



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Dept. of Biology, Section of Ecology and Systematics



Microbial Culture Collections as valuable resources for promoting Bioeconomy

The ATHUM Culture Collection of Fungi

Zacharoula (Zapi) Gonou-Zagou



Microbial Culture Collections
as valuable resources for promoting Bioeconomy



Bioeconomy



“The knowledge-based production and utilization of *biological resources, innovative biological processes* and principles to *sustainably* provide goods and services across all economic sectors’

Bioeconomy Summit 2015



Natural resources



Biotic* resource

stemming from living organisms
(plants, animals, **microorganisms**)
and organic materials

Abiotic resources

air, soil, water, sunlight,
inorganic material-minerals

*Biotic, biological, biogenic, bio-based



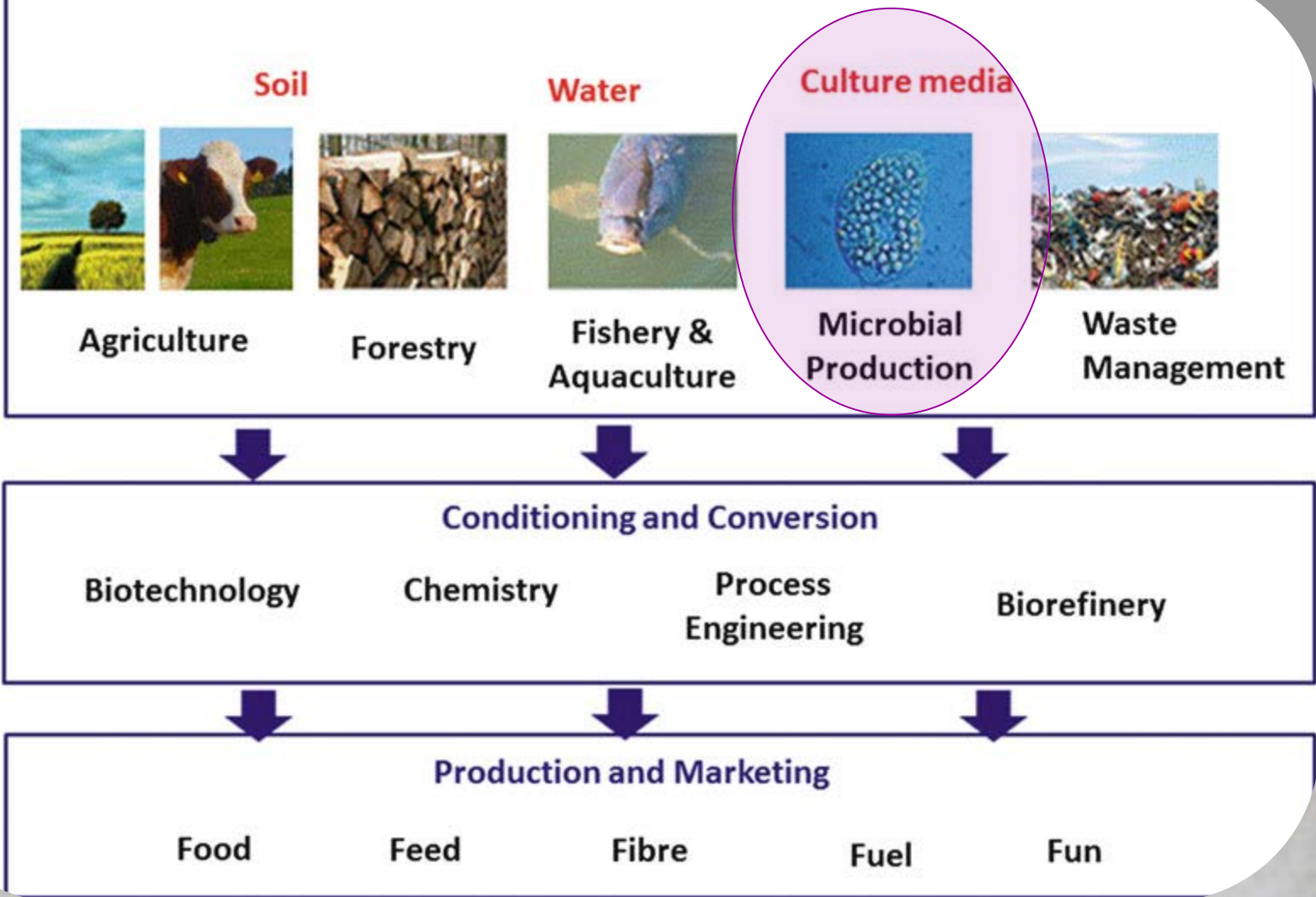
Biological resources



All resources
containing non-fossil, organic carbon,
from living plants, animals, **microorganisms** or
organic waste streams

