



# **Biomethanation of invasive water hyacinth from eutrophic waters as a post weed management practice in the Dominican Republic: a developing country**

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**Foster A. Agblevor**

# 1. Background

- i. Dominican Republic
- ii. Ozama River Eutrophication
- iii. Sustainable Weed Management
- iv. Anaerobic Digestion

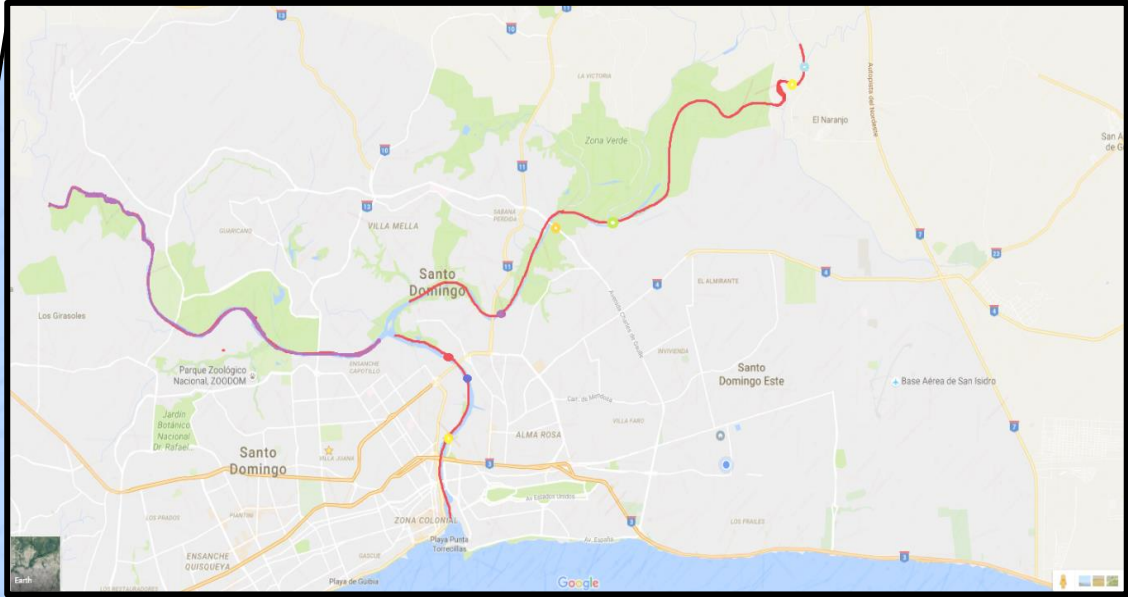
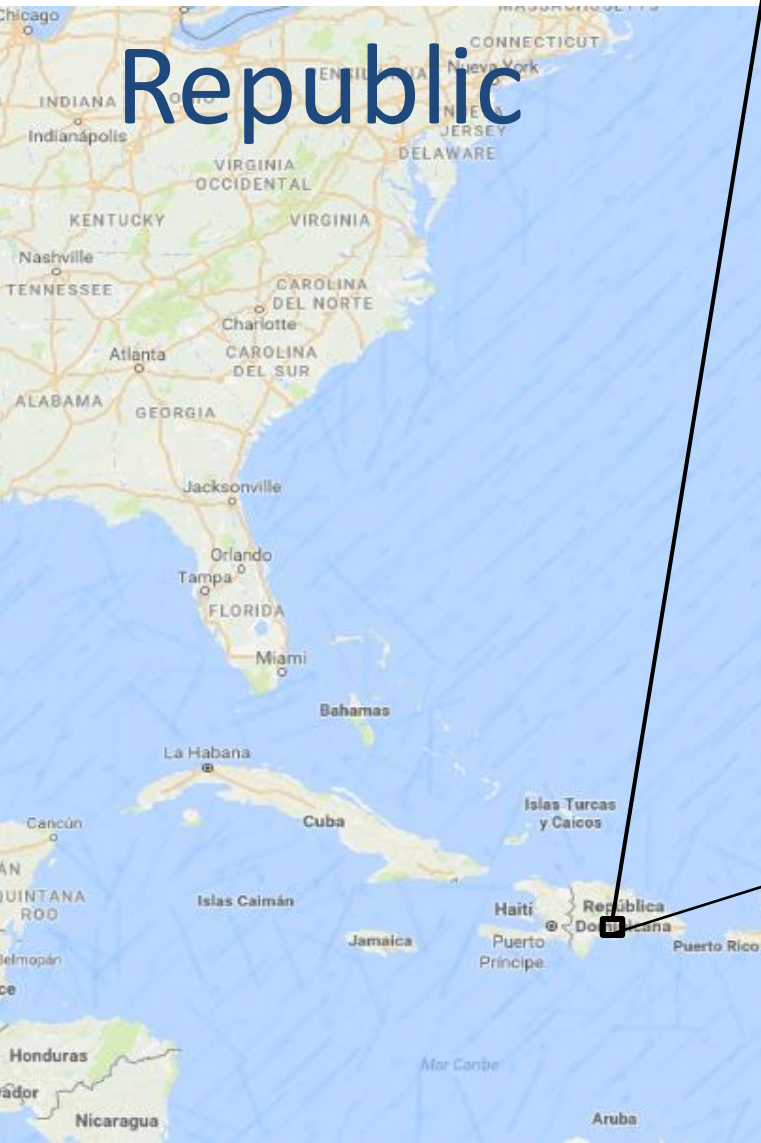
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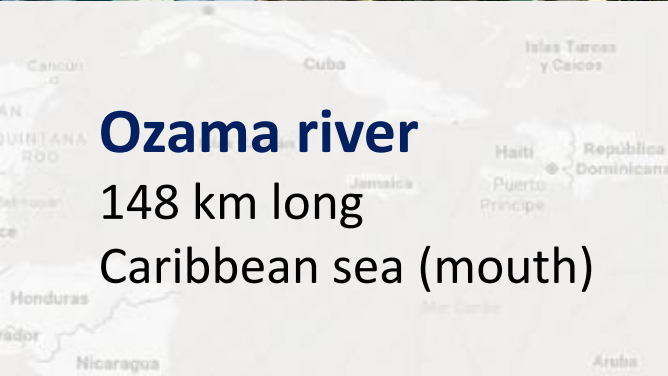
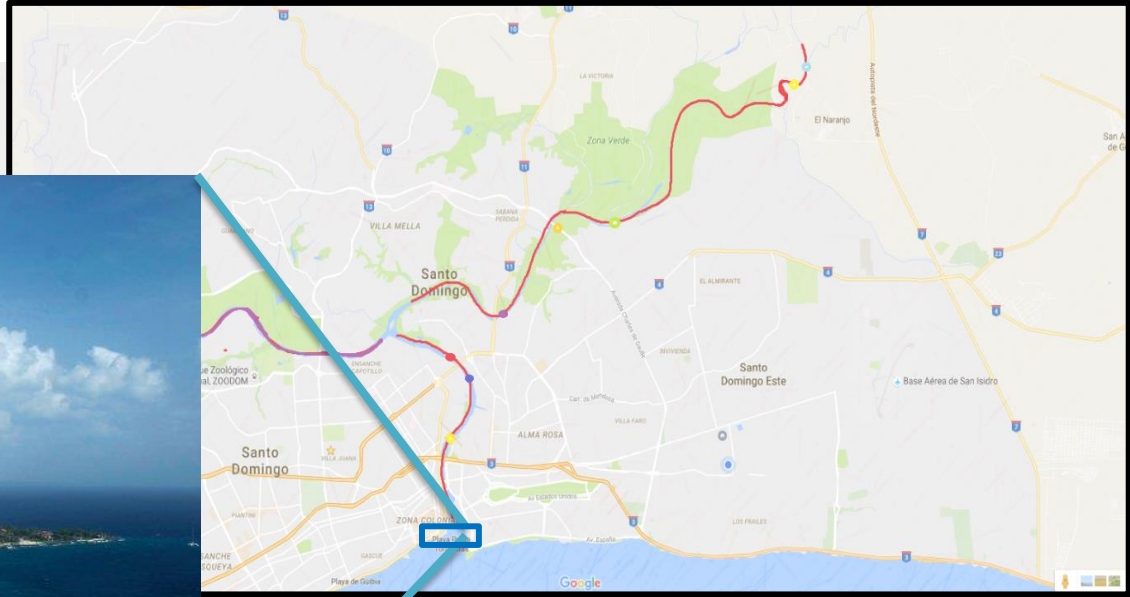
# I. BACKGROUND



