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**Authors**

Electo Eduardo Silva Lora, York Castillo Santiago, Eric Alberto Ocampo Battle, José Carlos Escobar Palacio, Osvaldo José Venturini, Diego Mauricio Yepes Maya, and Alberto Albis Arrieta

# Environmental assessment of pyrolysis in biorefineries based on palm oil biomass wastes

York Castillo Santiago<sup>a</sup>, Eric Alberto Ocampo Batlle<sup>a</sup>, José Carlos Escobar Palacio<sup>a</sup>,  
Osvaldo José Venturini<sup>a</sup>, Electo Eduardo Silva Lora<sup>a</sup>, Diego Mauricio Yepes Maya<sup>a</sup>,  
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<sup>b</sup>Bioprocess, Faculty of Engineering, Universidad Del Atlántico, Carrera 30 # 8- 49, Barranquilla, Atlántico, Colombia

# Main issues

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1. Introduction: Itajubá, UNIFEI and our work in pyrolysis.
- 2- Biorefineries in Palm Oil and Sugar Cane industries.
2. LCA of a Palm Oil biorefinery including biomass wastes pyrolysis:  
Materials and methods.
3. Results and discussion
4. Conclusions

# 1 Introduction

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# Itajubá, UNIFEI, NEST and Energy

**ITAJUBÁ – University city in the South of Minas Gerais State BRAZIL**

**96523 inhabitants**

**UNIVERSIDAD FEDERAL de ITAJUBÁ**

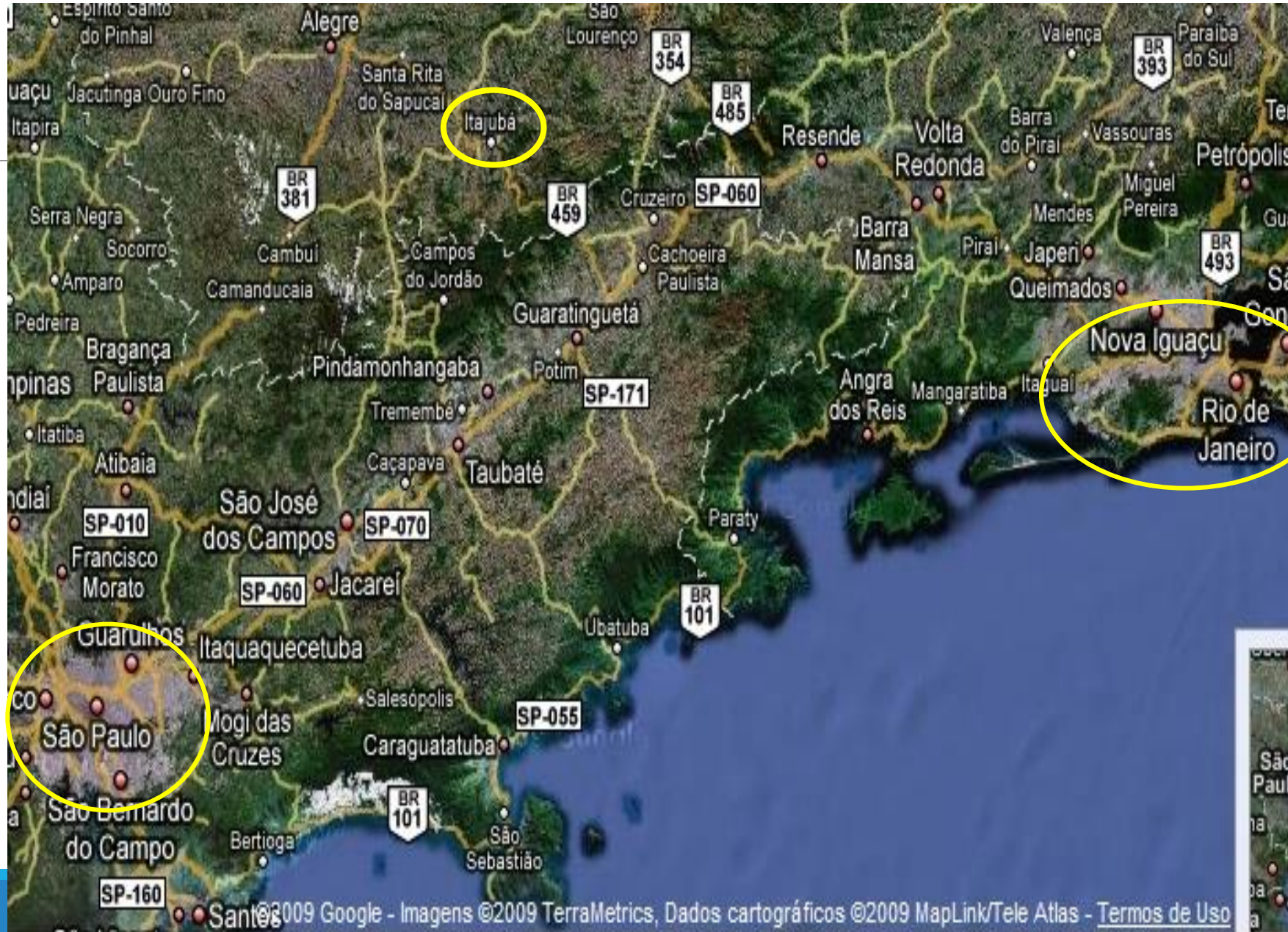
**UNIFEI**

**A technological university**

**1913**



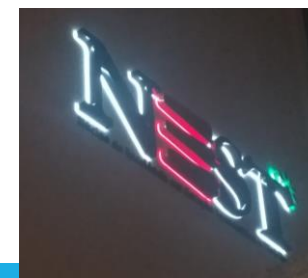
# Itajubá city location in Brazil

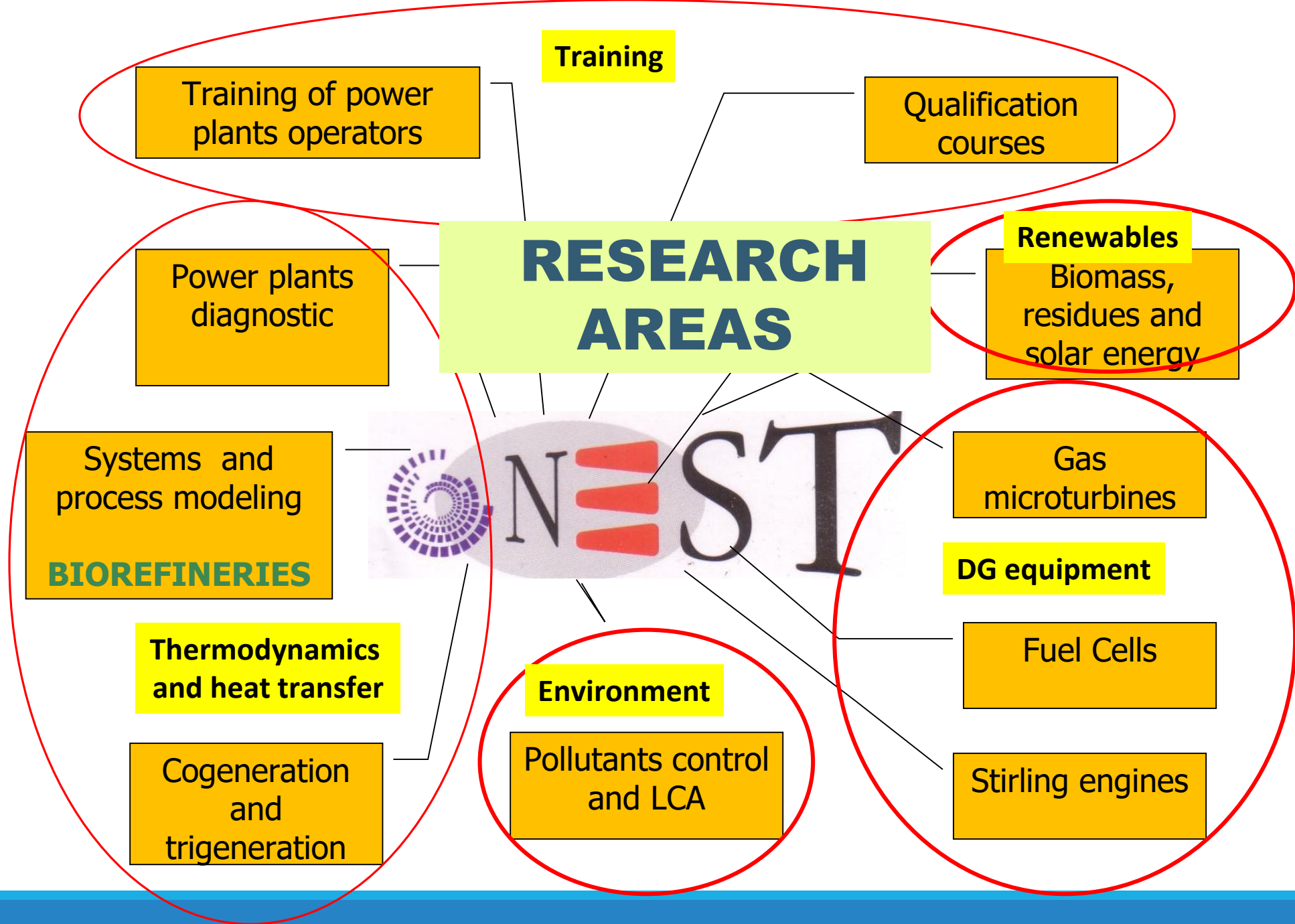






# RESEARCH GROUP NEST FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF ITAJUBÀ - BRAZIL





# NEST Team - Professors

## EXCELLENCE GROUP IN THERMAL POWER AND DISTRIBUTED GENERATION - NEST



Professor  
Dr. Electo S. Lora



Professor  
Dr. Osvaldo J.  
Venturini



Professor  
Dr. Vladimir M.  
Cobas



