

**UNIVERSITÀ DELL'ABRUZZO**  
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DEGLI STUDI  
DI PALERMO

**21**  
Università degli Studi di Palermo 1960-2016

## Tecnologie innovative per il trattamento anaerobico dei fanghi di depurazione

Innovative wastewater treatment technologies for energy saving and environmental protection

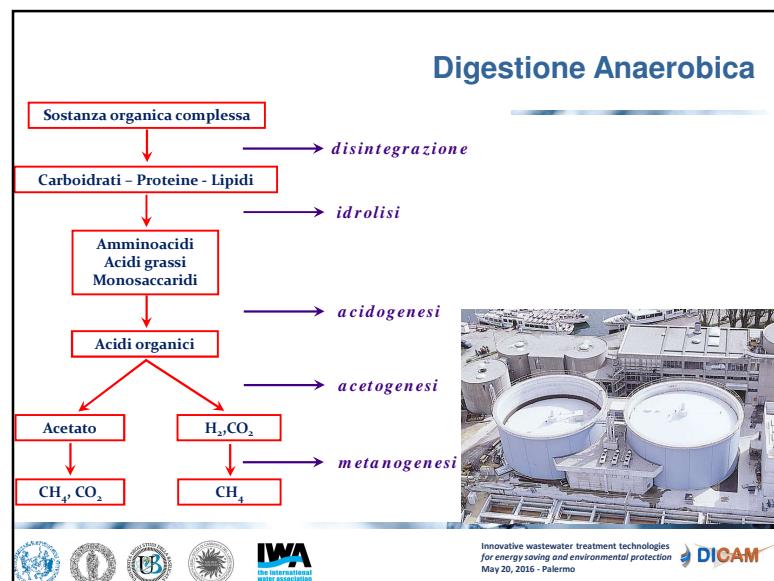
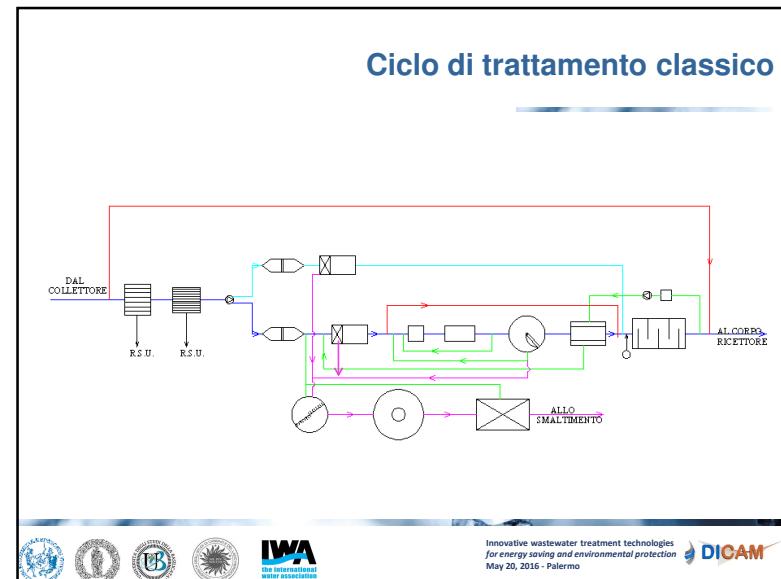
May 20, 2016 - Palermo

Giovanni Esposito, Università di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale

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**IWA** the international water association

**DICAM**  
Università di Palermo  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Ambientale, Aerospaziale, dei Materiali (DICAM)



- ### Come ottimizzare il trattamento (anaerobico) dei fanghi?
- Pre-trattamenti dei fanghi
    - ✓ per massimizzare la produzione di biogas
    - ✓ per ridurre la produzione di fango
  - Co-digestione con altri substrati
  - Uso di bio-reattori innovativi
- DICAM**
- Innovative wastewater treatment technologies for energy saving and environmental protection  
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## Pre-trattamenti

