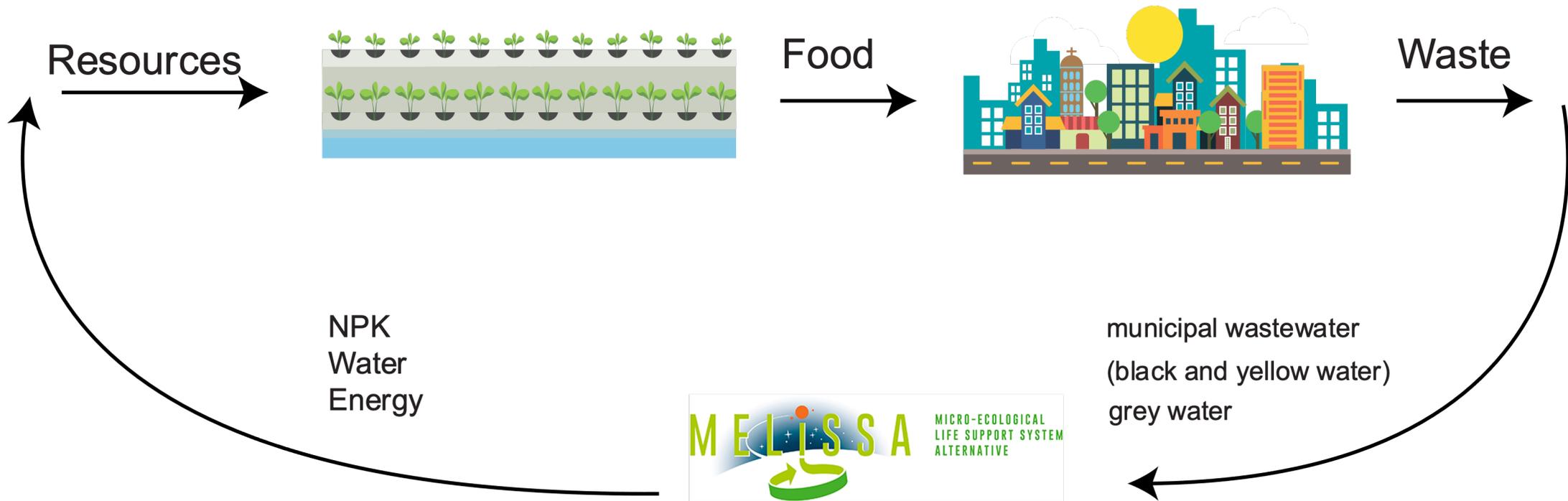


Waste





# Circular Food Systems - FS context



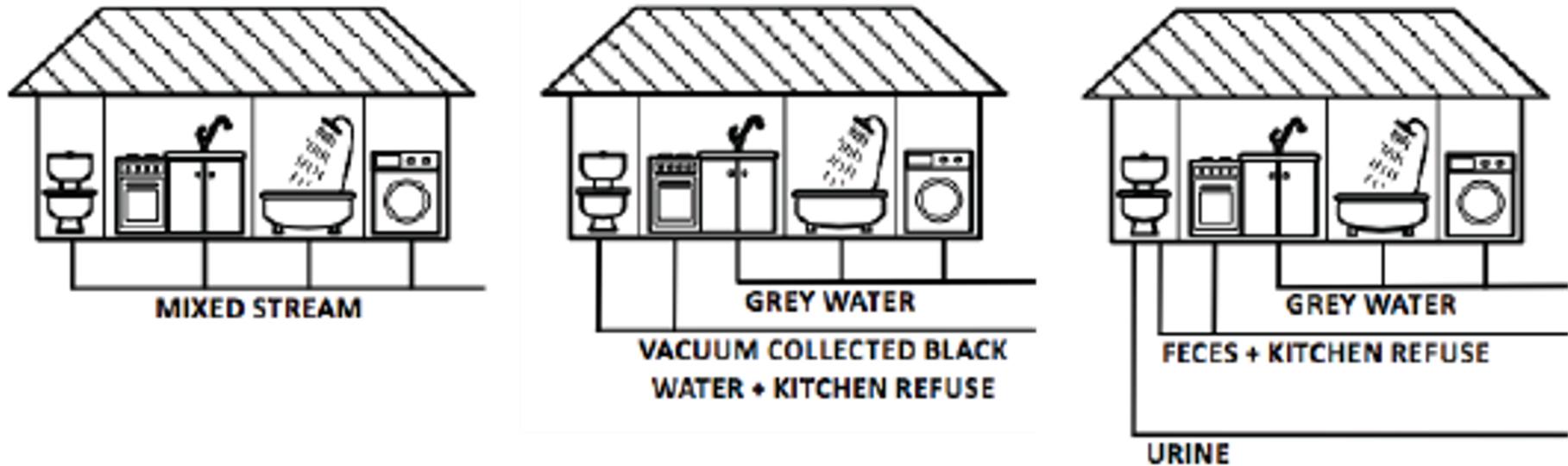


## Circular Food Systems - FS context

Crop	Production	Wateruse	Nutrients		
	[kg m <sup>-2</sup> ]	[l m <sup>-2</sup> ]	[g l <sup>-1</sup> ]		
			N	P	K
Tomato	65	900	2.42	0.57	3.74
Cucumber	85	900	1.67	0.36	2.37
Pepper	35	800	3.64	0.62	4.50
Lettuce	25	400	2.97	0.65	4.50



