

# The Peak of Harvest

a non-destructive  
identification method



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# Human Planetary Missions

## Priorities:

- oxygen
- water
- food
- addressing hazards
- human-robot interaction



# Food supplies for astronauts

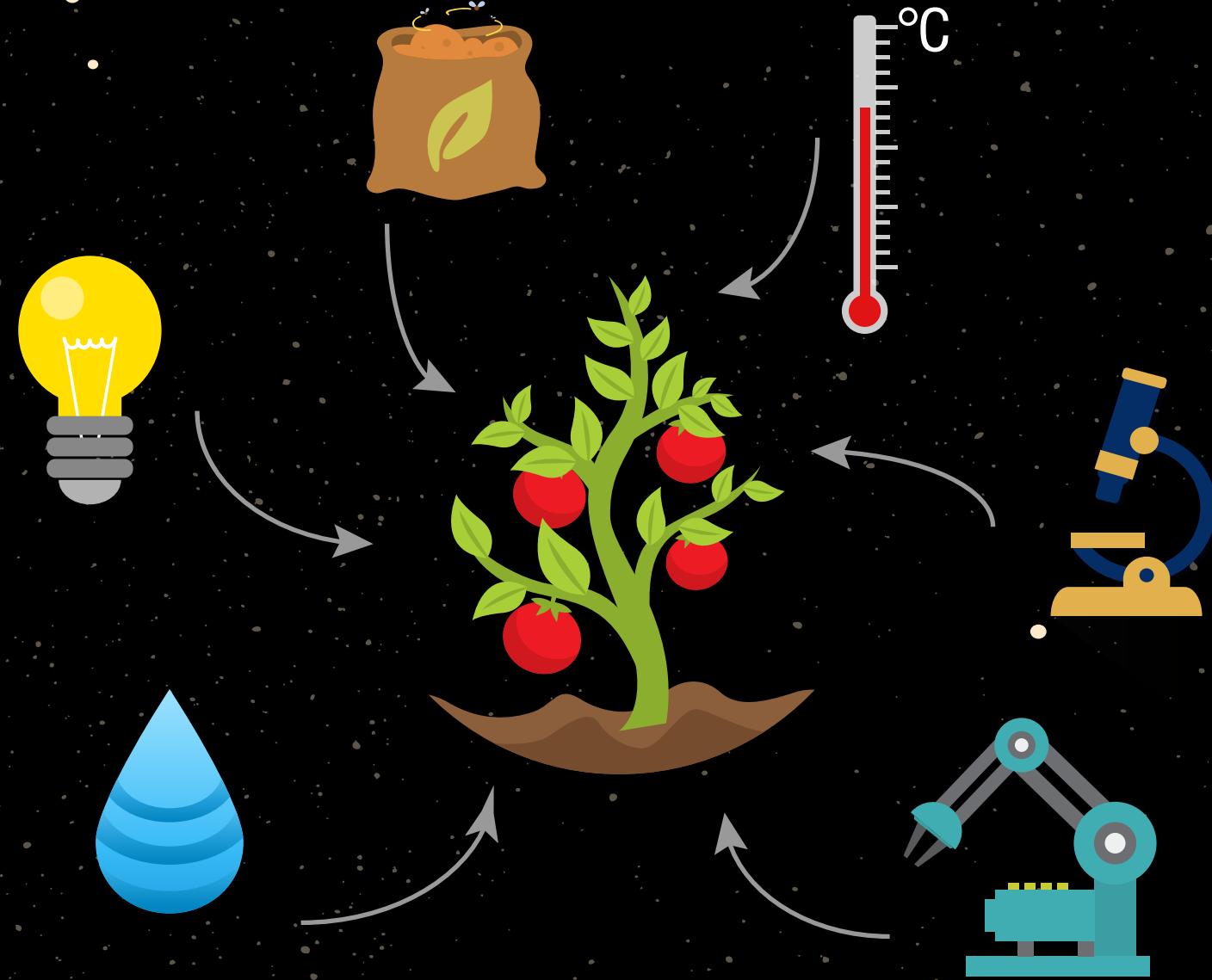
- dehydrated food
- package adaptations
- Spirulina
- Higher plants