- Fisici
- Fisico-chimici
- Termici e Termo-chimici
- Biologici
- Combinati

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## Pre-trattamenti

**Table 1**  
Reviews on different pretreatment methods to enhance AD using various substrates.

Substrate	Pretreatment methods	Important findings	Reference
OMSW	All pretreatment methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical pretreatments are widely applied for OMSW, whereas other methods are not spread at industrial level</li> <li>- Further research on pretreatment should focus more on the modelling as well as mass and energy balance of the pretreatment effect and the whole AD process</li> <li>- The most popular pretreatment methods are thermal and ultrasonic for WWTP sludge, chemical for lignocellulosic substrates, and mechanical for OMSW</li> <li>- Systematic studies on energy balance and economic feasibility are necessary</li> <li>- Further development of descriptive and predictive variables is required</li> <li>- Pretreatments could improve the digestibility of lignocellulosic substrates</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in more efficient process as compared to the conventional process</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatments as well as lime and ammonia based chemical methods are more effective in improving the digestibility of lignocellulosic substrates</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in reduced HRT, increased methane production, and reduced sludge size</li> <li>- Pretreatments result in enhanced biogas production (30–50%)</li> <li>- Comprehensive model for evaluating the economic feasibility was developed</li> <li>- The effect of pretreatment methods depends on the characteristics of sludge and the intensity of the method</li> <li>- Pretreatments could yield a better digestate with high recoverable nutrients</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatment at high temperature (&gt;175 °C) as well as thermo-chemical methods are more effective in improving sludge dewaterability</li> </ul>	[61]
All organic substrates	All pretreatment methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further development of descriptive and predictive variables is required</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in reduced HRT, increased methane production, and reduced sludge size</li> <li>- Pretreatments result in enhanced biogas production (30–50%)</li> <li>- Comprehensive model for evaluating the economic feasibility was developed</li> <li>- The effect of pretreatment methods depends on the characteristics of sludge and the intensity of the method</li> <li>- Pretreatments could yield a better digestate with high recoverable nutrients</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatment at high temperature (&gt;175 °C) as well as thermo-chemical methods are more effective in improving sludge dewaterability</li> </ul>	[39]
Lignocellulosic substrates	Thermal, thermo-chemical, chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pretreatments could result in more efficient process as compared to the conventional process</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatments as well as lime and ammonia based chemical methods are more effective in improving the digestibility of lignocellulosic substrates</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in reduced HRT, increased methane production, and reduced sludge size</li> <li>- Pretreatments result in enhanced biogas production (30–50%)</li> <li>- Comprehensive model for evaluating the economic feasibility was developed</li> <li>- The effect of pretreatment methods depends on the characteristics of sludge and the intensity of the method</li> <li>- Pretreatments could yield a better digestate with high recoverable nutrients</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatment at high temperature (&gt;175 °C) as well as thermo-chemical methods are more effective in improving sludge dewaterability</li> </ul>	[73]
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Pulp & paper sludge	Thermal, thermo-chemical, chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pretreatments could result in more efficient process as compared to the conventional process</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatments as well as lime and ammonia based chemical methods are more effective in improving the digestibility of lignocellulosic substrates</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in reduced HRT, increased methane production, and reduced sludge size</li> <li>- Pretreatments result in enhanced biogas production (30–50%)</li> <li>- Comprehensive model for evaluating the economic feasibility was developed</li> <li>- The effect of pretreatment methods depends on the characteristics of sludge and the intensity of the method</li> <li>- Pretreatments could yield a better digestate with high recoverable nutrients</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatment at high temperature (&gt;175 °C) as well as thermo-chemical methods are more effective in improving sludge dewaterability</li> </ul>	[40]
WWTP sludge	Ultrasound, chemical, thermal, and microwave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pretreatments could result in more efficient process as compared to the conventional process</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatments as well as lime and ammonia based chemical methods are more effective in improving the digestibility of lignocellulosic substrates</li> <li>- Pretreatments could result in reduced HRT, increased methane production, and reduced sludge size</li> <li>- Pretreatments result in enhanced biogas production (30–50%)</li> <li>- Comprehensive model for evaluating the economic feasibility was developed</li> <li>- The effect of pretreatment methods depends on the characteristics of sludge and the intensity of the method</li> <li>- Pretreatments could yield a better digestate with high recoverable nutrients</li> <li>- Thermal pretreatment at high temperature (&gt;175 °C) as well as thermo-chemical methods are more effective in improving sludge dewaterability</li> </ul>	[22]
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*Ariunbaatar et al. (2014) Pretreatment methods to enhance anaerobic digestion of organic solid waste, Applied Energy 123 (2014) 143–156*

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## Pre-trattamenti - confronto

Pretreatment	Mode of Action	Advantages	Disadvantages
Mechanical	Size reduction	No odor, easy implementation, moderate energy consumption	No effect on pathogens
Thermal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deflocculation</li> <li>- Disintegration of cell</li> <li>- Higher solubilization</li> </ul>	Pathogen removal, easy to implement, better energy balance	Could result in inhibitory by-products
Chemical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Destruction of macromolecules</li> <li>- Swelling of solids</li> <li>- Higher solubilization</li> </ul>	High efficiency, low energy requirement (alkali or acidic)	High chemicals cost, loss of potential methane
Biological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased hydrolysis</li> <li>- Increased stability</li> </ul>	Possibility to produce biohythane (2-stage system)	Higher emissions of GHG (composting)
Combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Destruction of macromolecules</li> <li>- Higher solubilization</li> </ul>	Higher efficiency	Higher cost, higher environmental footprint

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## Pre-trattamenti - confronto