## Amsterdam Wastewater - FS context

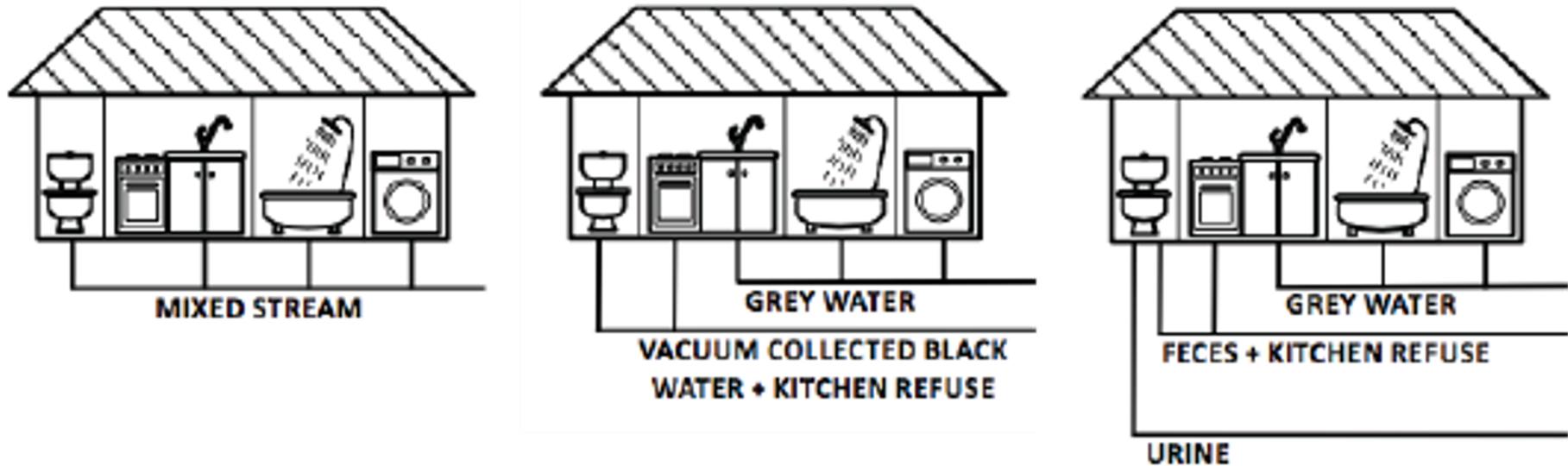


**Source:** i) Mixed, ii) BW + GW, iii) BW + YW + GW

**Data**[p<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>]: Volume, COD, BOD, TN, TP, K, TSS, Ca, Mg, Na



## Amsterdam Wastewater - FS context



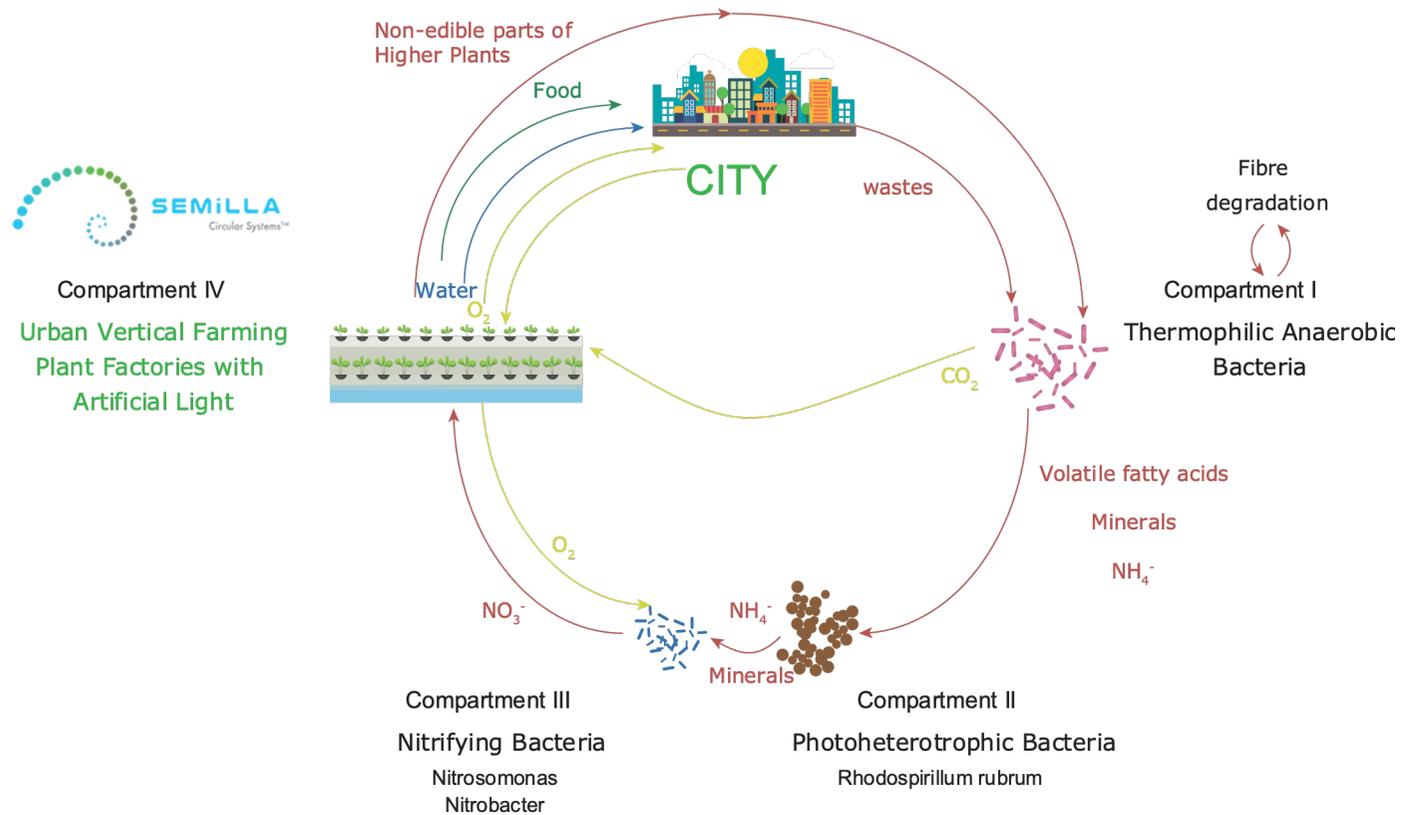
**Source:** i) Mixed, ii) BW + GW, iii) BW + YW + GW

