

## ENERGY CANE IN BRAZIL



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## A BRIEF ON VIGNIS AND ITS ENERGY CANE



**VIGNIS is a biotec company aimed at breeding ENERGY CANE.**

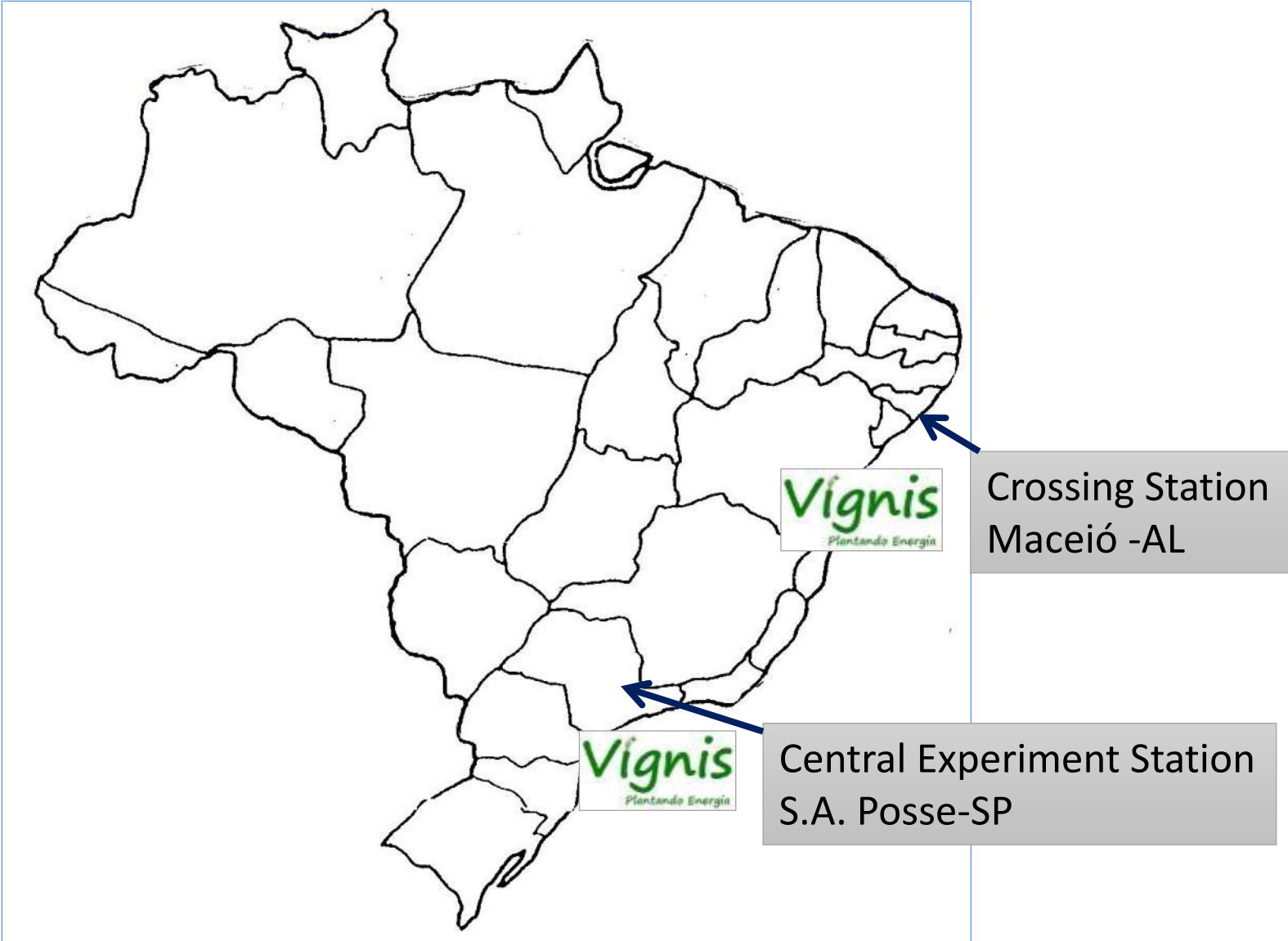
**A basic difference between ENERGY CANE and conventional sugar cane is its fiber content: it is higher in it, some two fold. One outstanding consequence of this is on the yield, more than two fold. ENERGY CANE also shows many other agronomic advantages.**