Feedstock	Mechanical	Thermal	Chemical	Biological
Sludge	Sonication High pressure Lysing centrifuge Focused pulsed technique	Steam explosion Hydrothermal		
Animal by-products	Grinding	Hydrothermal Low temperature	Saponification	
Manure	Grinding Extrusion Maceration			Partial composting
			Nitrogen extraction	
Municipal solid waste	Grinding Maceration Extrusion	Steam explosion		Pre composting
Agricultural residues Energy crops	Grinding Extrusion		Alkali Enzymes Emulsifying Composting Fungi	
Algae			Low temperature	

Full-scale application

Pilot-scale application

Promising lab-scale results

"Review of feedstock pretreatment strategies for improved anaerobic digestion: From lab-scale research to full-scale application"

Hélène Carrere et al. 2016 – Bioresource Technology

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## Riduzione dei fanghi

- Migliorare la disidratabilità e/o i sistemi di disidratazione dei fanghi per ridurre l'umidità del fango in uscita dall'impianto
- Ridurre la produzione dei fanghi all'origine

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## Meccanismi dei processi di riduzione dei fanghi

I **meccanismi** di riduzione dei fanghi negli impianti di depurazione sono molteplici:

- ossidazione della sostanza organica → perdita netta come CO<sub>2</sub> e H<sub>2</sub>O → riduzione della produzione di fango
- metabolismo endogeno** (assenza di substrati esterni) e **lisi cellulare** → rilascio del contenuto cellulare → substrato biodegradabile → conseguente crescita di altra biomassa (**crescita criptica**) → riduzione della produzione di fango
- metabolismo disaccoppiato** → Disaccoppiamento tra catabolismo e anabolismo → priva i batteri dell'energia per la sintesi di nuove cellule → cala il rendimento di crescita della biomassa → riduzione della produzione di fango
- batteri a basso tasso di crescita** → selezione di batteri con basso tasso di crescita → minore crescita di biomassa
- predazione di batteri** → I batteri costituiscono nutrimento di protozoi e metazoi → passando da un livello trofico inferiore ad uno superiore, una parte di energia viene persa → minore crescita di biomassa

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## Tecniche di riduzione dei fanghi

Meccanismi	Tecniche
<b>ossidazione della sostanza organica</b>	ossidazione a umido, ossidazione supercritica, ultrasuoni, cavitazione idrodinamica, trattamento termico, idrolisi chimica e termochimica, ozonolisi, ossidazione con H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , trattamento elettrochimico, aggiunta di reattore anaerobico side stream
<b>lisi cellulare e crescita criptica</b>	Idrolisi enzimatica, trattamento meccanico di disintegrazione, ultrasuoni, cavitazione idrodinamica, trattamento termico, idrolisi chimica e termochimica, ozonolisi, ossidazione con H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> , trattamento elettrochimico, aggiunta di reattore anaerobico side stream
<b>metabolismo disaccoppiato</b>	Trattamento con agenti chimici disaccoppianti, aggiunta di reattore anaerobico side stream
<b>metabolismo endogeno</b>	Tecnologia membrane biological reactor (MBR), digestione aerobica, digestione anaerobica
<b>batteri a basso tasso di crescita</b>	aggiunta di reattore anaerobico side stream
<b>predazione di batteri</b>	Utilizzo di protozoi e metazoi

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## Tecniche di riduzione dei fanghi

Le tecniche di riduzione dei fanghi possono essere applicate sia alla linea acque che alla linea fanghi, con due filosofie differenti:

**Tecniche integrate nella linea acque**

- riducono la produzione di fango biologico direttamente nella linea acque, piuttosto che realizzare post-trattamenti del fango dopo che esso è già stato prodotto

**Tecniche integrate nella linea fanghi**

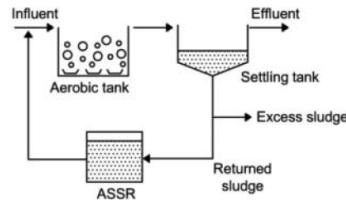
- riducono la massa di fango dopo che questo è già stato prodotto nella linea acque

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## FOCUS TRATTAMENTO BIOLOGICO INTEGRATO NELLA LINEA ACQUE

Trattamento con reattore anaerobico *side-stream* (ASSR) a temperatura ambiente



**ASSR:** consente la simultaneità di processi di ossidazione della sostanza organica, lisi cellulare, crescita critica, rilascio EPS, selezione di batteri con bassi tassi di crescita coinvolti nella rimozione di azoto e fosforo.

- fango sottoposto ad un'alternanza di condizioni aerobiche/anossiche in linea acque e anaerobiche mediante l'inserimento del reattore side-stream
- nell'ASSR è necessario garantire assenza di substrato esogeno
- nell'ASSR occorre garantire bassi valori di ORP (cond. strettamente anaerobiche)
- si ottengono elevate riduzioni di produzione di fango (fino a 60%) ma ad oggi differenti meccanismi e parametri operativi sono stati proposti.



