



Gasification technologies

Prof. Dr. Electro Silva Lora
electo@unifei.edu.br

Itajubá city location in Brazil



Itajubá: 88000 inhabitants
4 universities





FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF ITAJUBA



FOUNDED IN 1913 BY TEODOMIRO SANTIAGO

Students: now 2200 to be increased up to 6000 in 2012

400 graduate students

Professors: now 200 up to 470 in 2012

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF ITAJUBA





Mechanical Engineering Institute

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



Professor
Dr. Electro S. Lora



Professor
Dr. Marco A. R.
Nascimento



Professor
Dr. Osvaldo J.
Venturini



Professor
Dr. Vladimir M.
Cobas



Professor
Dr. Ricardo D.
M. Carvalho



MSc Luis F. V.
Flores

++++ 1 researcher, 12 PhD and 6 MSc graduate students

Our laboratories



Bubbling bed



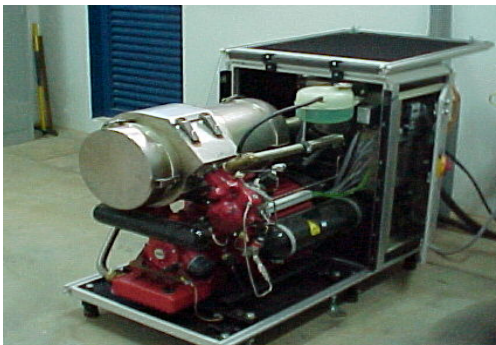
Gas microturbines and chiller



Steam cycle



**Refrigeration and
air conditioning**

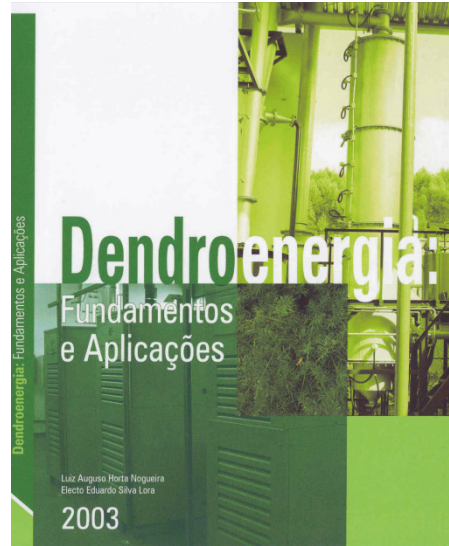


Solo Stirling engine

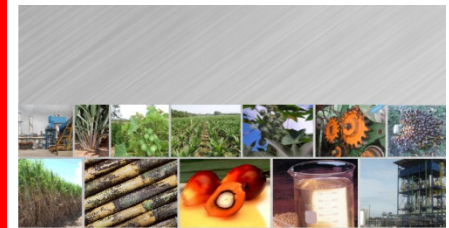


**Traning center for
power plants operators**

ETC.....



IN 2009



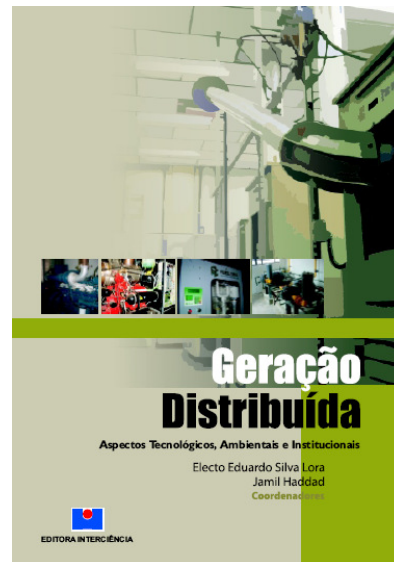
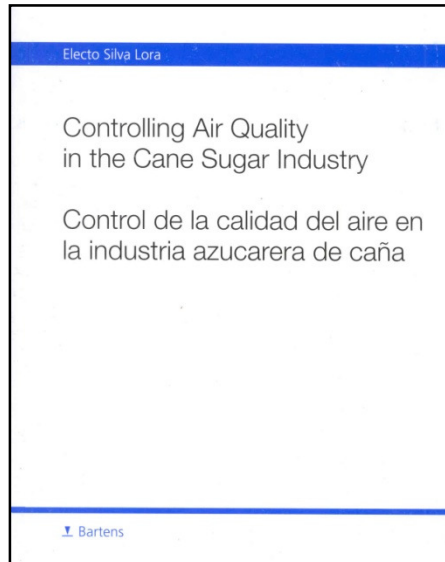
BIOCOMBUSTÍVEIS

Coordenadores
Electo Eduardo Silva Lora
Osvaldo José Venturini

Editora Interciência

2008

PUBLISHED BOOKS



NEST at internet

www.nest.unifei.edu.br

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE ITAJUBÁ

Núcleo de Excelência em
Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída

Selecione o idioma





PROCESS INTEGRATION



H₂ SYNGAS FOR SOFC



BIOMASS GASIFICATION

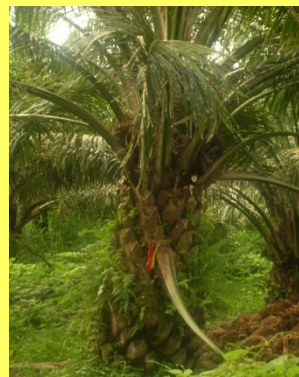
BIOENERGY



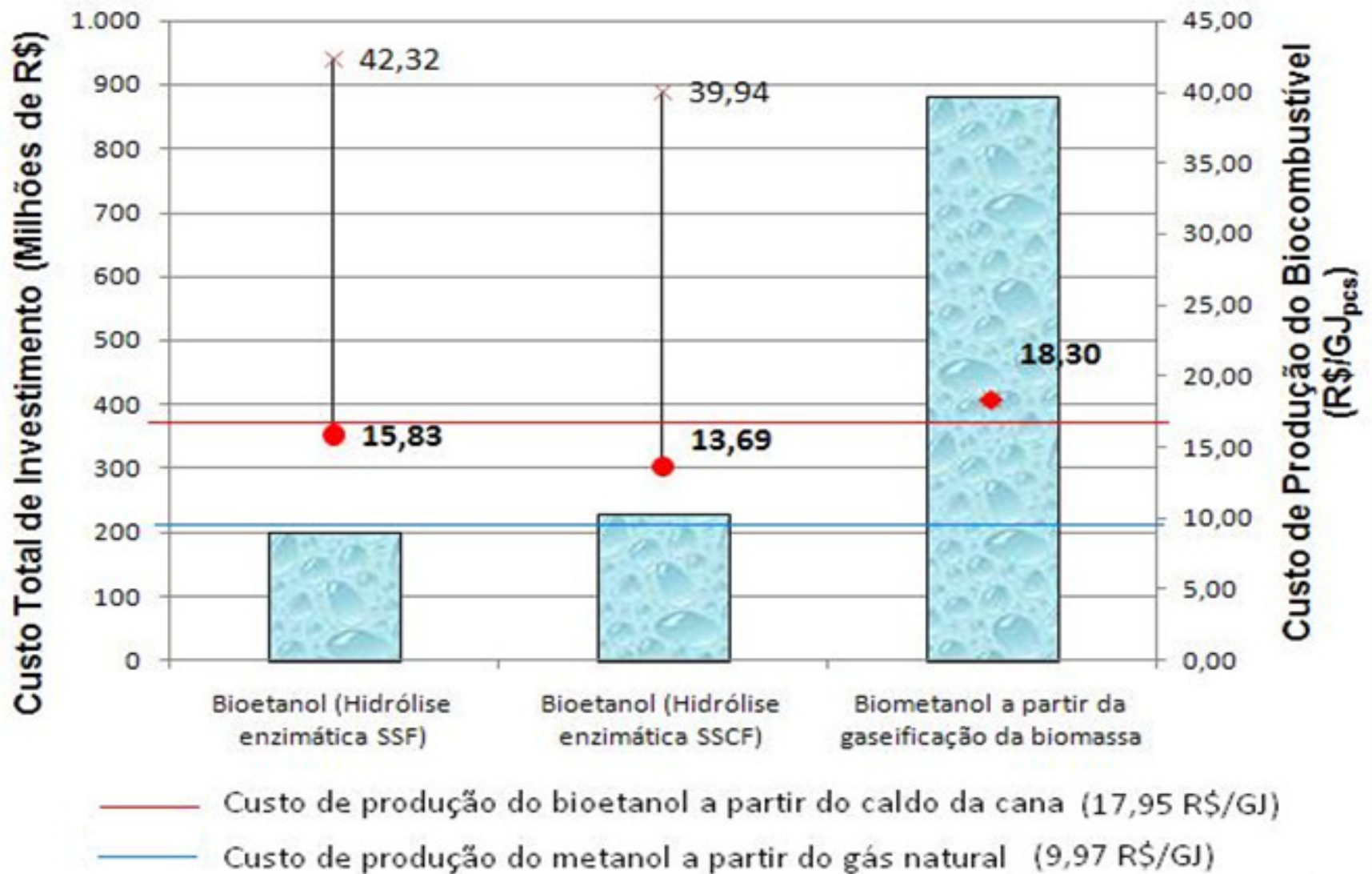
BIOMASS STIRLING ENGINES



BIODIESEL AND SYNGAS IN GMT

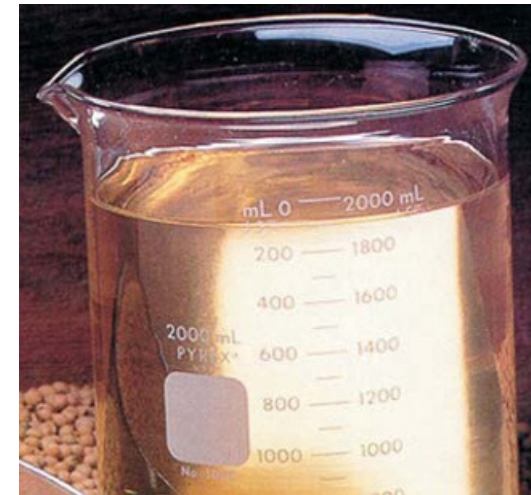


BIOFUELS LCA AND SUSTAINABILITY



CONSTRAINTS IN SUSTAINABILITY ASSESTMENT OF BIOFUELS

Prof. Electo Silva Lora, NEST/IEM/UNIFEI

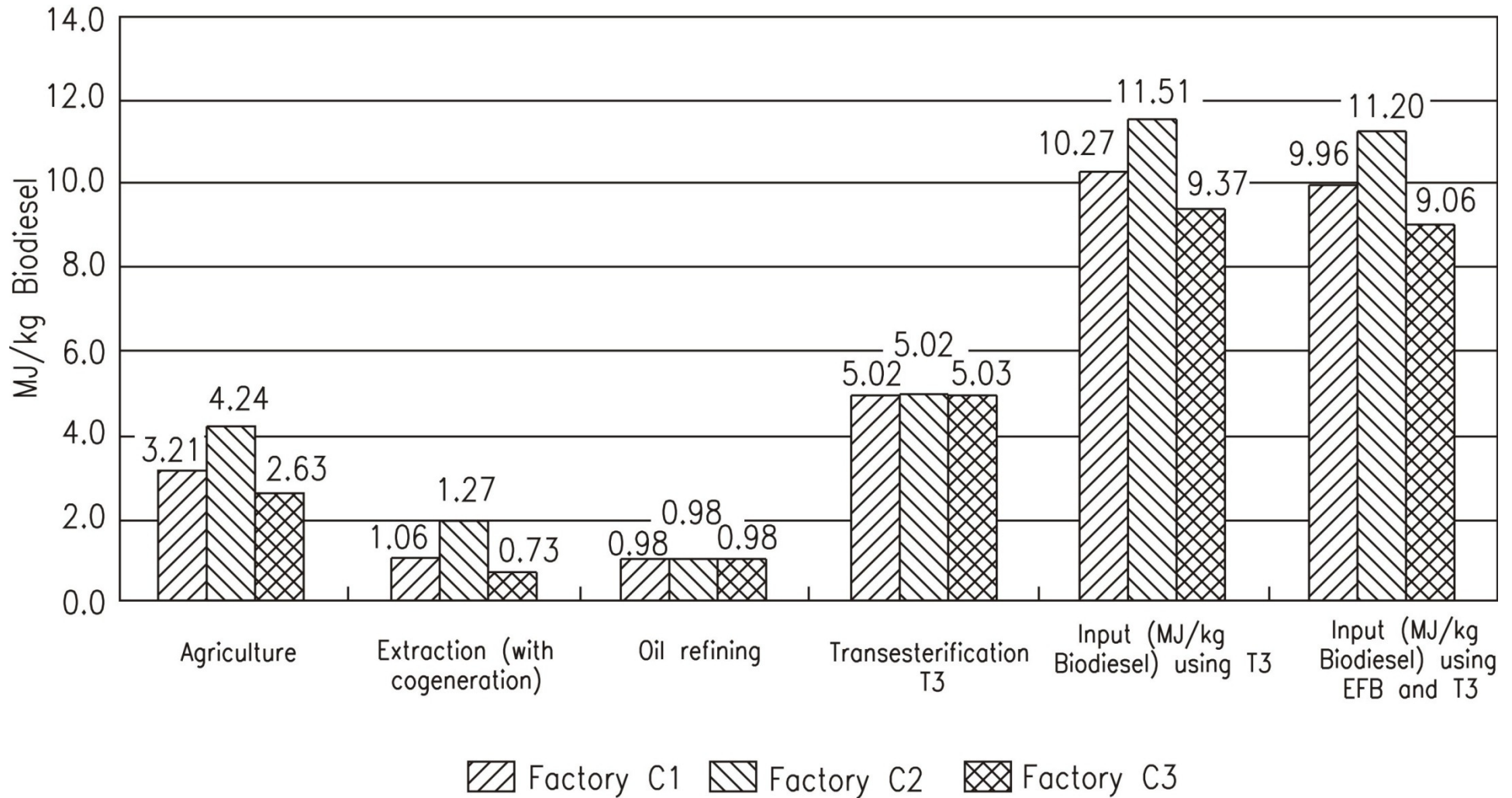


The NEST/UNIFEI sustainability studies experience

Since 2004 NEST/UNIFEI is carrying out different biofuels related LCA studies:

- Palm oil biodiesel,
- Ethanol stillage treatment,
- Methanol from sugarcane bagasse.