**Vignis' access to the market is through proprietary cultivars.**

**The feedstock is produced, harvested and delivered to the customer by the company itself.**



# VIGNIS' FACILITIES

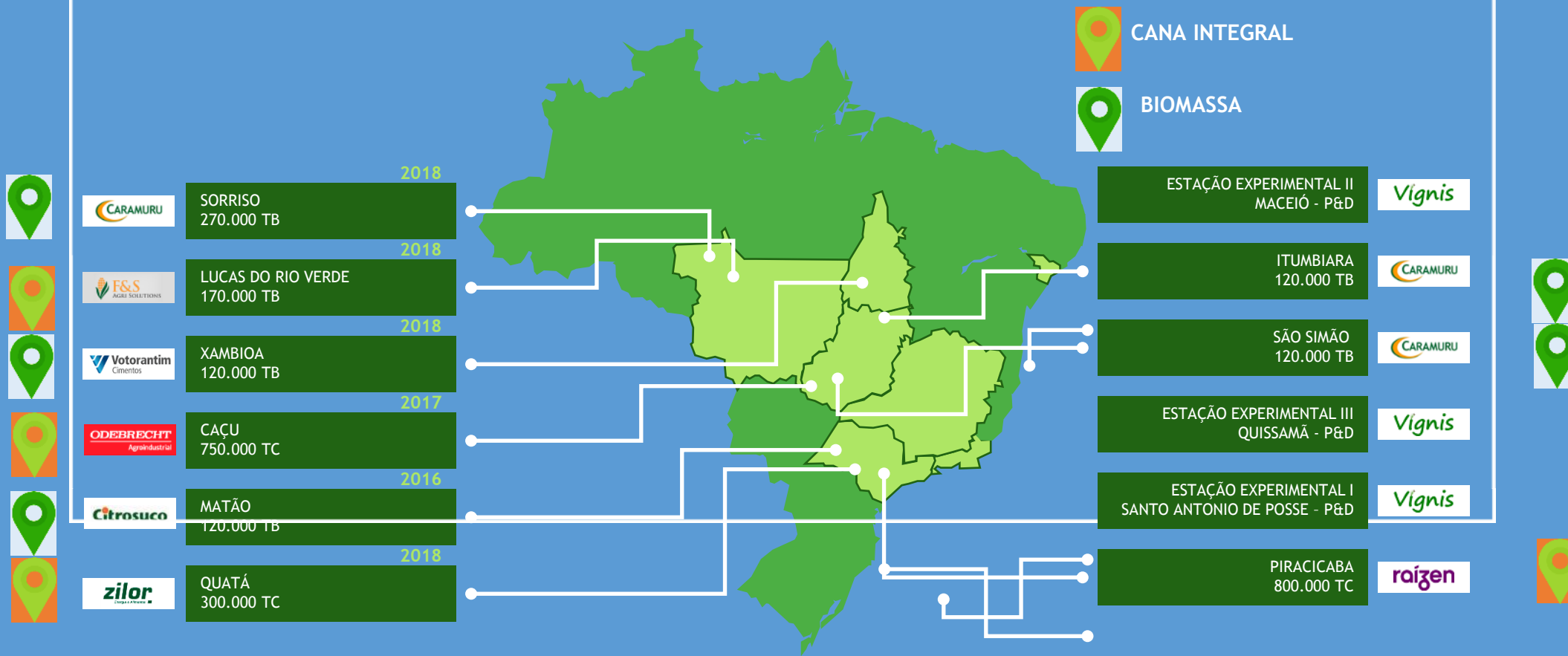


# VIGNIS' EXPERIMENT STATION LOCATED AT SANTO ANTONIO DE POSSE-SP

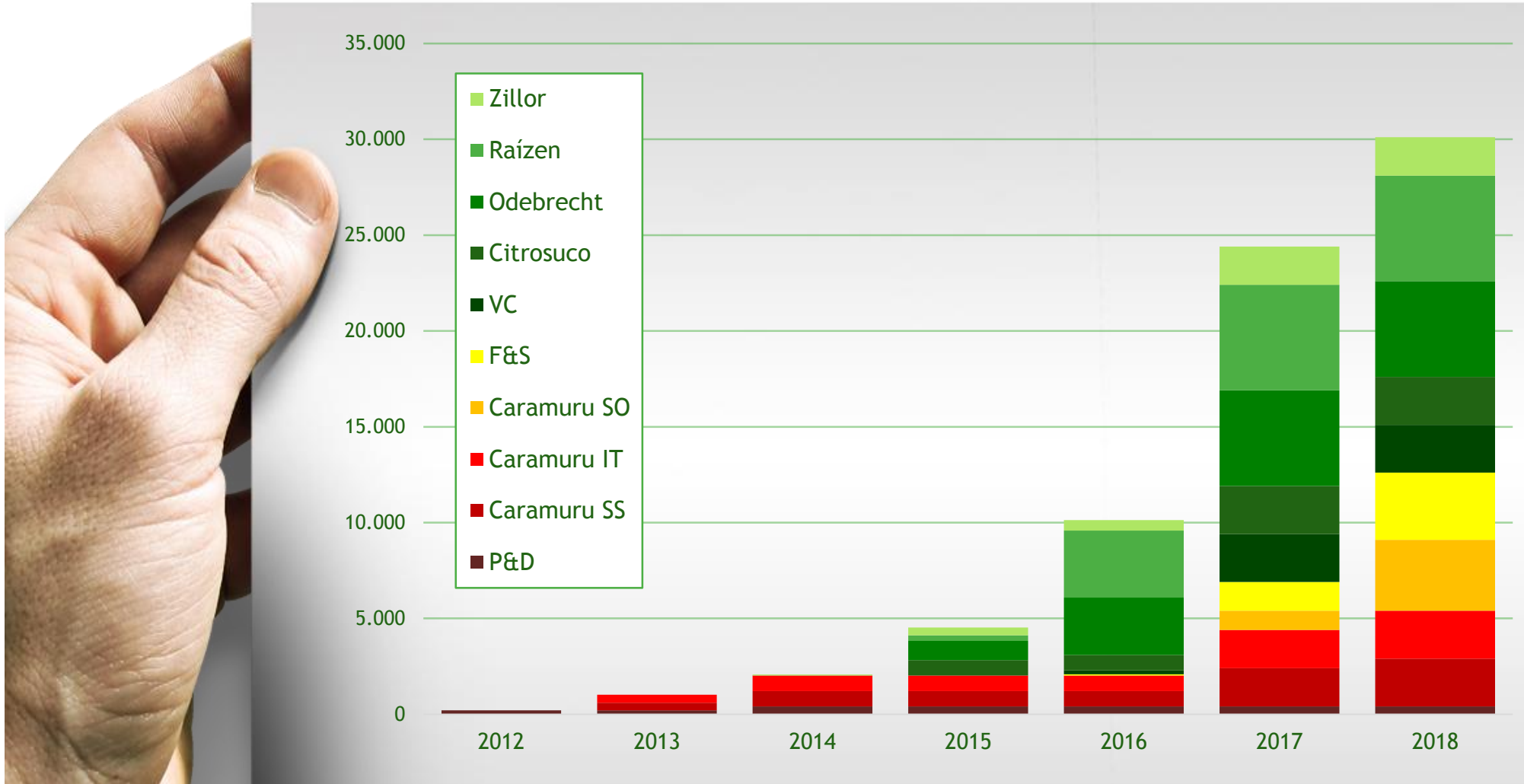


# VIGNIS' CUSTOMERS

4.000.000 TONS OF FEEDSTOCK PER YEAR



# 4.000.000 TONS OF ENERGY CANE PER YEAR



# CASE USINA RIO CLARO

## OCTOBER, 2016

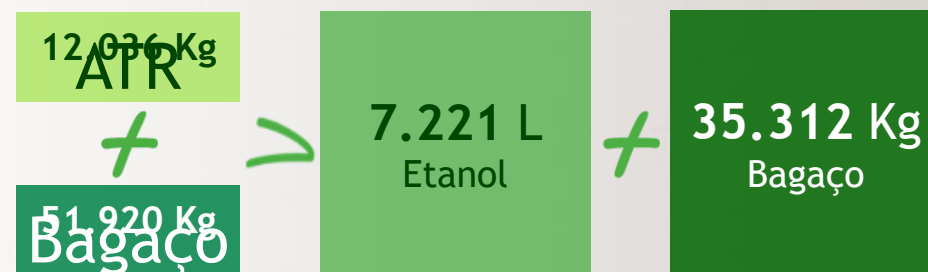
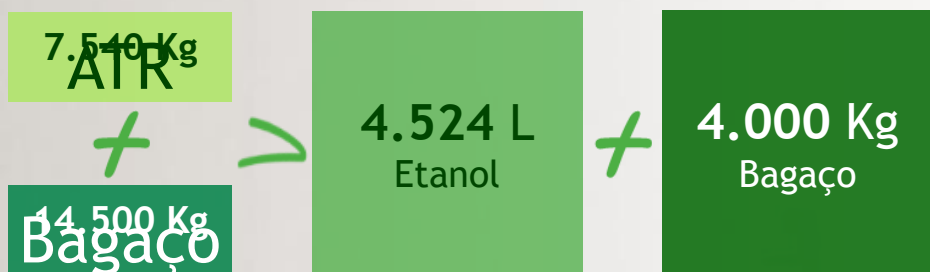
*Cana-de-Açúcar*

*Cana Energia*

*1 Hectare*

*58 Toneladas*

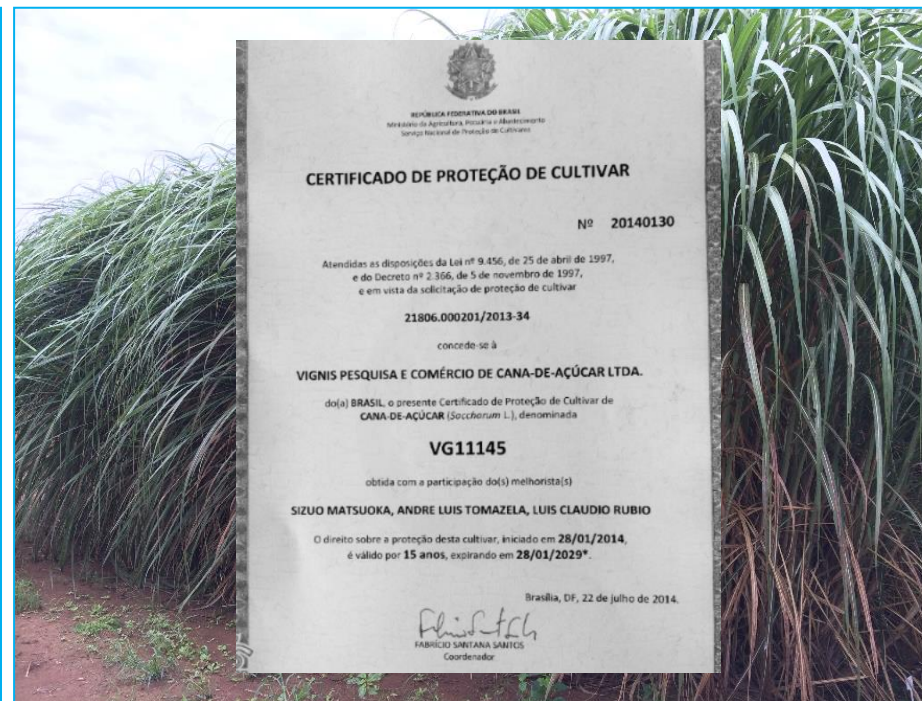
*118 Toneladas*



## VIGNIS PROTECTED CULTIVARS: 9 SO FAR



**VG1126**



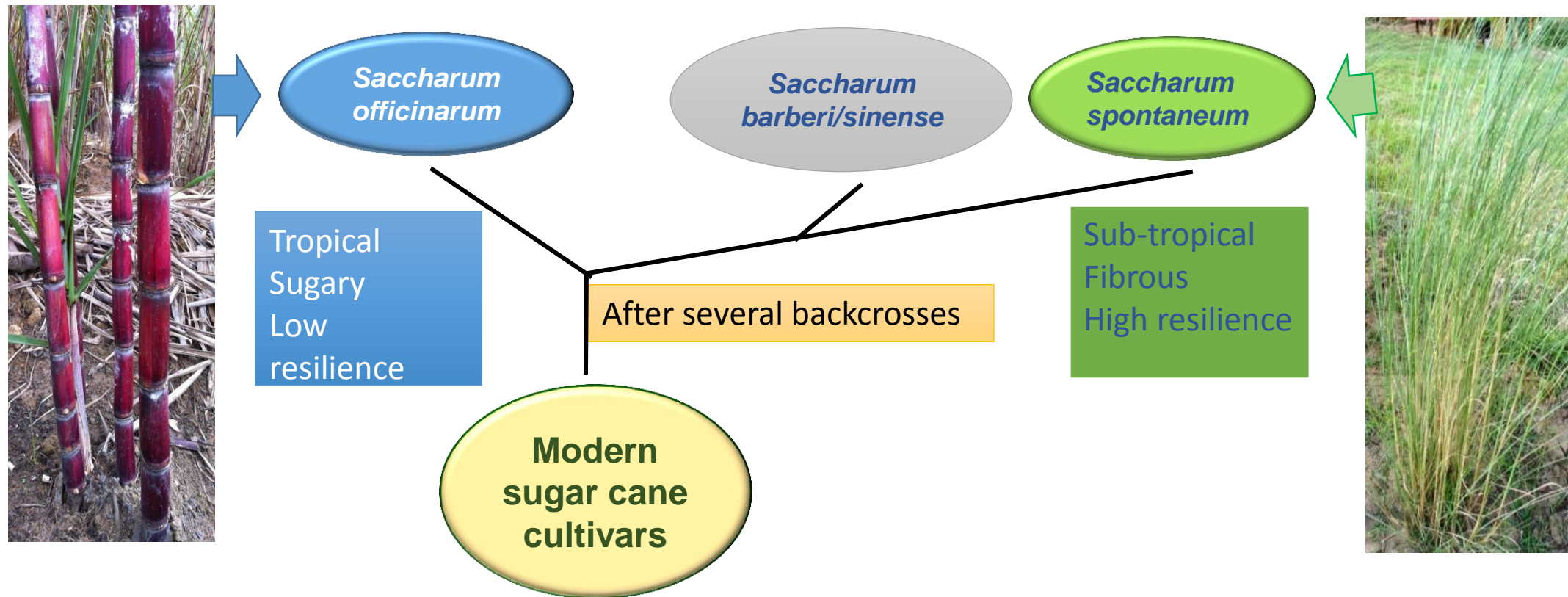
**VG11145**



## HOW ENERGY CANE IS OBTAINED



Sugar cane breeding is an ongoing process more than 100 years old: commercial varieties are hybrids from crosses between *Saccharum officinarum* and *S. spontaneum*, or landraces, followed by successive backcross to the first species.