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## Trattamento con reattore anaerobico side-stream (ASSR): review

1. processo *Oxic-Settling-Anaerobic* (OSA) - Chudoba et al. (1992)
2. Processo Biminex
3. Processo A+OSA
4. processo *Canniba*<sup>®</sup>. Patent US 7569147 B2
5. UMASS. Patent US 2012/0152812 A1
6. Processo UTN (University of Trento) Patent n. 102016000035388

Ferrentino et al., *A review of anaerobic side-stream reactor for excess sludge reduction: Configurations, mechanisms, and efficiency*  
*Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology*, 2016



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## Processo Oxic-Settling-Anaerobic (OSA) (lab scale experiments)

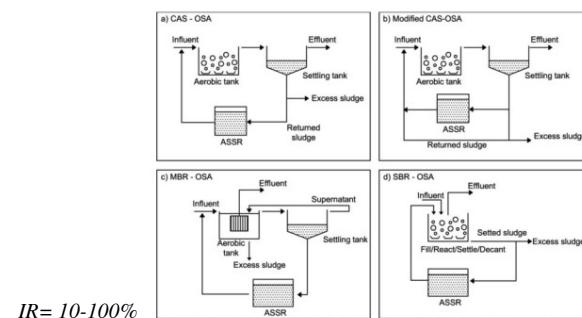


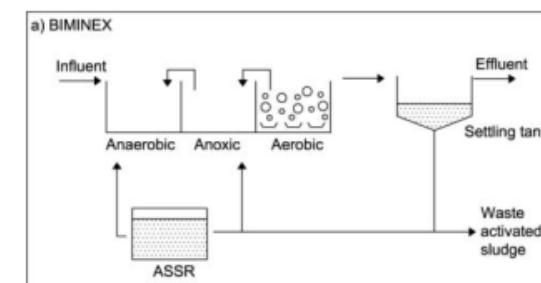
Figure 1. Schematic diagrams of (a) CAS-OSA system, (b) modified CAS-OSA system, (c) MBR-OSA system, and (d) SBR-OSA system.

Chudoba et al. (1992); Torregrossa et al., (2012); Wang et al., (2008); Ye et al., (2008); (Novak et al., 2007); Chon et al., (2011); Kim et al., (2012); Sun et al., (2010); Datta et al., (2009); Goel and Noguera, (2006).



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## Processo Bimex (lab scale experiments)



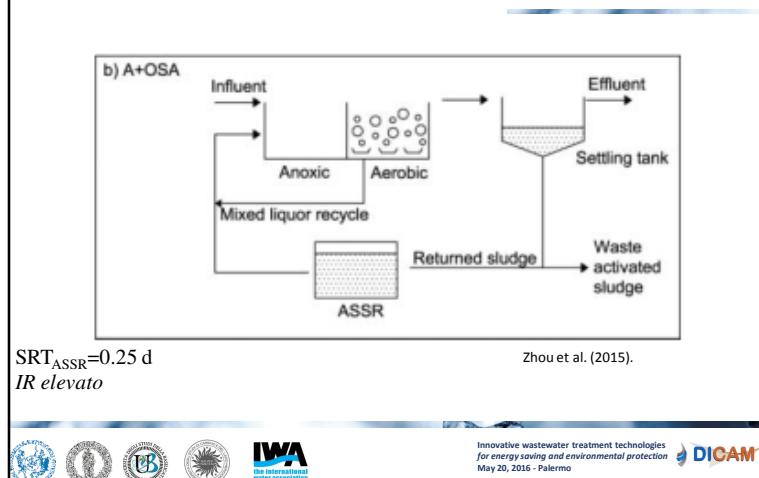
SRT<sub>ASSR</sub>=0.2 d  
IR ~ 70%

Coma et al. (2013)



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### Processo A + OSA (lab scale experiments)



### Processo Cannibal (engineering application)

estrazione di una parte dei fanghi di ricircolo (circa il 10% della portata di ricircolo);

vagliatura a circa 250  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

vasca intermedia;

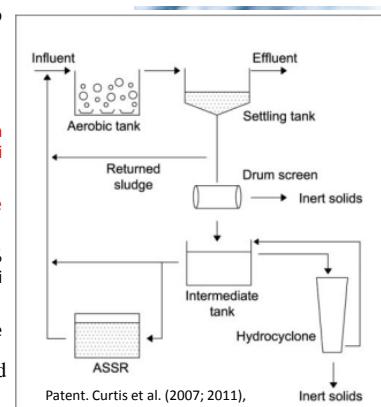
trattamento di una quota del fango in idrocycloni per la separazione di solidi inerti (sabbie);

invio di una quota di fanghi nuovamente verso lo stadio a fanghi attivi;