# Dominican Republic



# Santo Domingo



## Ozama river

148 km long

Caribbean sea (mouth)



# Ozama River Eutrophication

Salinity: 3-10 PSU

Turbidity : up to 30 NTU

Phosphorus: > 0.1 mg/L

Chlorophyll-a: ~30  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , up to 75  $\mu\text{g/L}$

Dissolved oxygen: ~6 mg/L, down to 0.29 mg/L



# Ozama River Eutrophication

- Industrial waste
- Ships dismantling
- Riverbank settlements



**Water hyacinth !!**

September 2015, Vigilante informativo

# Sustainable Weed Management





# Sustainable Weed Management

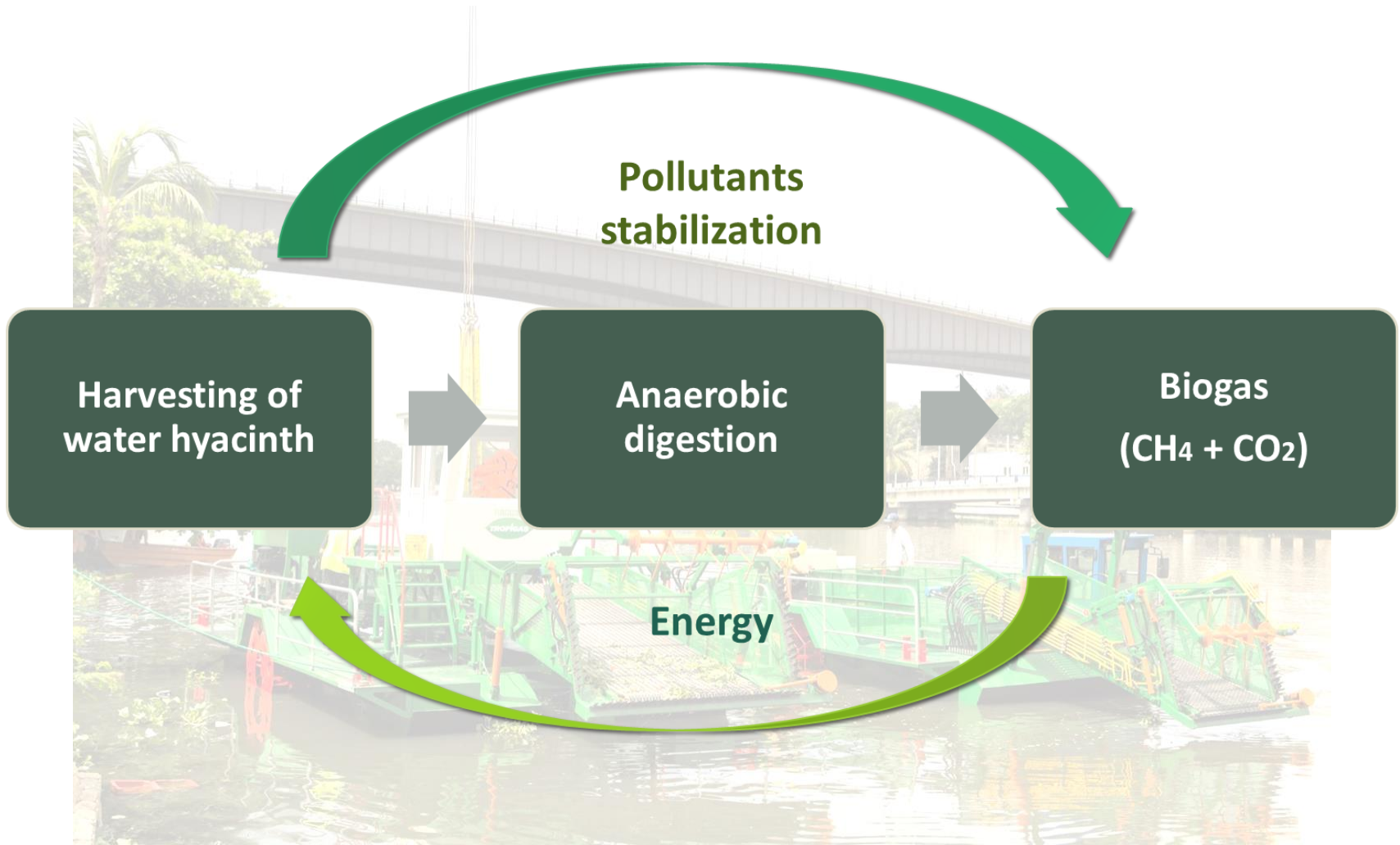
## USES OF WATER HYACINTH



- Water pollution