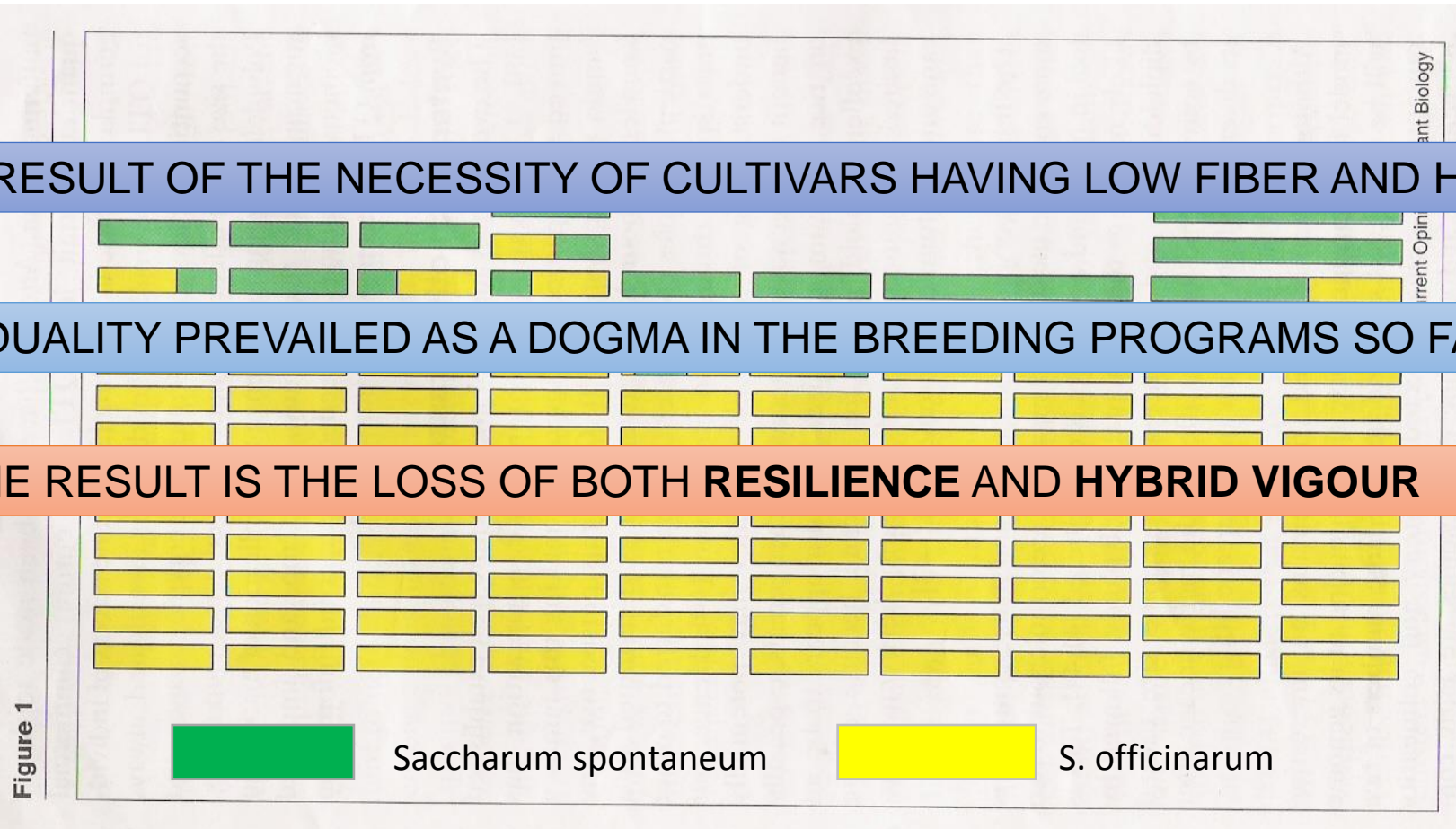
Prevalence of *S. officinarum* chromosomes

# GENOMIC COMPOSITION OF MODERN SUGAR CANE VARIETIES

THIS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NECESSITY OF CULTIVARS HAVING LOW FIBER AND HIGH SUCROSE

THIS DUALITY PREVAILED AS A DOGMA IN THE BREEDING PROGRAMS SO FAR

THE RESULT IS THE LOSS OF BOTH **RESILIENCE** AND **HYBRID VIGOUR**



## THE INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED THE GENOMIC COMPOSITION OF MODERN SUGAR CANE VARIETIES

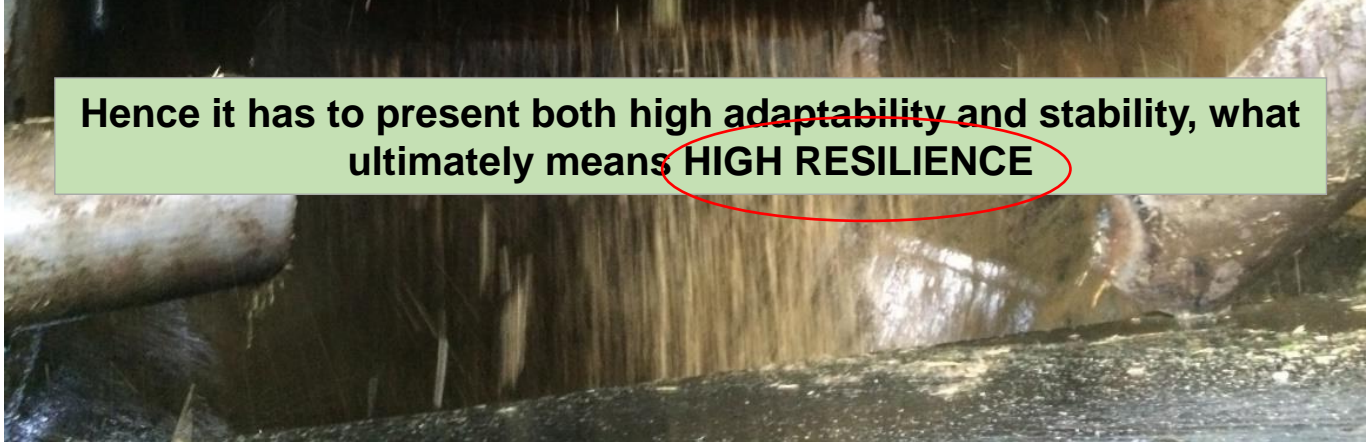


Low fiber

High sucrose

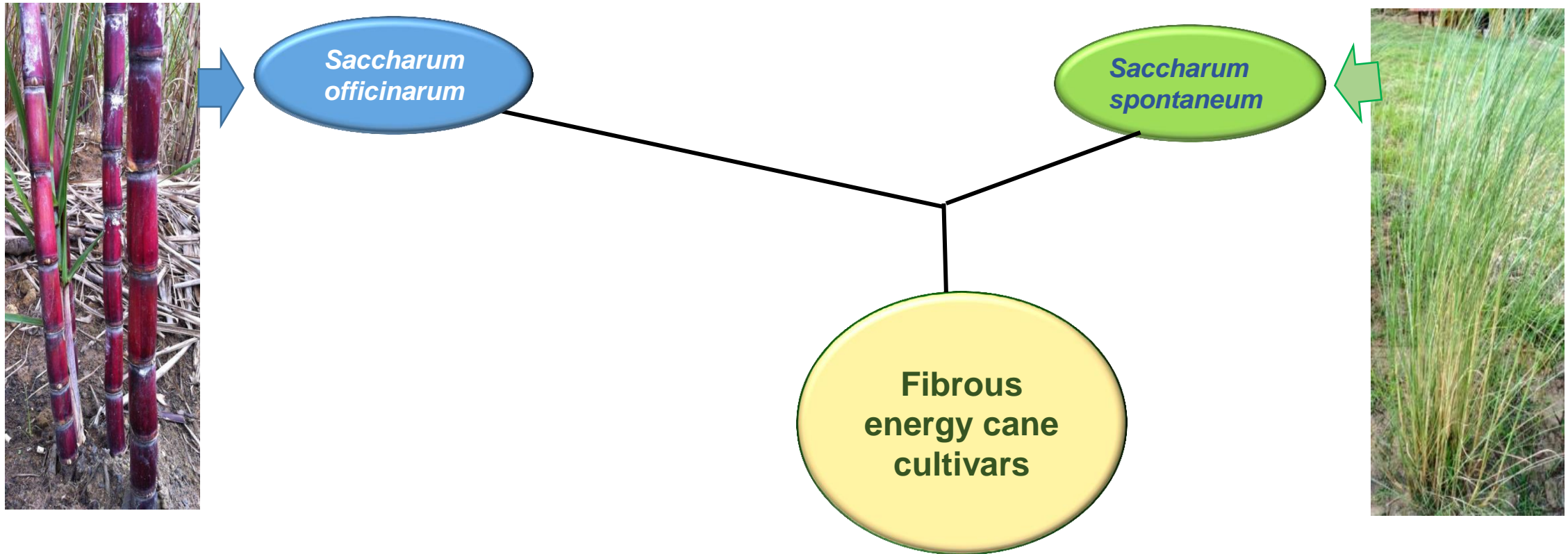
High juice's purity

At the same time the variety has to fulfill all the agronomic requirements in order to give a dependable productivity