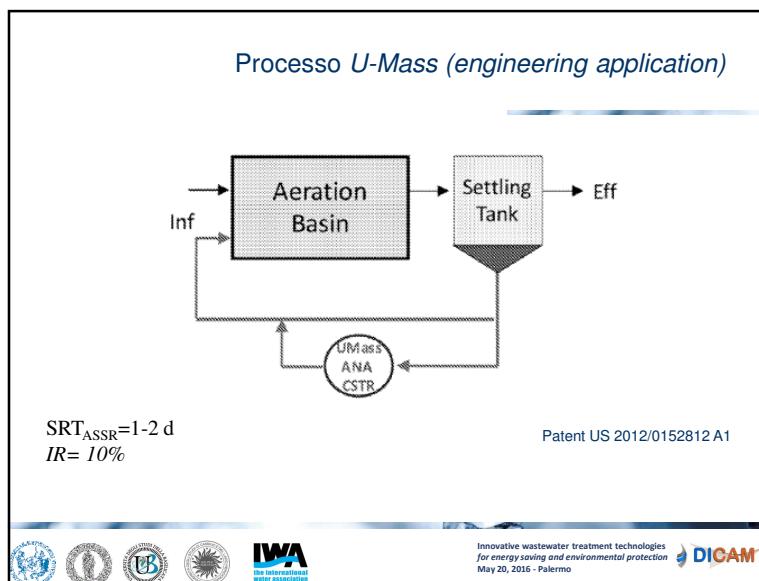
invio della parte rimanente di fanghi (3-5%  $Q_r$ ) in un reattore anaerobico detto di interscambio;

ritorno del fango trattato anaerobicamente allo stadio a fanghi attivi.