Example I- LCA Palm oil biodiesel Inventory stage





For references look at:

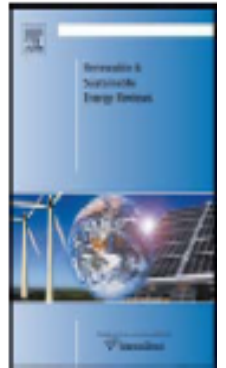
Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 13 (2009) 1275–1287



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rser



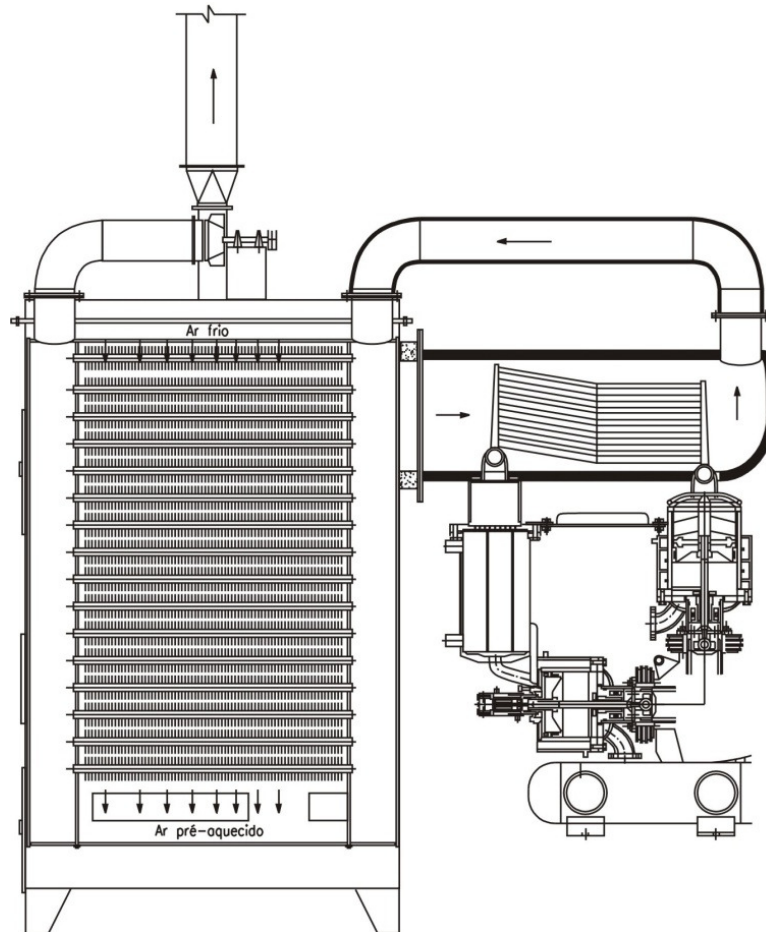
Biofuels: Environment, technology and food security

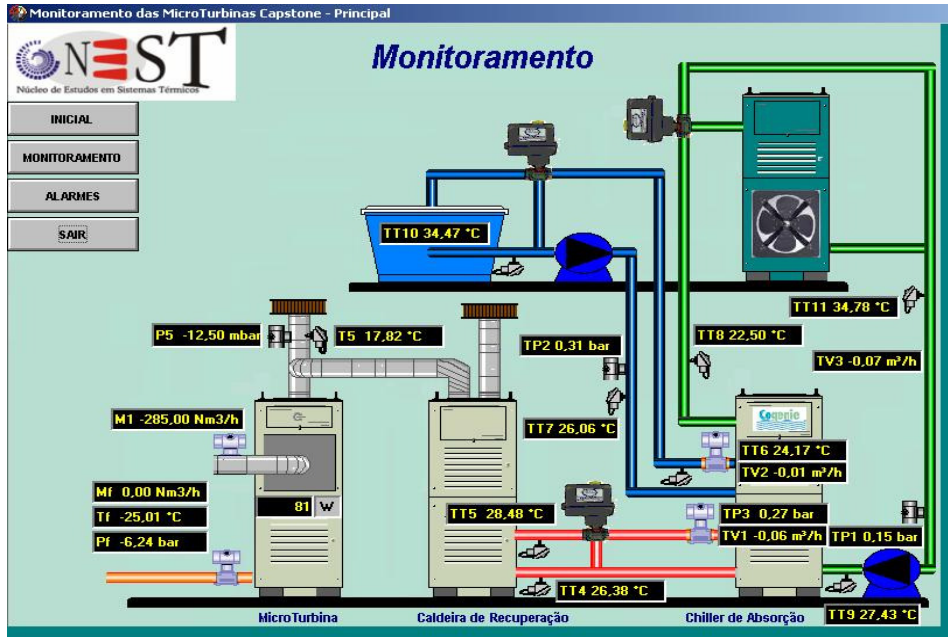
José C. Escobar^a, Electo S. Lora^{a,*}, Osvaldo J. Venturini^a, Edgar E. Yáñez^b, Edgar F. Castillo^c,
Oscar Almazan^d

BIOMASS STIRLING AMAZON

Project coordinator

Dr. Vladimir Melian Cobas





COGENERATION SYSTEM MGT/ABSORPTION CHILLER

Project coordinator
Dr. Osvaldo Jose Venturini



Biorefining Approaches for Lignocellulose

- Thermochemical

- Biochemical

Thermolytic
Solids
Oils

Gasification,
Pyrolysis

Pretreatment,
Hydrolysis
(cell wall deconstruction)

Hydrolytic
Cellulose
Hemicellulose

- Synthesis gas
– (CO + H₂ + other)

- Sugar monomers, acids

Catalytic
Synthesis

Syngas
Fermentation

Fermentation

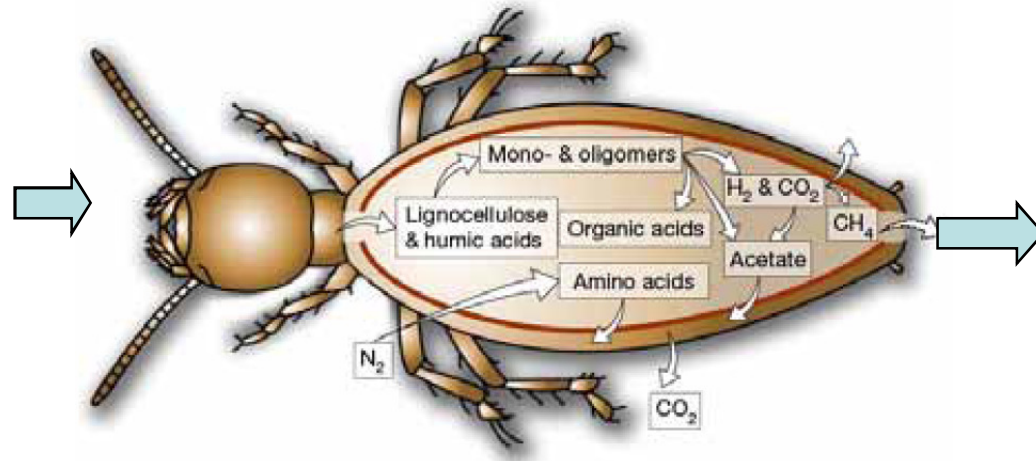
- Hydrocarbons, mixed alcohols, hydrogen, ammonia, SNG, ethanol, higher alcohols...

- Ethanol, higher alcohols, biomethane, hydrogen, acids...



BUT...2nd generation biofuel does not affect food security...as we don't eat cellulose ... But someone does..

Our preferred Books (Kamasutra) and furniture



Methane Biofuel

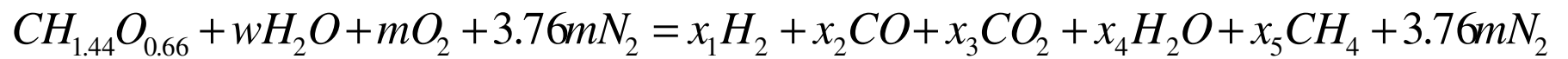
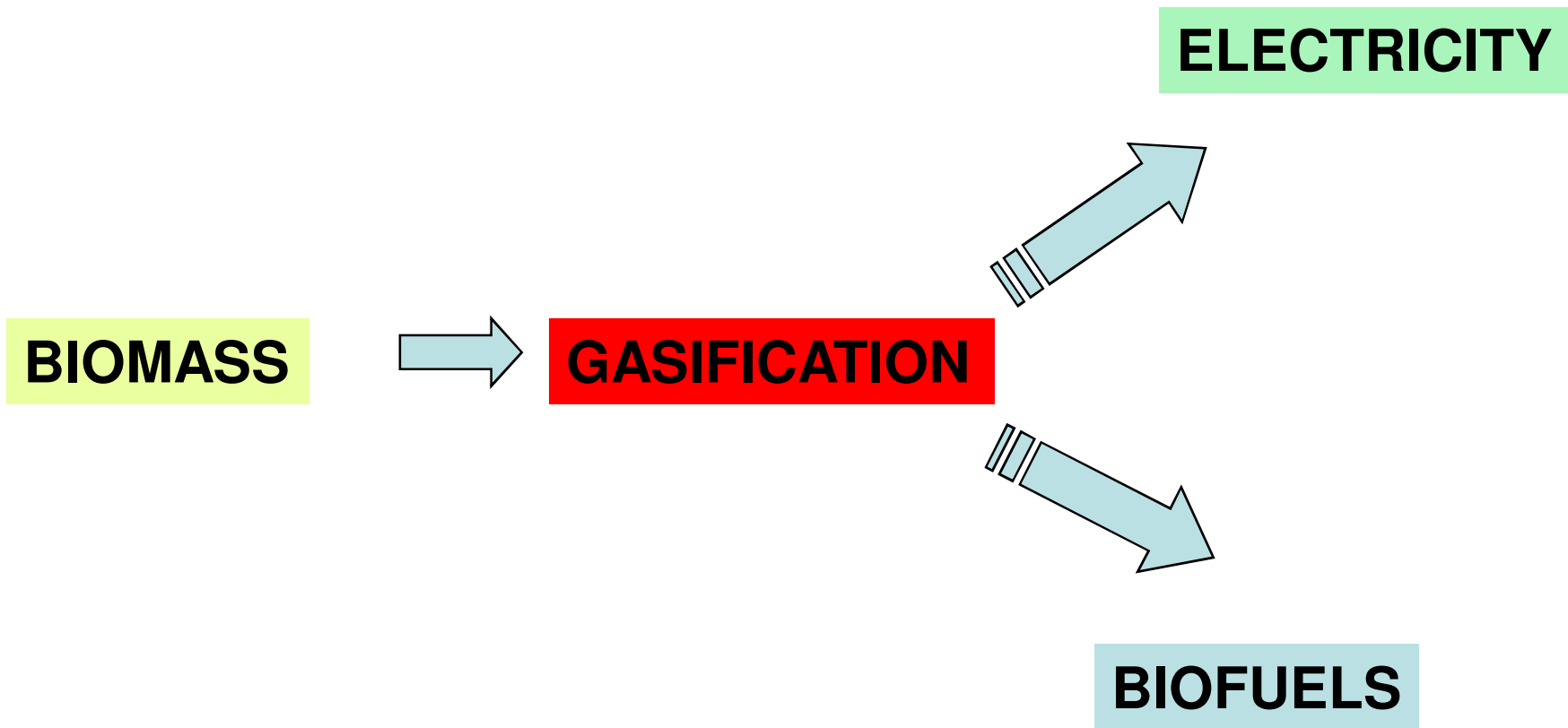
Termite Biorefinery

We are trying to imitate them..

Gasification

Thermo-chemical biomass conversion with the supply of sub-stoichiometric quantities of oxygen into a fuel gas with high CO, H₂ and CH₄ content.

The resulting gas composition and its calorific value f (type of gas used as gasification agent and of the reactor pressure).