Hence it has to present both high adaptability and stability, what ultimately means **HIGH RESILIENCE**

The tradeoff HIGH SUGAR and LOW FIBER represents a STRONG LIMITATION ON YIELD.  
If BIOMASS is the target instead (high fiber), the result is a plant with high HYBRID VIGOR  
and HIGH RESILIENCE



UNLIKE CONVENTIONAL SUGAR CANE, ENERGY CANE HAS PREVALENCE OF *S. spontaneum* GENOME,  
HENCE HIGHER RESILIENCE

**This change to a fibrous cane brings together many distinct and advantageous characteristics.  
Two of them are higher hybrid vigor, and higher resilience.**



Sugar cane

Energy cane

# RATOONING IS ANOTHER OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUGAR CANE AND ENERGY CANE

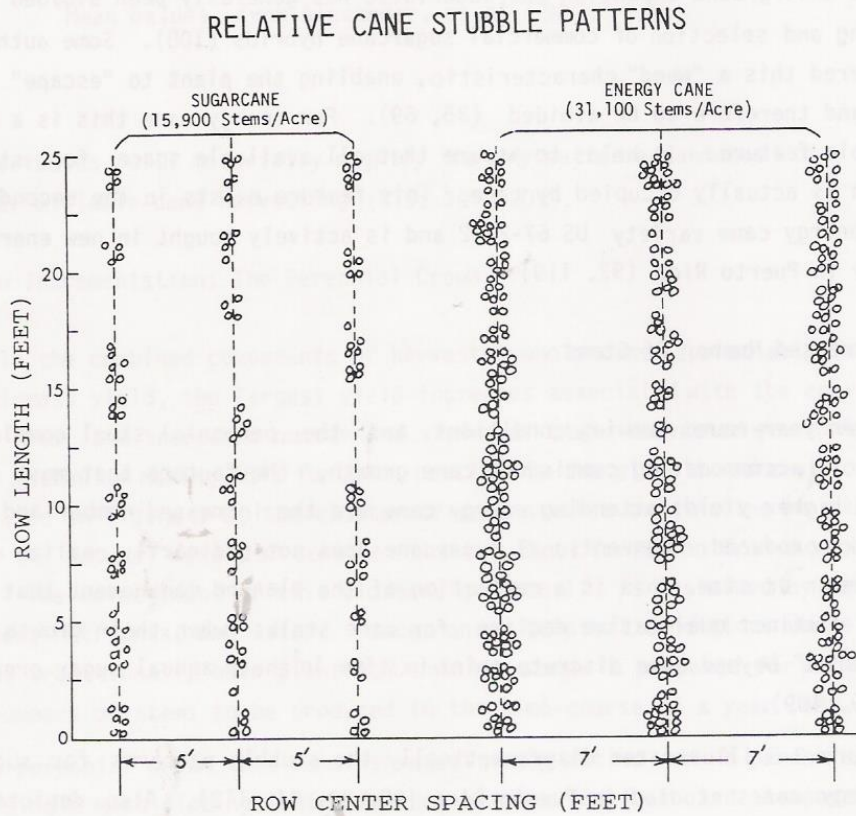
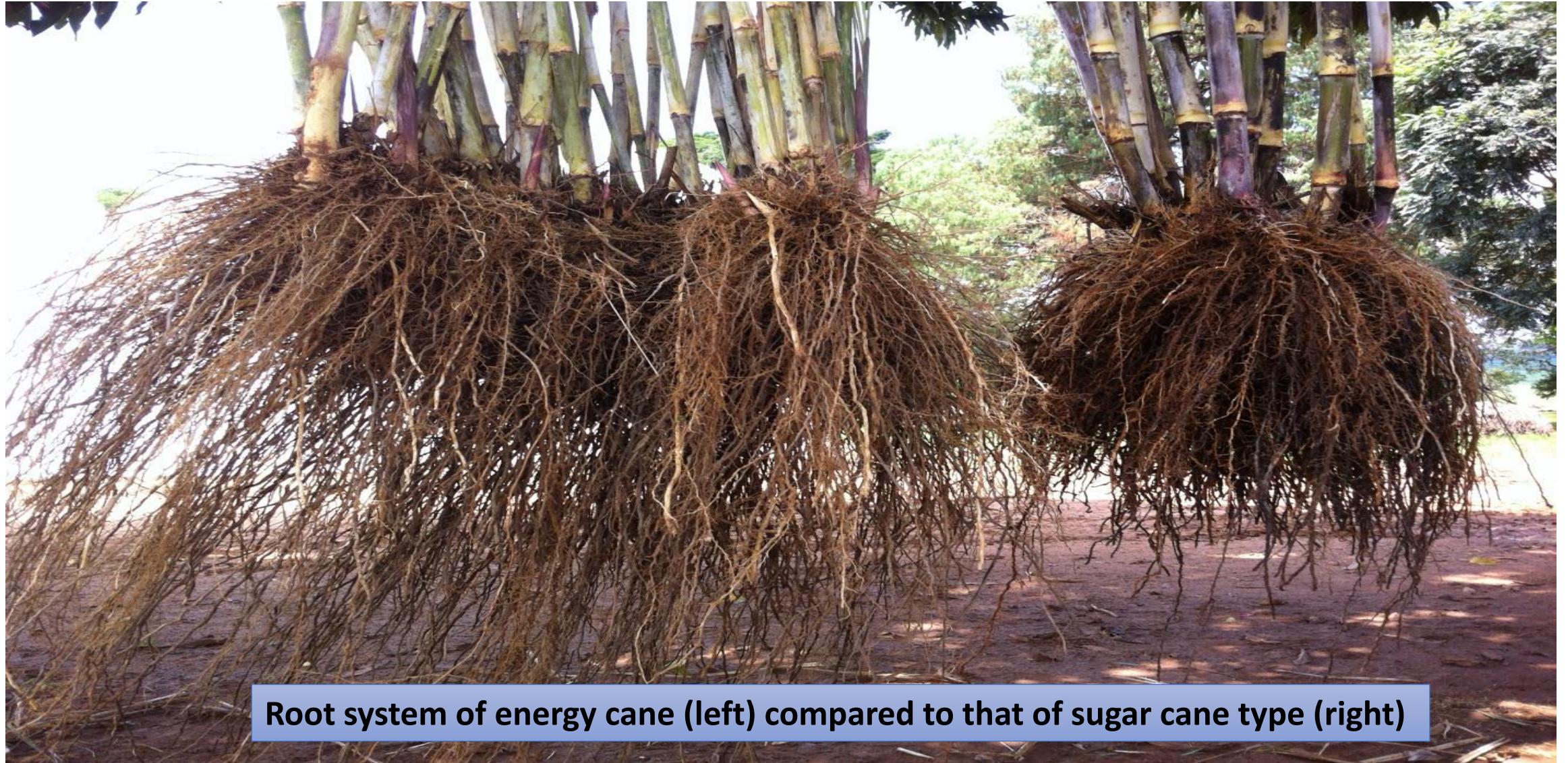


Fig. 3-3. Schematic diagram of stubble patterns in freshly-harvested sugarcane and energy cane. These patterns are based on stubble counts and observations performed in the Lajas Valley and at Hatillo, Puerto Rico, between 1978 and 1982 (92). As illustrated, the stubbles for sugarcane (15,900 stems per acre) and energy cane (31,100 stems per acre) are oversized and represent approximately half the number that would be found under actual field conditions. The higher numbers for energy cane result from increased stems within the row (wider stools and shorter distances between stool centers). These features more than compensate for the greater distance between rows of energy cane. Diagram by A. G. Alexander.



**ANOTHER OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTIC OF ENERGY  
CANE IS IT'S VIGOROUS ROOT SYSTEM**



**Root system of energy cane (left) compared to that of sugar cane type (right)**



**ENERGY CANE'S ROOT SYSTEM IS NOT ONLY VIGOROUS BUT ALSO BEARS RHIZOME, AN ORGAN NON-EXISTENT IN SUGAR CANE. RHIZOME IS IMPORTANT TO THE PLANT WITHSTAND STRESSFUL CONDITIONS.**



## **ROOT SYSTEM - ESSENTIAL TO ANY PLANT**

### **BENEFICIAL CONTRIBUTION OF ABUNDANT, PROFOUND AND PERMANENT ROOT SYSTEM OF ENERGY CANE**

- 1. HIGHER LONG LASTING SEQUESTER OF CARBON**
- 2. INCREASED SEQUESTER OF NUTRIENTS (N, P, etc.): INCREASED PLANT EFFICIENCY ON GROWTH AND LEACHING AVOIDMENT**
- 3. HIGH SOIL EROSION CONTROL**
- 4. BETTERMENT OF SOIL PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**
- 5. BETTERMENT OF SOIL BIOLOGICAL PROPERTY**
- 6. RESCUE OF DEGRADED SOILS**
- 7. RESCUE OF NATURAL LOW QUALITY SOILS**
- 8. INCREASED WATER INFILTRATION AND STORAGE**

## SOME OUTSTANDING ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENERGY CANE

### COMPLETE GROUND COVERAGE

Avoid raindrops hitting directly the soil surface, thus protecting it against erosion, one of the most hazardous effect of agriculture.



### C4 PERENNIAL GRASS

The most photosynthetically efficient amongst all cultivated plants: its high productivity of biomass allows a highly positive C balance.