Professor  
Marcelo José Pirani



Professor  
Dr. Rubenildo  
Vieira Andrade



Professor  
Dr. José Carlos  
Escobar Palacio



Professor  
Dr. Diego  
Yepes Maya

++++ PhD and Master degree students

**Ph.D - 13**  
**Master Degree student -11**

# LABORATORIES NEST/UNIFEI



Bubbling bed gasifier



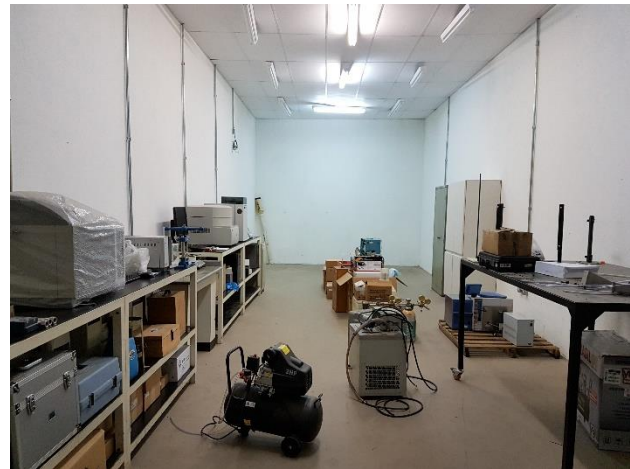
Traning center for  
power plants operators



Biomass combustion laboratory



Gas microturbines and chiller



Fuel and gases characterization  
laboratory

# Pilot Plant for RDF Gasification

RDF briquettes production and gasification



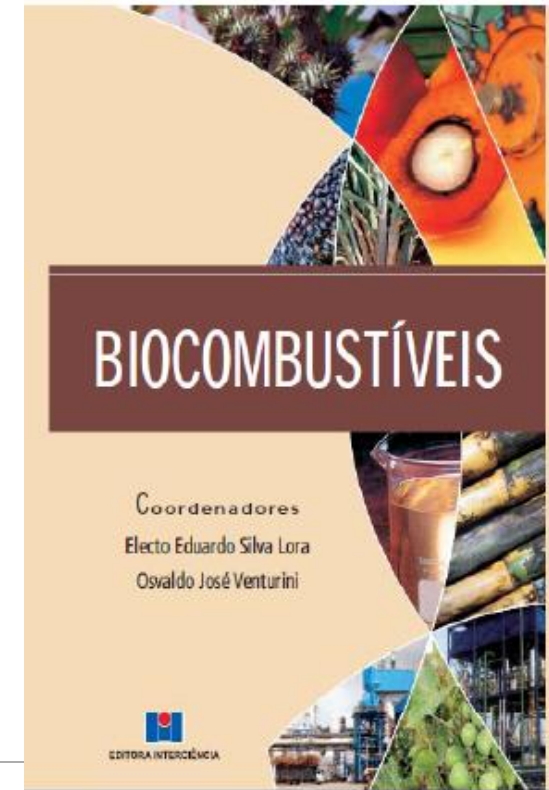


# HELIO THERMAL LAB



# WHAT DO WE DO IN BIOMASS PYROLYSIS

- Energy recovery in carbonization kilns.
- Evaluation of fast pyrolysis technology for biorefineries.
- Biovalue project (H2020). Bio-oil/char gasification.
- BRICs Project proposal. Biochar in agriculture.
- The second updated and reviewed edition of our book “Biocombustíveis” (BIOFUELS).
- A new discipline in graduate courses “Thermochemical conversion of biomass and wastes”.





- **SLOW PYROLYSIS:**
- **Brazil - 8,5 millions tonnes of charcoal per year**
- **Energy recovery in carbonization kilns.**







Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

ScienceDirect

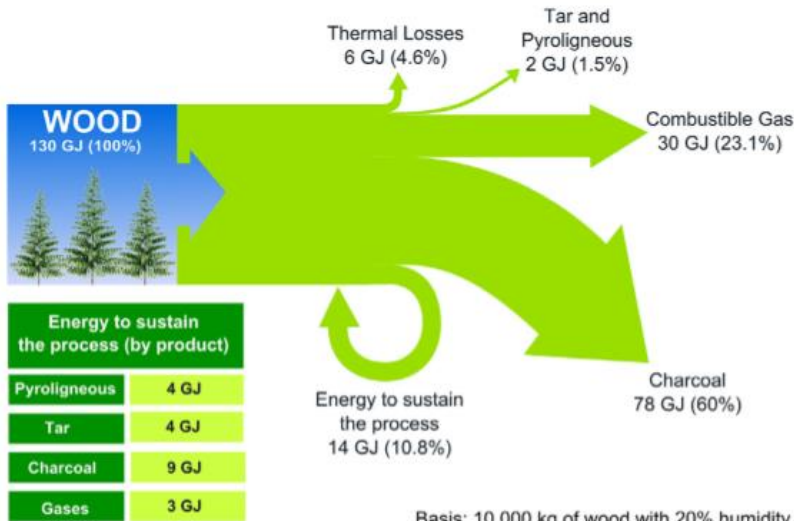
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biombioe>



# A new technology for the combined production of charcoal and electricity through cogeneration



Adriana de Oliveira Vilela <sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Electro Silva Lora <sup>b</sup>,  
 Quelbis Roman Quintero <sup>b</sup>, Ricardo Antônio Vicintin <sup>a,1</sup>,  
<sup>a,1</sup>



Basis: 10,000 kg of wood with 20% humidity

Table 16 – Results of the economical evaluation of scenarios 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B.