Whole organism, part of it or derivative

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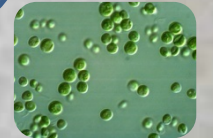
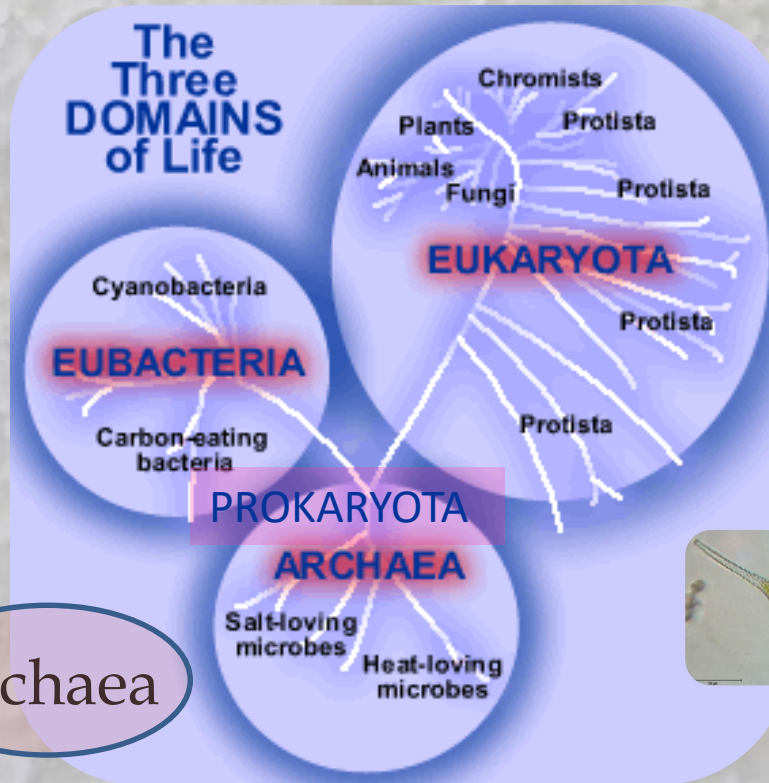
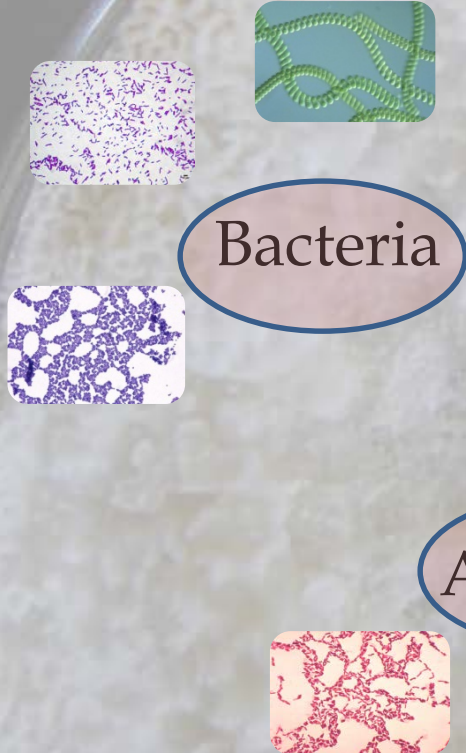
The resource substitution perspective of the bio-economy (BOR 2010)



Microbes-Microorganisms



Diverse taxonomic groups





Microorganisms



- Are abundant and diverse

10^7 procaryotic species

Curtis et al. 2002

$6 \times 10^5 - 10^7$ fungal species

Cannon 1997

13,500 procaryotic species

www.bacterio.net

365,300 fungal species

Robert et al. 2013



Microorganisms



- Are abundant and diverse
- Inhabit different environments
- Participate in biotic interactions
 - Are flexible, resilient
 - Have high metabolic potential