Biomass gasification

→ Mixture of gases

→ CO , CH_4 , H_2

Fuel compounds

→ CO_2 , H_2O , (N_2), C_xH_y :

Combustion products

Reactor types

→ Fixed beds

→ Updraft, downdraft and cross flow

→ Fluidized bed

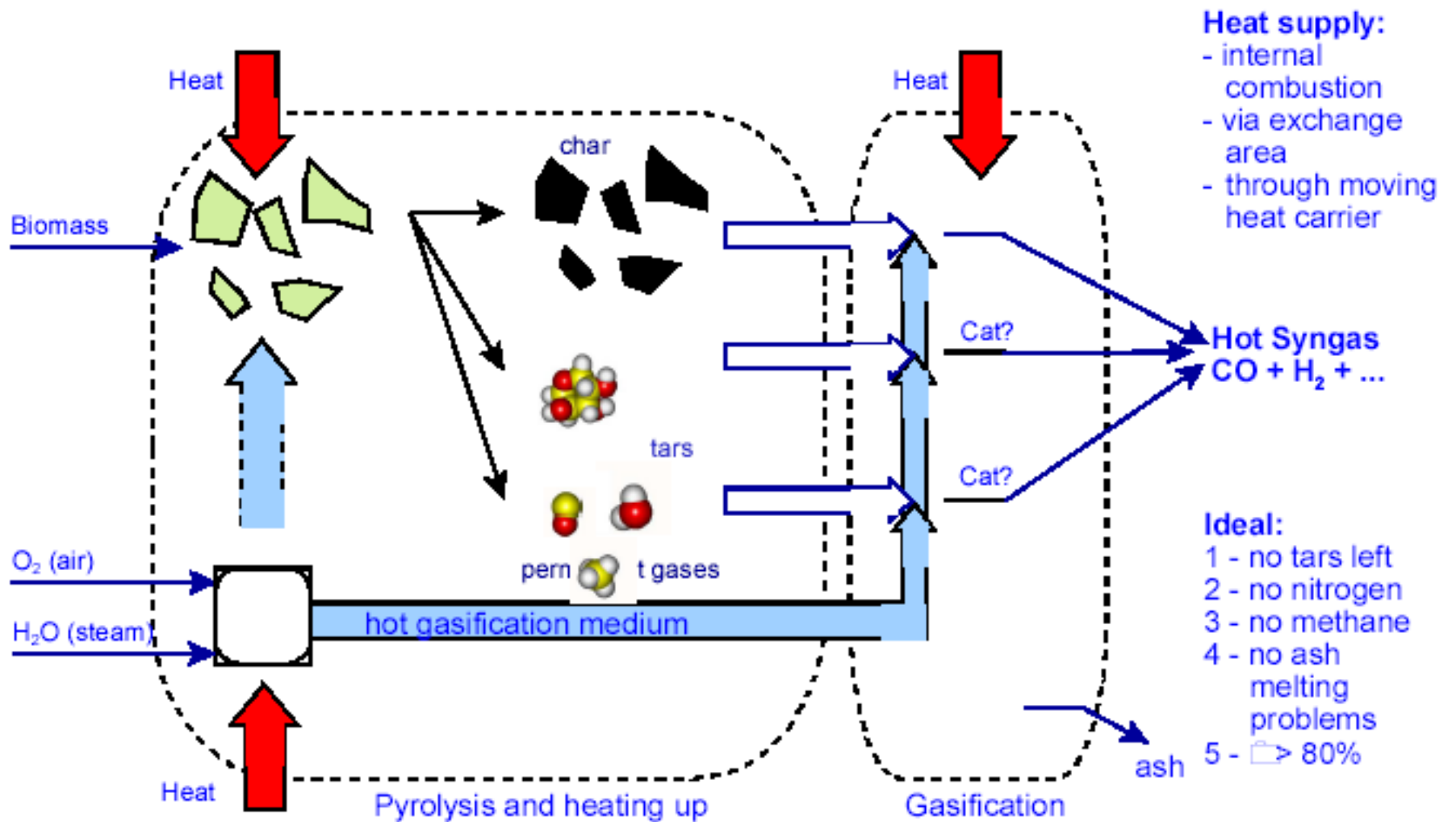
→ Bubbling or circulating

→ Atmospheric or circulating

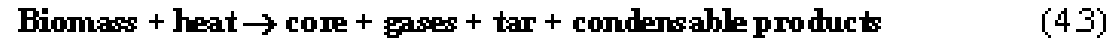
→ Entrained flow

Gasification stages

1. **Pyrolysis or thermal decomposition stage**
volatilization – it takes place at temperatures close to 600°C;
2. **Oxidation of a part of the fuel fixed carbon** – the thermal energy source for the volatilization and gasification processes;
3. **Gasification** – it includes heterogeneous reaction between the gases and the coke, as well as homogeneous reactions between the products that have already been formed;
4. **Tar cracking** – a thermal destruction process of the molecules of the tar forming compounds obtaining CO, CO₂, CH₄ and other gases as products;
5. **Partial oxidation of the pyrolysis products.**



I- Pyrolysis.

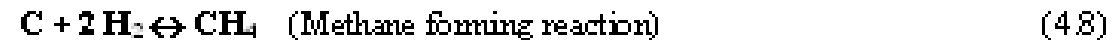


II- Carbon oxidation

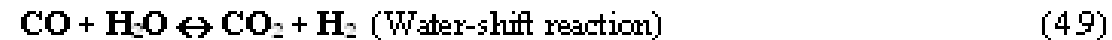


III- Gasification.

- Heterogeneous reactions.



- Homogenous reactions.

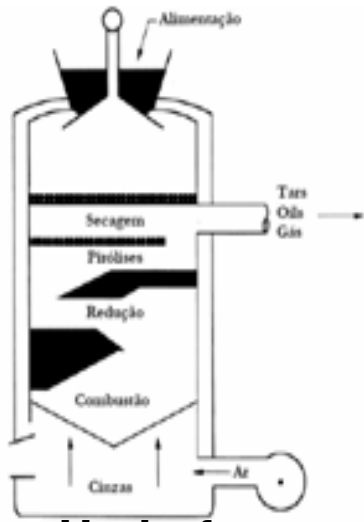


IV- Tar cracking.

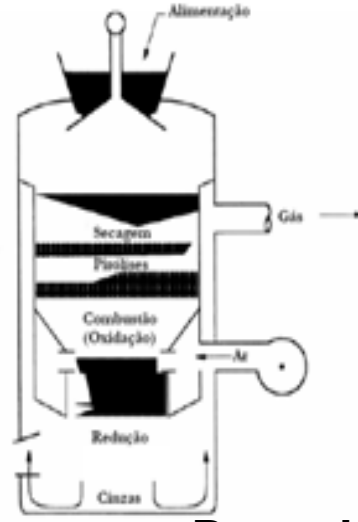


V- Pyrolysis products partial oxidation.

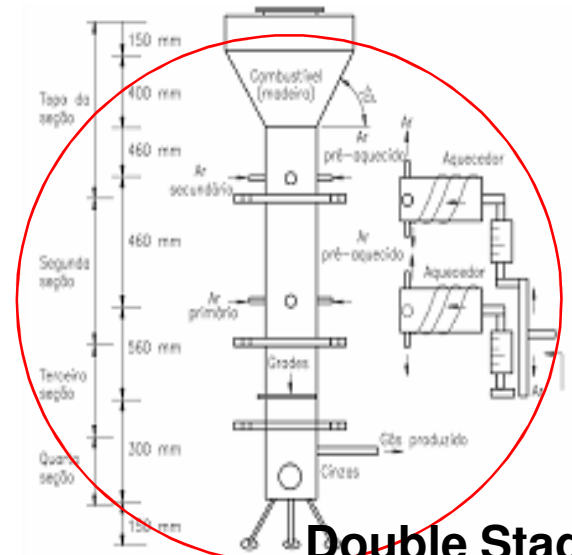




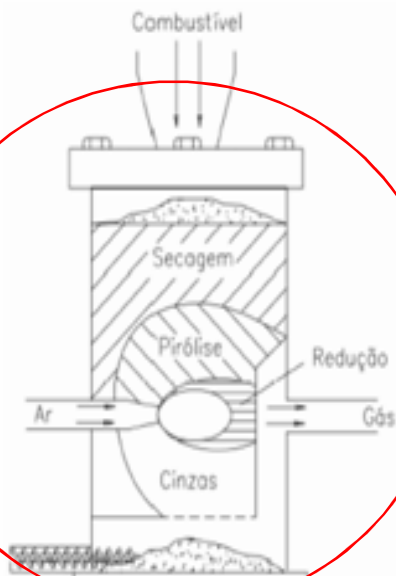
Updraft
a)



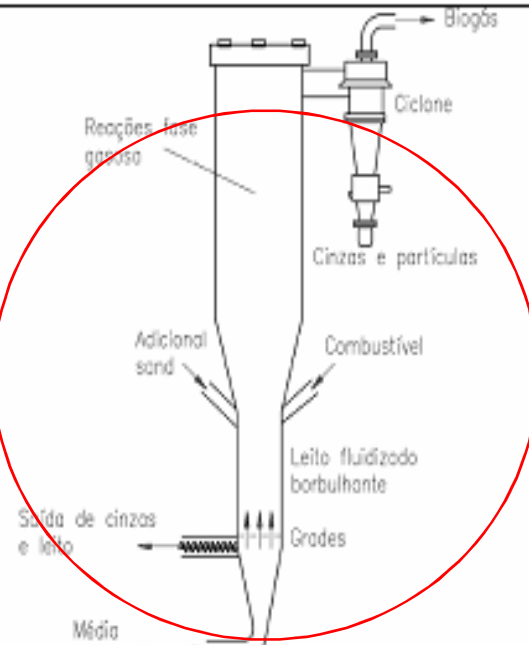
Downdraft
b)



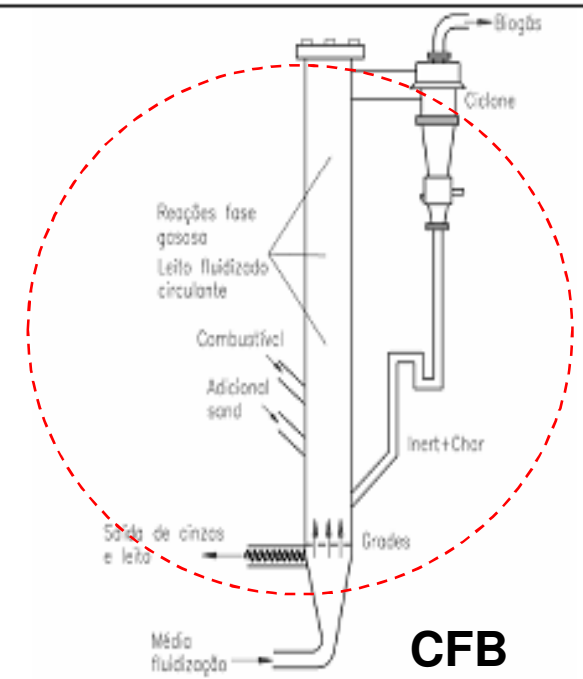
Double Stage
downdraft
c)



Cross-flow
d)



BFB
e)



CFB
f)



II World war



Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)



Successfully gasification technologies





Presently



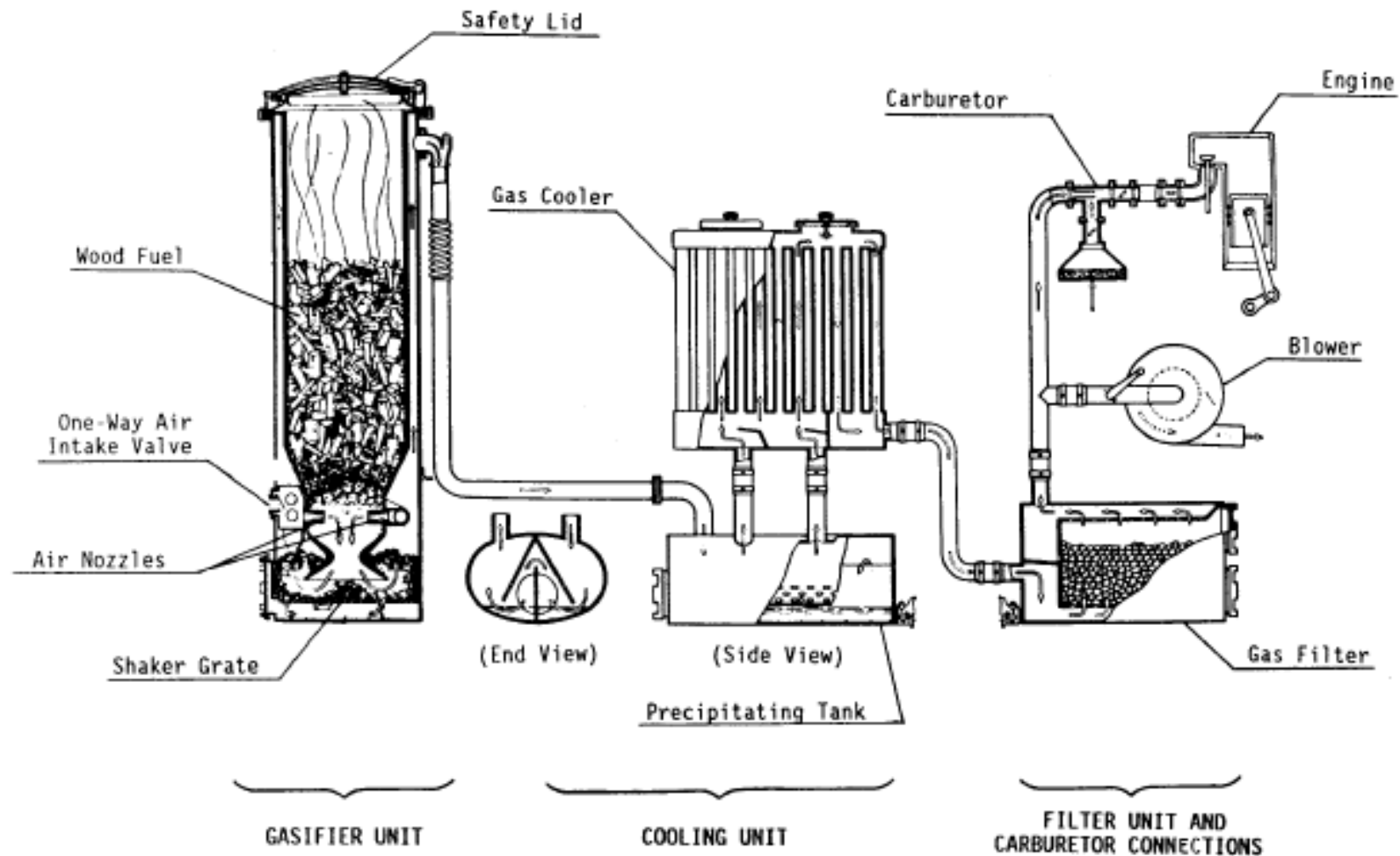
Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)