**Data** [ $p^{-1} d^{-1}$ ]: Volume, COD, BOD, TN, TP, K, TSS, Ca, Mg, Na

**MELISSA output** [ $p^{-1} d^{-1}$ ]: Irrigation water, Fertilizer (NPK), Energy

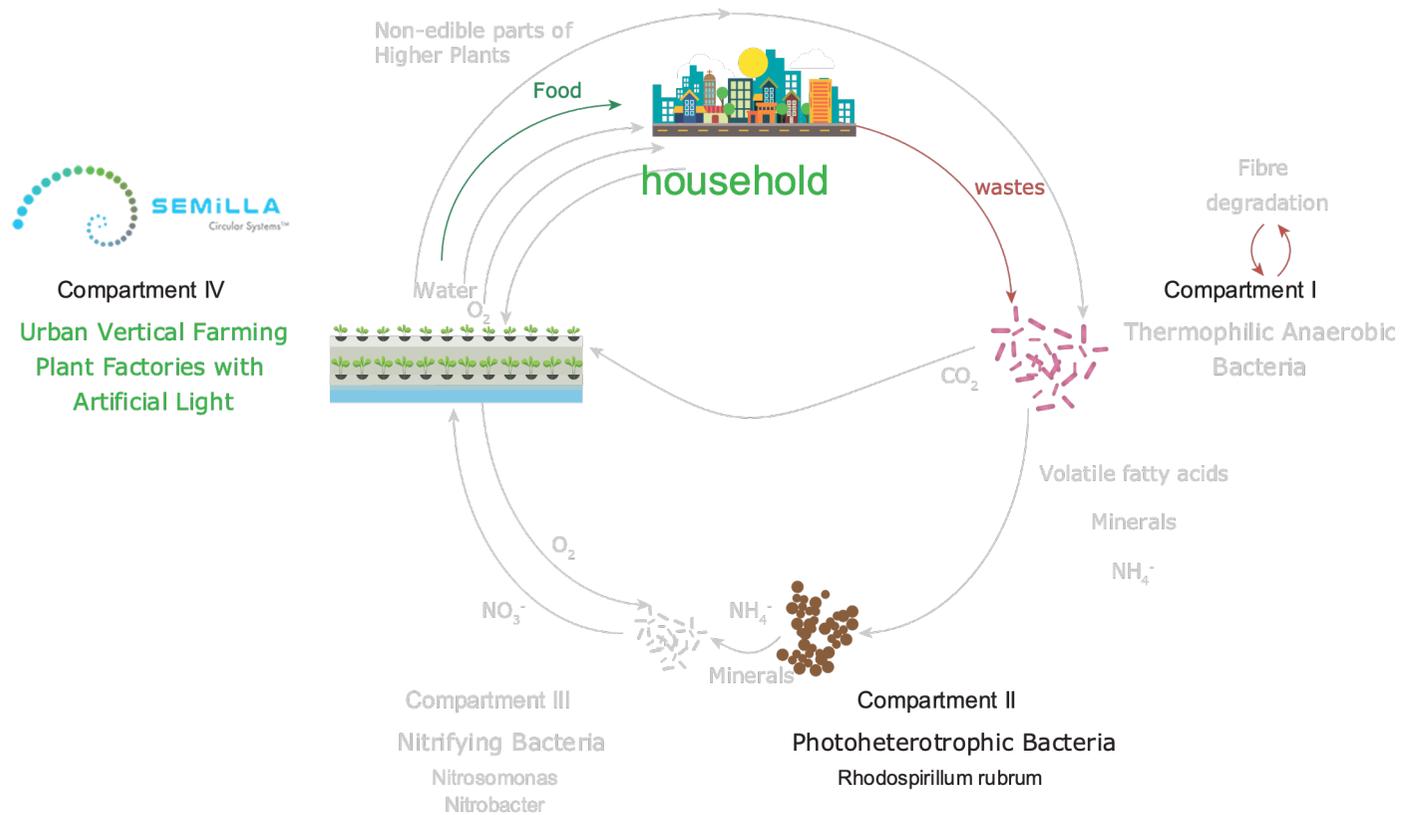


# From waste to resource concept



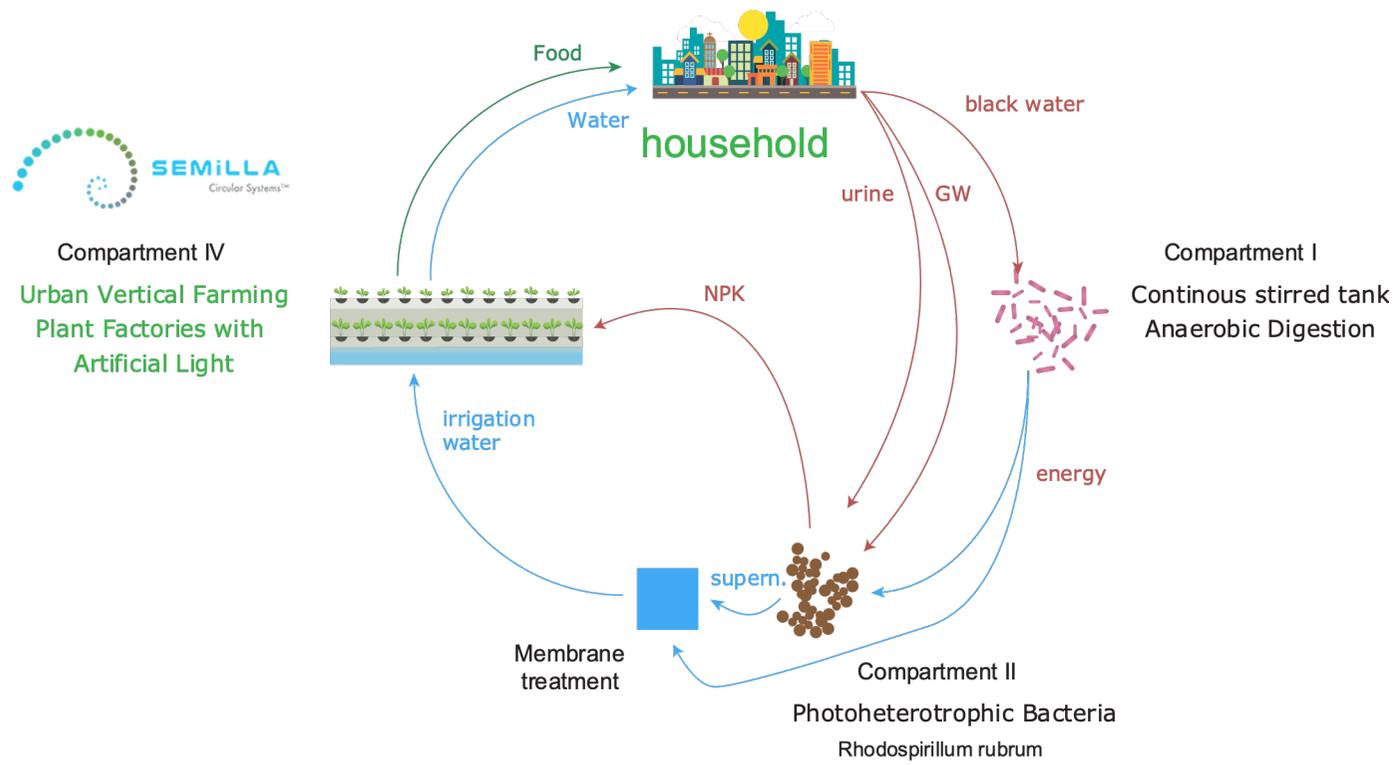


# From waste to resource concept





# From waste to resource concept





## C1 - liquefying compartment

model by  TU Delft

### **Input:**

Volume:  $2\text{ l p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$

COD:  $27250\text{ mg l}^{-1}\text{ p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$

**Model:** BioWin (TU Delft)

### **System Design:**

Volume: 100 people equivalent

HRT: 3 d

Temperature:  $35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Methane:  $65\%\text{ COD d}^{-1}$

Electricity:  $25\%\text{ Methane}$

### **Output:**

Biogas rate:  $1771.25\text{ m}^3\text{ CH}_4\text{ d}^{-1}$

kWh Methane:  $19438.75\text{ kWh d}^{-1}$

Electricity:  $4870.93\text{ kWh d}^{-1}$

Electricity:  $48.70\text{ kWh p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$



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**Electricity:  $48.70\text{ kWh p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$**

### **Food production demand:**

Lettuce demand:  $27.44\text{ kWh kg}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$

Graamans et al. (2015)

Electricity produced:  $48.70\text{ kWh p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$