$SRT_{ASSR}=10\text{ d}$   
 $IR=10\%$

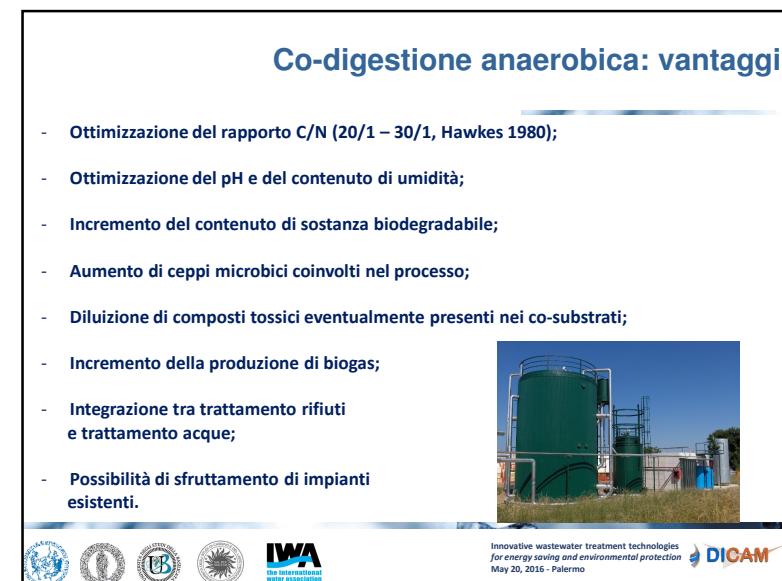
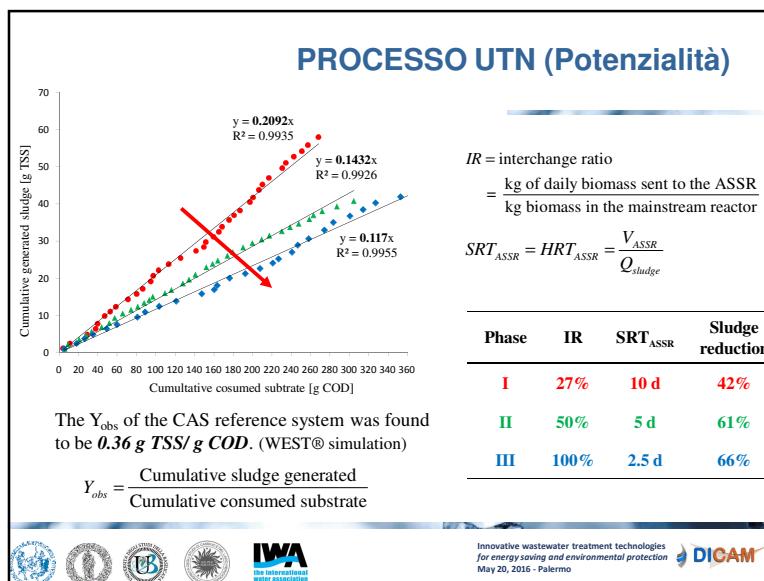
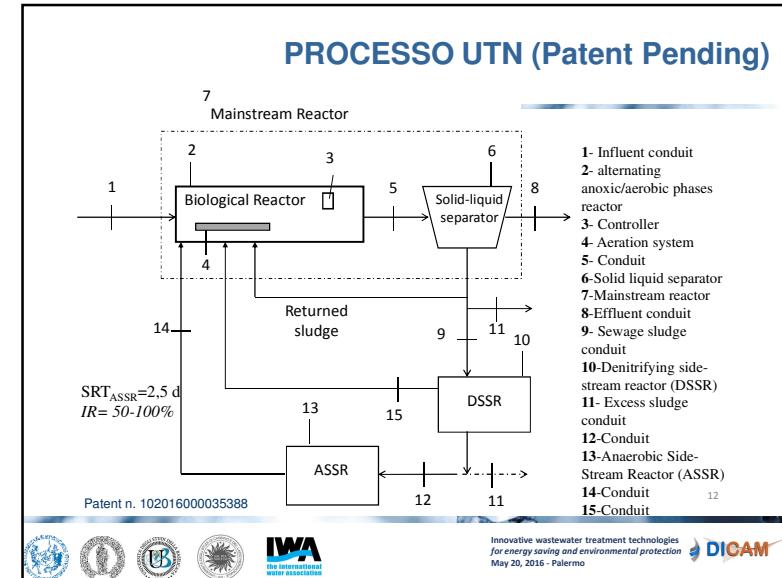
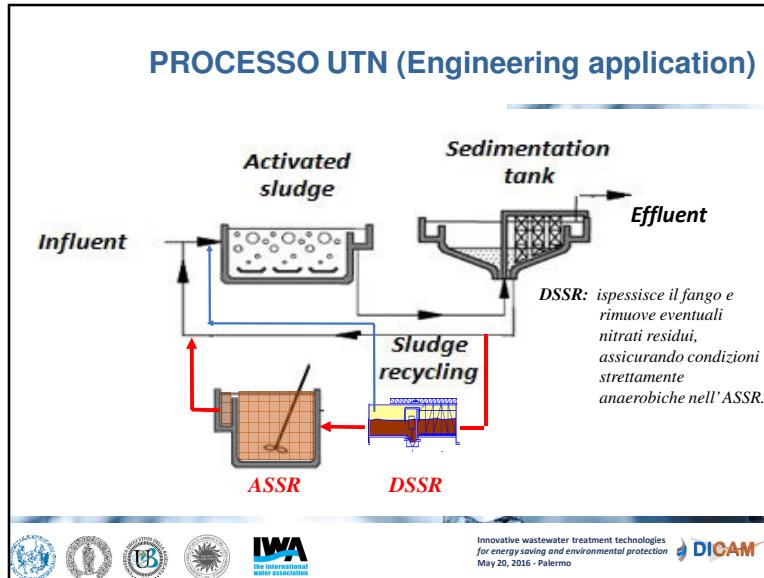


### Processo U-Mass (engineering application)



### Fattori limitanti

- Presenza di nitrati nel reattore ASSR
- Basso interscambio
- HRT di 7-10 giorni non necessario e controproducente



## Co-digestione anaerobica: svantaggi

- Necessità di pre-trattamenti
- Adeguamento dei sistemi di miscelazione dei digestori
- Necessità di trattare la frazione liquida prodotta dalla disidratazione del digestato
- Necessità di igienizzazione e limitazioni all'utilizzo del digestato in agricoltura



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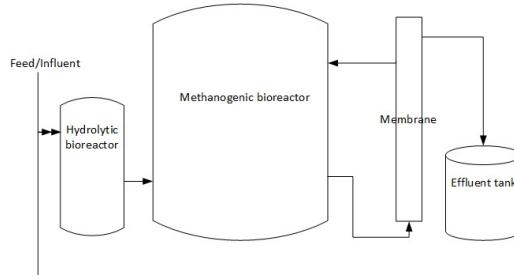
Esposito et al.  
Rev. Environ. Sci. Biotechnol., 2012

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## Co-digestione anaerobica: pre-trattamenti