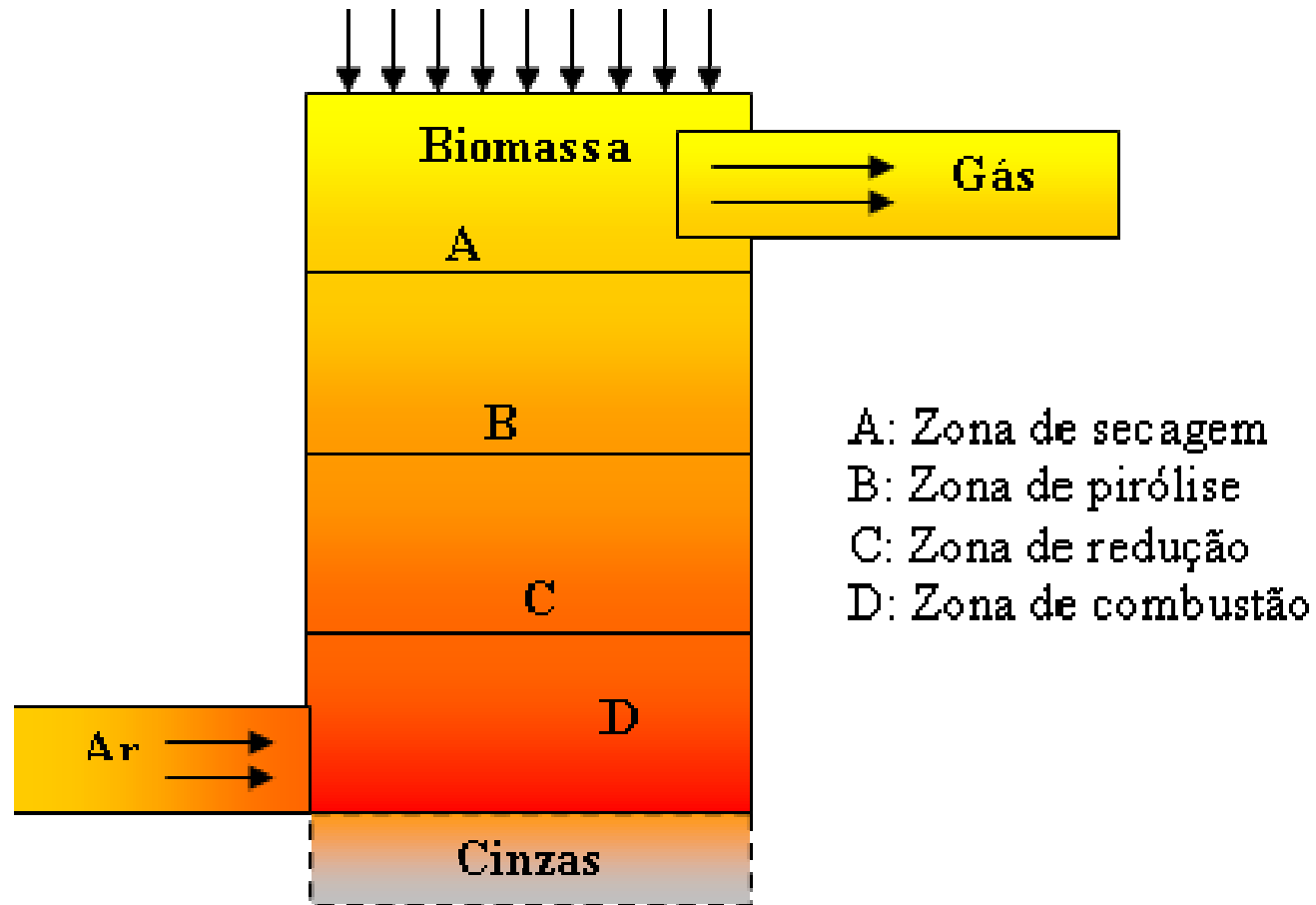
And...after a serious repowering



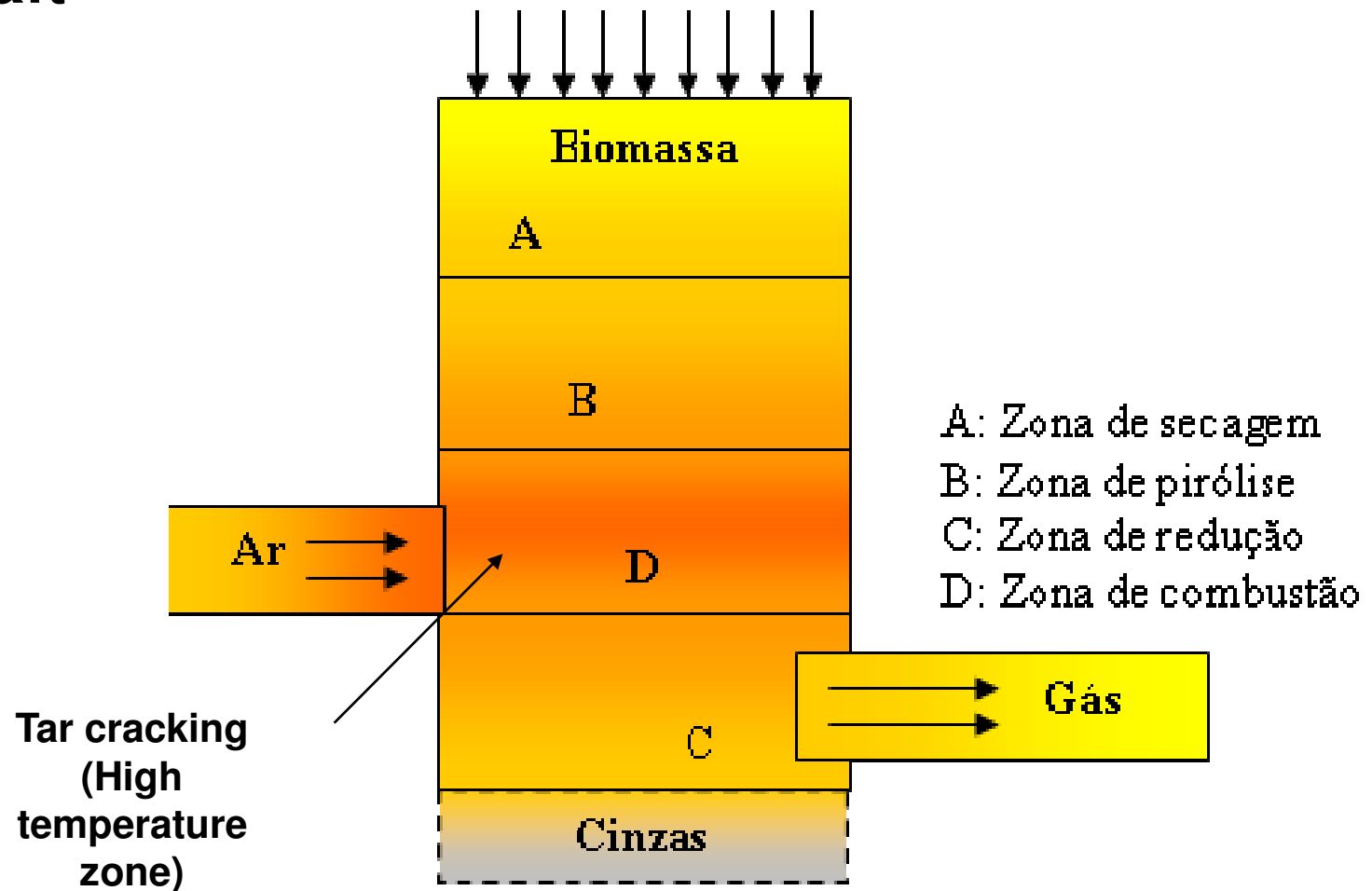
Aspectos gerais da gaseificação de biomassa em leito fixo



Updraft gasifiers



Downdraft



IMBERT GASIFIR

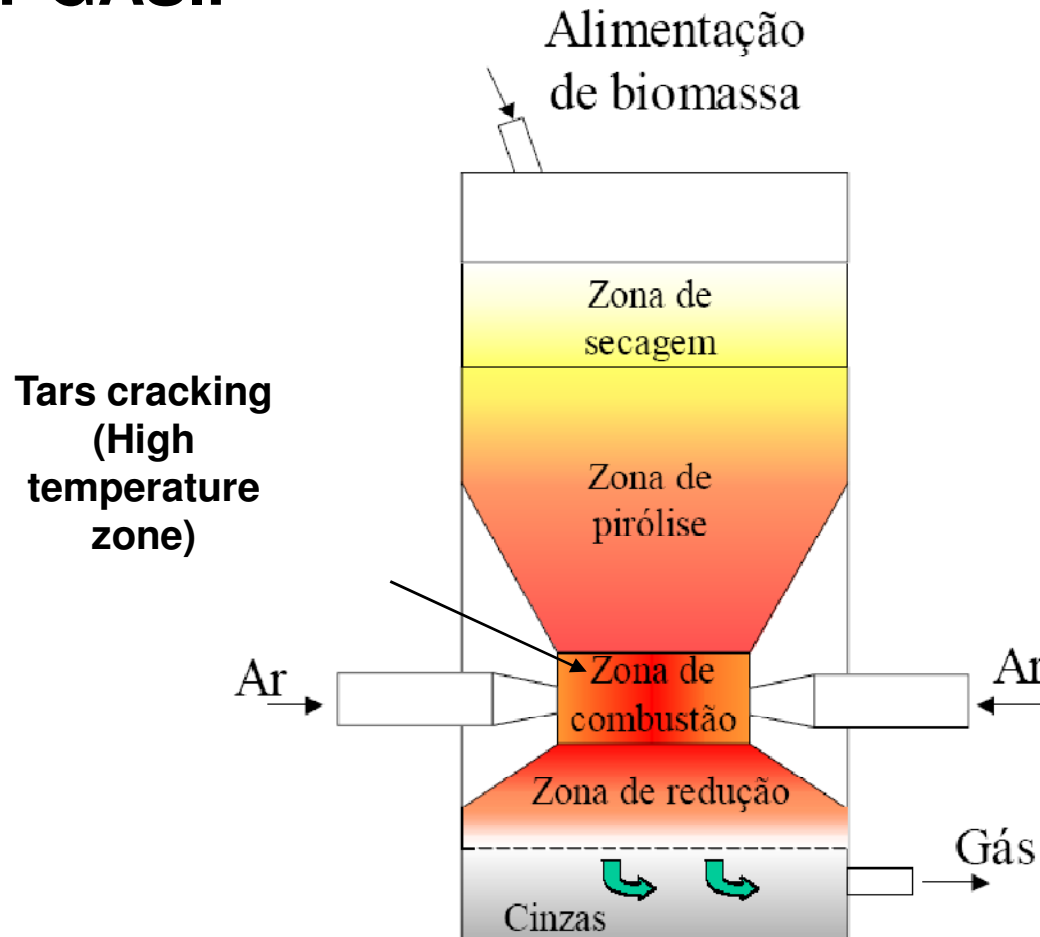
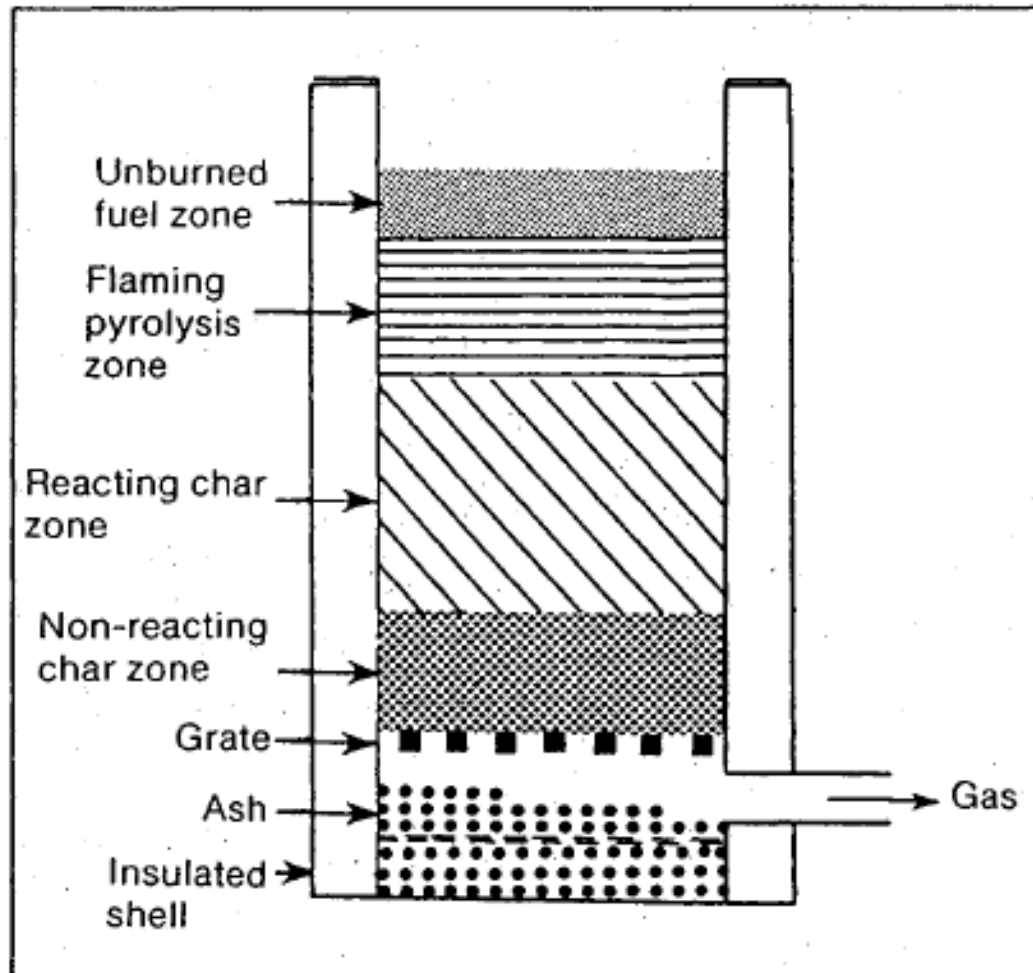