### ABUNDANT FASCICULATED ROOTS

Greater water infiltration, thus avoiding surface water flow and consequente rill and gully erosion; more efficient water and nutrient foraging.



40 cm Arable layer

### DEEP ROOT SYSTEM

Favors water infiltration and tolerance to drought; also results in higher C sequestration (untransient).

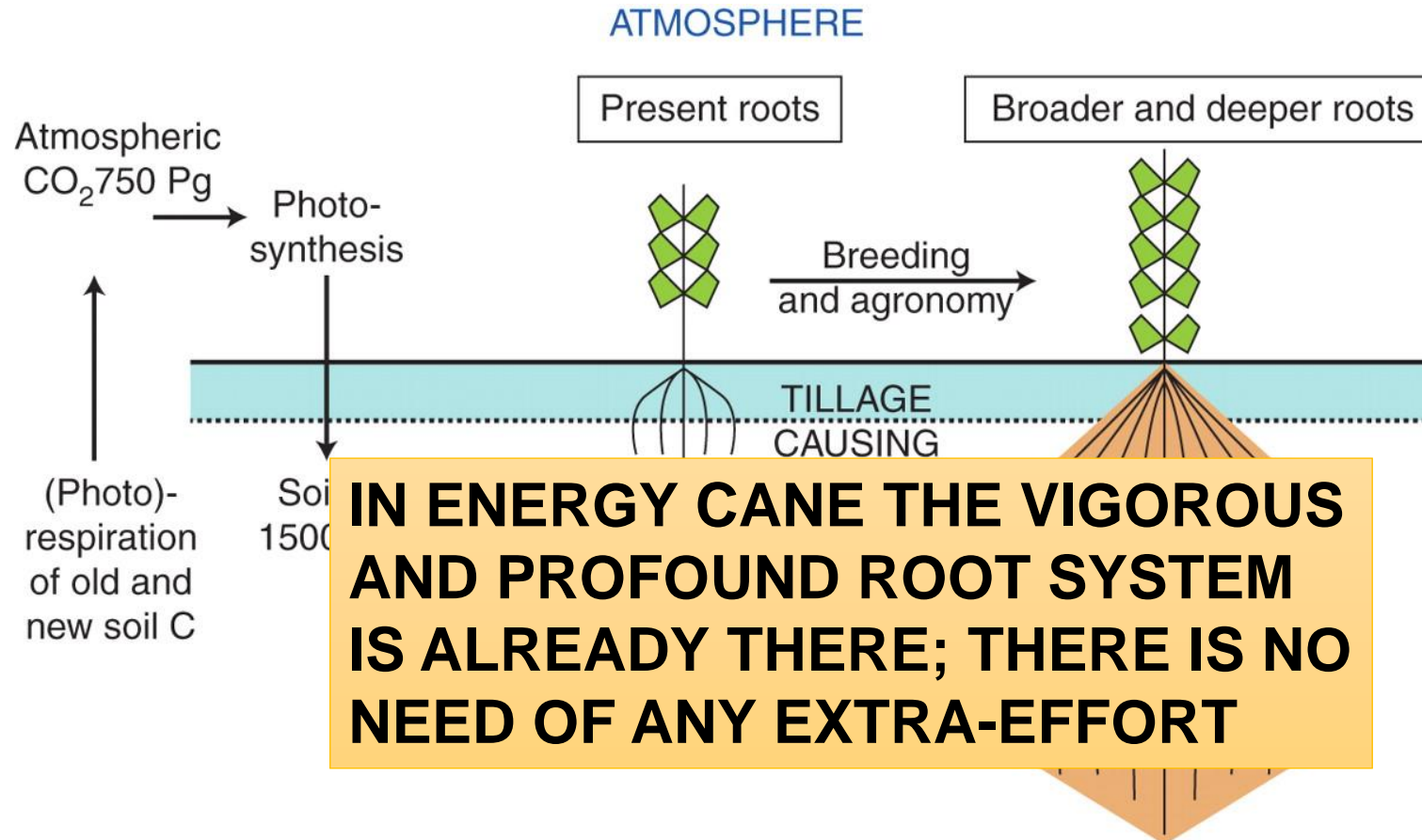
### RHIZOME

Tolerance to stresses; longer number of ratoons and, thus, less tillage (which is one of the main causative of soil erosion).



RHIZOME

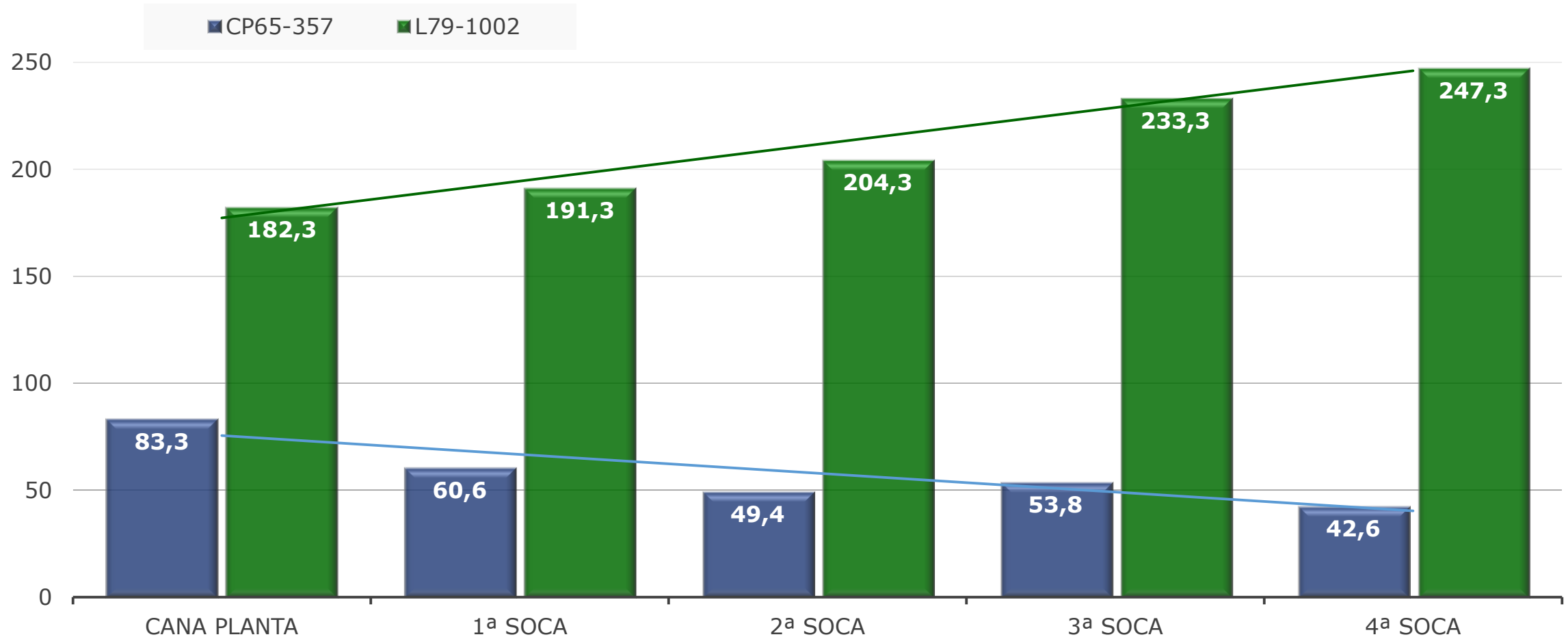
# POTENTIAL TO INCREASE AGRONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES OF PLANTS THROUGH BREEDING FOR LARGER ROOT SYSTEM OF PERENNIALS



Kell, DB. Ann Bot 2011; 108:407-418

Much greater steady-state trapping of C, and also of nutrients and water, leading to improved drought- and flooding tolerance, greater biomass yields, and better soil structure and steady-state C sequestration

# COMPARISON OF RATOON PERFORMANCE: UNLIKE SUGAR CANE (CP65-357) ENERGY CANE (L79-1002) INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY IN THE RATOONS



# COMPARISON BETWEEN SUGAR CANE AND VIGNIS' ENERGY CANE

**Sugar cane**



Productivity

Total biomass: 100 (Ton/ha)  
Sugar (135 TRS): 13.5 (Ton/ha)  
Bagasse (12.5% fiber): 25 (Ton/ha)

**Energy cane**



Productivity

Total biomass: 220 (Ton/ha)  
Sugar (115 TRS): 25.3 (Ton/ha)  
Bagasse (18% fiber): 79.5 (Ton/ha)