Parameters	CRC – gas	ORC – gas	CRC – gas + fines	ORC – gas + fines
Fuel cost, USD\$/ (5–10 km)	0	0	1.36	1.36
Electric power, MW	2.1	3.0	2.9	4.1
Investment, USD\$	5,813,234	4,602,433	6,214,207	6,288,781
Levelized cost, USD\$/MWh electric	51.65	29.50	39.74	29.71
Specific investment, USD\$/MWe	2768.2	1534.2	2142.83	1533.9
NPV, USD\$	353115.6	184121.7	392895.9	249167.9
TIR, %	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Minimum commercialization price, USD\$ MWh <sup>-1</sup>	108.6	61.2	82.5	61.4

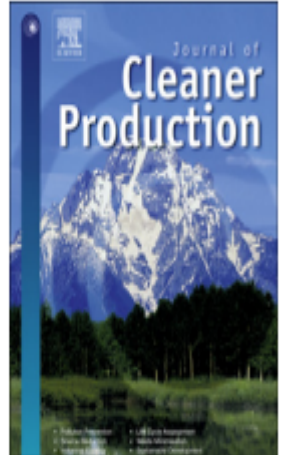


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## Journal of Cleaner Production

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jclepro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclepro)



# Electricity generation from pyrolysis gas produced in charcoal manufacture: Technical and economic analysis

Marcio Montagnana Vicente Leme <sup>a</sup>, Osvaldo José Venturini <sup>b</sup>, Electro Eduardo Silva Lora <sup>b</sup>, Mateus Henrique Rocha <sup>b,\*</sup>, Fábio Codignole Luz <sup>c</sup>, Wellington de Almeida <sup>d</sup>, Daniel Carvalho de Moura <sup>d</sup>, Luiz Fernando de Moura <sup>e</sup>



### Control Volume



Wood  
2914,82 GJ

Charcoal: 51,6%

1504,275 GJ

Brands: 3,1%

90,114 GJ

CG: 10,8%

313,857 GJ

NCG: 23,0%

669,802 GJ

Heat loss: 7,7%

224,549 GJ

Others: 3,9%

112,222 GJ

Figure 7. Results for the energy balance of wood carbonization in a rectangular kiln.

# **2 Biorefineries**

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# LCA of Palm oil biorefinery concepts



WSU, PNNL, CENIPALMA, UNIFEI





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## Biomass and Bioenergy

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biombioe>



Research paper

### Evaluation of alternatives for the evolution of palm oil mills into biorefineries



Jesus Alberto Garcia-Nunez <sup>a, b</sup>, Deisy Tatiana Rodriguez <sup>a</sup>, Carlos Andrés Fontanilla <sup>a</sup>,  
Nidia Elizabeth Ramirez <sup>a</sup>, Electo Eduardo Silva Lora <sup>c</sup>, Craig Stuart Frear <sup>b</sup>,  
Claudio Stockle <sup>b</sup>, James Amonette <sup>d</sup>, Manuel Garcia-Perez <sup>b, \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Colombian Oil Palm Research Centre, Cenipalma, Bogotá, Colombia

<sup>b</sup> Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA

<sup>c</sup> Excellence Group in Thermal Power and Distributed Generation – NEST, Federal University of Itajubá, Itajubá, MG, Brazil

<sup>d</sup> Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PO Box 999, Richland, WA 99352, USA



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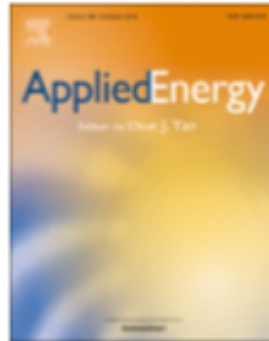
Applied Energy xxx (xxxx) xxx



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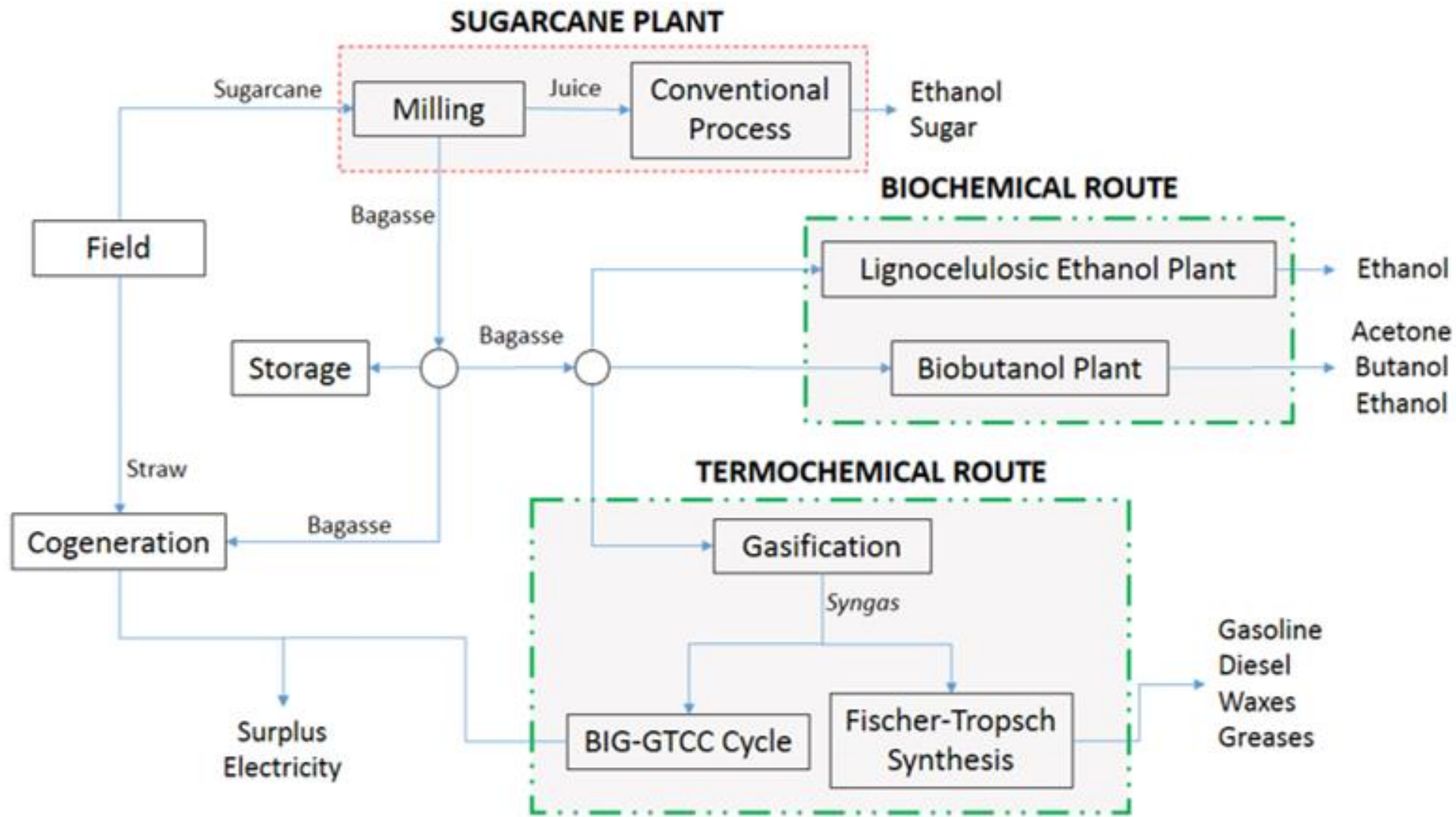
Applied Energy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apenergy](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apenergy)