Higher plant benefits:

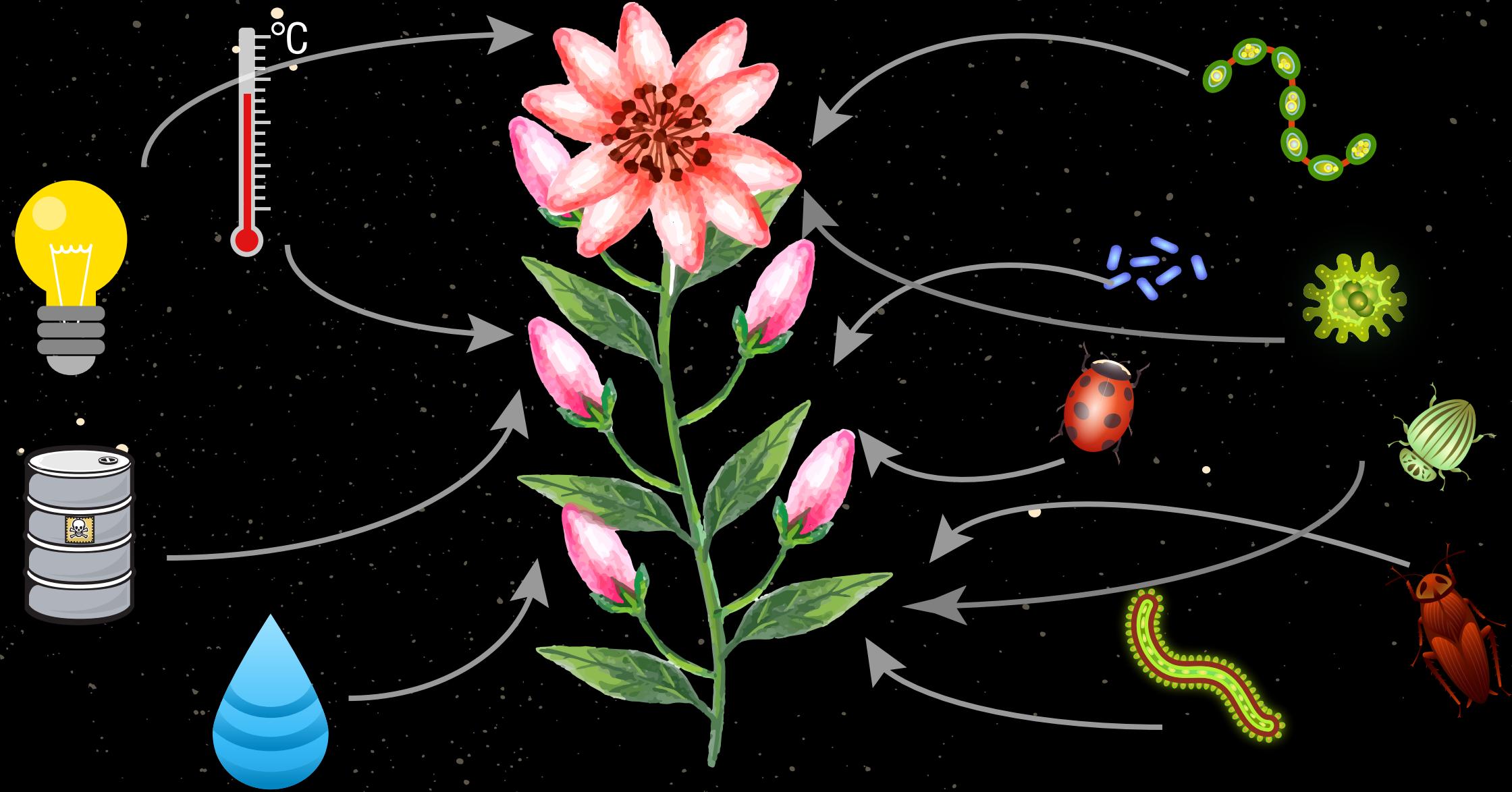
- Nutritional
- Freshness
- Oxygen suppliers
- Psychological