✓ Successful organisms

✓ Have wide impact on biosphere - Play crucial ecological role

✓ Determine structure and function of ecosystems

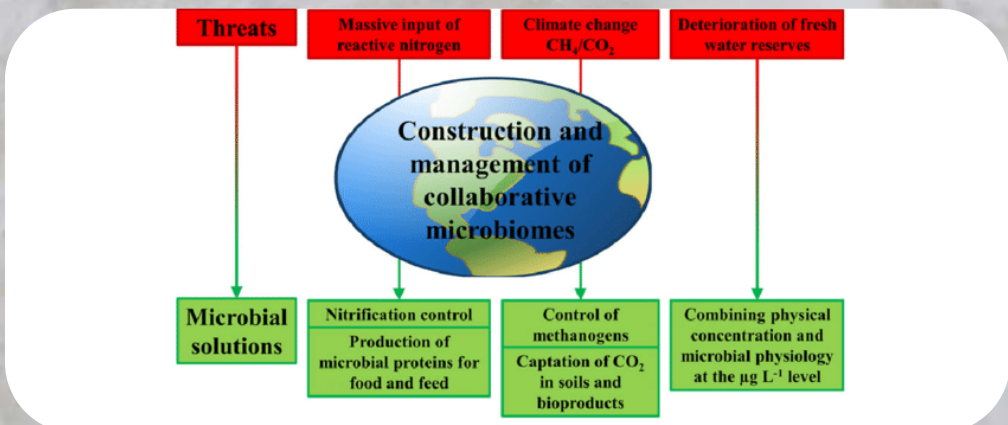
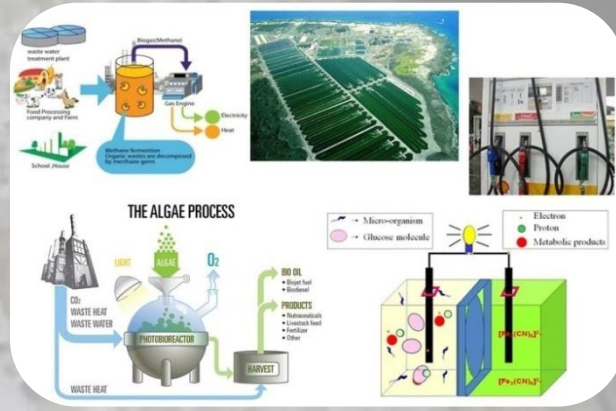
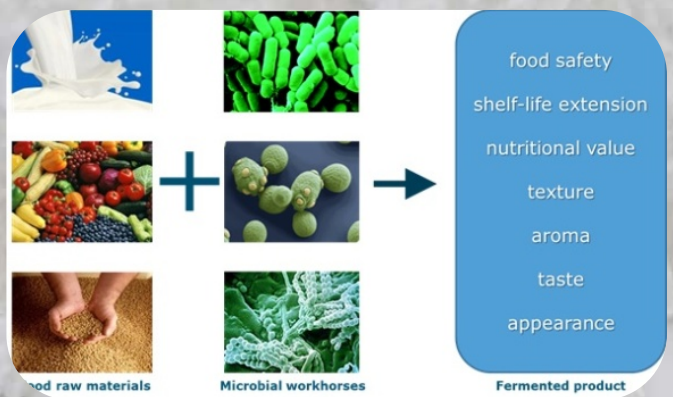
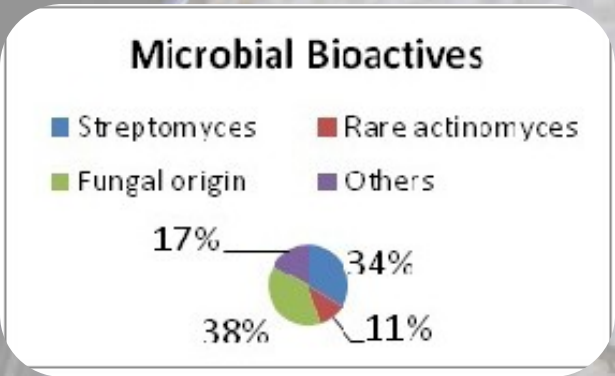
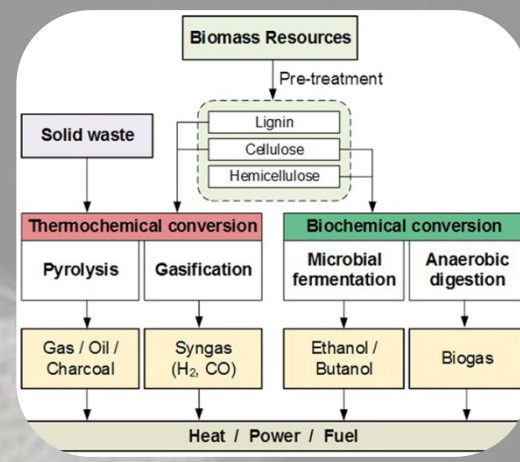
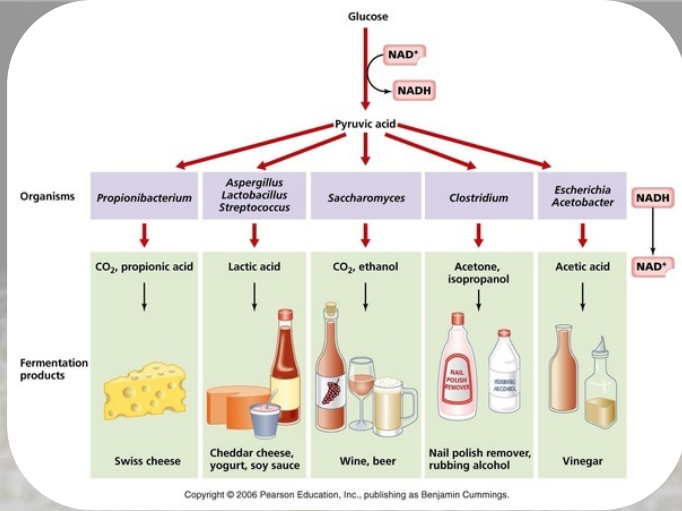
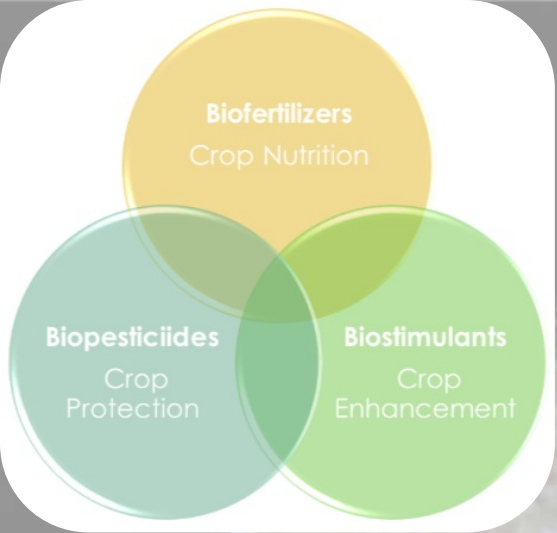


Microorganisms-microbial resources



- Principal component of biological resources
 - Essential raw material
 - Early use for humankind benefit
 - Full potential unknown-underexploited
- Unparalleled source of unexplored innovative solutions
- ✓Meet worlds greatest challenges within sustainability

Agriculture Health Food-feed Energy Nanotechnology





Microorganisms-microbial resources



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Agriculture Health Food-feed Energy Nanotechnology