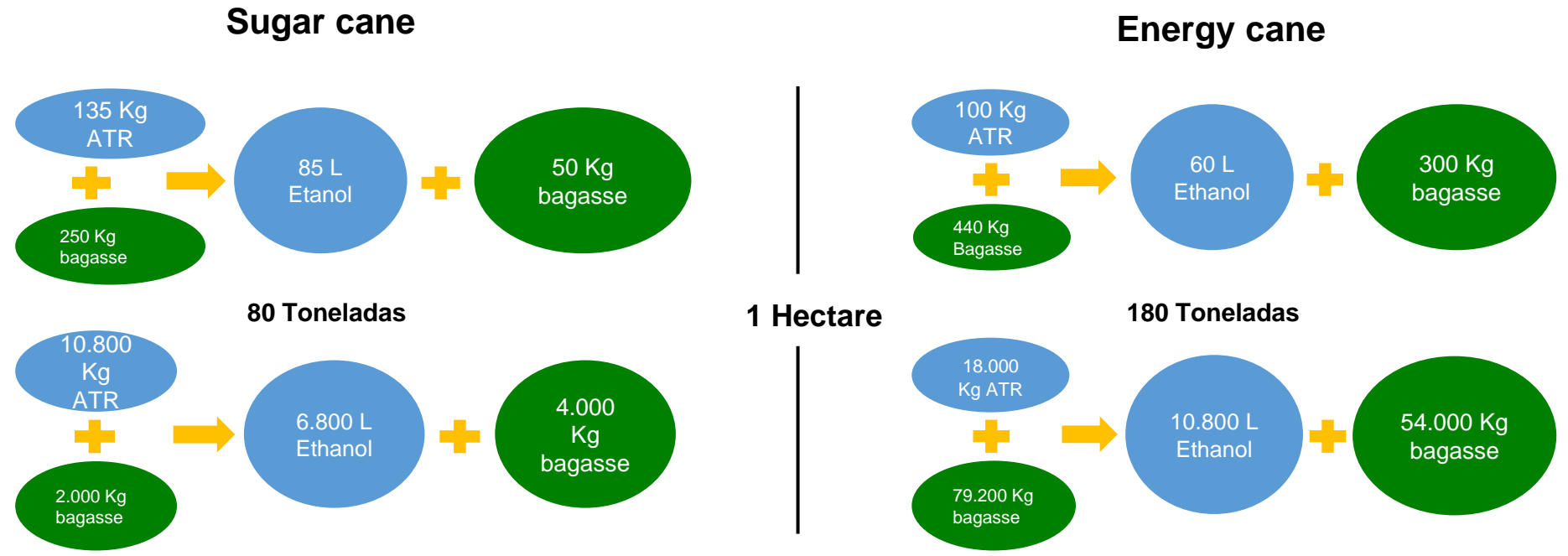
**Energy cane**



Productivity

Total biomass: 185 (Ton/ha)  
Sugar (93 TRS): 17.2 (Ton/ha)  
Bagasse (26% fiber): 96.2 (Ton/ha)

**ENERGY CANE PRODUCES MORE SUGAR AND FIBRE PER AREA THAN SUGAR CANE**



# FEEDSTOCKS FOR BIOFUELS

## MAIN PROPOSED FEEDSTOCKS

1. AGRICULTURAL WASTES
2. SURPLUS AGRI-PRODUCTS
3. MUNICIPAL WASTES
4. WOOD CHIPS and other residues
5. GRAIN, STARCH & SUGAR CROPS
6. DEDICATED CROPS

## DEDICATED CELLULOSIC CROPS

1. PLANTED FORESTS
2. COPPICES
3. GRASS PLANTS

## MAIN PROPOSED GRASSES

1. MISCANTHUS
2. SWITCHGRASS
3. SORGHUM
4. ELEPHANT GRASS
5. **ENERGY CANE**
6. OTHERS



## WHY ENERGY CANE BIOMASS

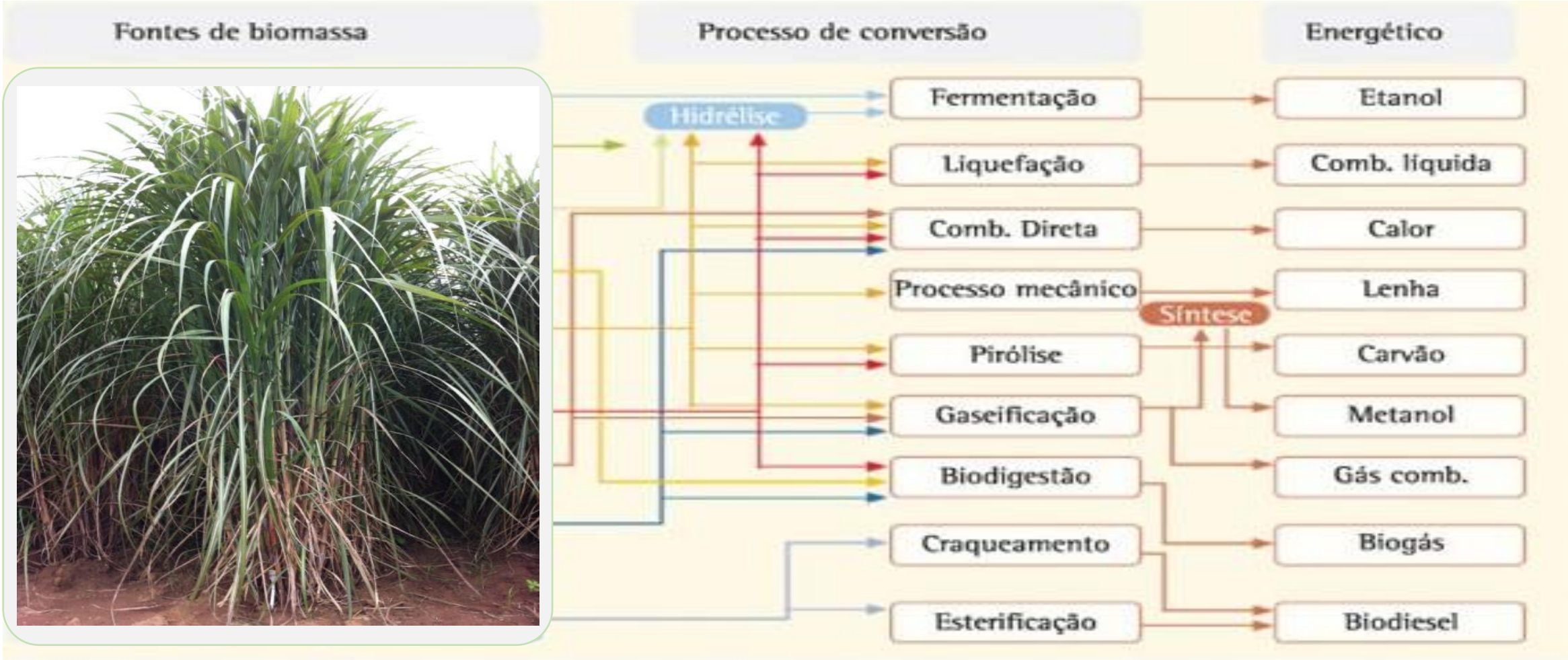
### ✓ The most productive biomass crop plant

- ✓ Year-round availability of feedstock
- ✓ Just-on-time supply of feedstock
- ✓ Crop tailored to local climatic and soil conditions
- ✓ Crop resistant to local pest and diseases
- ✓ A well-known crop system: management, harvesting and delivery
- ✓ Environmentally sustainable crop
- ✓ No competition with food production or other economic feedstocks: grown on marginal or degraded lands
- ✓ Possibility of exploiting cold region as well as dry region
- ✓ Available a well-known breeding technology and basic germplasm as well

## COMPOSITION OF ENERGY CANE COMPARED TO SUGAR CANE

	Energy cane	Sugar cane
Humidity	64,0	71,0
Fixed C	15,1	15,9
C	47,0	45,8
H	6,1	6,2
N	0,4	0,4
Ash	2,6	2,1
S	0,1	0.08
O	43,7	45,5
GCV	18,8	18,4
NCV	17,5	17,1
Cellulose	23,2	20,6
Lignin	18,3	13,8
Hemicellulose	24,8	20,9
Acetil group	1,9	1,6
Extractives	23,6	36,9

**VIGNIS' BIG BREEDING PROGRAM ALLOWS THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANTS TAILORED TO EACH DEMAND**