Figura 3. Esquema gaseificador em reator de leito fixo concorrente (tipo *imbert*).

GASEIFICADOR *STRATIFIED* or *OPEN TOP*



OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS

Variáveis de operação:

De maior influência:

- Air FACTOR (Equivalence ratio)
Typical values 0,2 0,45.

-Gasification fluid

--Pressure

Others:

- Particle size
- Moisture

$$F.A = \frac{\left(R_{A/C} \right)_{real}}{\left(R_{A/C} \right)_{est}}$$

- Bed temperature
depends on air factor

Double stage gasifier

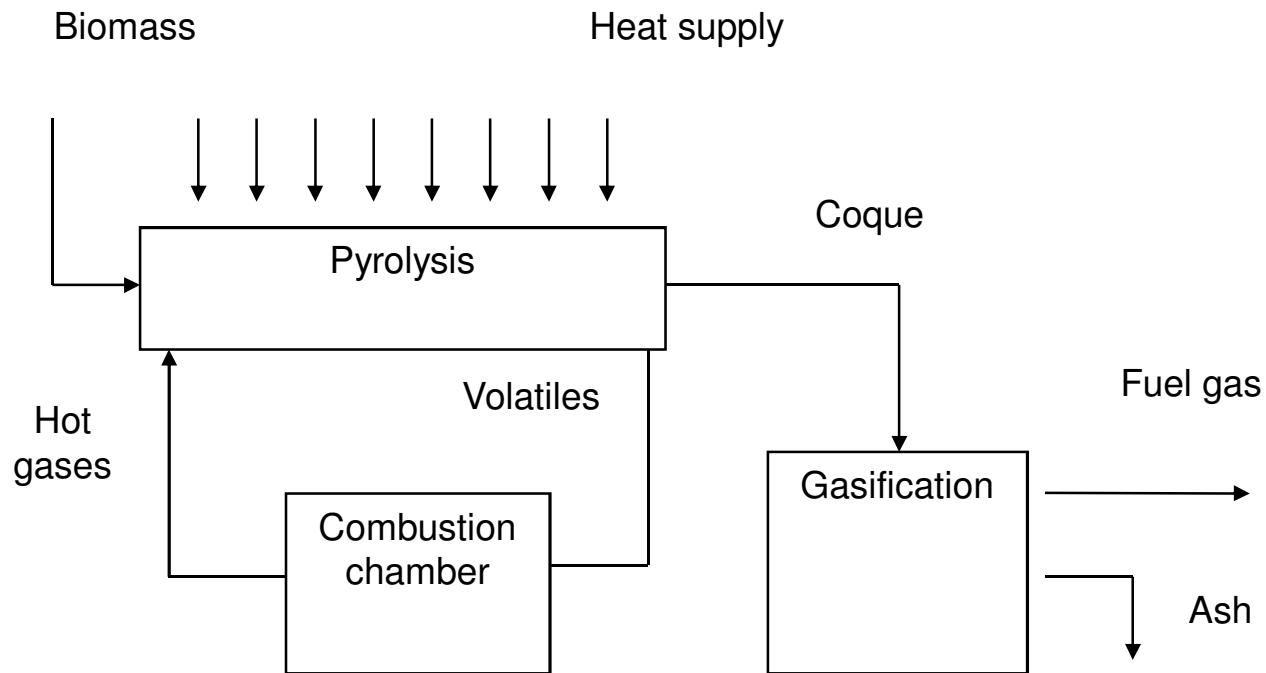
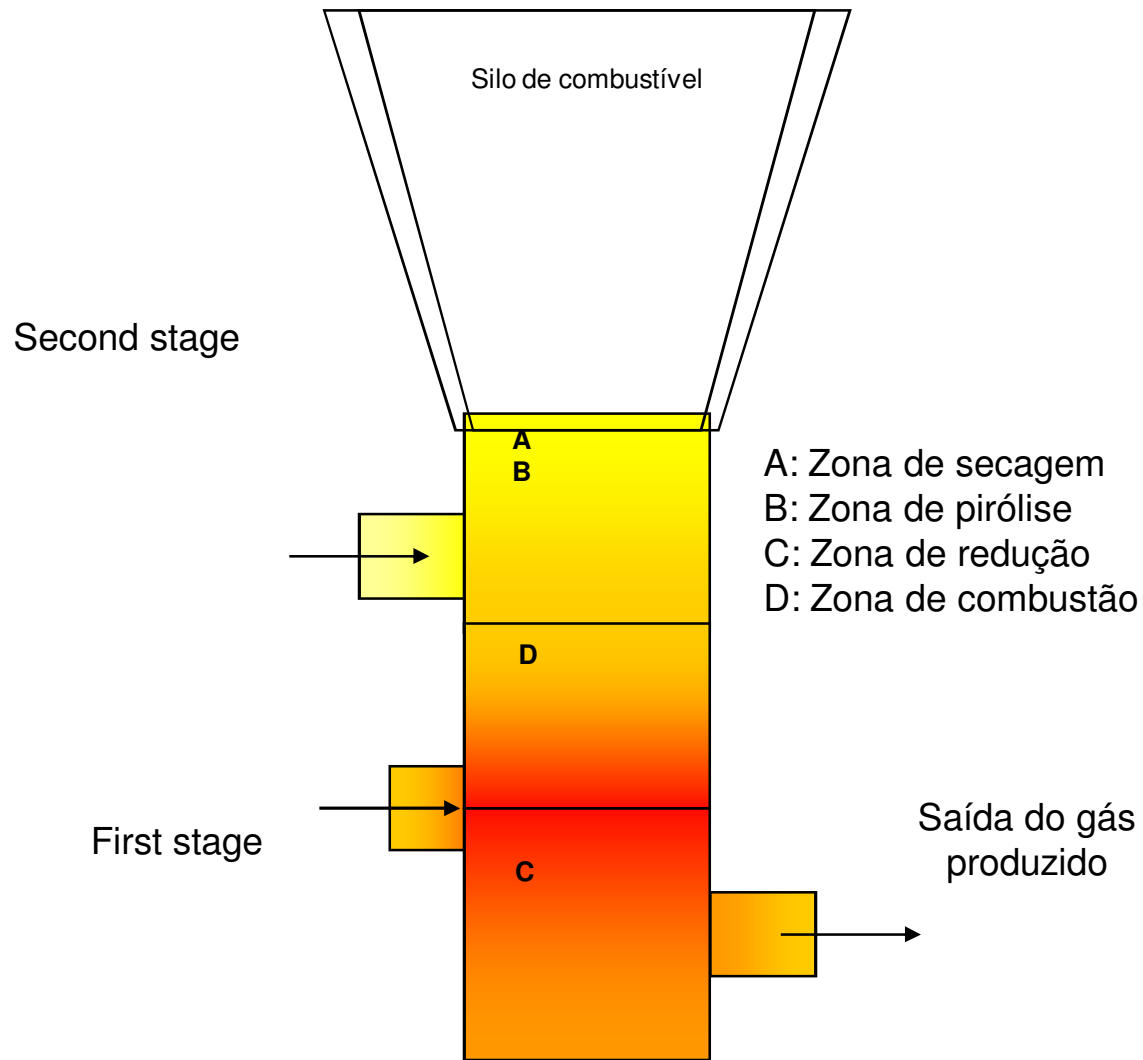
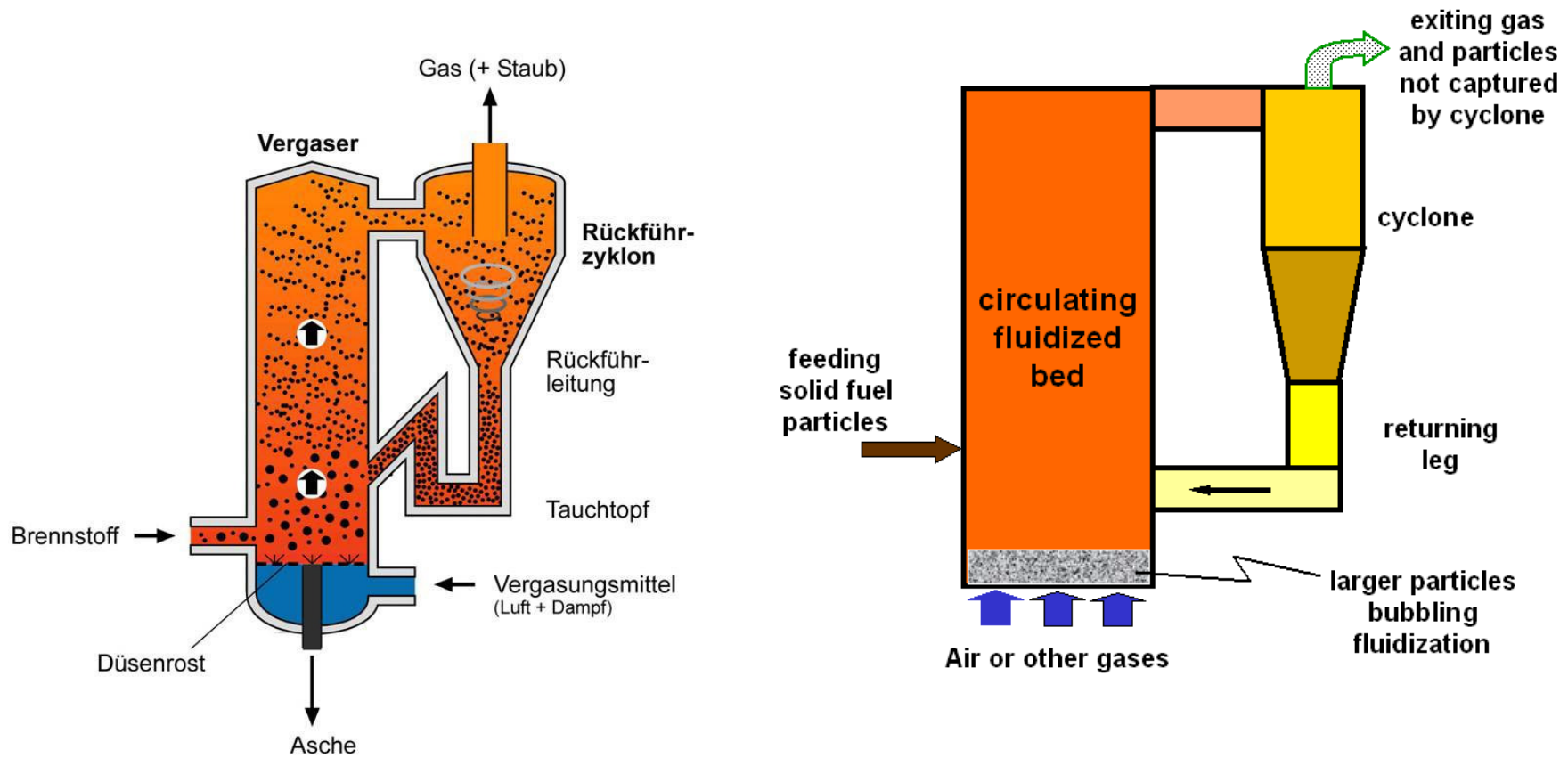