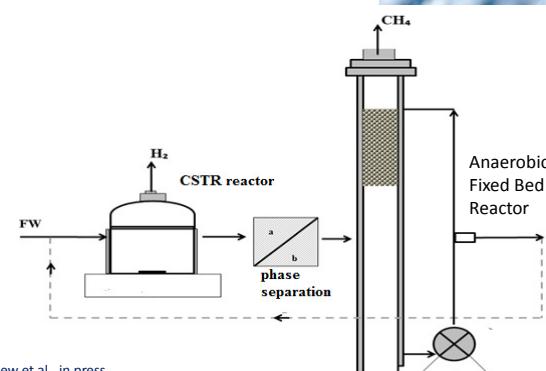
Pre-treatment methods	Substrate	Biogas yield variation <sup>a,b</sup> (%)	Reference
Mechanical comminution <sup>c</sup>	mix of apples, carrots and potatoes <sup>d</sup>	(+24)	Palmowski et al. 1999
	Meat	(+22)	Palmowski et al. 1999
	sunflower seeds	(+17)	Palmowski et al. 1999
	hay	(+15)	Palmowski et al. 1999
	Leaves	(+10)	Palmowski et al. 1999
Solid-liquid separation	solid fraction of pig faeces- liquid fraction of raw manure	(+145)	Möller et al. 2004
Bacterial hydrolysis and alkaline addition at high temperature	sewage sludge and OFMSW	(+140)	Del Borgi et al. 1999
Lysing	willow	(+22)	Wang 2009
	Miscanthus	(+1.13) <sup>e,f</sup>	Wang 2009
	mix of timothy, red clover and medick dense grass	(+17)	Pakarinen et al. 2008
Alkaline pre-treatment	mix of sugar beet tops, grass, hay straw and winter switchgrass	(+17) <sup>g,h</sup>	Lehtomäki et al. 2004
	10% SFW and 90% WAS	(+32)	Frigon et al. 2008
	30% SFW and 70% WAS	(+63)	Heo et al. 2003
	50% SFW and 50% WAS	(+59)	Heo et al. 2003
	70% SFW and 30% WAS	(+40)	Heo et al. 2003
	70% SFW and 30% WAS sewage sludge and OFMSW	(+19)	Heo et al. 2003
		(+31) <sup>i</sup>	Hanzawi et al. 1998b
Thermal pre-treatment	sewage sludge and OFMSW	(+268)	Hanzawi et al. 1998b
	sludge and straw	(+268)	Estrada et al. 2003
	dairy manure and bio-wastes	(+143) (+18)	Pavia et al. 2006
Thermal-chemical pre-treatment	sewage sludge and OFMSW	(-5)	Hanzawi et al. 1998b
Hydrothermal pre-treatment	manure	(+14)	Qiao et al. 2011
	fruit and vegetable waste	(+16)	Qiao et al. 2011
	mixed fruit and vegetable	(+16)	Qiao et al. 2011
Wet explosion	wheat straw and swine manure	(-12)	Wang 2009
Ultrasonic pre-treatment	WAS and OFMSW	(+123) (+296)	Simionetti et al. 2010
	mix of source-separated food waste, yard waste and digested bio-wastes	(+35) (+70)	Lissons et al. 2004a
	miscanthus <sup>j,k</sup>	(-26) (-39)	Wang 2009
	coco shell	(-10) (-36)	Wang 2009
	wheat straw	(-6) (-11)	Wang 2009
Wet oxidation	willow	(+80)	Wang 2009

## Bioreattori innovativi: Two stage with AnMBR



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## Two stage: CSTR + Biofilm reactor



Yashenew et al., in press



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## Two stage reactor: experimental design

- First stage fermentation: 1.6 L,  $55 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$

Phase	I	II	III
HRT (day)	6	5	3.7
OLR (gVSL/day)	2.0	2.5	3.4
Flow rate (ml/day)	266.7	320	433.3

- Second stage : AFBR  
Temperature : 1.3L,  $37 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$

Phase	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
HRT (day)	20	15	10	8	5	3	1.5
OLR gCOD/L/day	0.1	0.4	1.01	1.26	1.8	3.6	6.0
Duration (days)	25	39	33	8	31	34	18