Secure in Culture Collections



Culture Collections



- Public, open collections
- Maintain strains for future research & application
 - Safeguard biodiversity, ex-situ conservation
- Provide access to microbial resources, data, expertise
- Ensure correct & valid taxonomy, offer authentication

Microbial Biological Resource Centers (mBRCs)

(quality-driven management according to OECD guidelines)



Culture Collections



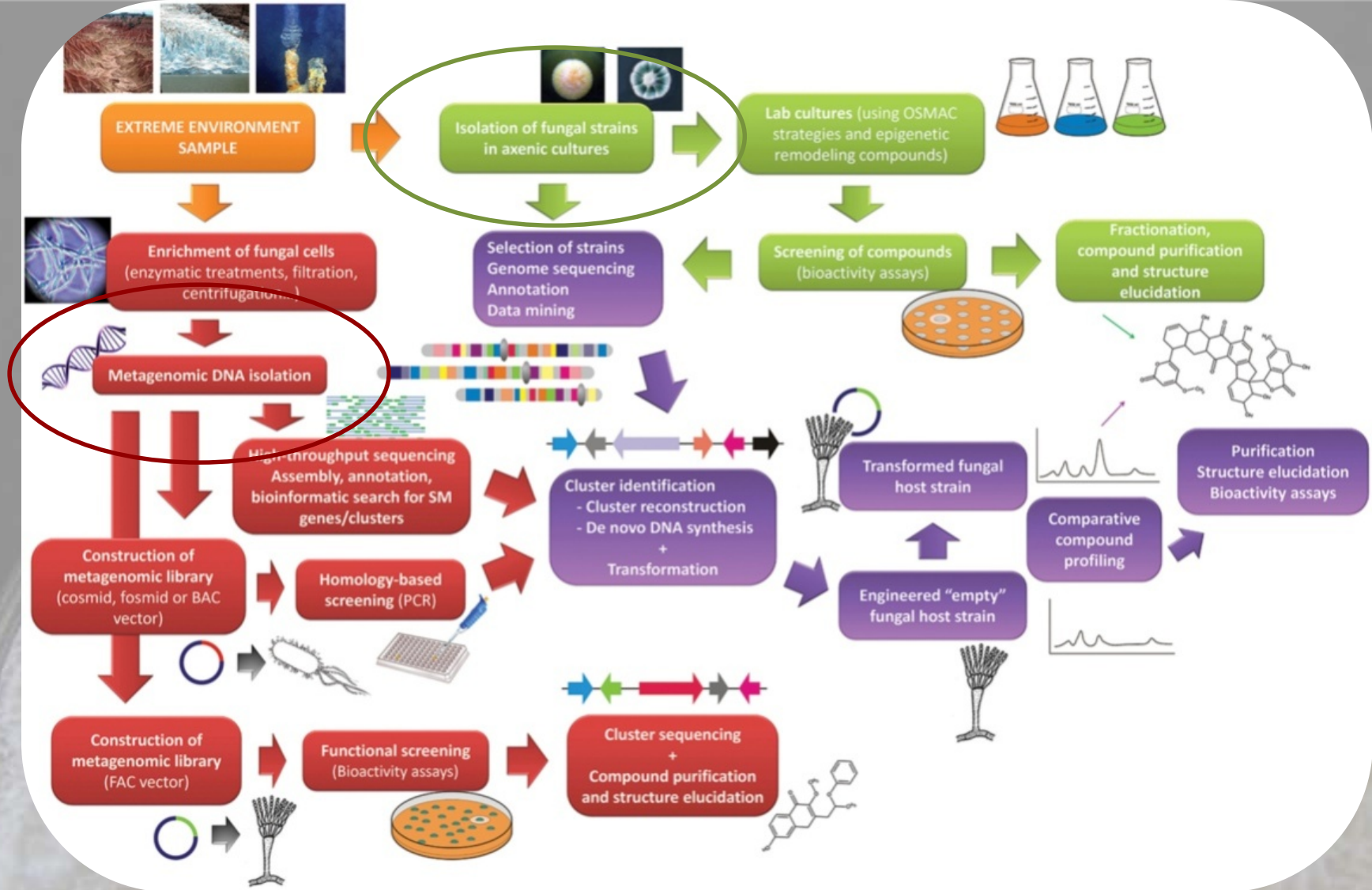
709 CC in WDCM (World Data Centre for Microorganisms)
220 in Europe