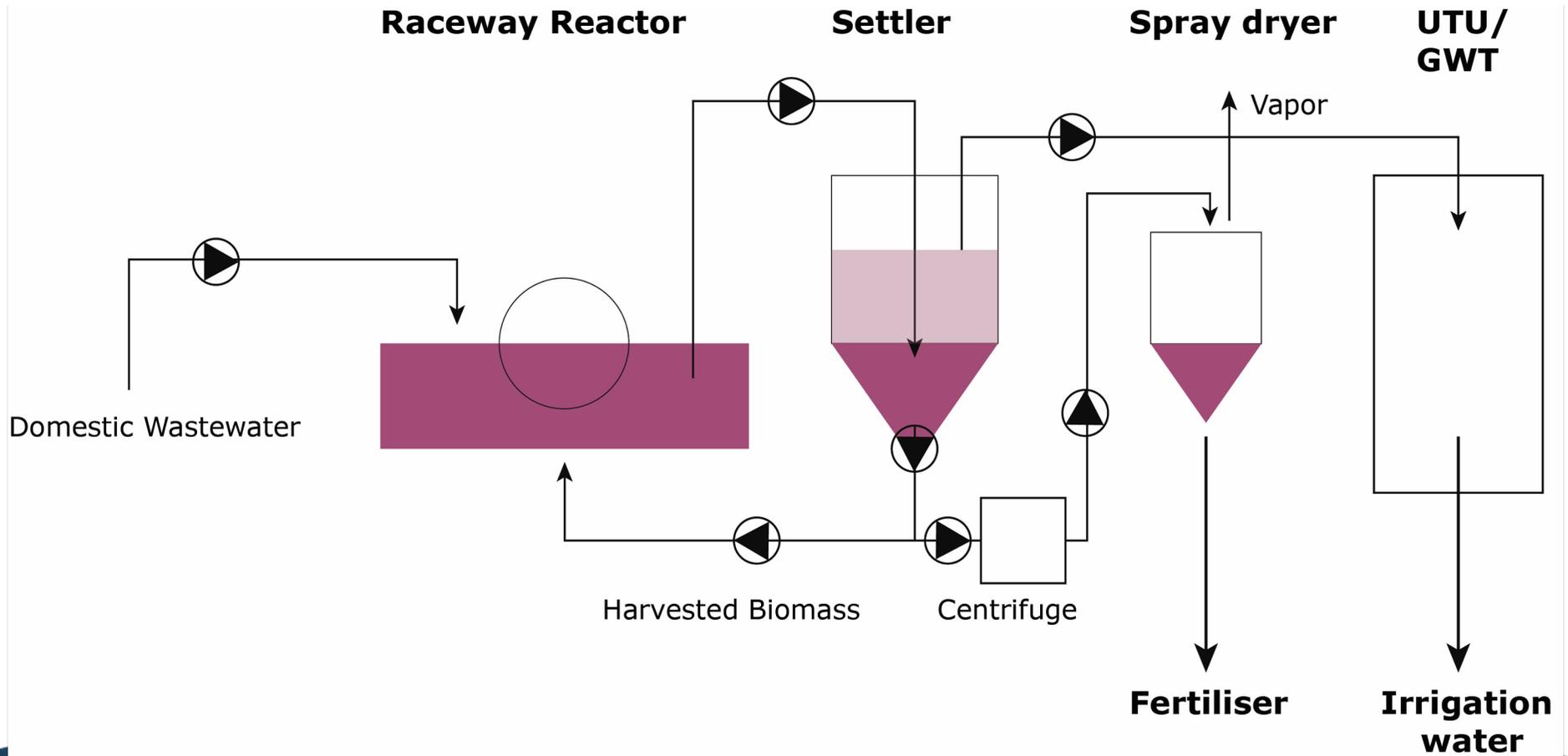
**Energy demand: 170%**

**Production:  $1.7\text{ kg p}^{-1}\text{ d}^{-1}$**



# C2 - Photoheterotrophic bacteria (PNSB)

model by  University of Antwerp





## C2 - Photoheterotrophic bacteria (PNSB)

model by  University  
of Antwerp

### **Input:**

#### **Greywater**

**Volume:**  $49.4 \text{ l p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

COD:  $1052.6 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

BOD:  $566.8 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TN:  $28.3 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TP:  $10.1 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TK:  $20.2 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TSS:  $1109.3 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

#### **Urine**

**Volume:**  $2.4 \text{ l p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

COD:  $3750 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

BOD:  $1875 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TN:  $3583 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TP:  $291.7 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TK:  $750 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TSS: na



## C2 - Photoheterotrophic bacteria (PNSB)

model by  University of Antwerp

### Input:

#### Greywater

**Volume:** 49.4 l p<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>

COD: 1052.6 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

BOD: 566.8 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TN: 28.3 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TP: 10.1 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TK: 20.2 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TSS: 1109.3 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

### System design:

HRT: 1.5 d

SRT: 5 d

Max. COD removal efficiency: 80%

Max. COD removal rate: 1667 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

### Urine

**Volume:** 2.4 l p<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>

COD: 3750 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

BOD: 1875 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TN: 3583 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TP: 291.7 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TK: 750 mg l<sup>-1</sup>

TSS: na

Biomass yield:

0.37 gCOD<sub>biomass</sub> gCOD<sub>removed</sub><sup>-1</sup>

Surface to volume ratio: 5 m<sup>2</sup> m<sup>3</sup>

COD:VSS: 1.42 gCOD gVSS<sup>-1</sup>



## C2 - Photoheterotrophic bacteria (PNSB)

model by  University of Antwerp

### Output:

#### Greywater

Biomass dryweight:  $12.5 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### Fertiliser:

N -  $1.06 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

P -  $0.3 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

K -  $0.06 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### Urine

Biomass dryweight:  $2.27 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### Fertiliser:

N -  $0.19 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

P -  $0.05 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

K -  $0.01 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

[kg <sup>-1</sup> p <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ]	Tomato			Cucumber			Pepper			Lettuce		
	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K
GreyWater	1.5	1.9	0.05	3.5	4.7	0.1	1	1.6	0.04	1.1	1.4	0.04
Urine	0.2	0.3	0.009	0.6	0.7	0.02	0.1	0.2	0.006	0.2	0.2	0.006



## C2 - Photoheterotrophic bacteria (PNSB)

model by  University of Antwerp

### **Output:**

#### **Greywater**

Biomass dryweight:  $12.5 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### **Fertiliser:**

N -  $1.06 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

P -  $0.3 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

K -  $0.06 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

### **Effluent:**

#### **Greywater (49l)**

COD:  $211 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TN:  $8 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TP:  $3 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

#### **Urine**

Biomass dryweight:  $2.27 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### **Fertiliser:**