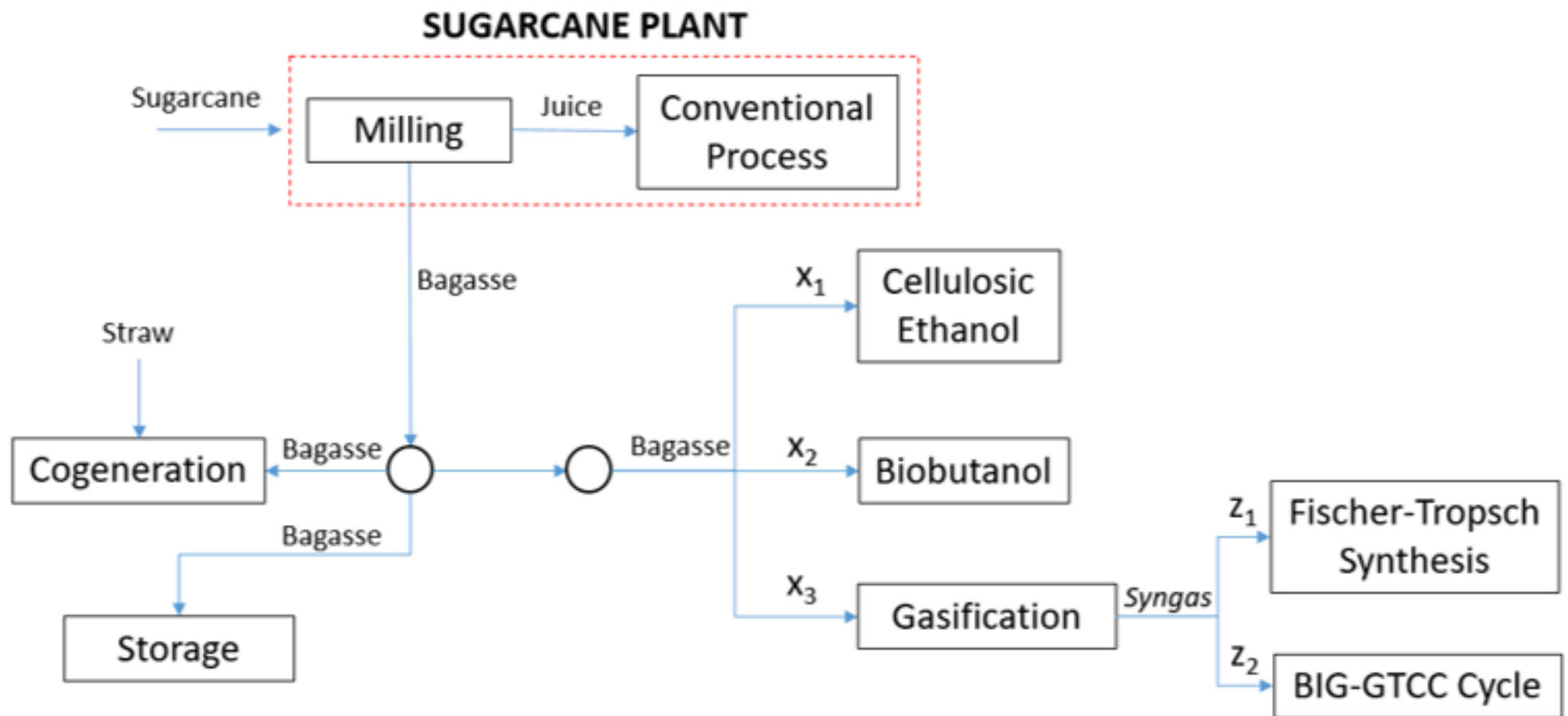


## Biorefineries productive alternatives optimization in the brazilian sugar and alcohol industry

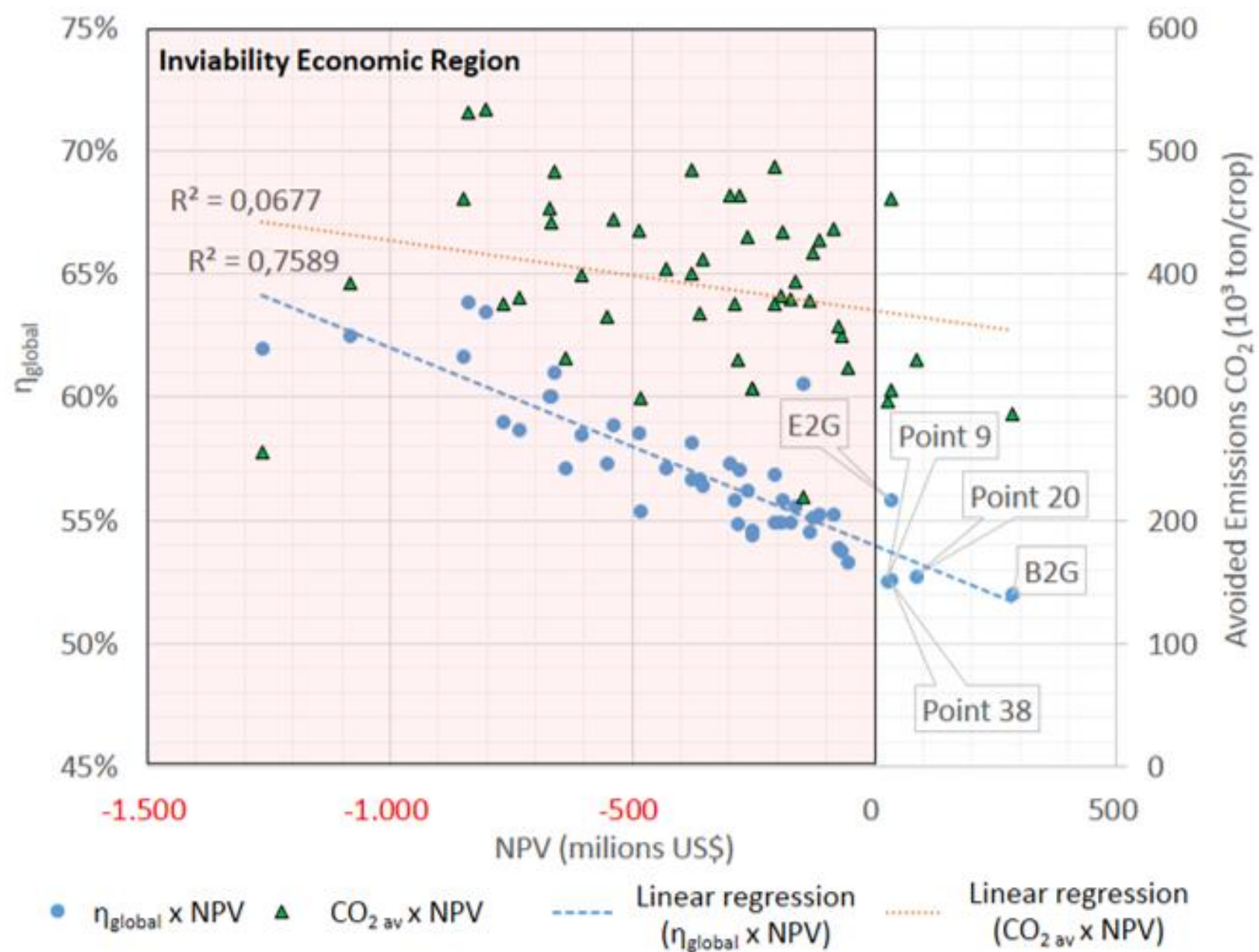
Juarez Corrêa Furtado Júnior<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, José Carlos Escobar Palacio<sup>b,\*</sup>, Rafael Coradi Leme<sup>c,\*</sup>,  
Electo Eduardo Silva Lora<sup>b,\*</sup>, José Eduardo Loureiro da Costa<sup>b</sup>, Arnaldo Martín Martínez Reyes<sup>b</sup>,  
Oscar Almazán del Olmo<sup>d</sup>