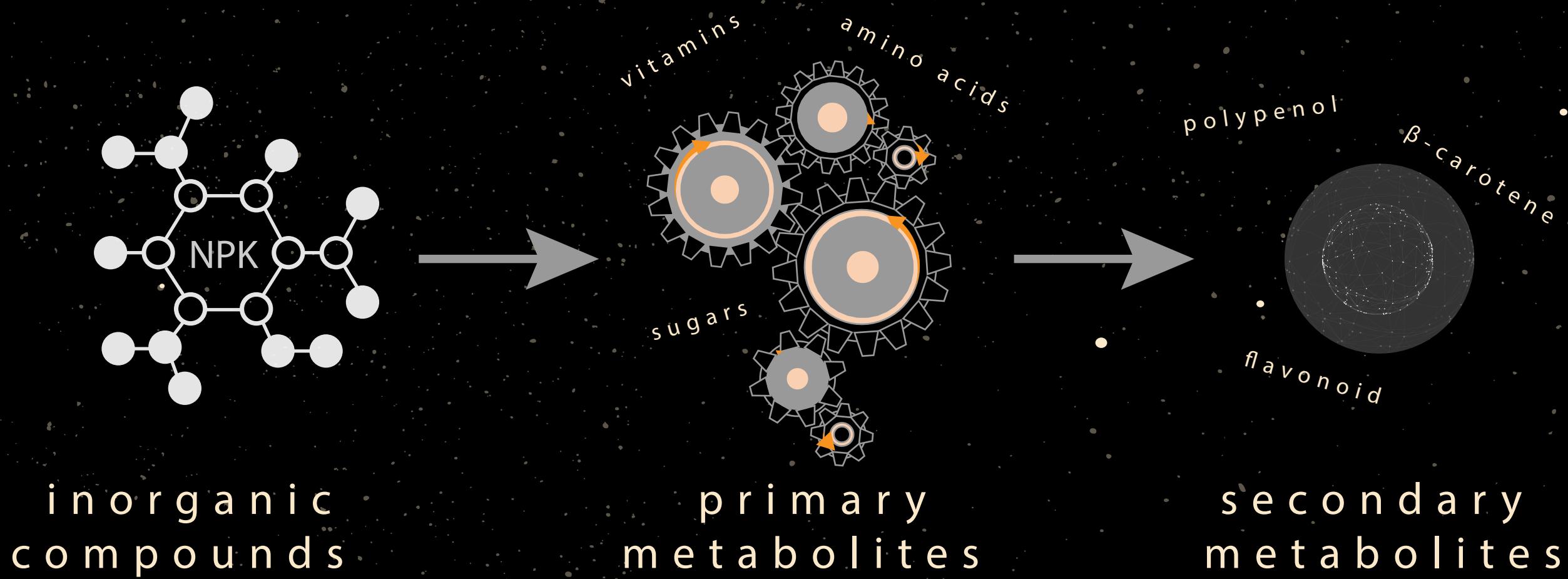
# Controlled Environment Agriculture



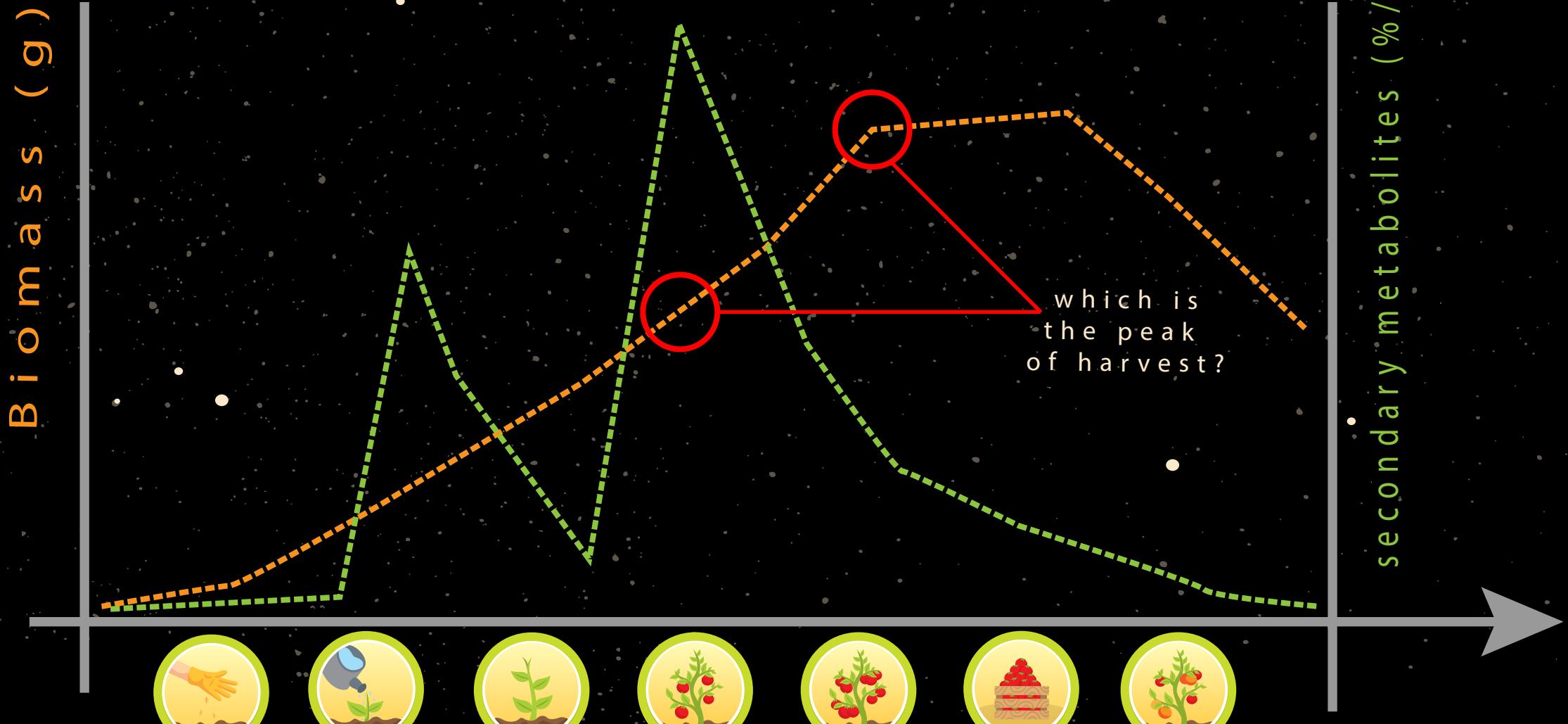
# Abiotic and biotic stress



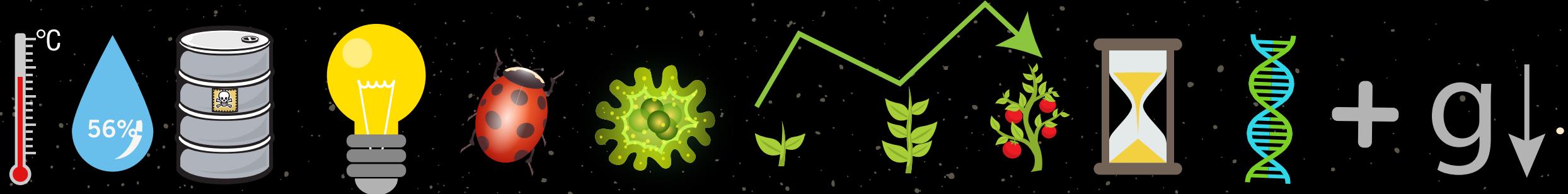
# Plant primary and secondary metabolism



# Quantity and Quality of Vegetables



# Factors influencing secondary metabolites; methods of identification



NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy)

CC (column chromatography)

TLC (thin layer chromatography)

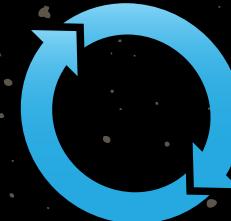
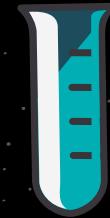
GC/MS (gas chromatography and mass spectroscopy)

HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography)