N -  $0.19 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

P -  $0.05 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

K -  $0.01 \text{ g p}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$

#### **Urine (2l)**

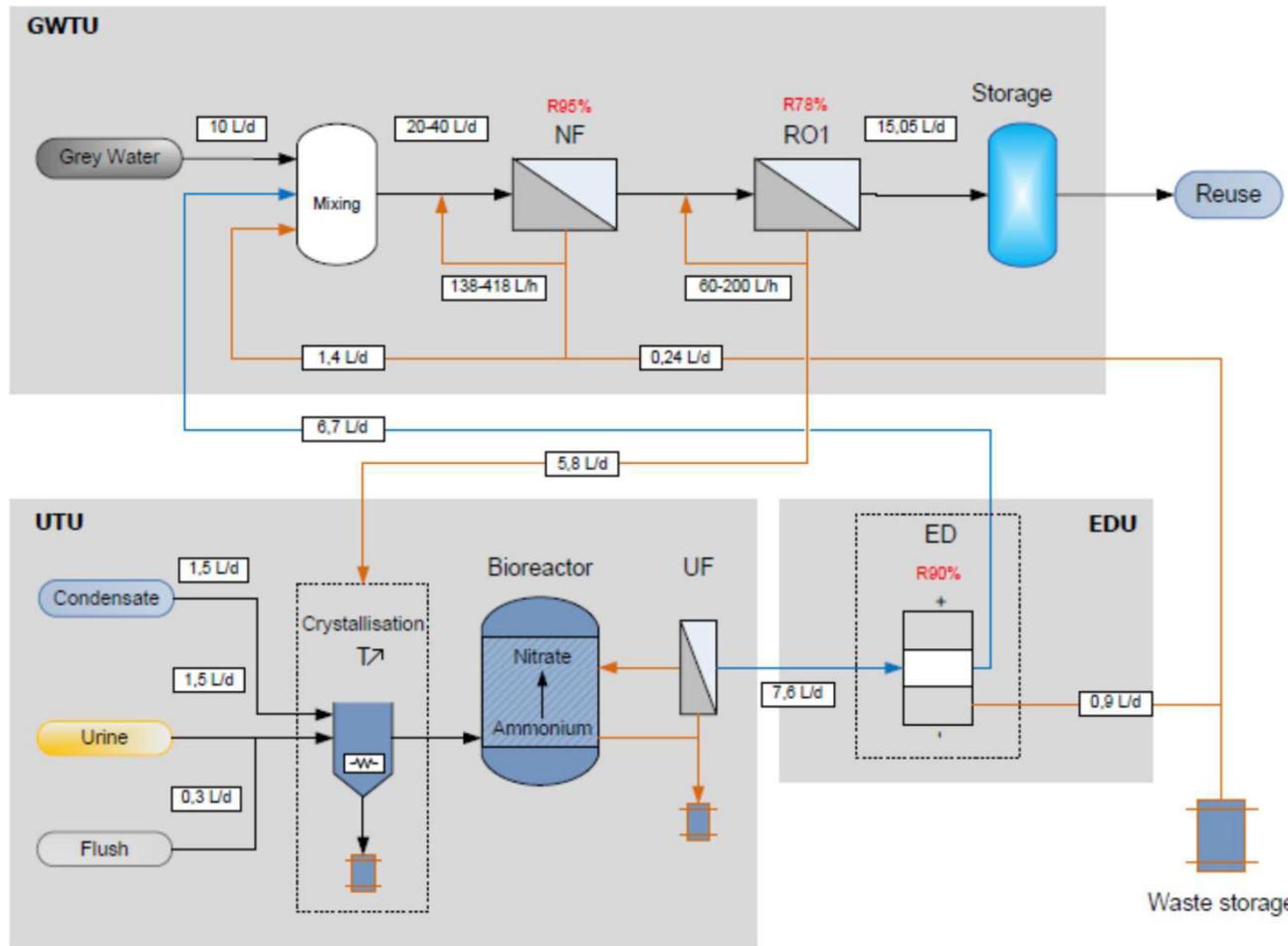
COD:  $1250 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TN:  $3253 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$

TP:  $272 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$



# Membrane water treatment model by





# Membrane water treatment

model by  GHENT UNIVERSITY

**Influent: PNBS Effluent**

**Model:** UGhent (Lindeboom *et al.* 2020)

*Three iterations - 70% - 80% water recovery to ESA hygienic standard*

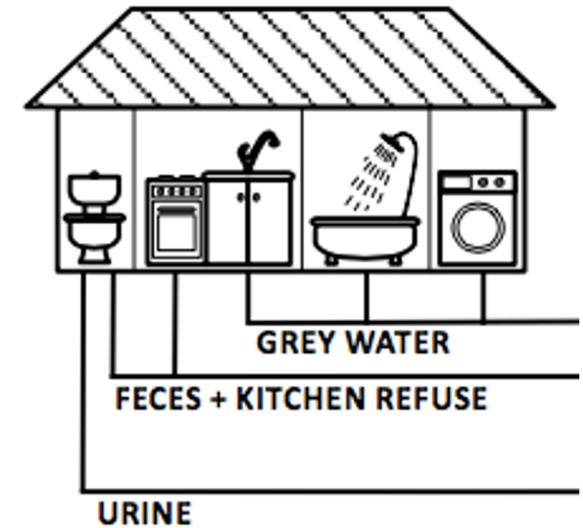
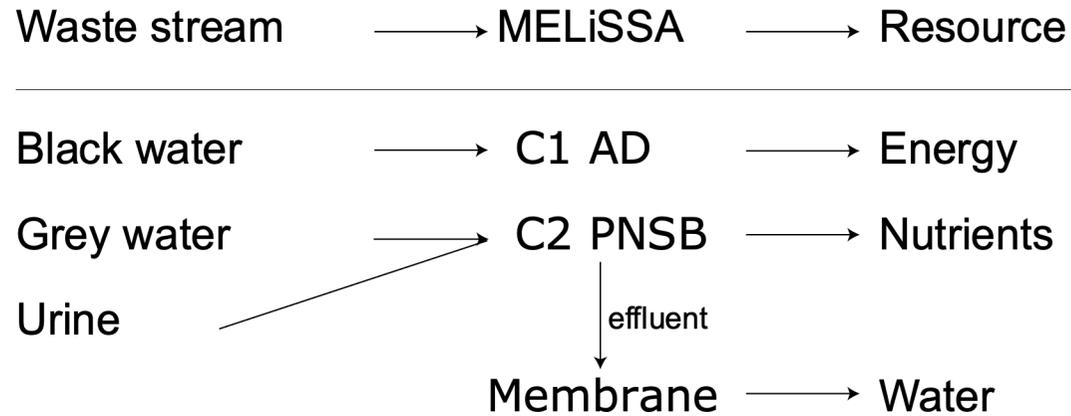
**System set up:** ED 80%, NF 95%, RO1 70%, RO2 85%

**Output:**

	ED	NF	RO1	RO2
Volume [l d <sup>-1</sup> ]	15.9	65.6	45.9	41.3
COD [mg l <sup>-1</sup> ]	32	153.2	1.5	0.2
TN [mg l <sup>-1</sup> ]	86.1	40.8	1.6	0.1
TP [mg l <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.3	6.2	0.1	0.0
TK[mg l <sup>-1</sup> ]	3.3	15.5	0.5	0.0
Recovered [%l d <sup>-1</sup> ]			90	80.9