**Figure 1:** General scheme of the proposed biorefinery



**Figure 2:** Scheme of allocation of biomass in biorrefinery.



# INTEGRATED PALM OIL AND SUGAR MILLS BIOREFINERIES

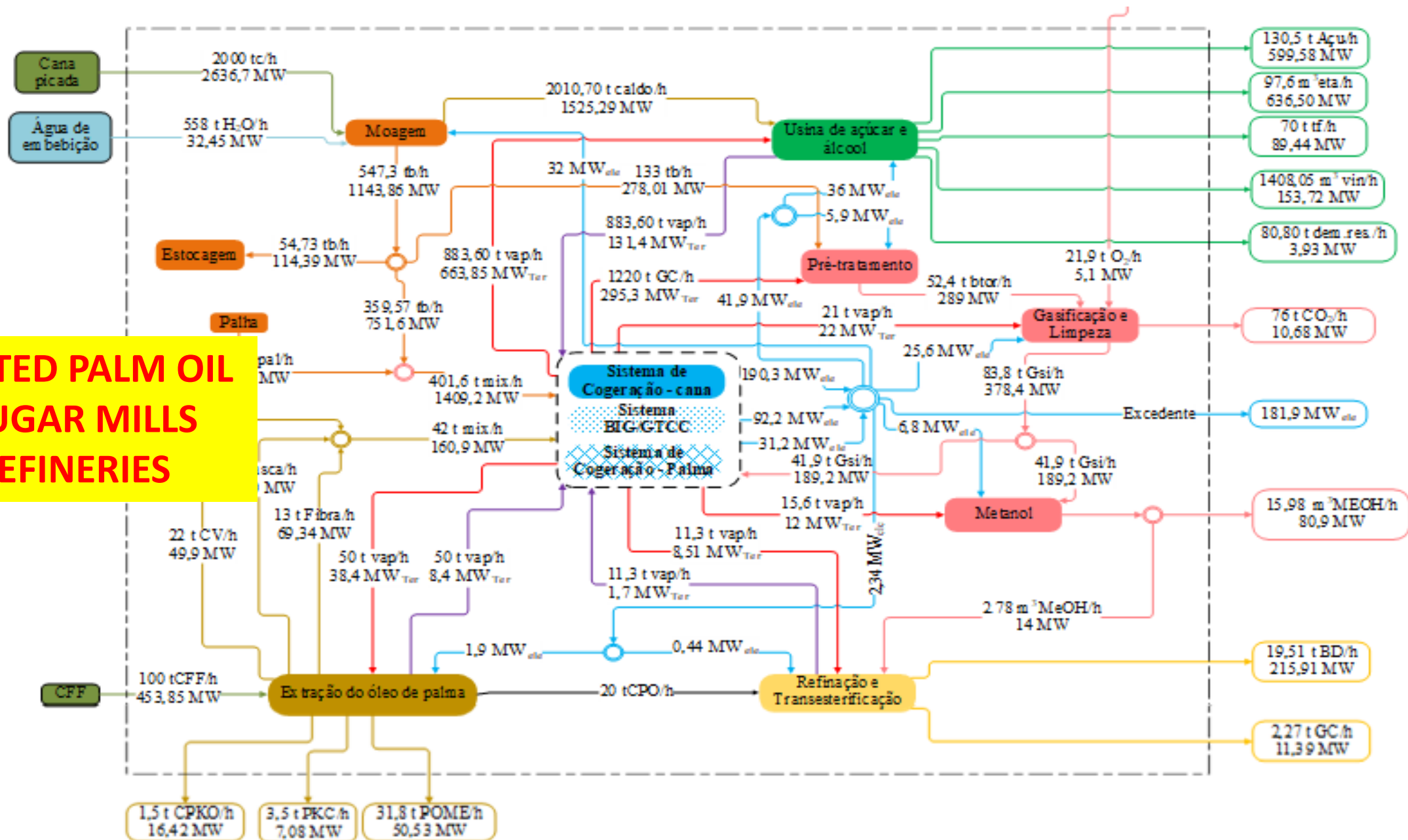


Figura 4.7: Balanço de massa e energia para o estudo de caso IV.

# **3 LCA of a Palm oil biorefinery**

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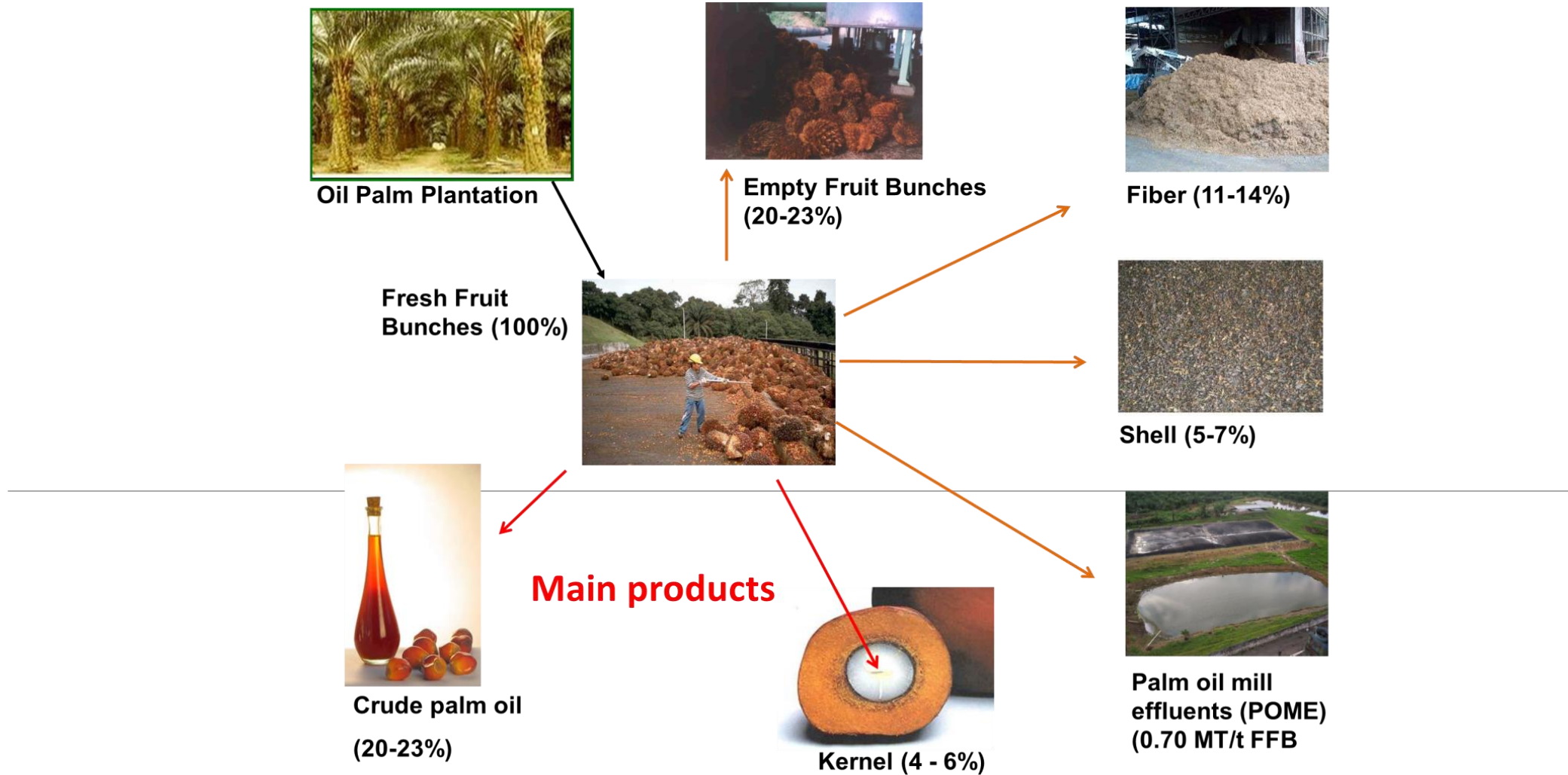


# CRUDE PALM OIL

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Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is obtained from palm fruit mesocarp (*Elaeis guineensis*).

# Residual biomass - oil palm mill





1 t Crude Palm Oil generates...