- Phytoremediation properties (e.g. heavy metals)

November 2016, El Dinero

# Sustainable Weed Management



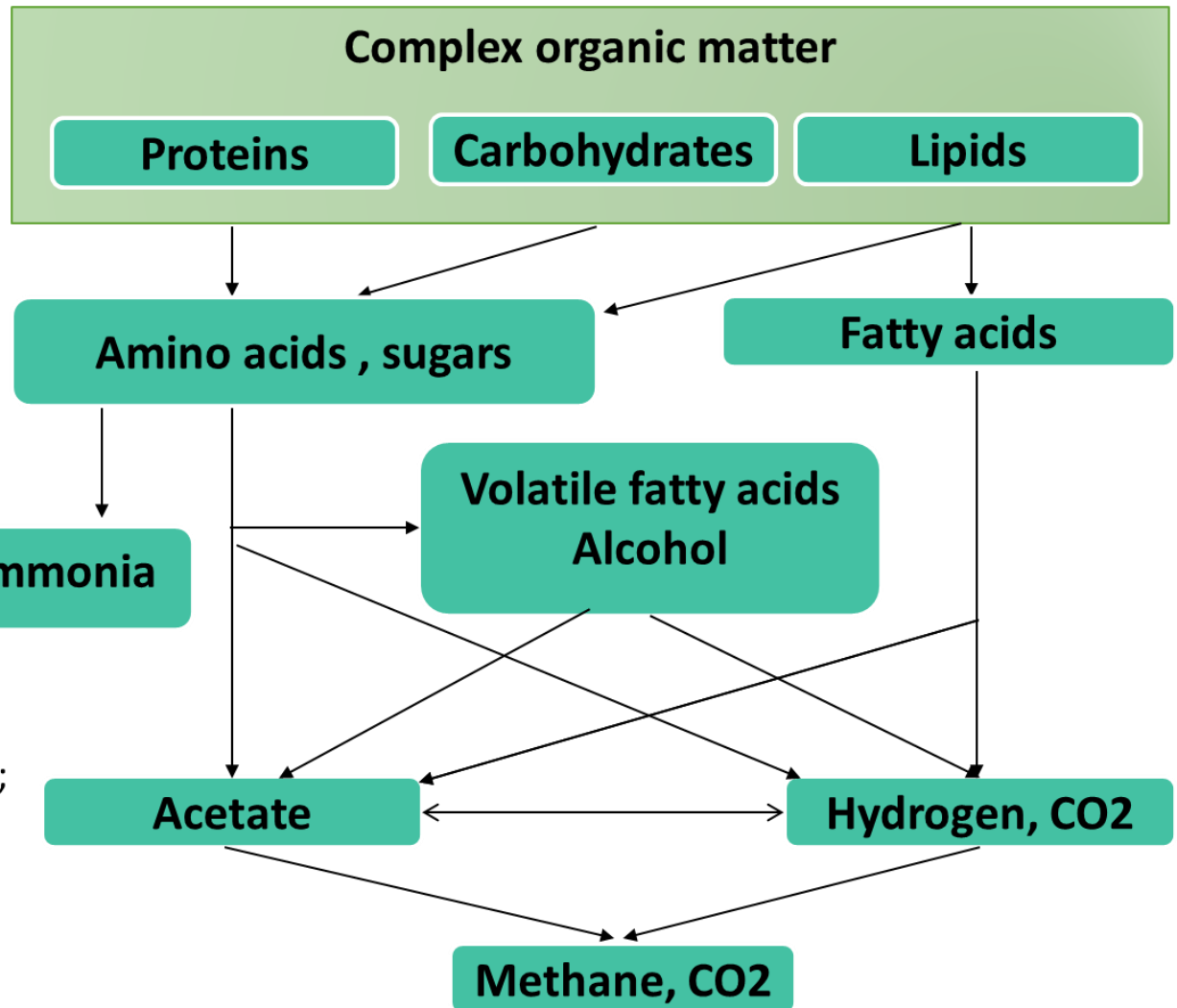
# ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

**HYDROLYSIS**  
e.g. *Clostridia*,  
*Bacteroidetes*,

**ACIDOGENESIS**  
e.g. *Clostridia*,  
*Thermoanaerobia*,

**ACETOGENESIS**  
Homoacetogens; Syntrophes;  
and Sulphoreductors.

**METHANOGENESIS**  
Archaea

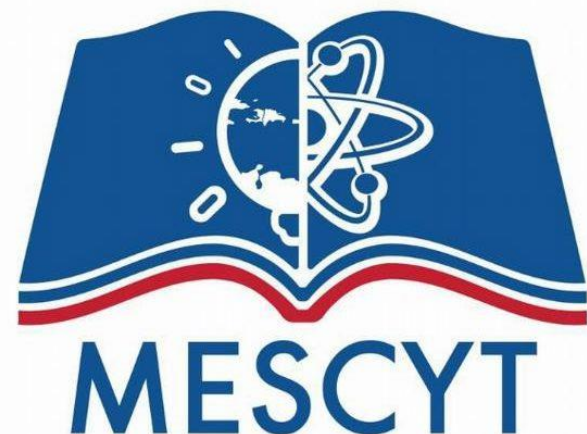


# Project Grant



Use of Standardized Mix Inoculum in the Anaerobic Digestion of the Invasive Water Hyacinth from Ozama river for Biogas and Fertilizer Production.