1,070,000 Bacteria 747,000 Fungi & Yeasts

0.5 million strains are supplied by CC registered in WDCM

<0.1% of prokaryote strains published are deposited in CC

70% of strains used in published research are not from CC



Culture Collections

Genomic Collections

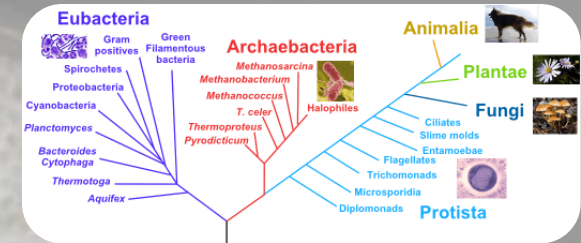
Biorepositories



FUNGI



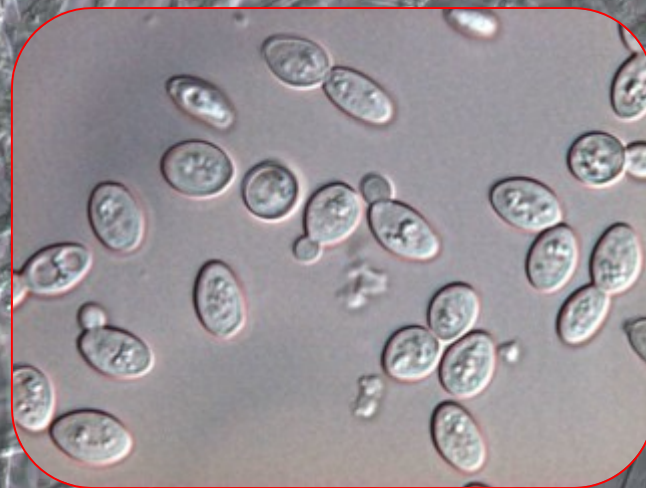
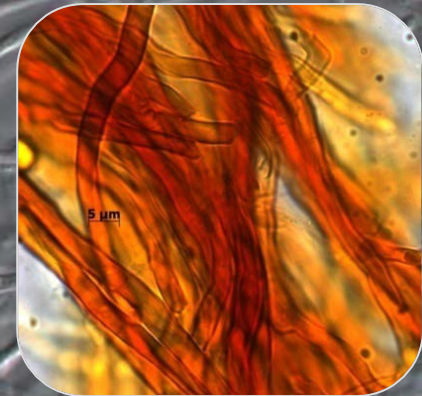
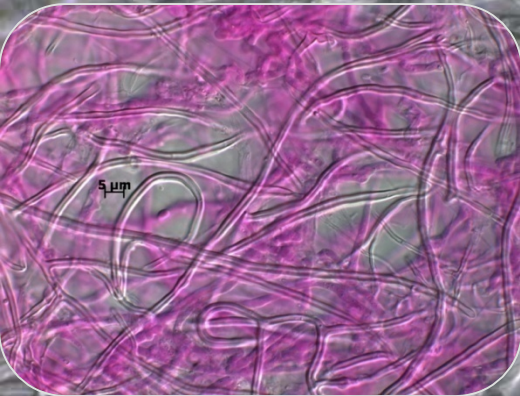
✓ Distinct Kingdom



✓ Thallus mycelium consisting of hyphae or unicellular

Hyphae - Mycelium

wall of chitin



Yeasts=unicellular fungi

1μ = 0,001 mm



FUNGI



✓ Distinct Kingdom

✓ Thallus mycelium consisting of hyphae or unicellular

✓ Reproduction sexual and asexual with numerous spores

✓ Nutrition by absorption of organic material through hyphae

✓ Production of secondary metabolites

✓ Living in all sorts of environments and substrates

FUNGI

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Environment

Agriculture-Forestry

- Biostimulants
- Biofertilizers
- Biodegradation-bioconversion
 - Bioremediation
- Biomineralization of heavy metals
 - Biocontrol

Food-Feed

- Fermentations-food processing
 - Mycoprotein-SCP
- Organic acid production
- Flavours, aromas, dietary supplements
 - cultivated mushrooms

Health

Pharmaceuticals

- Antibiotics
 - penicillin
 - cephalosporins
- Cyclosporines
- Bioactive compounds
 - Statines

Others

- Energy
- Detergents
- Biostoning, biofinishing
- Cosmetics - "leather" products



FUNGI



ATHens University Mycethoteca

Culture Collection of Fungi

Dried Specimen Collection of Fungi

ECCO (European Culture Collections' Organization)

Member of WFCC (World Federation for Culture Collections)

WDCM (World Data Centre for Microorganisms)



FUNGI



ATHens University Mycethoteca

Culture Collection of Fungi

Ascomycota

Indigenous strains of

Basidiomycota (mushrooms)

Zygomycota

ATHUM



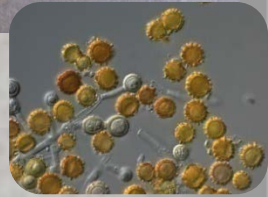
III



ZI



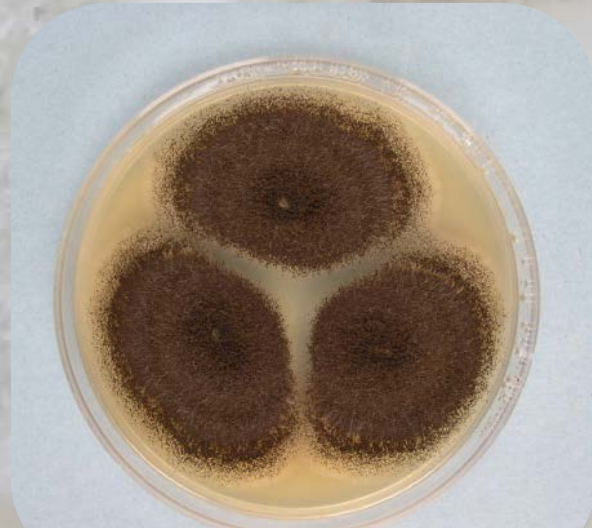
ZI



Ascomycota



ZI



ZI



Basidiomycota

ATHUM

Zygomycota





ATHUM ATHUBA UOA/HCPF

Network of Microorganism Collections
University of Athens

Hellenic Microbial Resource Collections Network



MIRRI

MIcrobial Resource Research Infrastructure

MIRRI is the pan-European research infrastructure for microbial resources
launched in 2012

MIRRI aims to support research, development and applications in the field of
biotechnology by provision of high quality microorganisms, associated data
and the broad expertise of the partners

Currently more than 40 public bio-repositories and research institutes
from 19 European countries collaborate to establish MIRRI
as an European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) under EU law.