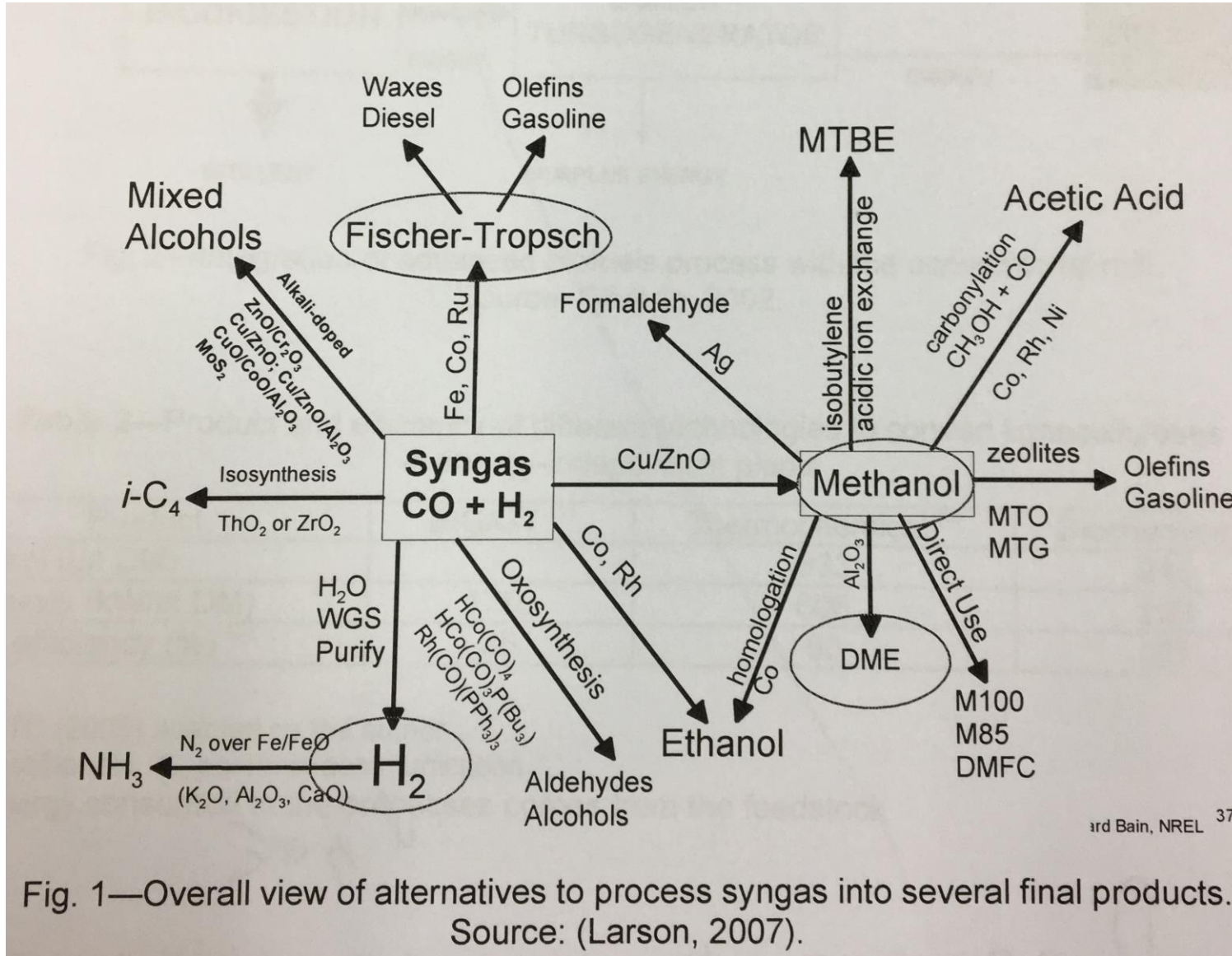
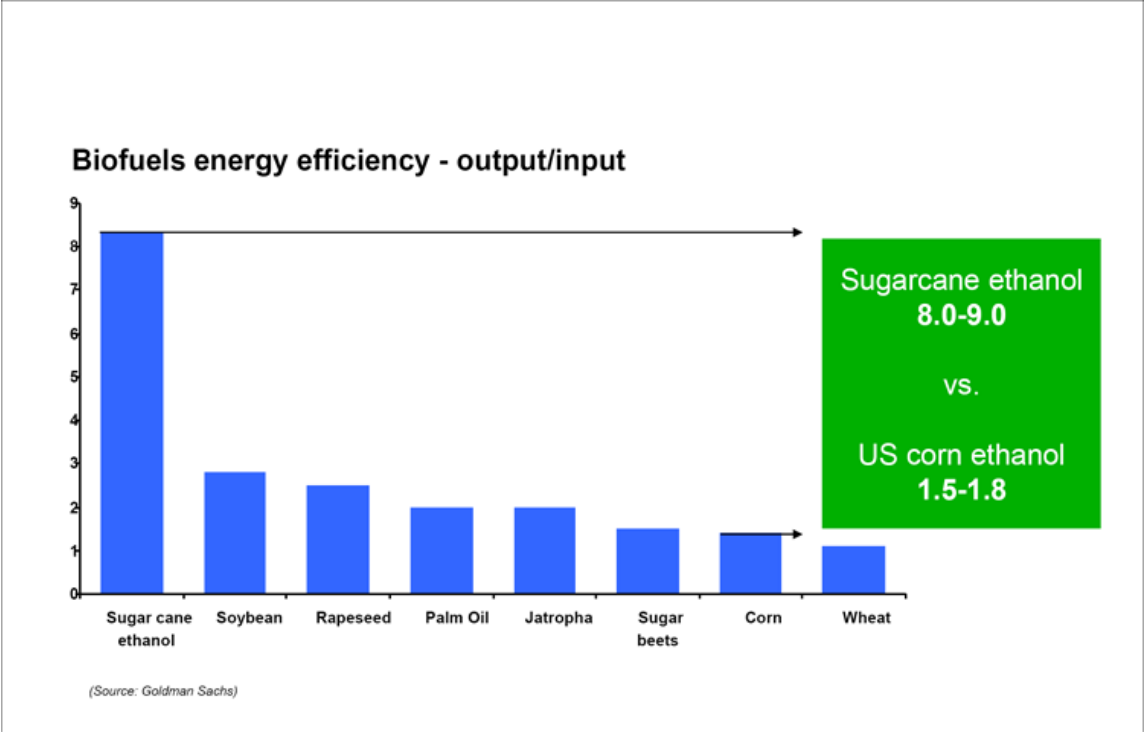
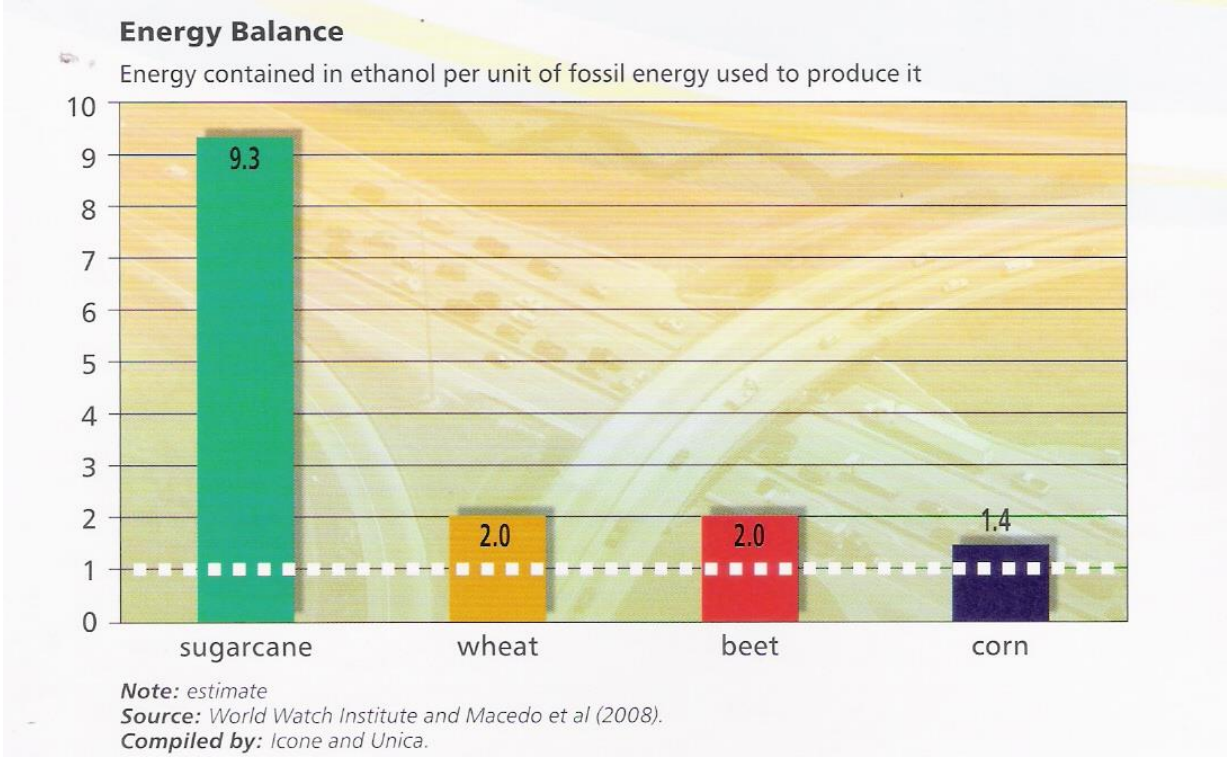


Fig. 1—Overall view of alternatives to process syngas into several final products. Source: (Larson, 2007).