This research is financially supported by the National Research Fund for Science, Technology, and Innovation [FONDOCYT 2015-2A3-123] of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT).



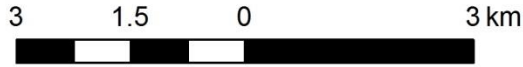
# II. Biomethanation of Water Hyacinth from Fresh and Brackish Waters as a Post Weed Management Practice

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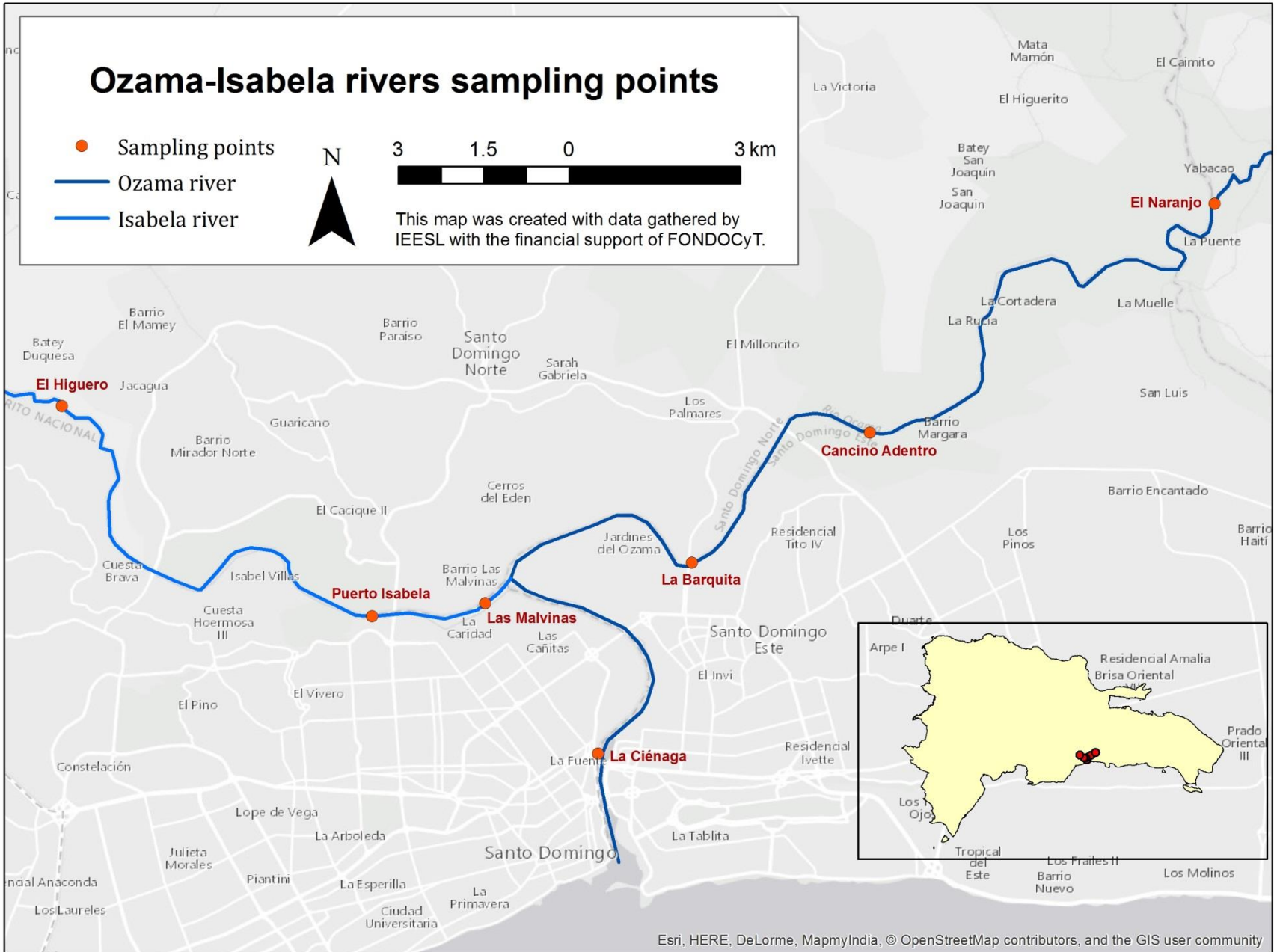
**Castro**, Y.A., Agblevor, F.A. Biomethanation of invasive water hyacinth from eutrophic waters as a post weed management practice in the Dominican Republic: a developing country. *Environ Sci Pollut Res* (2020).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-020-07927-w>

# Ozama-Isabela rivers sampling points

- Sampling points
- Ozama river
- Isabela river



This map was created with data gathered by IESL with the financial support of FONDOCYT.



# Sampling points

## La Ciénaga (brackish water)

- 1.5 km North of Caribbean Sea
- TDS ~ 1000 – 35,000 ppm
- High populated area
- Settlements on the riverbank
- Anthropogenic contamination  
(i.e. solid waste, raw sewage,  
industrial discharges, ..)

## El Naranjo (freshwater)

- 23.14 km North of Caribbean sea
- Salinity barrier between  
Caribbean sea and the site
- TDS below 1000 ppm
- Low populated rural area

# Objectives

- To determine the characteristics and biomethanation kinetics of water hyacinth from brackish and fresh waters within Ozama river.
- To compare the energy required for harvesting with the energy produced during anaerobic digestion of this weed.