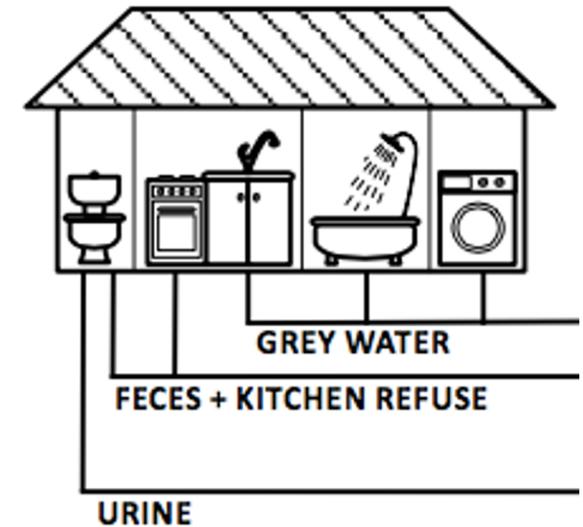
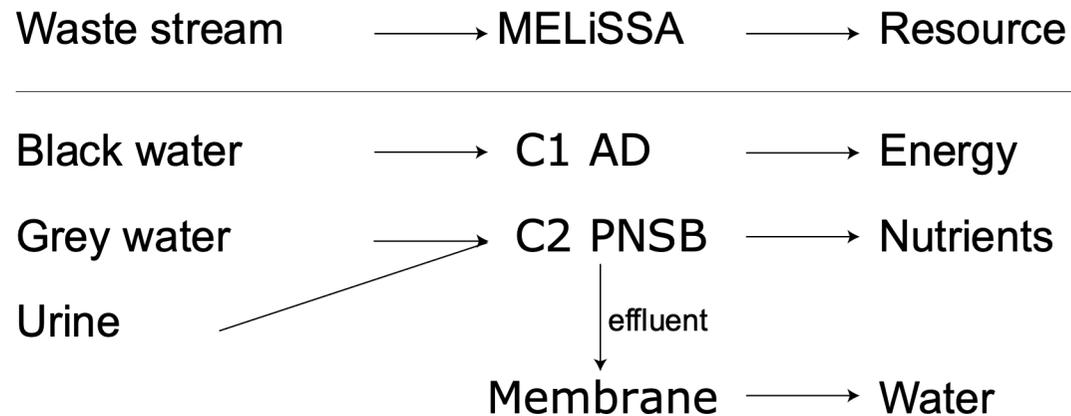


## Closing the loop – best case scenario





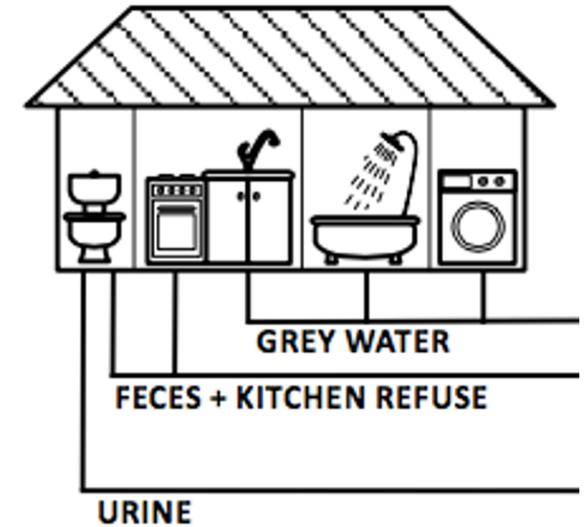
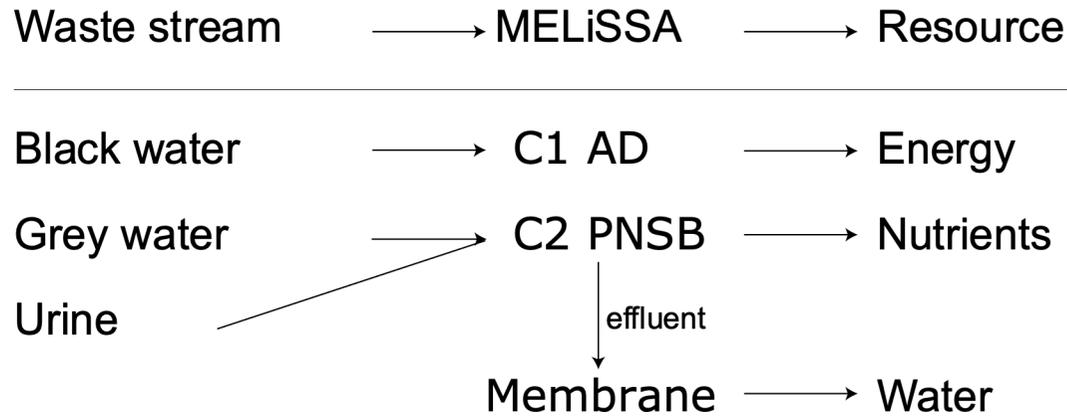
## Closing the loop – best case scenario



[ kg p <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ]	Tomato	Cucumber	Pepper	Lettuce
Nutrients	1.70	4.10	1.50	1.20
Water	1.60	3.10	1.60	2.10
Energy	NA	NA	NA	1.70



## Closing the loop – best case scenario



[ kg p <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> ]	Tomato	Cucumber	Pepper	Lettuce
Nutrients	1.70	4.10	1.50	1.20
Water	1.60	3.10	1.60	2.10
Energy	NA	NA	NA	1.70