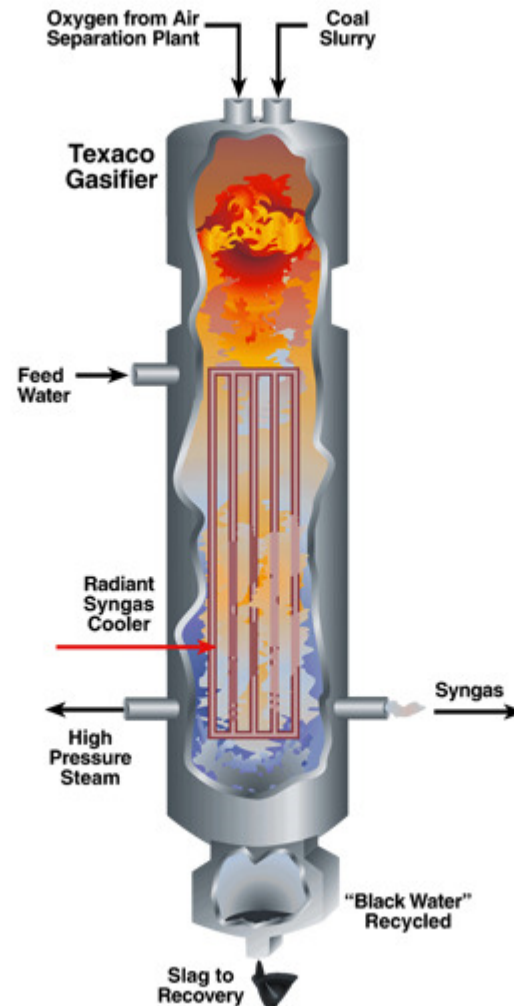
Figura 6. Esquema geral da gaseificação com duplo estágio de reação.



Circulating fluidized bed gasifier



Entrained flow gasifier



Texaco Entrained Flow Gasifier

Gasifier type		Particulates (g/Nm ³)			Tars (g/Nm ³)		
		Min	Max	Representative range	Min	Max	Representative range
Fixed bed	Downdraft	0,01	10	0,1-0,2	0,04	6	0,1-1,2
	Updraft	0,1	3	0,1-1,0	1	150	20-100
Fluidized bed	Bubling	1	100	2 a 20	<0,1	23	1 a 15
	Circulating	8	100	10 a 35 ^a	<1	30	1 a 15 ^a

Syngas quality requirements

PRIME MOVERS

Syngas quality requirements for its utilization as fuel for different prime movers (Kaltschmitt e Hartmann, e * NREL, 2001).

<u>Impurities</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Internal combustion engine</u>	<u>Gas turbine</u>	<u>Fuel Cells</u>
<u>Particules</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	< 50	< 30	-
	<u>µm</u>	< 3	< 5	-
<u>Tars</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	< 100	-	< 1
<u>Alcalis</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	-	<0,25	-
<u>NH₃</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	< 55	-	< 0,1
<u>H₂S**</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	< 1150	-	< 1
<u>HCl*</u>	<u>ppm</u>	-	-	<1
<u>SiO₂*</u>	<u>mg/Nm³</u>	-	-	<1

Syngas quality requirements

METHANOL SYNTHESIS

Methanol synthesis (Zuberbulher et al., 2006).

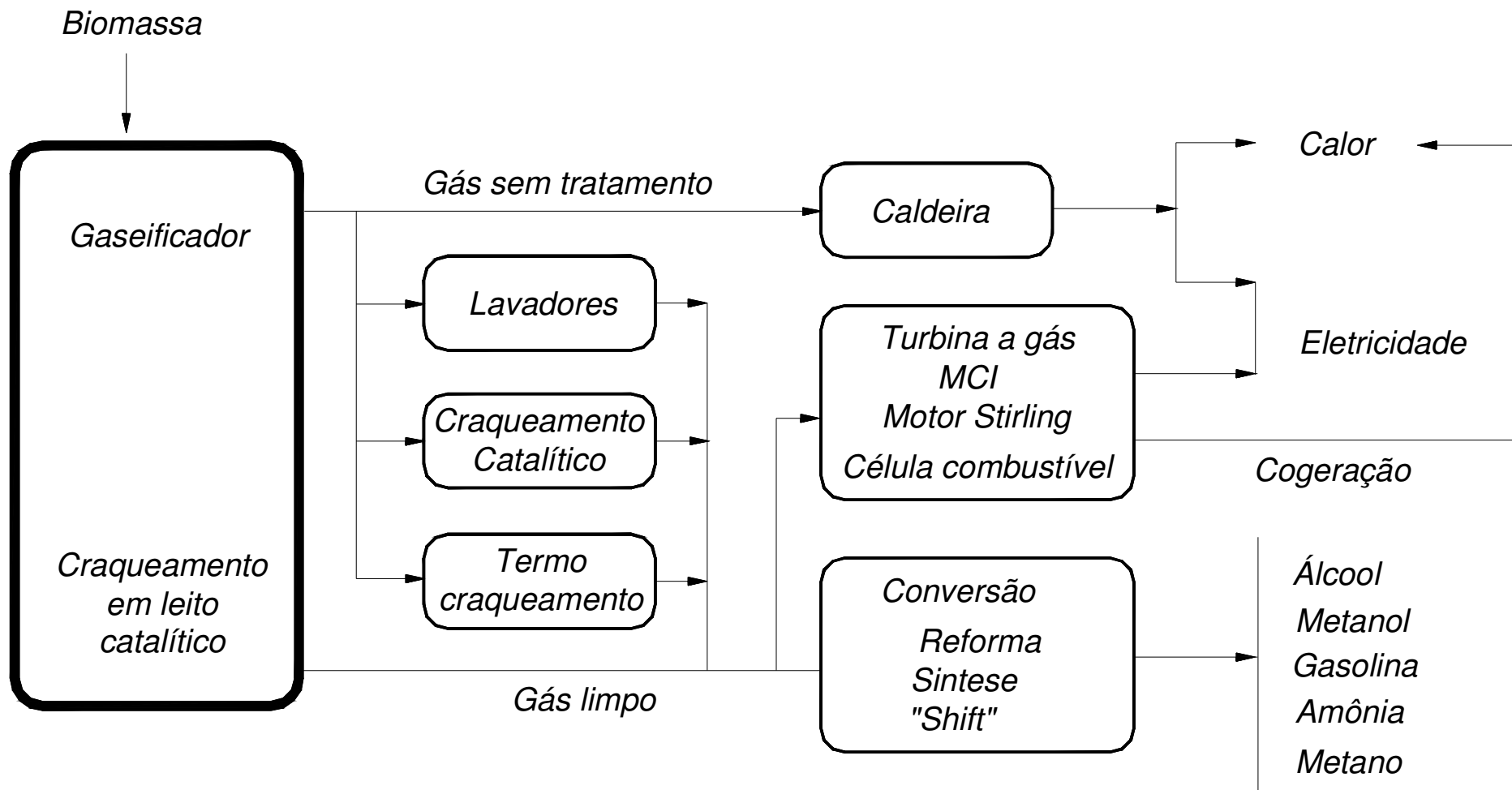
<u>Components</u>	<u>Allowed concentration, mg/Nm³</u>
H ₂ S and other sulphur components	< 0,1
Particles	<0,1
Tars	<1,0
Alkalis	<0,25

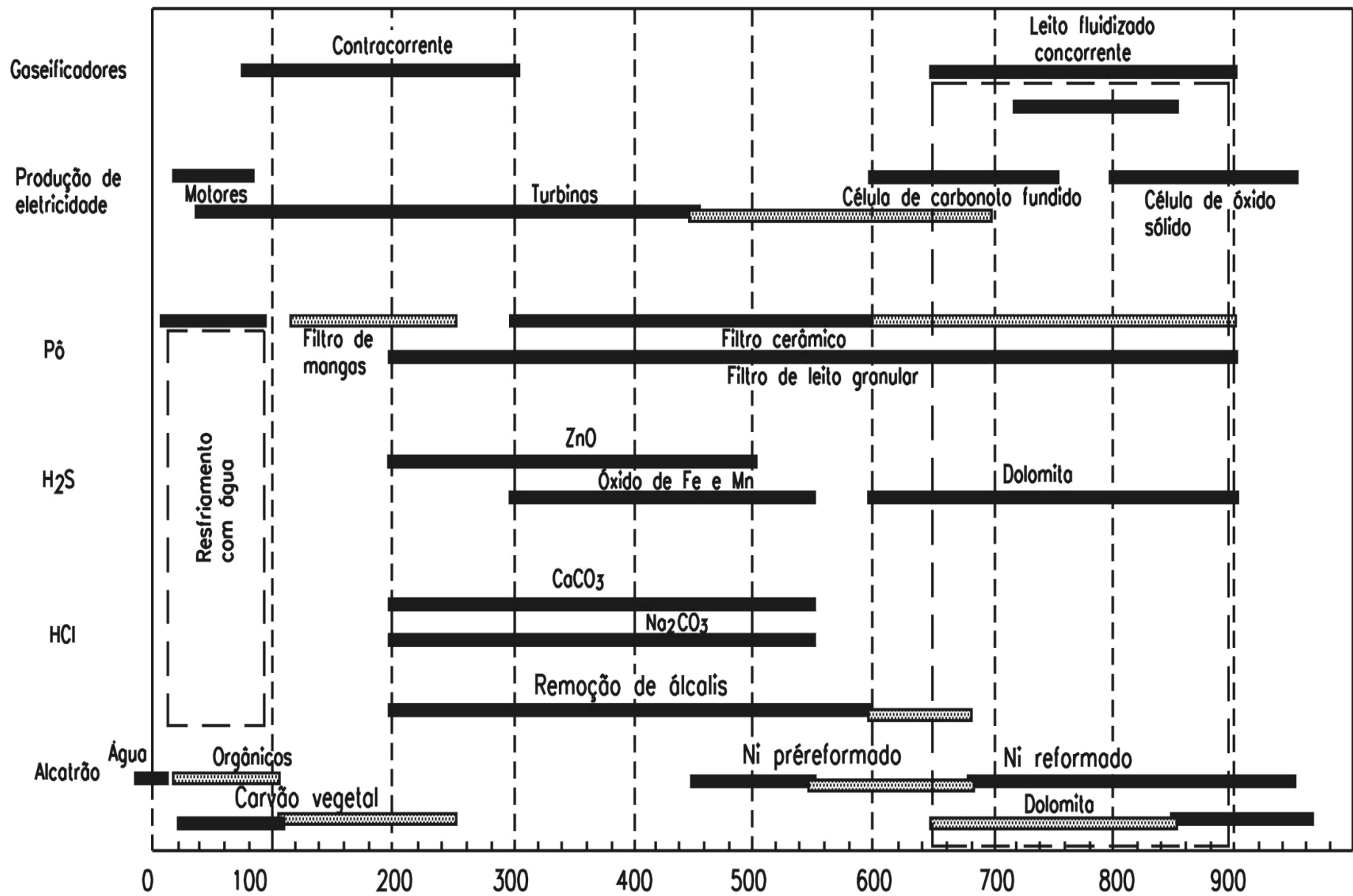
Syngas quality requirements FT synthesis

FT processes (Bolhár-Nordenkampf et al., 2004).

<u>Compounds</u>	<u>Values from literature</u>	<u>Low temperature FT, Fixed bed, Cobalt catalyst (Co)</u>
CO ₂	5 % em volume	5 % em volume
<u>Ashes</u>	?	< 0,1 mg/Nm ³
N (HCN, NH ₄)	< 20 ppbv	<1ppmv
S (H ₂ S, COS)	< 10 ppbv	<1ppmv
<u>Alkalis</u>	< 10 ppbv	<10 ppbv
<u>Cl (HCl)</u>	< 10 ppbv	<10 ppbv
<u>Br, F</u>	?	<10 ppbv
<u>Tars</u>	< <u>condensation</u>	< <u>condensation</u>
H ₂ /CO, Reactor TFBR (<i>Tubular Fixed bed reactor</i>)	-	> 2 Co <u>catalyst</u>
		<u>min ~ 0,6 Fe catalyst</u>
H ₂ /CO, Reactor SBCR (<i>Slurry bubble column reactor</i>)	-	Ótimo 2,15 Co <u>catalysts</u>
		Ótimo > 1,35 Fe <u>catalysts</u>

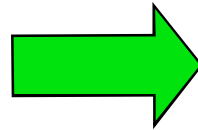
□





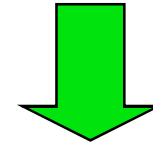
Skoblia et al., 2005

Small scale electricity generation using biomass



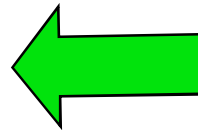
CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY

Combustion,
gasification,
biodigestion,
fermentation



PRIME MOVER

ST, RICE, GMT, FC.....