# Water quality

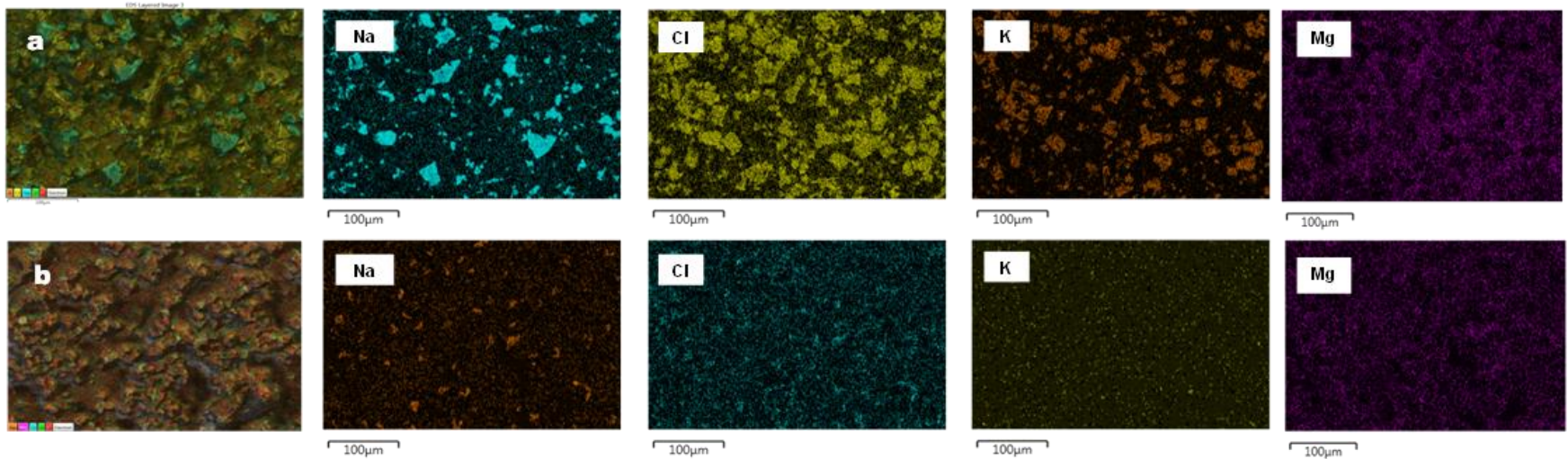
Method: Water quality indicators were measured in situ during harvesting using a YSI DSSPro (YSI Incorporated).

	<b>La Ciénaga (brackish water)</b>	<b>El Naranjo (freshwater)</b>
Salinity [ppT]	1.23	0.09
Dissolved oxygen [mg/L]	1.37	2.50
Nitrate [mg/L]	11.76	2.6
Total dissolved solids [mg/L]	1550	122

# Salt Accumulation

Method: Ethanol extractives of water hyacinth from **a) La Ciénaga** and **b) El Naranjo** were analyzed with SEM-EDX (FEI Quanta FEG 650).

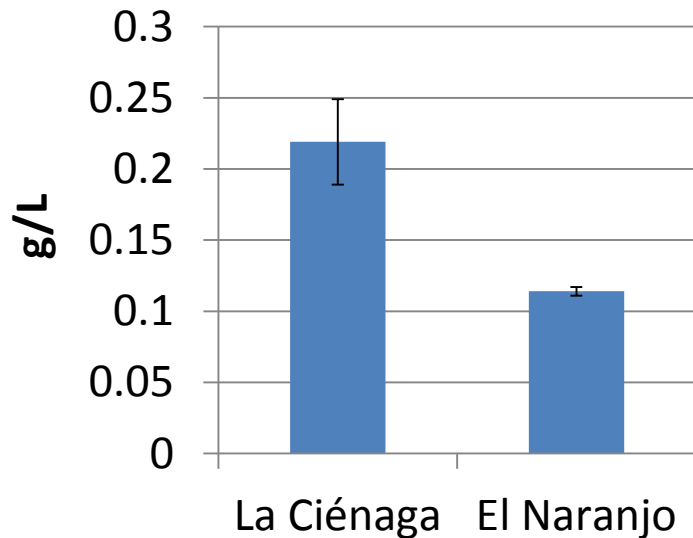
	Map Sum Spectrum (%wt)			
	Cl	K	Na	Mg
La Ciénaga	18.6	9.7	4.1	1.4
El Naranjo	6.6	1.7	1.1	0.7



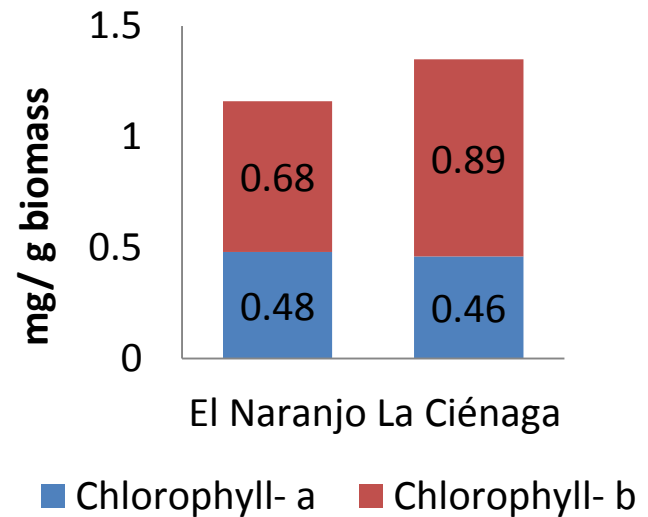
# Stress factors and productivity

Total dissolved solids (TDS) are organic solutes and salt ions that could act as stress agents for water hyacinth and be detrimental for anaerobic digestion when they accumulate in the plant biomass [1-6].