MIRRI in Europe

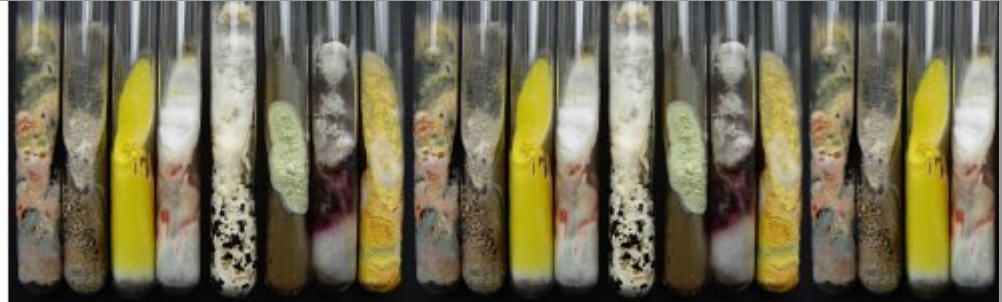
 Partner*

 Collaborating Parties+





Faculty of Science
CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE



CCF Culture Collection of Fungi



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
— EST. 1837 —





MIRRI

MIcrobial Resource Research Infrastructure

- MIRRI's vision is to be a unique pan-European high-performance platform adding value to known and yet unknown microbial diversity and exploiting novel sources and knowledge to discover and disclose for **bio-economy and bioscience**.
- MIRRI aims to generate solutions to societal and environmental challenges by stimulating interaction between academia and **bio-industry**

MIcrobial Resource Research Infrastructure

MIRRI Mission Statement:

MIRRI serves **Bioscience and Bio-industry** users by facilitating access to a broad range of high quality bio-resources and data in a legal compliant way. By offering access to human expertise and providing a collaborative platform for long-term sustainability of microbial biodiversity MIRRI will increase knowledge and promote professional development.

At the European level (EU/ESFRI), MIRRI creates synergies with other RIs whilst globally it collaborates with to other microbial resource RIs.

MIRRI underpins national interests supporting the protection of the investment, empowering **bio-economy** growth and increasing the competitiveness of the country.



Concluding.....

- ✓ The diversity of microorganisms is largely unknown and untapped
- ✓ A lot and hard work is needed for discovering, isolating, preserving and identifying the microorganisms, as well as studying their properties
- ✓ In times of declining financial resources it is important to unite and harmonize the efforts, develop common strategies and establish new organizational structure to meet the challenges of the microbial revolution



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References

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- Smith D et al. 2017. MIRRI Recommendations for Exploiting the Full Potential of Micro-Organism Data. *Ann. Biom. Biost.* 4(1): 1-6
- Stackebrandt E. et al. 2015. MIRRI: Strength through coordination. *Microorganisms* 3:890-902

Pictures

ΠΠ = I. Pyrri, ΖΓ = Z. Gonou



Thank you



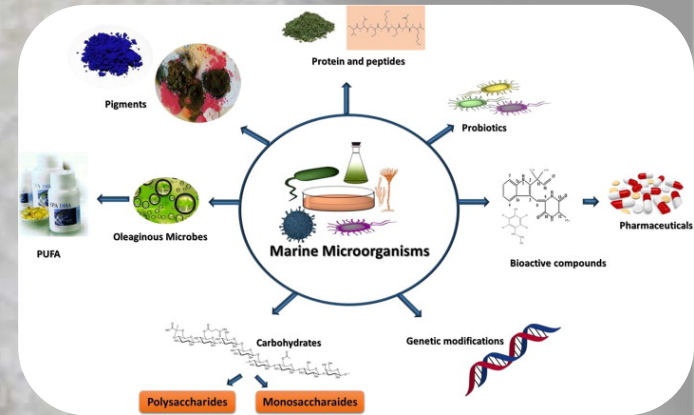
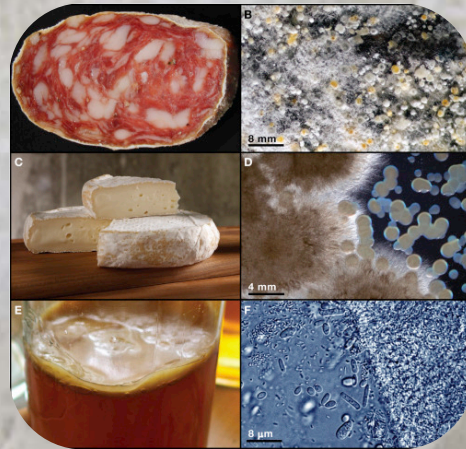