1,1 t  
Empty Fruit Bunches



0,5 t  
Mesocarp Fibres



0,3 t  
Palm Kernel Shells



2,4 t  
Oil Palm Frond Leaves

...more than

4.5 tonnes

of

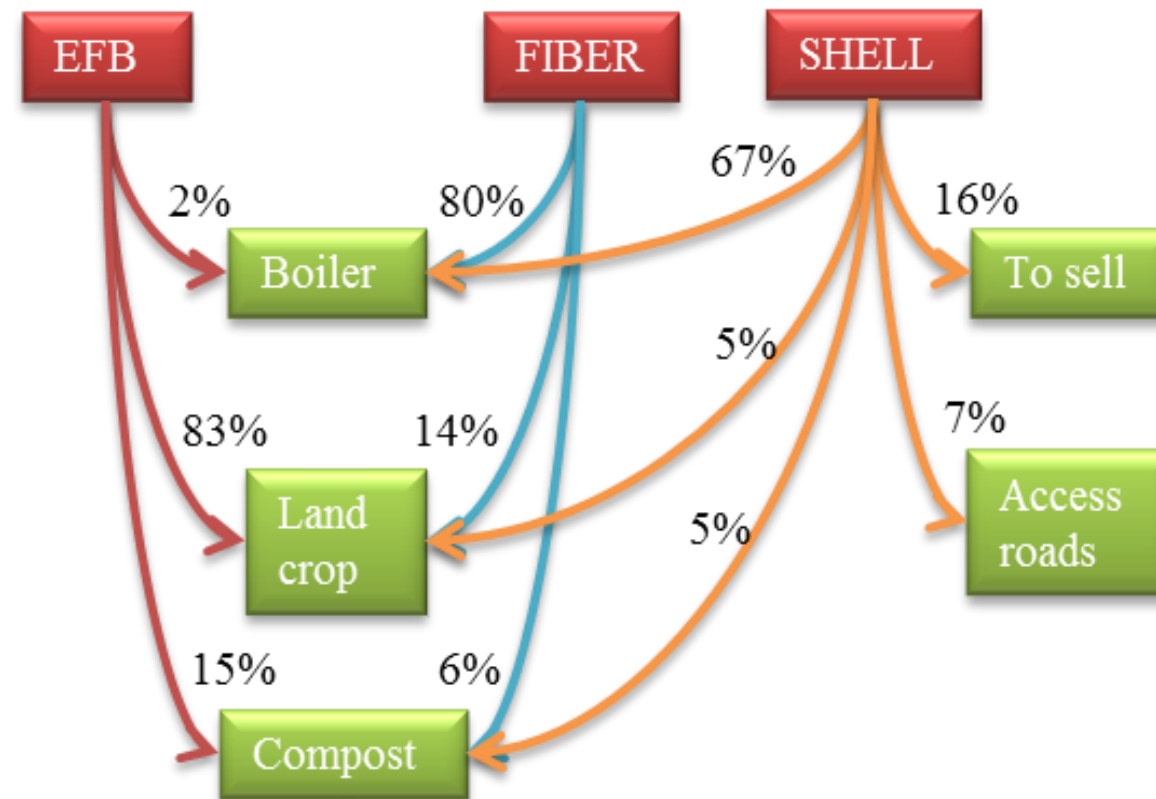
Waste

Biomass\*

\* Excludes POME and Palm Kernel Cake

The energy potential of palm oil biomass (EFB, PKS, and fiber) is around 100 GJ·ha<sup>-1</sup>·year<sup>-1</sup>, which corresponds to 37% of the energy contained in the FFB, which is approximately 270 GJ·ha<sup>-1</sup>·year<sup>-1</sup>.

# Present use of biomass in palm oil mills



# 2018 estimates of biomass residues availability in palm oil mills worldwide

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FFB: 350 million tonnes

CPO: 70 million tonnes

The total biomass obtained from the production process is 41.5% of each tonne of FFB

Biomass availability: 157 million tonnes

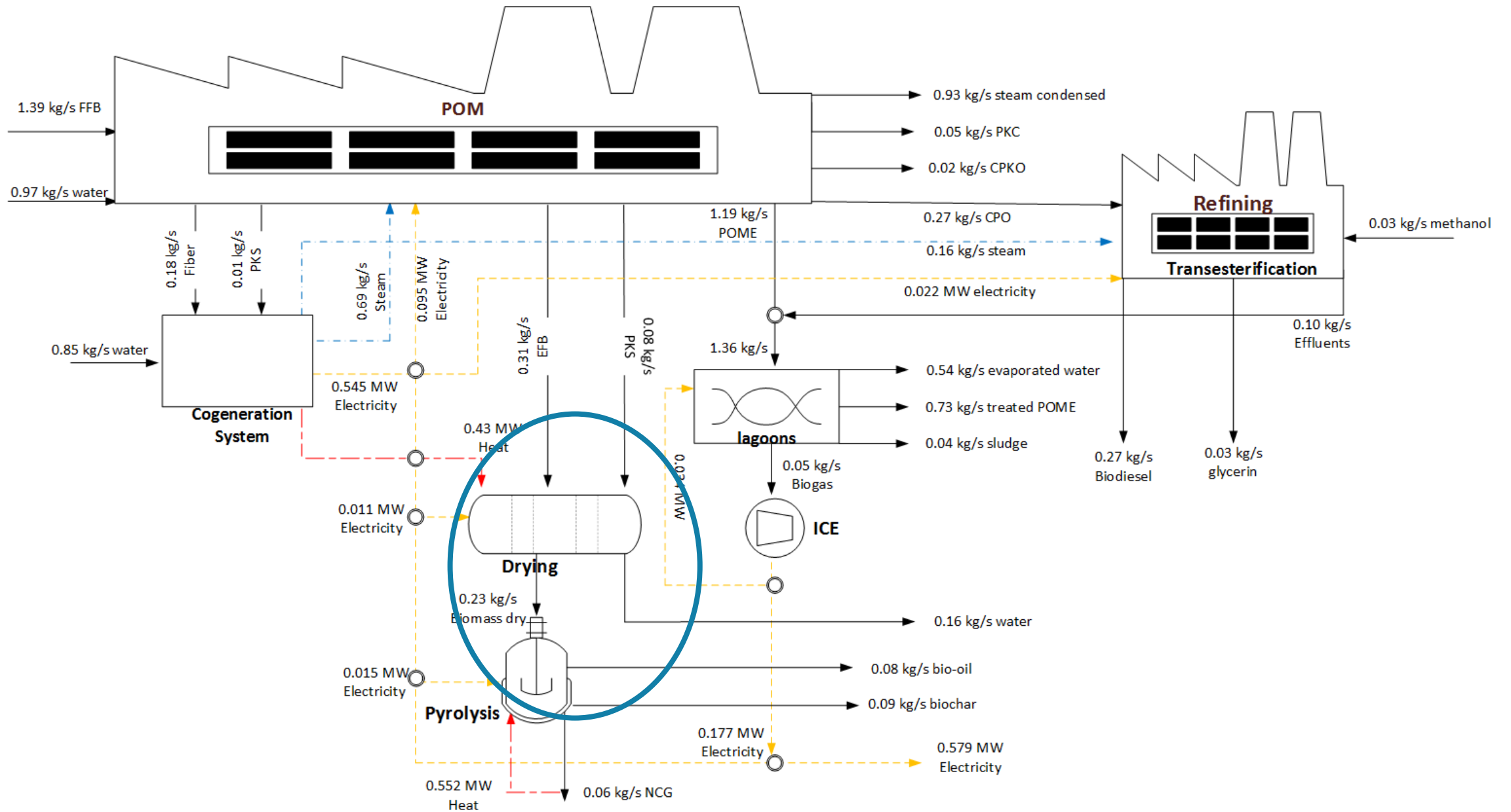
# MAIN GOAL

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In this work it was done an energy and environmental analysis of a scheme of polygeneration of the palm oil in a Brazilian POM, to determine and evaluate the benefits of the use of waste in which stands out the simultaneous obtaining of biodiesel, bio-oil and electricity; quantifying through the LCA the potential environmental impacts resulting from this diversification in the production of CPO.