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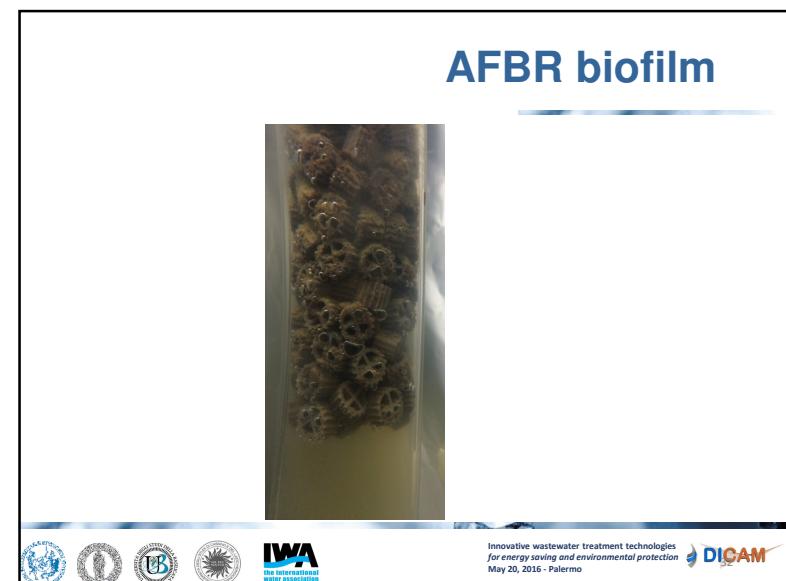
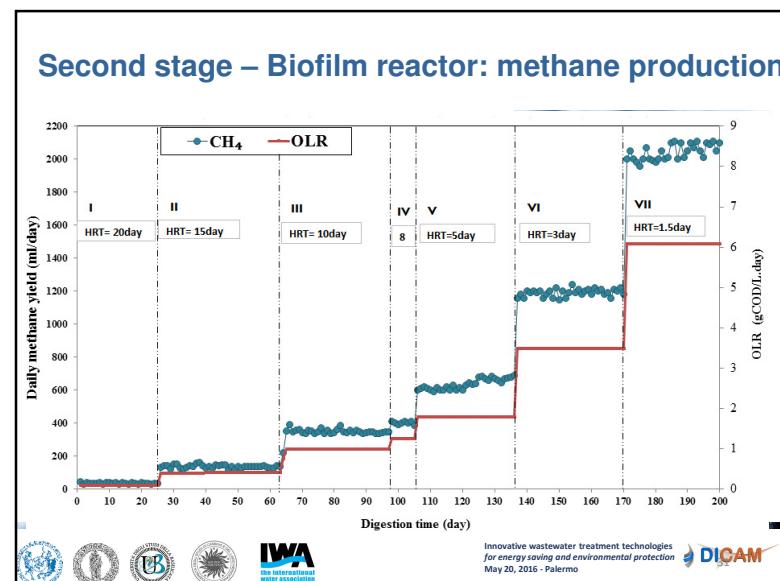
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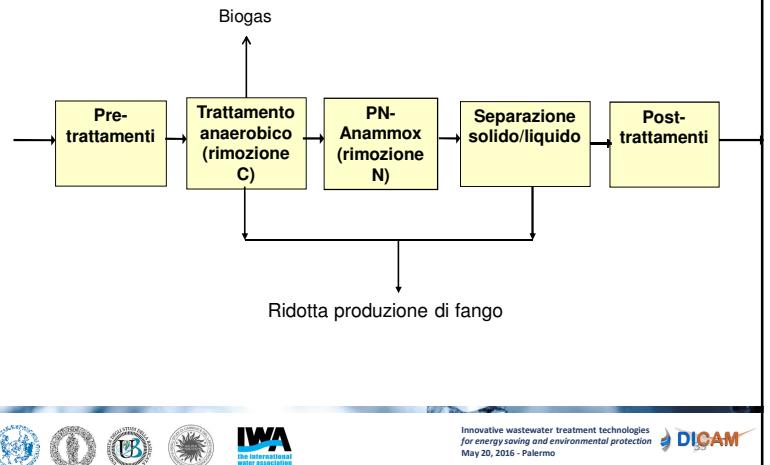
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the international water association

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dei Materiali (DICAM)



## Trattamento anaerobico nella linea acque



## High rate anaerobic reactors

Sono tutti basati sul principio della massimizzazione del SRT e si differenziano, a seconda di come la biomassa viene mantenuta nel reattore, nelle seguenti categorie:

- Riciclo degli aggregati microbici contenuti nell'effluente del reattore biologico, e.g. *anaerobic contact (AC) process*;
- Formazione di aggregati microbici ad elevata sedimentabilità, e.g. *upflow anaerobic sludge blanket (UASB) reactor* e *expanded granular sludge bed (EGSB) reactor*;
- Formazione di colture biologiche adese su supporto fisso, e.g. *upflow anaerobic filter (UAF)* e *downflow anaerobic filter (DAF)*;
- Utilizzazione di materiali ad alta densità in sospensione nel reattore biologico per il supporto di colture biologiche adese, e.g. *anaerobic fluidized bed reactor (AFBR)*;
- Formazione di colture biologiche adese su supporto fisso e di aggregati microbici sospesi ad elevata sedimentabilità, e.g. *Hybrid*;
- Uso di membrane per la separazione solido-liquido (AnMBR).



## High rate anaerobic reactors

Sistema	Caratteristiche dell'aggregato microbico	Ricircolo effluente	Materiale supporto	<i>OLR</i> tipici ( $\text{kgCOD m}^{-3}\text{d}^{-1}$ )
AC	fiochi	no	no	0.25-4
UASB	granuli	no	no	10-30
EGSB	granuli	si	no	10-40
UAF	pellicola	no	si	1-40
DAF	pellicola	no	si	1-40
AFBR	pellicola	si	si	1-100
Hybrid	pellicola/granuli	si/no	si	10-40
ASBR	fiochi	no	no	1-10



## Sistema AC