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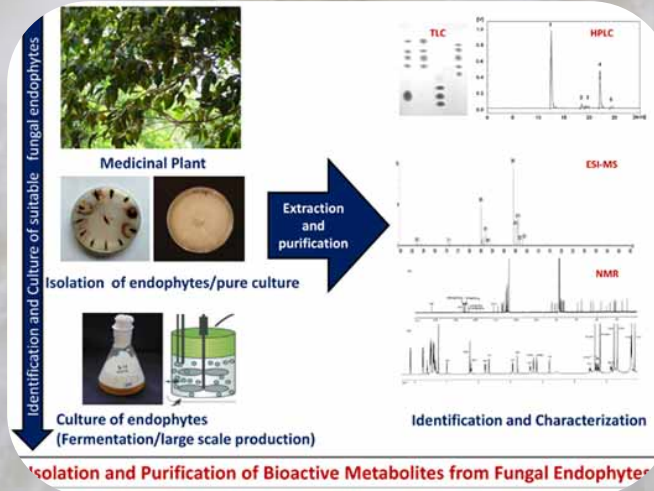
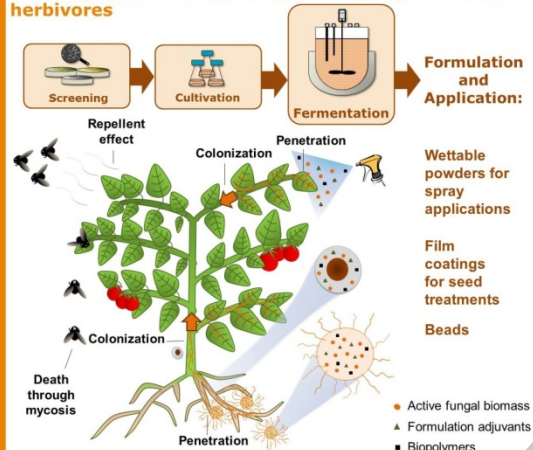


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Biological crop protection with innovative formulation of endophytic entomopathogenic fungi against insect herbivores