2.12 ± 1.33

2.10 ± 0.70



1.70





## Scale up scenario - *Bijlmerbajes Amsterdam*



Circular neighbourhood  
Green Tower - Vertical Farming

~2,500 inhabitants



## Scale up scenario - *Bijlmerbajes Amsterdam*



Circular neighbourhood  
Green Tower - Vertical Farming

~2,500 inhabitants

=> 3,000 kg lettuce d<sup>-1</sup>

=> 3,600 l clean water d<sup>-1</sup>

=> 121,750 kWh d<sup>-1</sup>



## Scale up scenario - *Bijlmerbajes Amsterdam*



Circular neighbourhood  
Green Tower - Vertical Farming

~2,500 inhabitants

=> 3,000 kg lettuce d<sup>-1</sup>

=> 3,600 l clean water d<sup>-1</sup>

=> 121,750 kWh d<sup>-1</sup>



450,000 cal lettuce d<sup>-1</sup>

225 persons d<sup>-1</sup>



12.4% food d<sup>-1</sup>



# Aknowledgements

Funded by: European Space Agency (ESA)

Realized by: SEMiLLA IPStar BV

Authors:

- Radu M. Giurgiu (SEMiLLA IPStar BV, MELiSSA Foundation)
- Ralph Lindeboom (SEMiLLA IPStar BV, TU Delft)

Supported by:

- Rob Suters , Clara Plata, Peter Scheer (SEMiLLA IPStar BV)
- Christophe Lasseur (ESA, MELiSSA)

In cooperation with:

- Arjen van Nieuwenhuijzen (Witteveen+Bos, AMS)
- Alexander Laarman and Wei-Shan Chen (Wageningen UR, AMS)
- Abbas Alloul and Siegfried Vlaeminck (UAntwerpen)
- Nastassia Vilfan and Luuk Graamans (Wageningen UR)





## Proof of concept (PoC)

**Piloting a Raceway Reactor for the PNSB Cultivation on Domestic Wastestreams for Recovery of Nutrients and Water Treatment as Resources for Food Production**

**ESA Ref: 4000130940/20/NL/MH/kdj**





# Proof of Concept – PNSB



 University  
of Antwerp

 SEMILLA  
IPSTAR Circular Systems™

 esa

 MELISSA  
MICRO-ECOLOGICAL  
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM  
ALTERNATIVE

 AMS  
AMSTERDAM INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED METROPOLITAN SOLUTIONS

 WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



# Proof of Concept – Consortium





# Proof of Concept – Concept

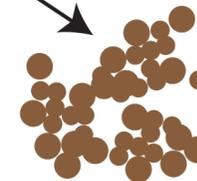


decentral wastewater  
treatment unit



discharge water  
biomass production

purple bacteria  
biomass



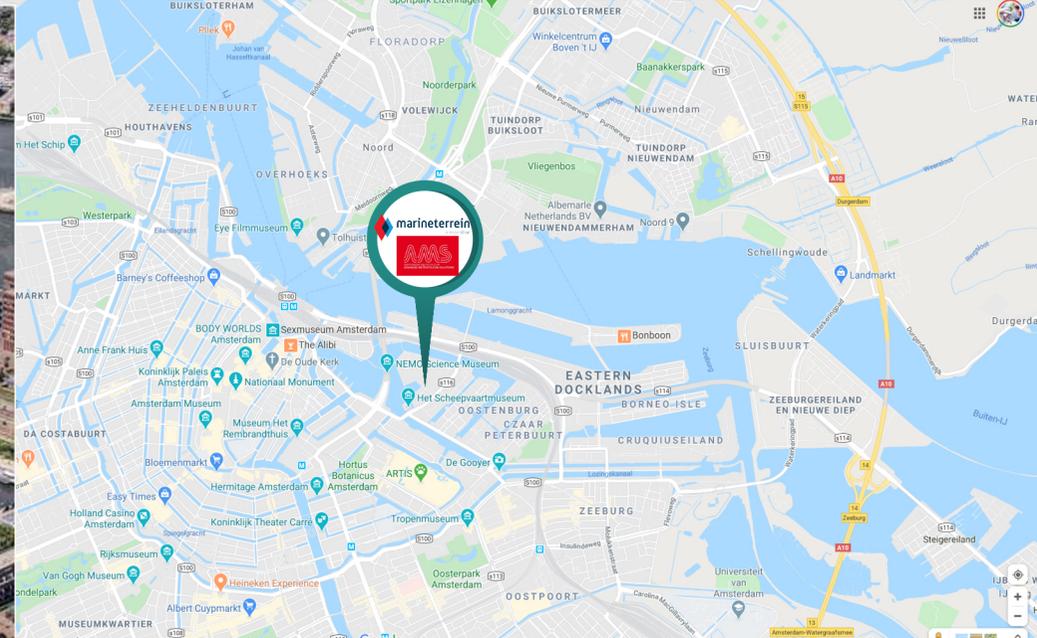
fertilizer  
protein  
biostimulant



# Proof of Concept – Location

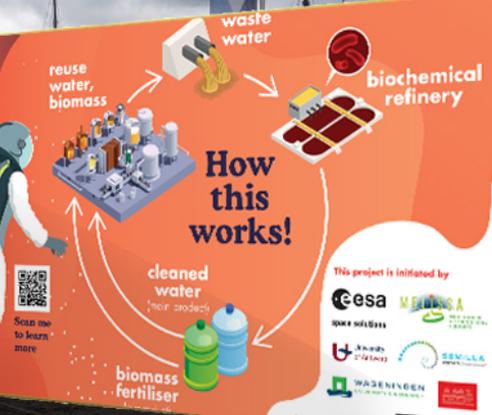
Marineterrein, Amsterdam, NL

Kattenburgerstraat 7  
1018 JA Amsterdam



# SPACE FOR FOOD

How we use space technology to improve circularity in our cities?



- This project is initiated by
- ESA
  - MIRAS
  - Space.nl
  - WATERWEGEN
  - WATERQ
  - WATERQ
  - WATERQ



MELISSA



MICRO-ECOLOGICAL  
LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM  
ALTERNATIVE

**THANK YOU.**

**Giurgiu Radu, PhD**

**SEMILLA IPStar**

Radu.giurgiu@semilla.io

[www.melissafoundation.org](http://www.melissafoundation.org)

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