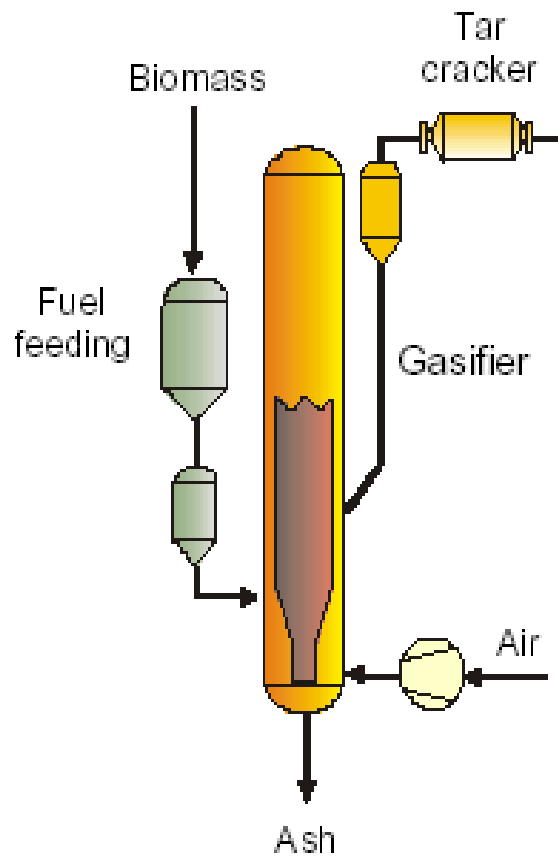


TECHNOLOGICAL AND COMERCIAL MATURITY

Estado da arte das tecnologias disponíveis para a geração de eletricidade para diferentes faixas de potência.

Power range, kW	Technology*	Technological Maturity			Commercial feasibility			Comments
		H	M	L	H	M	L	
5-200 kW	Combustion / steam cycle	X				X		High cost and low efficiency conversion
	Gasification / ICE		X			X		Few commercial options and successful projects
	Gasification / GMT			X			X	Ongoing research projects
	Gasification / SE		X				X	Ongoing research projects
	Combustion / SE	X				X		Commercial/demonstration units
	Gasification / FC			X			X	Ongoing research projects
	Biodiesel / ICE		X			X		Initial commercialization. Biodiesel quality problems.
200 -1000	Combustion / steam cycle	X			X			High cost and low efficiency conversion
	Gasification / ICE	X				X		Some demonstrative/commercial units
	Gasification / FC			X			X	Mathematical modeling
> 1000	Combustion / Steam cycle	X			X			Demands low cost fuels
	ORC – Organic Rankine Cycle	X				X		High costs.
	Gasification / GT (BIG/GT technology)		X				X	Some demonstrative units. High efficiency.
	Gasification / FC			X			X	Mathematical modeling and EU project in initial stage.

Biomass gasification based technologies



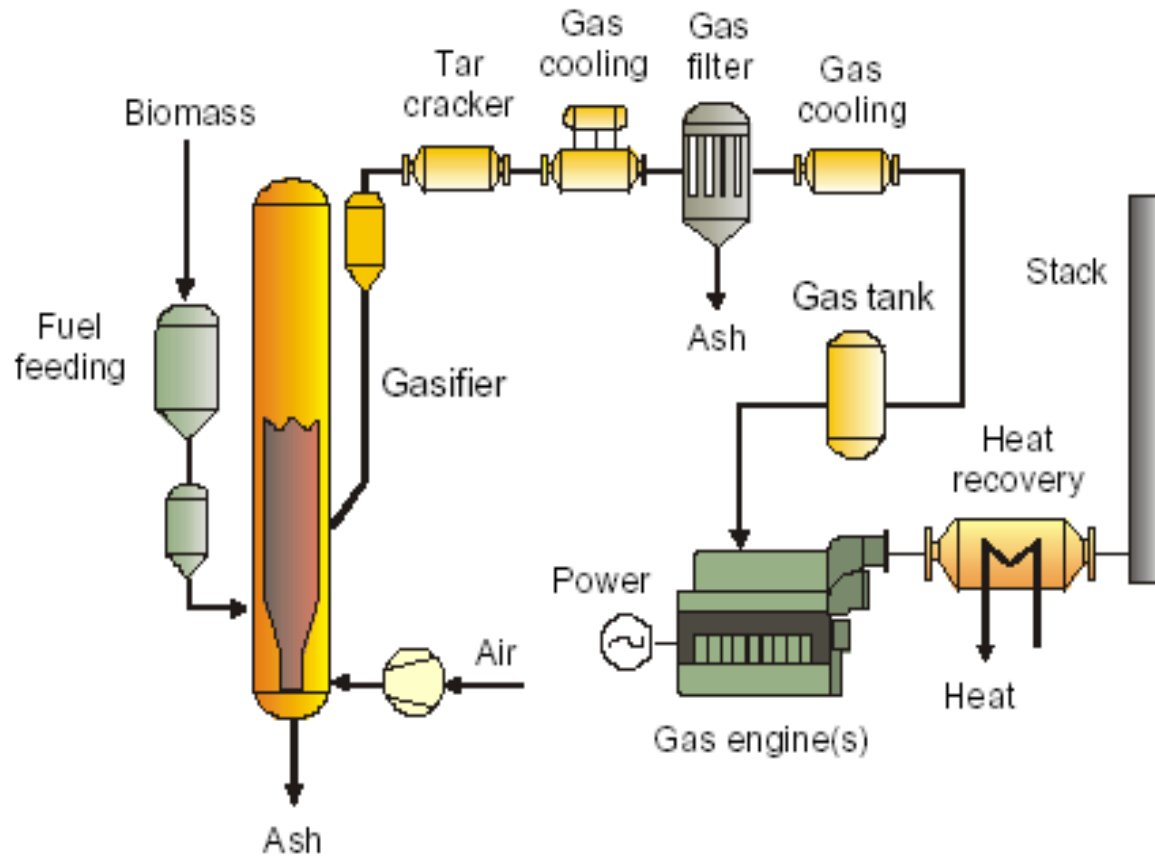
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES

GAS MICROTURBINES

STIRLING ENGINES

FUEL CELLS

GASIFICATION + ICE



Derating (20-30%)
Timing
Gas cleaning
Compression ratio

Successfully projects in biomass gasification

- - **Open top gasifier of the Indian Institute of Science.** Efficiency 80%. Gas LHV 4,7 MJ/Nm³ and tar /particulate content 50 / 80 mg/Nm³.
- - **Comercial chinese rice husk gasifier,** Specific fuel consumption 3,75 – 4,0 kg /kWh, reprinted data in the range 2,0 – 2,5 kg/kWh.