### Bulk density

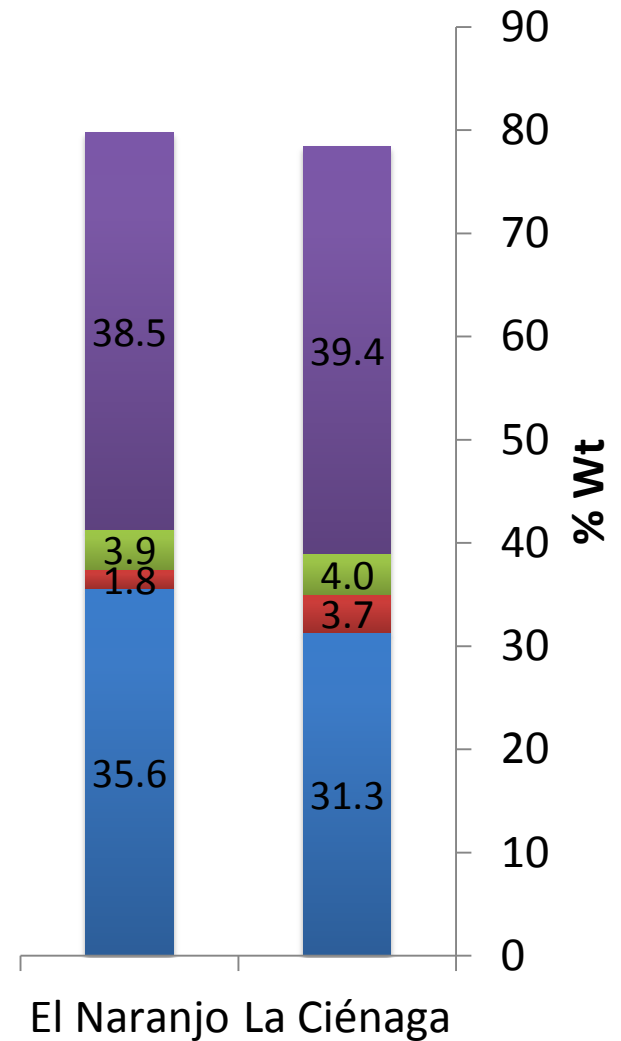
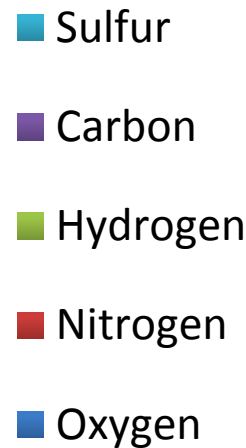
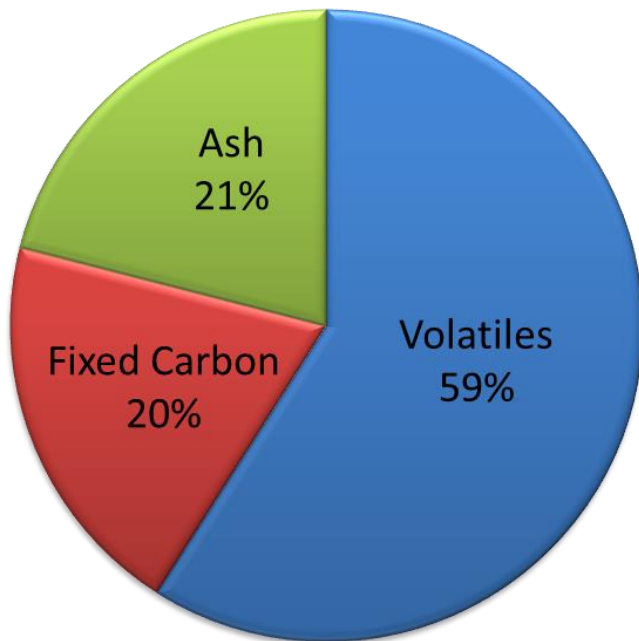


### Photosynthetic pigments



# Proximate and Ultimate Analyses

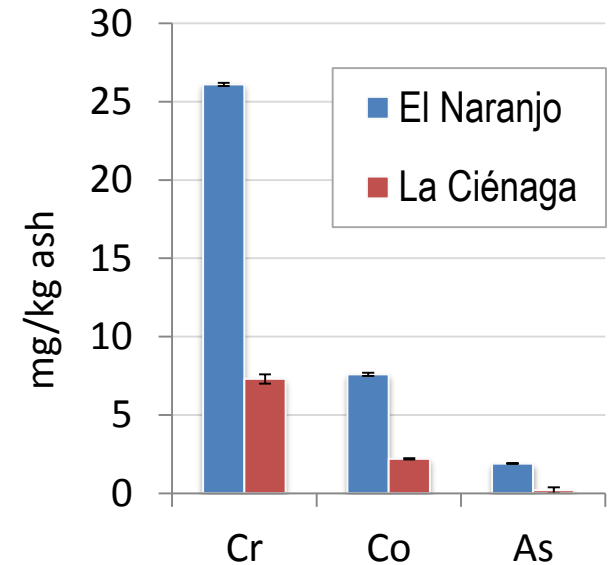
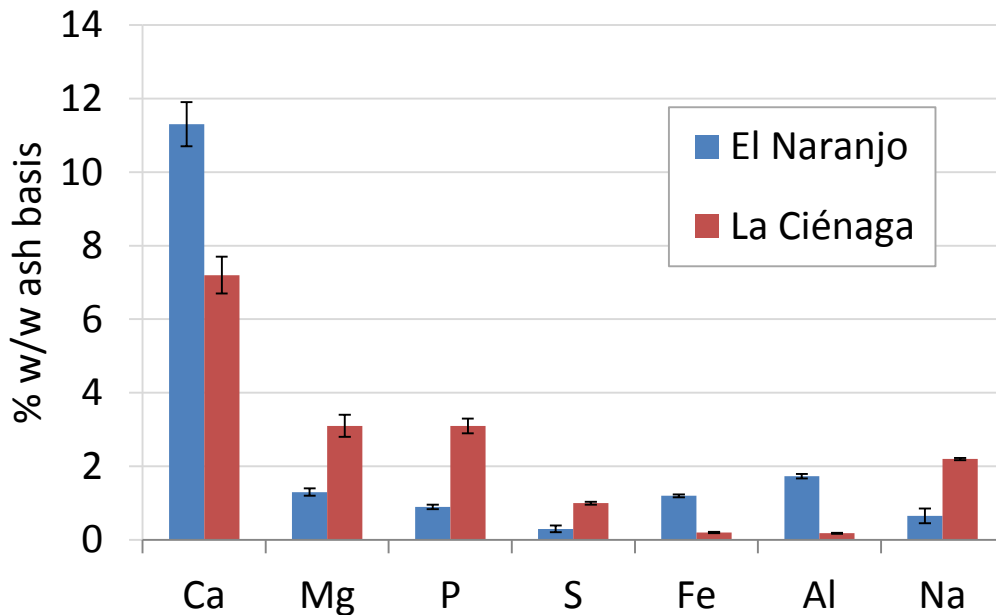
Method: Water hyacinth's proximate and ultimate analyses were conducted using a TGA-Q500 (TA Instruments,) and FLASH 2000 Organic Elemental Analyzer (Thermo Fisher Scientific), respectively.