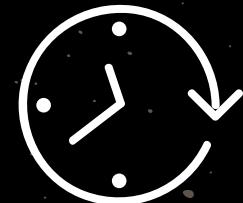
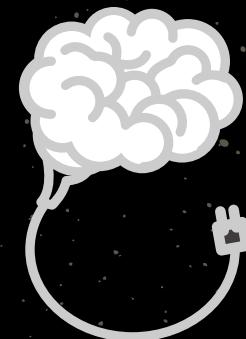
UPLC (ultra high performance liquid chromatography)

# Non-destructive identification methods

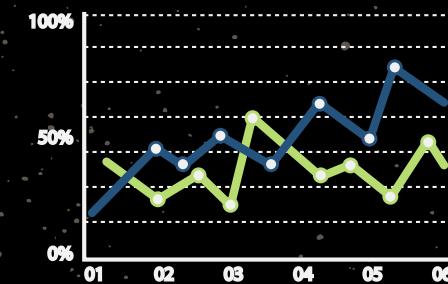
## i) Repetitive sampling



## ii) Computational modelling (Big Data)



## iii) Real time, in-situ analysis

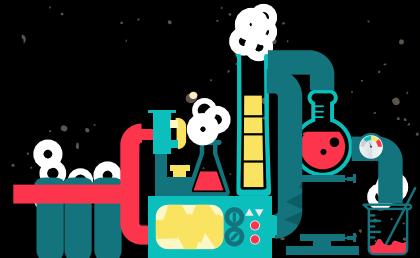


# Repetitive sampling

needs:



grow chamber

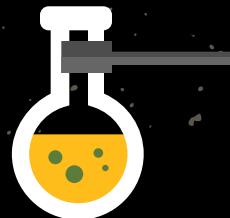


laboratory



know-how

method:



preparation



chromatography  
graph

drawbacks:

- time consuming
- specialist needed
- loosing biomass
- not able to identify optimal moment of harvest



# Computational modelling

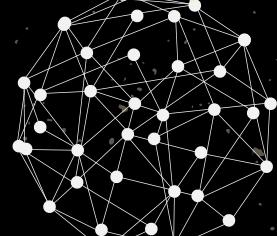
needs:



Big data



Set the parameters



Model

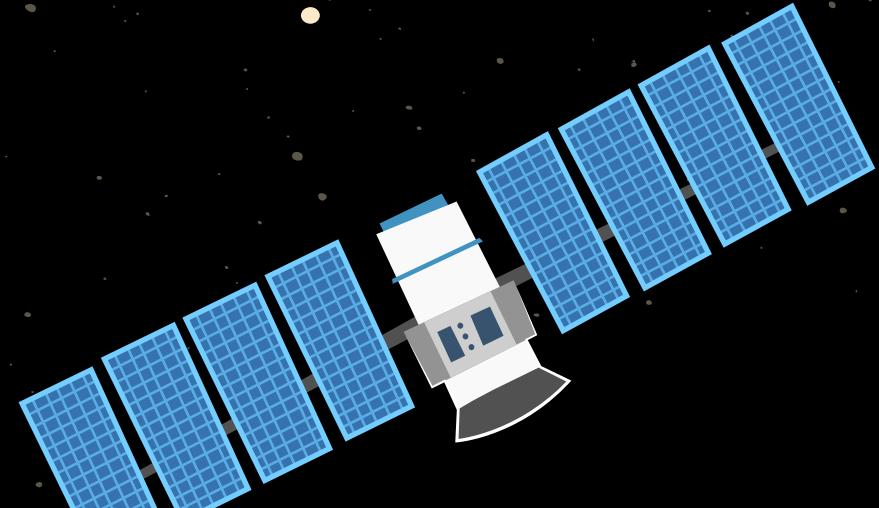
method:



harvest

drawbacks:

- data availability
- limit crop variety
- technological control
- not flexible to unplanned phenomena