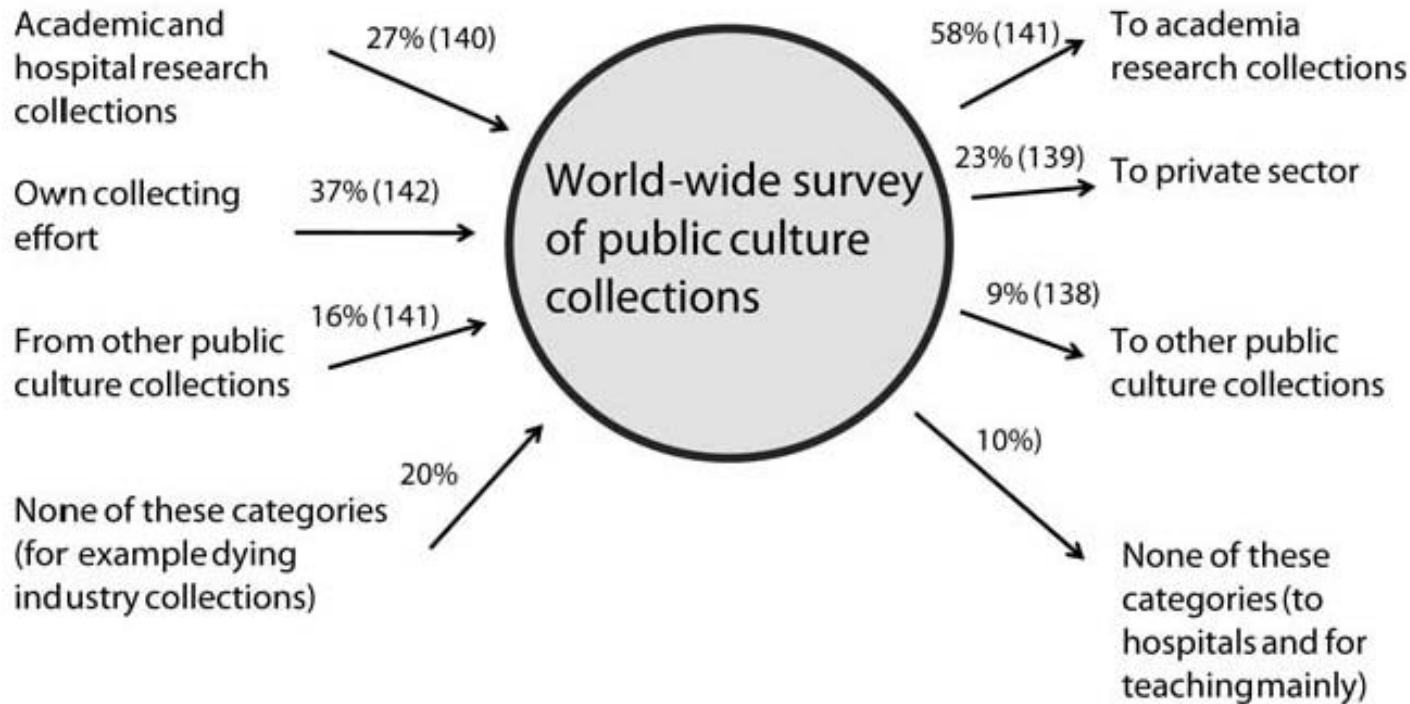
Culture Collections

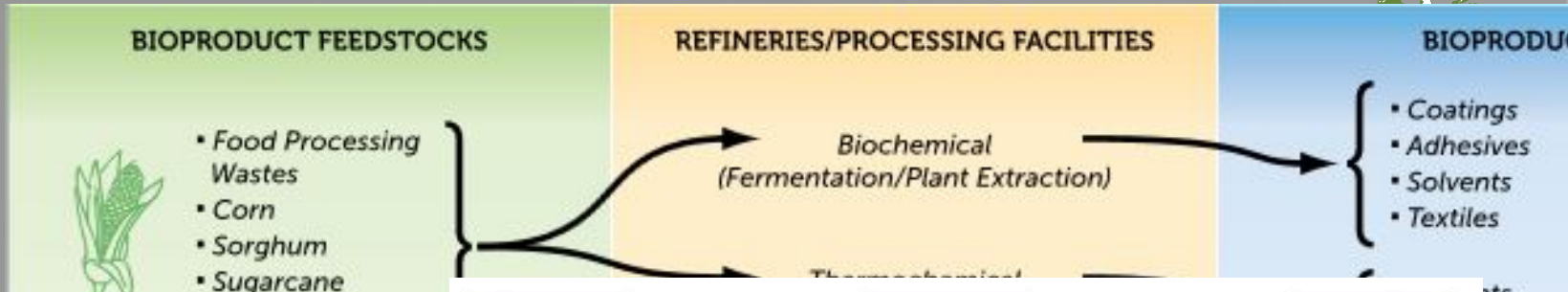


Survey on deposit and distribution patterns
(the number of survey answers per category is indicated in parenthesis)

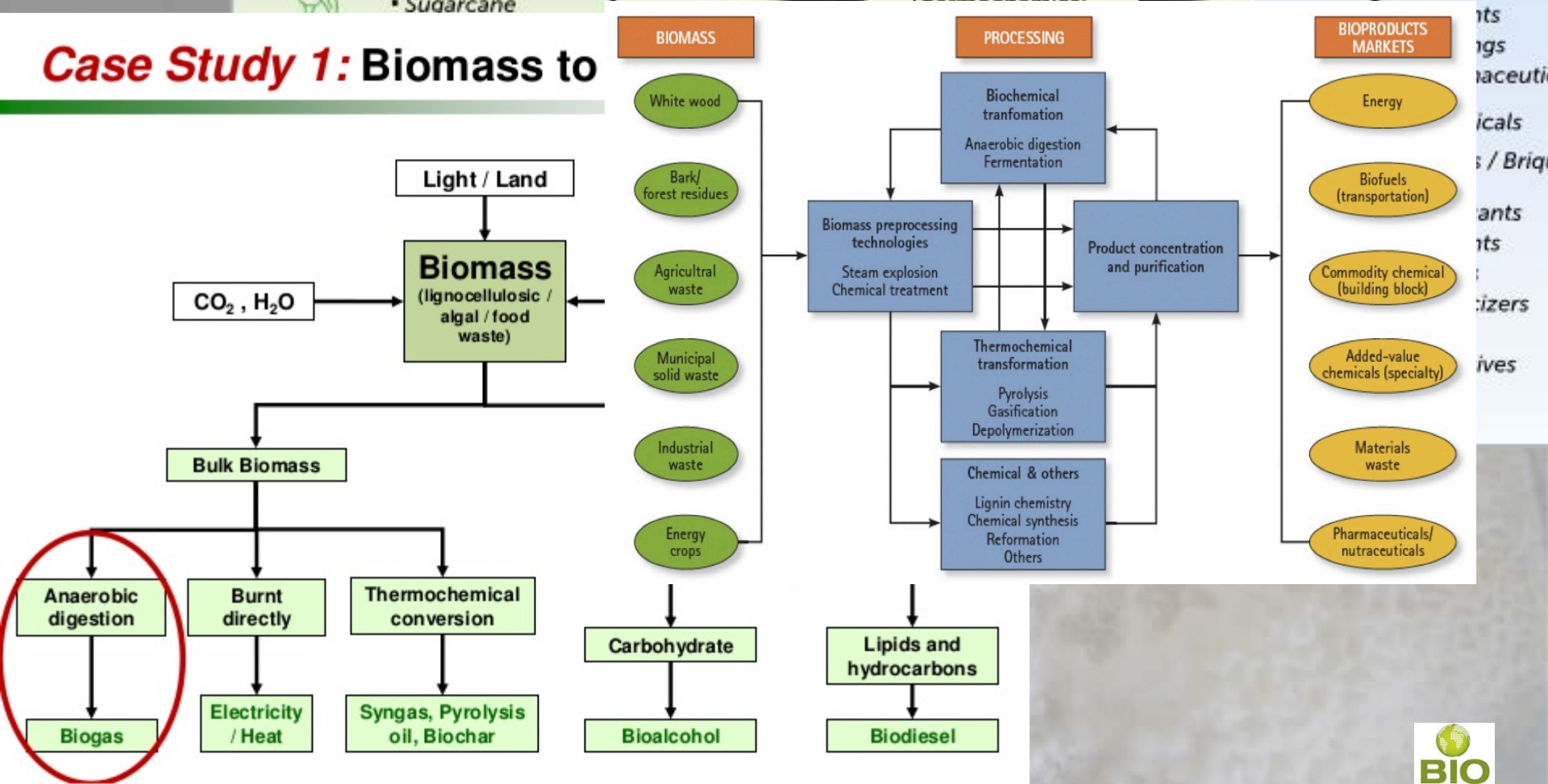
Total number of new accessions in 2005 in the surveyed public culture collections : approximately 10.000

Total number of strains delivered in 2005 by the surveyed public culture collections : approximately 160.000





Case Study 1: Biomass to



Knowledge Base: Plant microbiome



Biomass Feedstocks