- In this study, the method selected for the environmental impacts allocation among products and by-products was the energy-based allocation (**ATRIBUTIONAL LCA**). In the extraction stage, the allocation is distributed as follows: CPO (54.27%), CPKO (4.07%), Fiber (17.19%) PKS (10.34%), EFB (12.37%) and PKC (1.76%). In the case of the refining stage, it is 98.5% for refined palm oil and 1.5% for palm fatty acid distillation, in the transesterification stage it was 90% for biodiesel and 10% for glycerin, and for the fast pyrolysis stage, the distribution is 51% for bio-oil and 49% for biochar.

- **NEXT STEP IS TO USE A CONSEQUENTIAL (FRONTIERS EXPANSION LCA).**



Mass and energy balances of the biorefinery.

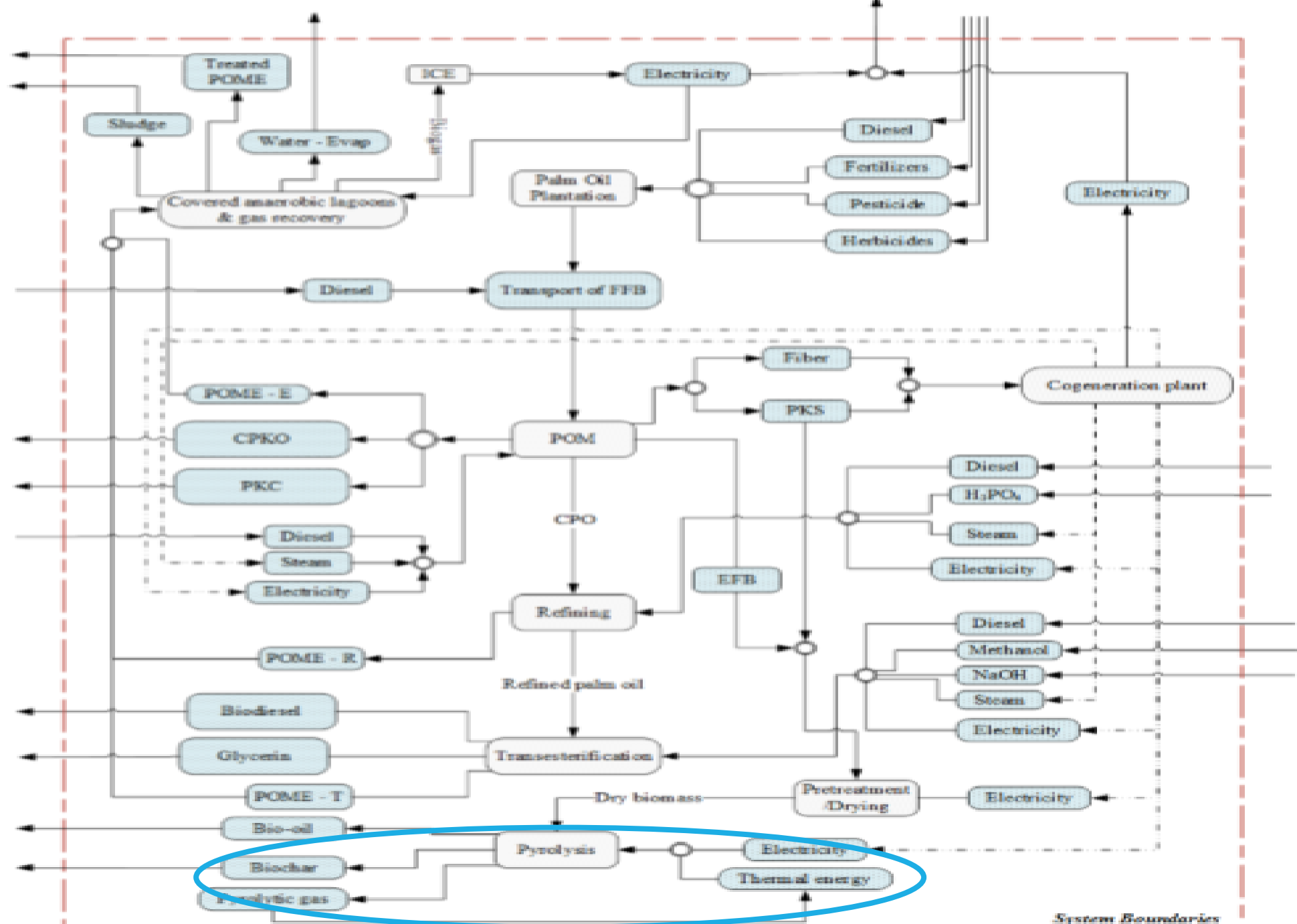


Figure 4.7: System boundaries of the analyzed products.

System Boundaries

## 2. Materials and methods

A scenario of a POM with a production capacity of 1.39 kg/s of FFB was designed, containing a pyrolysis process and a refining/transesterification stage of the CPO for obtaining biodiesel and glycerin.

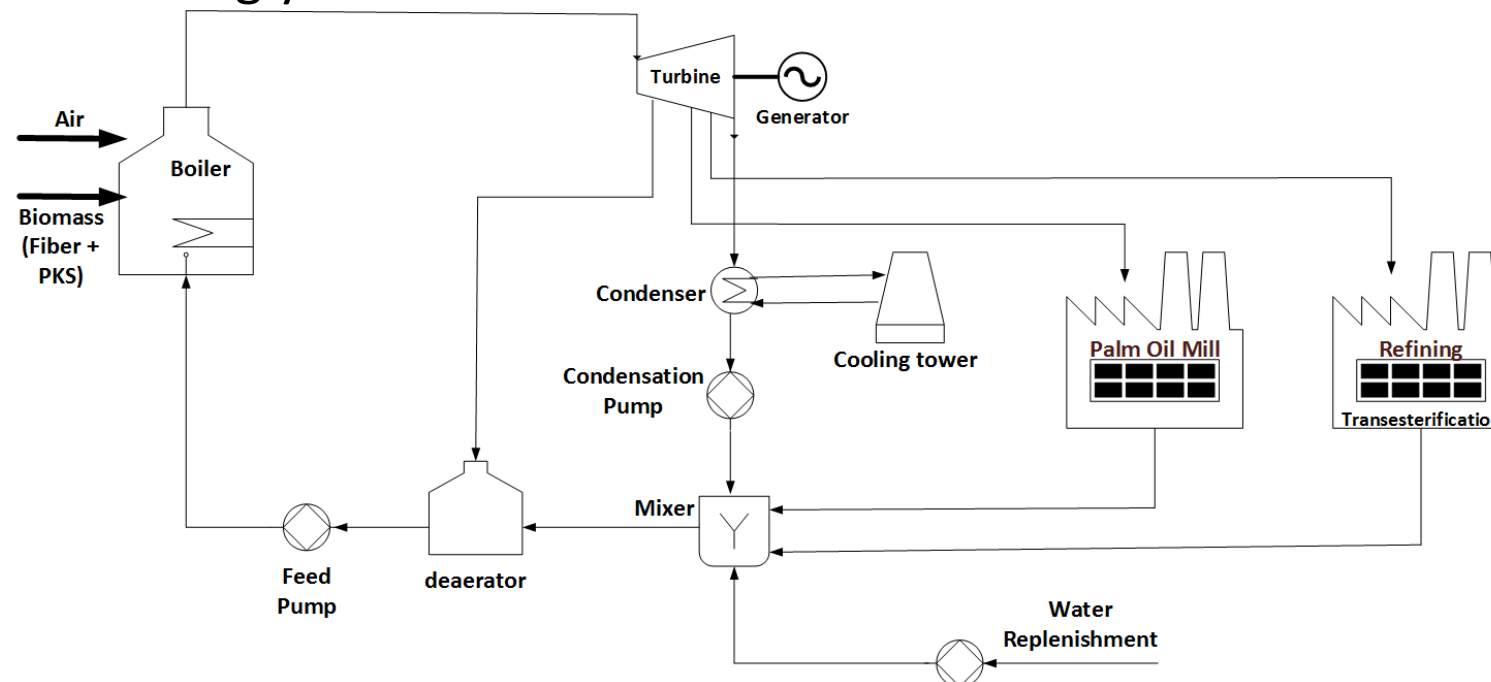


Figure 2. Cogeneration extraction/condensation system .