# Real time, in-situ analysis

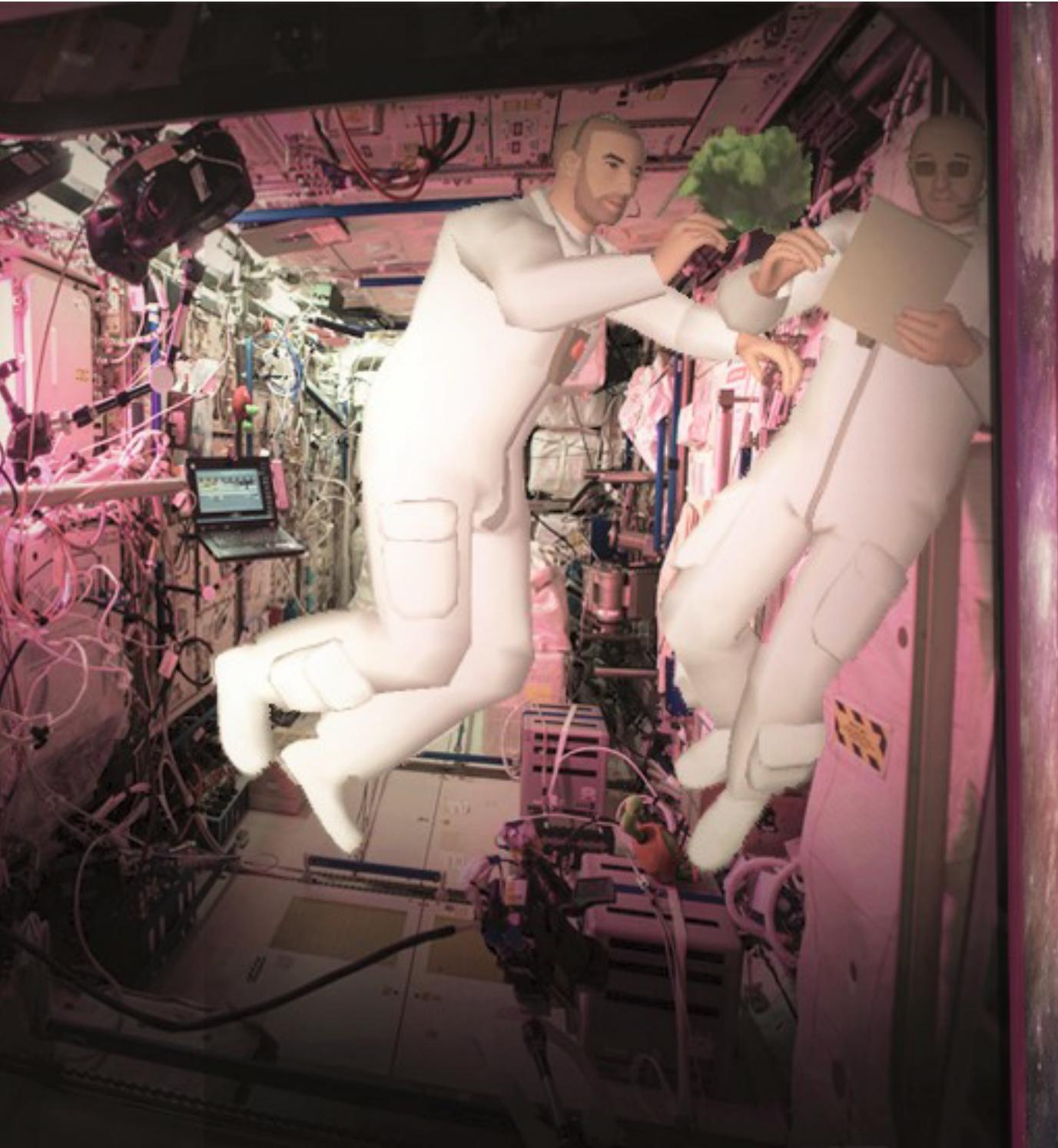
Current state of knowledge



Trends in plant science:

- indirect assessment through sensors (Woo et al, 2008)  
eg water status through chlorophyll fluorometry, ultrasound
- phytomonitoring multi-spectral readings (Pflantz, 2014)
- IR (infrared spectroscopy) + chemometrics (Cozzulino, 2015)  
(multivariate analysis)

# Terrestrial Spinoff





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