# Inorganic Elemental Analysis

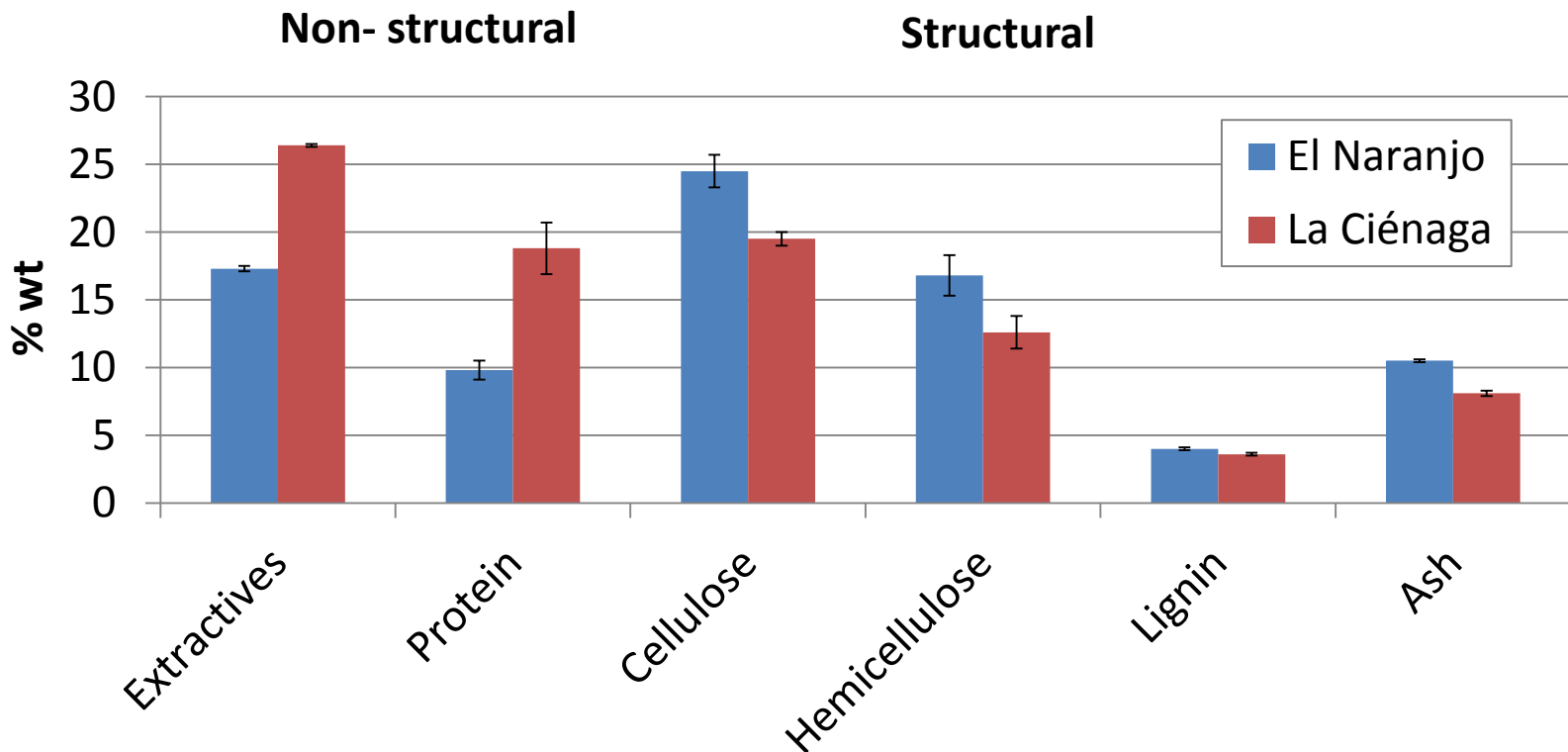
Method: The ash of water hyacinth was digested according to EPA 3050 and analyzed using ICP-AES by Utah State University Analytical lab (USUAL)

Nutrients (% w/w)			Heavy metals (mg/kg)				
K	Mn	Si	Cu	Ni	Mo	Zn	Cd
19.9 ± 2.6	0.25 ± 0.06	1.04 ± 0.3	47.6 ± 8.4	30.9 ± 15.5	4.2 ± 2.4	128.4 ± 21.1	0.22 ± 0.6