## 2. Materials and methods

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The values adopted for the availability of CPO, EFB, PKS, POME, PKS, fiber, Palm Kernel Cake (PKC) and Crude Palm Kernel Oil (CPKO) are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Availability of products obtained in the POM

EFB availability (ton/ton FFB)	0.22
PKS availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.07
Fiber availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.13
PKC availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.035
POME availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.328
CPKO availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.017
CPO availability [ton/ton FFB]	0.02

## 2. Materials and methods

The values adopted for the pyrolysis and anaerobic digestion stage of the scenario are summarized in Table 2, while for cogeneration system, refining/transesterification, and drying stage in Table 3.

Table 2. Indicators for the pyrolysis and anaerobic digestion stage

<b>Pyrolysis</b>	
Electrical energy consumption [kWh/kg bio-oil]	0.05
Bio-oil ratio [kg/kg bio-oil]	1
Non-condensable Gases ratio [kg/kg bio-oil]	1.06
Biochar ratio [kg/kg bio-oil]	0.58
<b>Anaerobic digestion</b>	
Electrical energy consumption [kWh/ton de POME]	0.007
Efficiency ICE [%]	25
Biogas ratio [ton/ton de POME]	0.03
Sludge ratio [ton/ton de POME]	0.03

Table 3. Indicators for the cogeneration system, refining/transesterification, and drying stage

<b>Cogeneration extraction/condensation system</b>	
Isentropic efficiency of pumps [%]	85
Boiler efficiency [%]	80
Isentropic efficiency of the turbine [%]	70
Efficiency of the cogeneration cycle [%]	18.02
Pressure in the refining plant [bar]	2.5
Pressure in the extraction plant [bar]	4
<b>Refining plant/transesterification</b>	
Electrical energy consumption [kWh/ton CPO]	22
Steam consumption [kg/ton CPO]	564
Biodiesel ratio [kg/ton CPO]	975.5
Glycerin ratio [kg/ton CPO]	113.6
Effluents ratio [kg/ton CPO]	348
<b>Drying</b>	
Biomass inlet temperature [°C]	25
Biomass outlet temperature [°C]	110
Inlet temperature of exhaust gases [°C]	215
Outlet temperature of the exhaust gases [°C]	110
Moisture of biomass [%]	50
Electrical energy consumption [kWh/ton <sub>extracted water</sub> ]	19
Moisture of dry biomass [%]	15
Enthalpy of vaporization of water [kJ/kg]	2691.1

# **4 Results and discussion**

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## 4. Results and discussion

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The mass and energy balances of the scenario are presented in Figure 3. The fiber is burned in the boiler of the cogeneration cycle to satisfy the consumption of electrical energy (0.095 MWh) and steam (0.69 kg steam/s) of the same POM. In the refining/transesterification stage are produced 0.27 kg/s of biodiesel and 0.03 kg/s of glycerin and the consumption of electrical energy for this stage are 0.022 MW. The bio-oil and biochar produced are 0.08 kg/s and 0.09 kg/s, respectively.

# 4. Results and discussion

Figure 5 shows that the production of bio-oil and biochar through fast pyrolysis does not have considerably environmental impacts (52 mPt), when compared to biodiesel (120 mPt) and electricity (127 mPt).

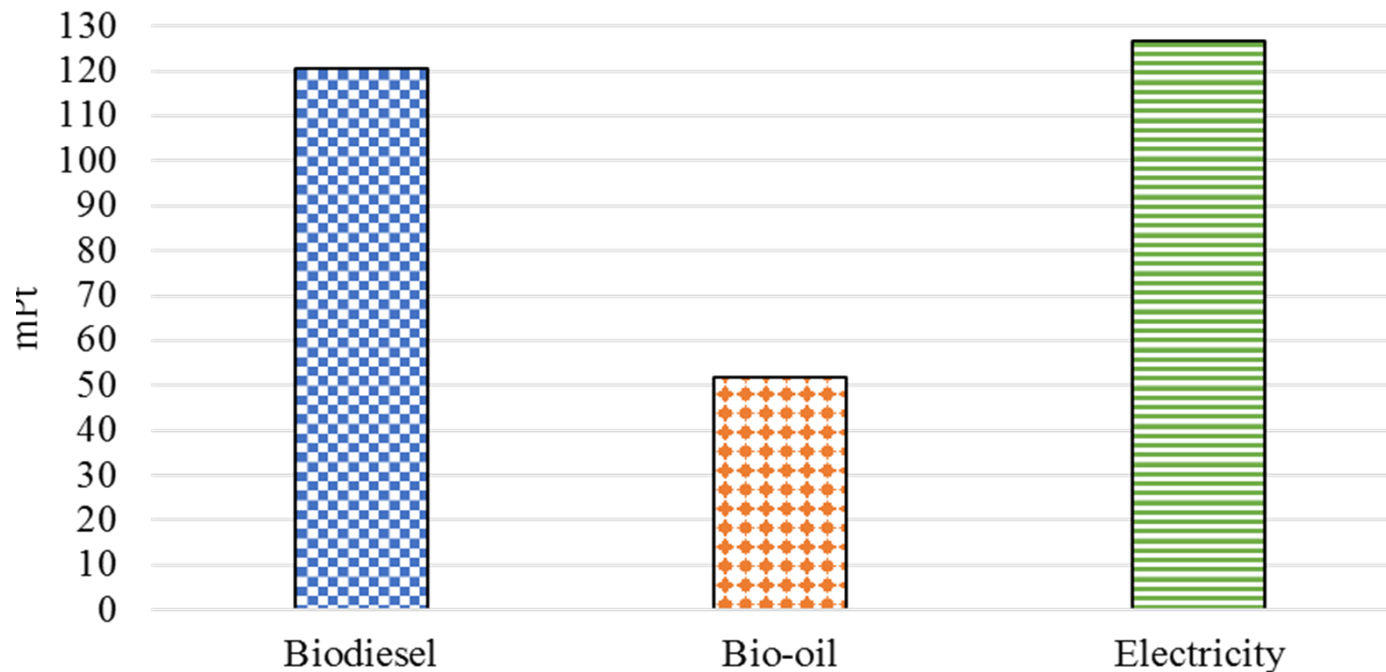


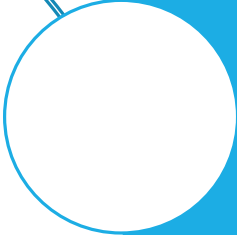
Figure 5. Total environmental impacts of products obtained.

# 5 Conclusions

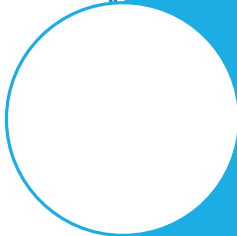
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# 4. Conclusions


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The highest electric energy consumption comes from the transesterification stage, which impact represents 23.47 mPt.



Methanol contributes with 5.26 mPt in the biodiesel production process, where the agricultural stage is the largest contributor of greenhouse gases with 20.39 mPt



The fast pyrolysis is a good alternative for the treatment of palm oil waste, because does not present major impacts in any of evaluated damage categories.





## **Acknowledgements**

The authors are very grateful to the support provided by the Brazilian National Research and Development Council (CNPq), The Minas Gerais State Research Support Foundation (FAPEMIG) and the Coordinating Body for the Improvement of Postgraduate Studies in Higher Education (CAPES).

# Thanks

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# Any questions?



THANKS A LOT, MUITO OBRIGADO  
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