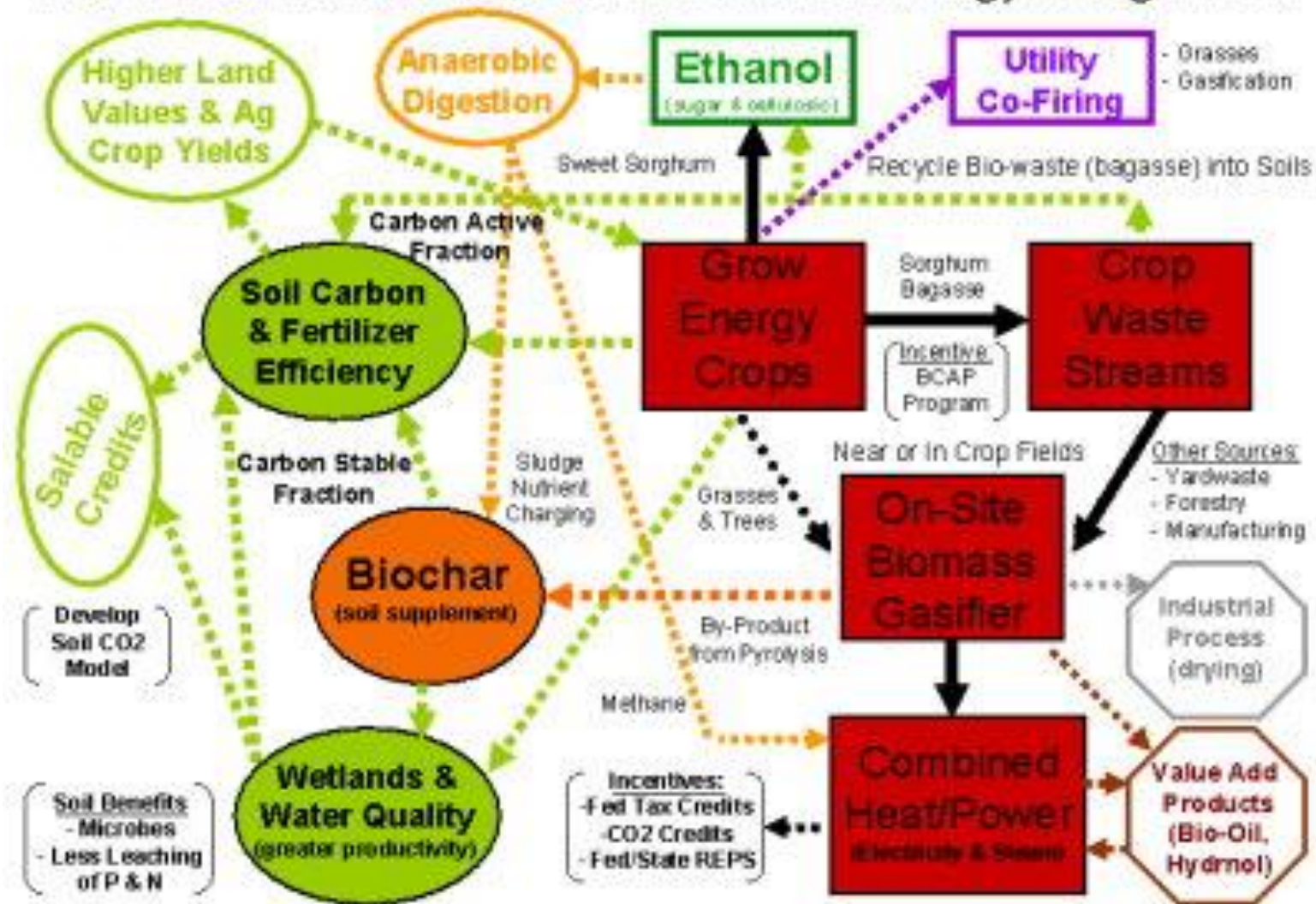
## BIOFUELS' ENERGY BALANCE AND EFFICIENCY



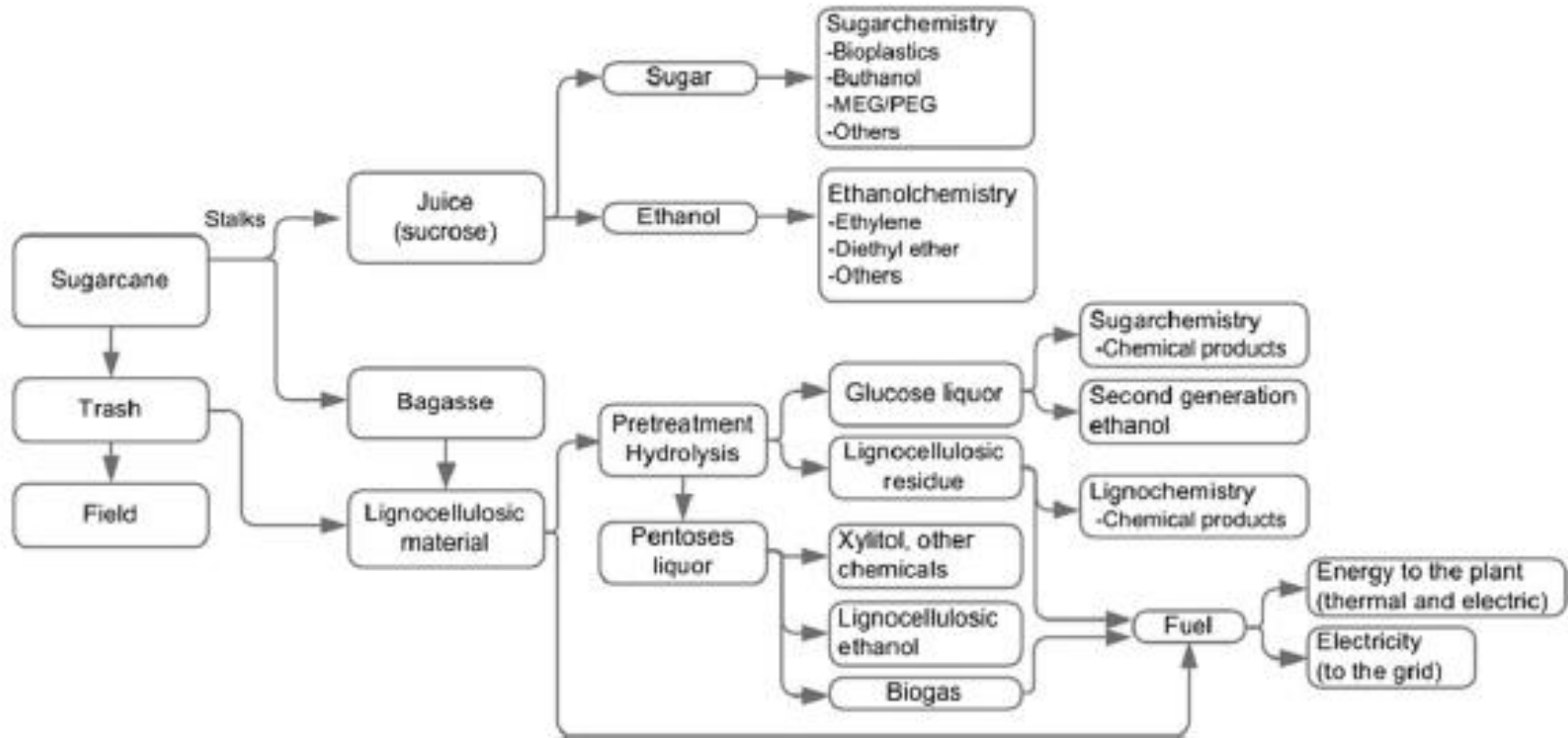
ENERGY CANE:  
MOST PRODUCTIVE DEDICATED ENERGY CROP, AND MOST PROFITABLE, MANAGEABLE,  
SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY OF KNOWN BIOMASS



## Land Use and Renewable Biomass Energy Integration



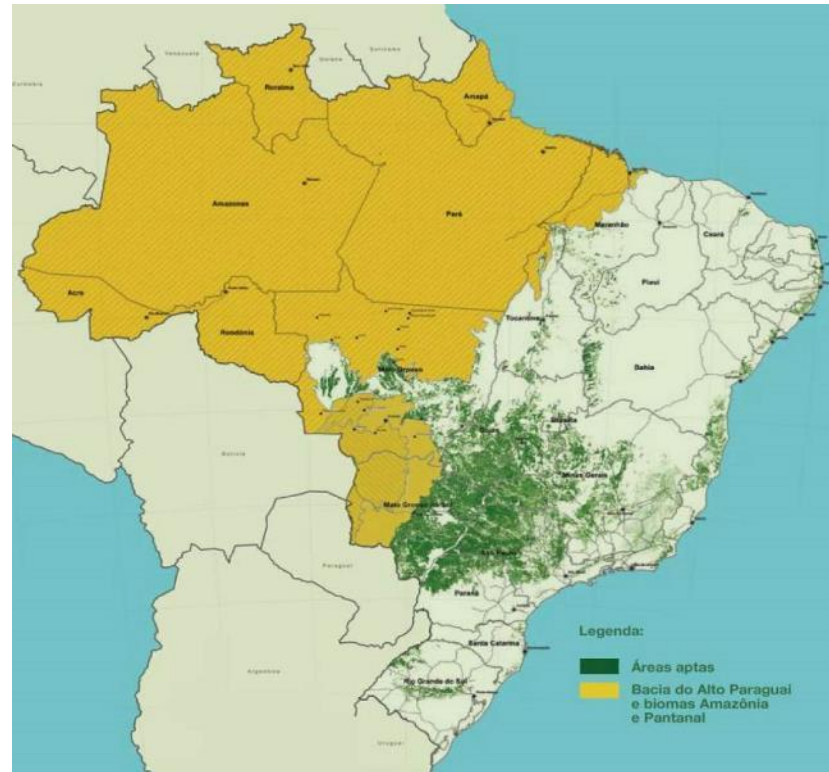
**PRODUCTS AND SUB-PRODUCTS FROM A SUGARCANE BIOREFINERY**



**Fig. 3 – Simplified process scheme of a conceptual future sugarcane biorefinery.**



## BRAZIL'S SUGAR CANE ZONING



BRASIL	CLASSES DE APTIDÃO	ÁREAS APTAS POR TIPO DE USO DA TERRA POR CLASSE DE APTIDÃO (HÁ)				
		Pecuaria	Agropecuaria	Agricultura	Pecuaria + Agropecuaria	Pecuaria + Agropecuaria + Agricultura
ÁREAS TOTAIS	Alta	11,3 Milhoes	600 Mil	7,3 Milhoes	11,9 Milhoes	19,2 Milhoes
	Media	22,8 Milhoes	2,01 Milhoes	16,3 Milhoes	24,8 Milhoes	41,2 Milhoes
	Baixa	3,04 Milhoes	483 Mil	731 Mil	3,5 Milhoes	4,2 Milhoes
	Alta + Media	34,1 Milhoes	2,6 Milhoes	23,7 Milhoes	36,7 Milhoes	60,4 Milhoes
	Alta + Media + Baixa	37,2 Milhoes	3,09 Milhoes	24,4 Milhoes	40,3 Milhoes	64,7 Milhoes