# Summative Analysis

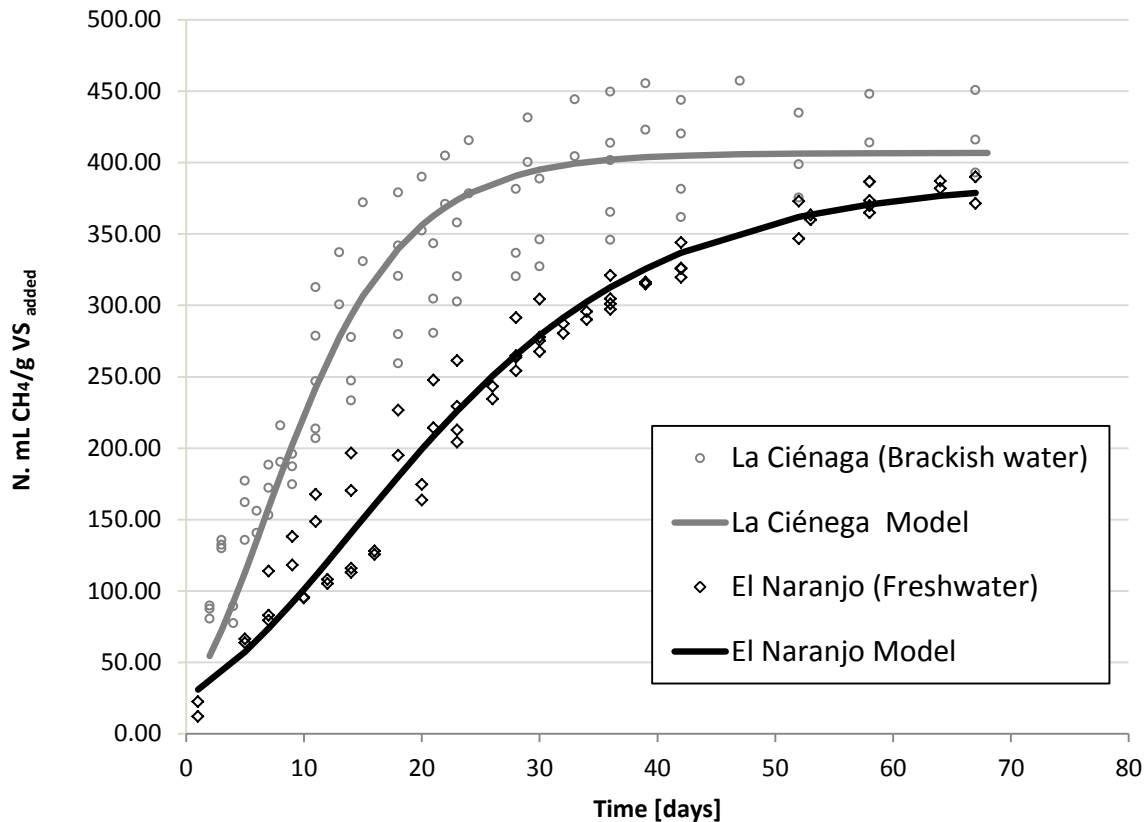
Water hyacinth's composition was determined following ASTM guidelines (E1756-08, E1690-08 , E1755-01, E1758-01 and E1721).



# Biomethanation Kinetics

## Modified Gompertz Model

$$W(t) = A * \text{EXP} \left( -\text{EXP} \left( (e * k_z / A) * (T_{lag} - t) + 1 \right) \right)$$



$A$  [N. L CH<sub>4</sub>/Kg VS ]  
 $K_z$  [N. L CH<sub>4</sub>/Kg VS<sub>added</sub> · day]  
 $T_{lag}$  [day]  
 $T_d$  [day]  
 $RMSE$  [N. L CH<sub>4</sub>/Kg VS<sub>added</sub>]

	Ciénega (Brackish)	Naranjo (Fresh)
$A$	408.5	389.8
$K_z$	<b>22.5</b>	10.0
$T_{lag}$	0	0.0
$T_d$	<b>9.1</b>	19.5
$RMSE$	4.6	4.03
$R^2$	0.886	0.901

# Energy Assessment

## Energy consumed

$$E_c = (FC/HR) * HHV_{fuel}$$

## Energy Produced

$$E_p = BMP * (1000kg/t) * (VS/100) * (TS/100) * HHV_{CH_4}$$

	Parameters	Value	Energy (MJ/t biomass)
	FC [L/h]	15	
Consumption	HR [t <sub>biomass</sub> /h]	10	$E_c = 57.9$
	HHV <sub>Diesel</sub> [MJ/L]	38.6	
Production	BMP <sub>Mean</sub> [L CH <sub>4</sub> /kg VS]	399.2	
	HHV <sub>Methane</sub> [MJ/L]	0.0398	$E_p = 846.5$
	VS <sub>Mean</sub> [%]	59.2	



# Conclusions

- The **brackish water** (La Ciénaga) had 3 times higher nitrates and phosphorus than freshwater (El Naranjo).
- The higher salt content in the biomass from La Ciénaga did **not affect the plant productivity** (photosynthetic activity , and density).
- The non-structural compounds (extractives and protein) are higher in the biomass from **La Ciénaga**.
- The **methane yield and production rate are higher**, and the doubling time shorter in the biomethanation of the biomass from La Ciénaga.
- The **energy** from the biodigestion of the Ozama river water hyacinth is more than 10 times that required for harvesting.

# Cited Works

- [1] **Lage-pinto F**, Oliveira JG, Da M, et al (2008) Chlorophyll a fluorescence and ultrastructural changes in chloroplast of water hyacinth as indicators of environmental stress. *Environ Exp Bot* 64:307–313. doi: 10.1016/j.envexpbot.2008.07.007
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- [4] **Mccarty PL**, Mckinney RE (1961) Salt Toxicity in Anaerobic Digestion. *Water Pollut Control Fed* 33:399–415
- [5] **Pavlović D**, Nikolić B, Đurović S, et al (2014) Chlorophyll as a measure of plant health : Agroecological aspects. *Pestic Phytomed* 29:21–34. doi: 10.2298/PIF1401021P