GASEIFICADOR XYLOWATT

Power gasifiers

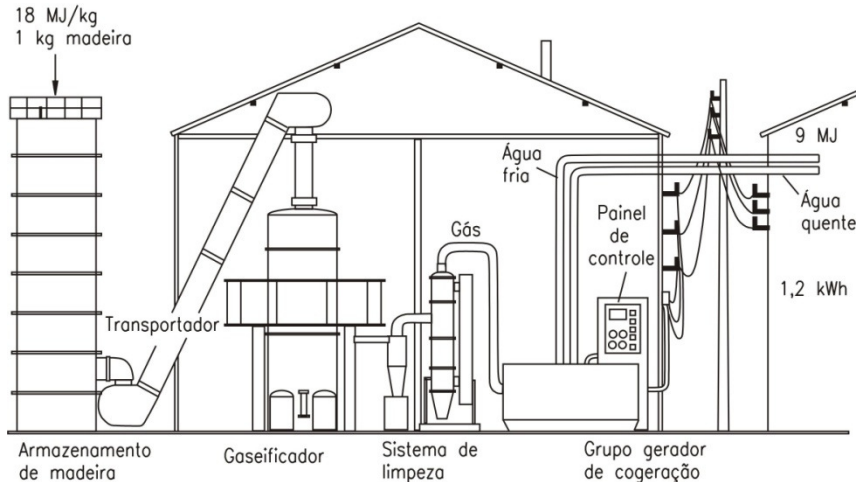
Xylowatt, Bulle

200 kWe

Just installed



GASIFIER/ENGINE SET FROM XYLOWATT



Gas LCV – 5,2 MJ/m³

CO – 25 %

H₂ -14 %

CH₄ -2 %

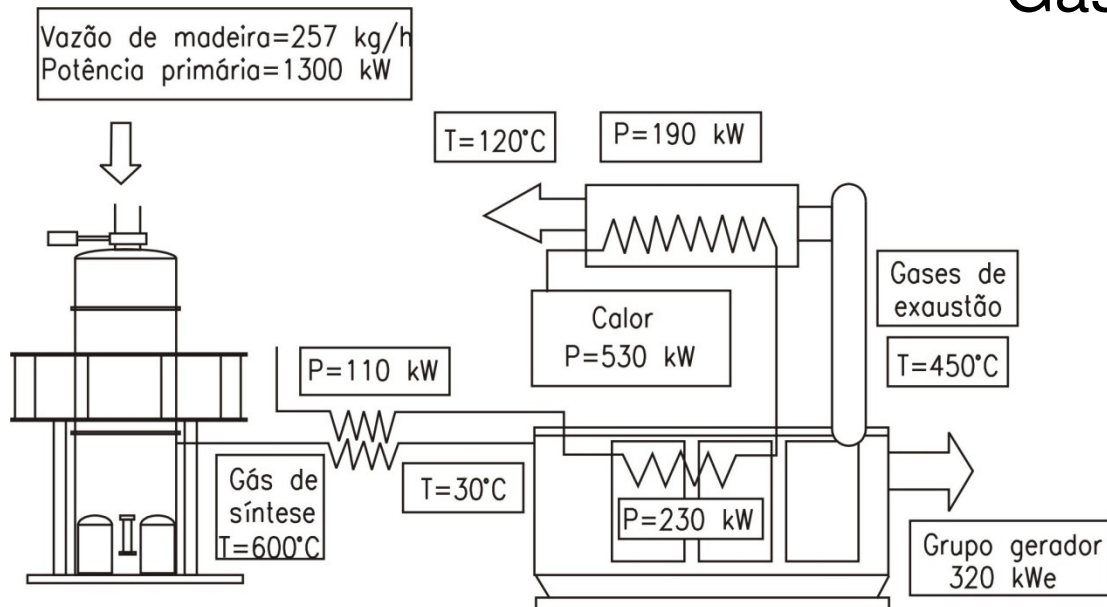
Gasifier efficiency – 70-80 %

Electric Power

XW 300- 300-350 kW_e

XW 900 – 900-1050 kW_e

Electric efficiency – 25 %



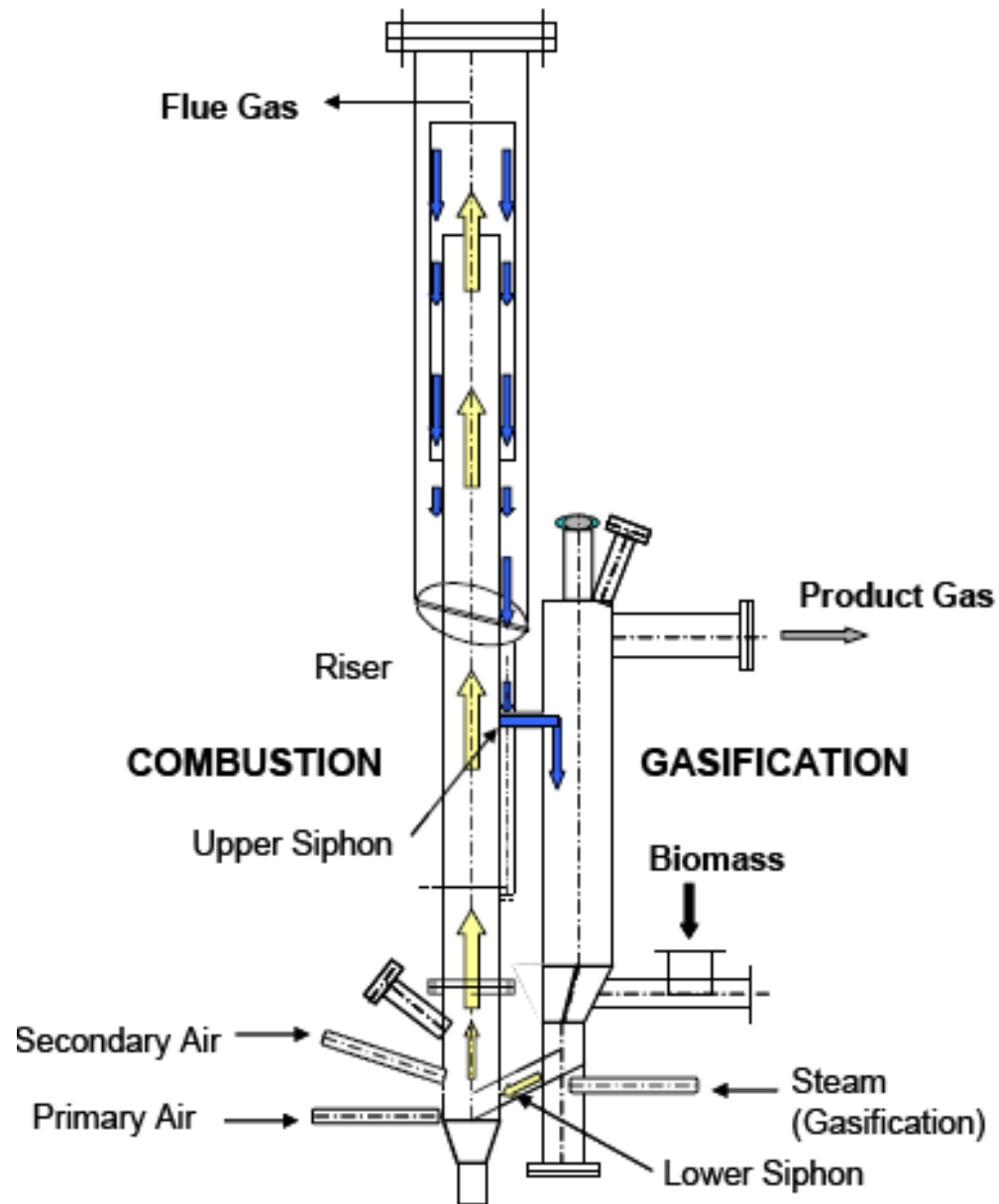
Source: Laborelec, 2004

Successfully projects in biomass gasification

- **ENAMORA Gasifier** installed in Móra d'Ebre, Tarragona, Spain. Developed by the Instituto Catalán de Energía. Coupled to an 750 kWe engine with a system efficiency of 21-22 %.
- **Gasificación in Gussing, Austria.** Composed by a two zone indirectly heated gasifier and a gas ICE Jenbacher J620 GS. The gas LHV is 12,00 MJ/Nm³ and the system electrical efficiency 30 %.
- - **Biomax 15.** Gasifier/ICE set of 10-25 kWe developed by Community Power Corporation (CPC) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory-NREL. Biomass specific consumption 1,5 kg/kWh and specific investment 1200,00 \$/kWh.

GASEIFICADOR ENAMORA



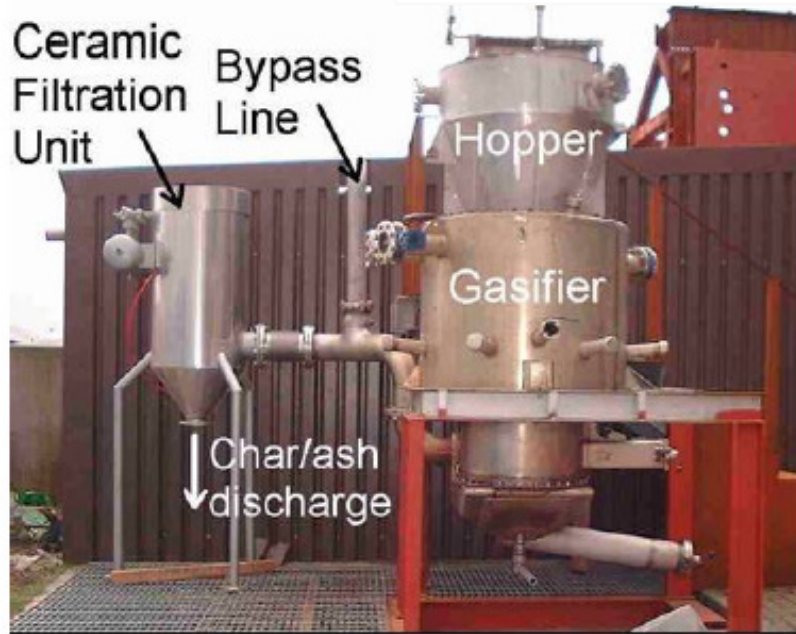


: *FICFB gasification reactor /Hofbauer 2001/*

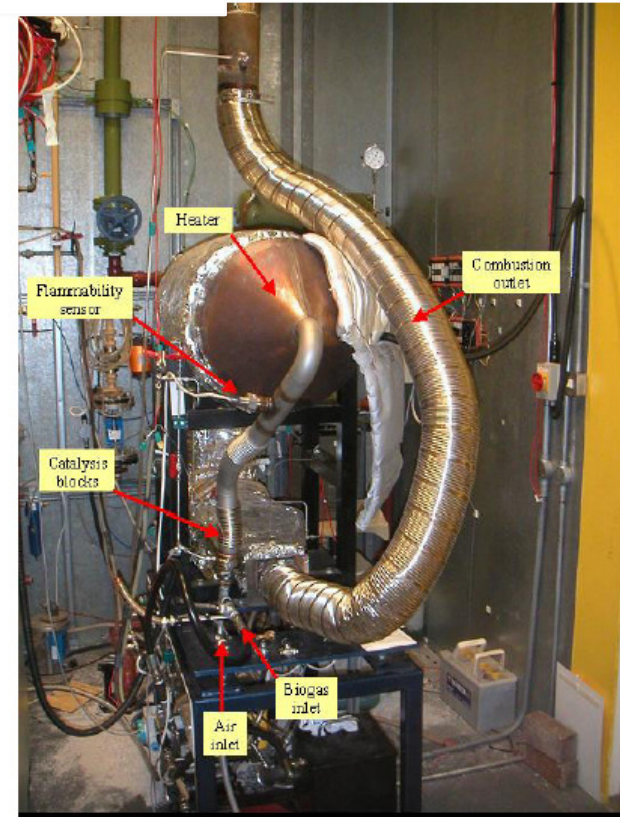
BIOMAX 15



GASIFIER / GMT



Photograph 1. Gasifier and Test filtration unit without feed conveyor addition of char/ash bin)

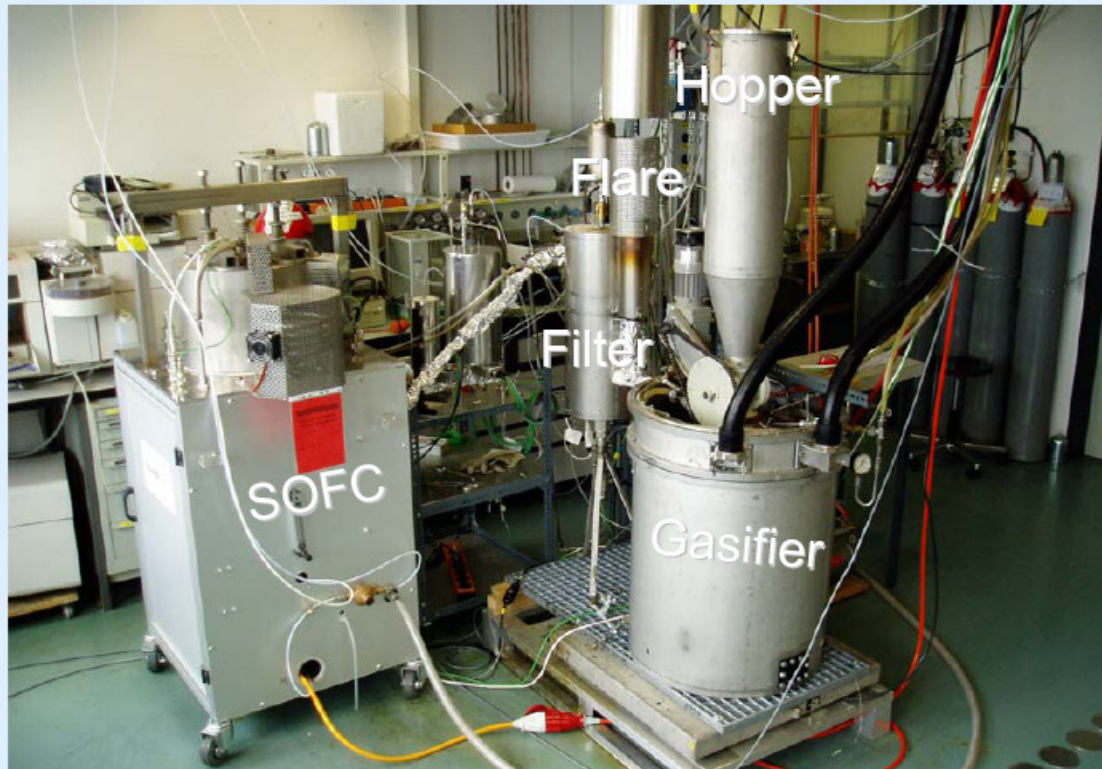


Photograph 4. Advantica Catalytic test rig



Photograph 3. Gas compressor model HV07

GASIFIER / SOFC



Tested successfully for more than 100 hours

Source: F. P. Nagel, M. Künstle, S. Biollaz, "Link-Up of a Solid Oxide Fuel Cell with a Wood Gasifier", Proceedings of 14th European Biomass Conference, pp. 746-748, Paris, France, 17th-21st October 2005

Experimental setup

- Lab scale up-draft gasifier
- Ceramic particle filter
- Jet stream pump
- 60W- SOFC short stack

Results

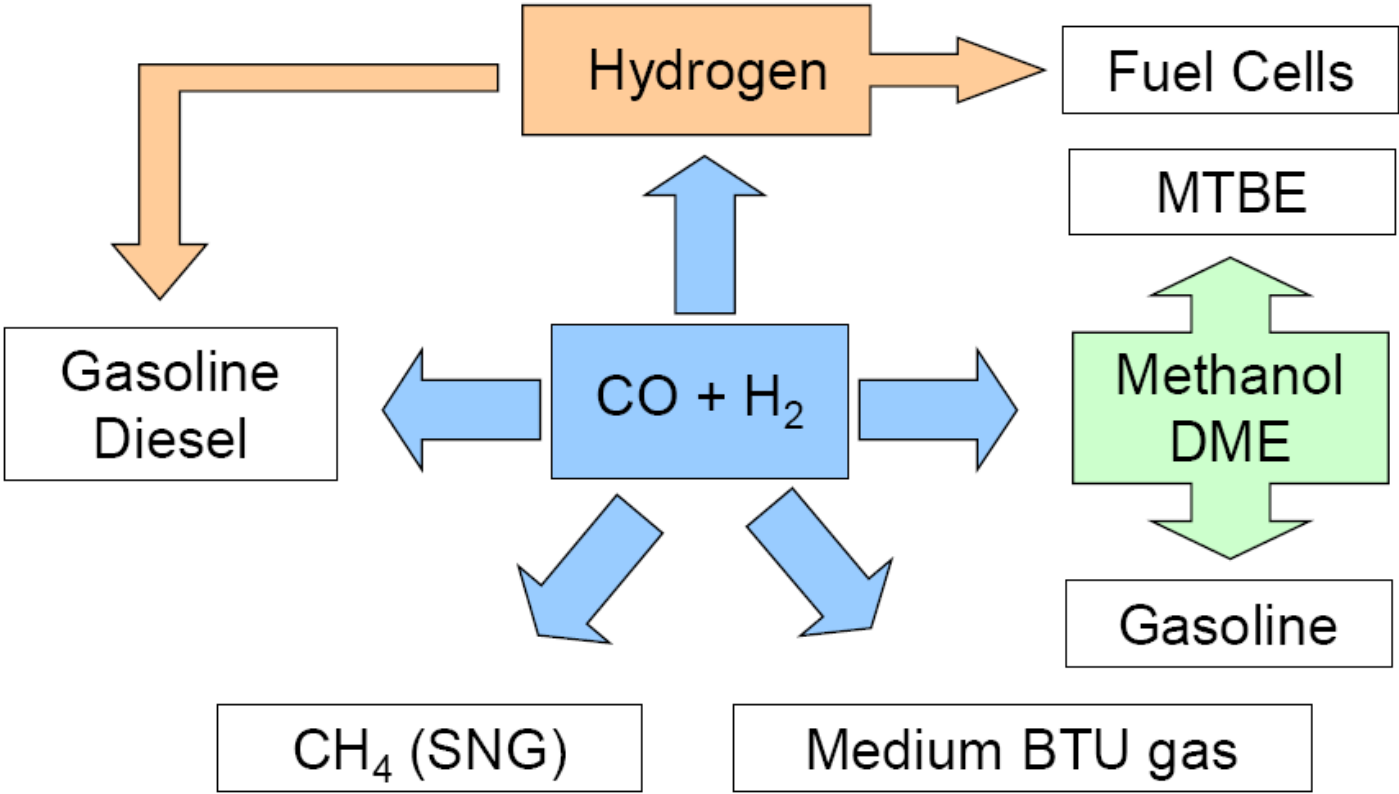
- Non-stop experiments up to 16 h
- Gas analysis of producer gas with up to 150 g/m_n^3 tar load
- Normal deactivation

SYNGAS

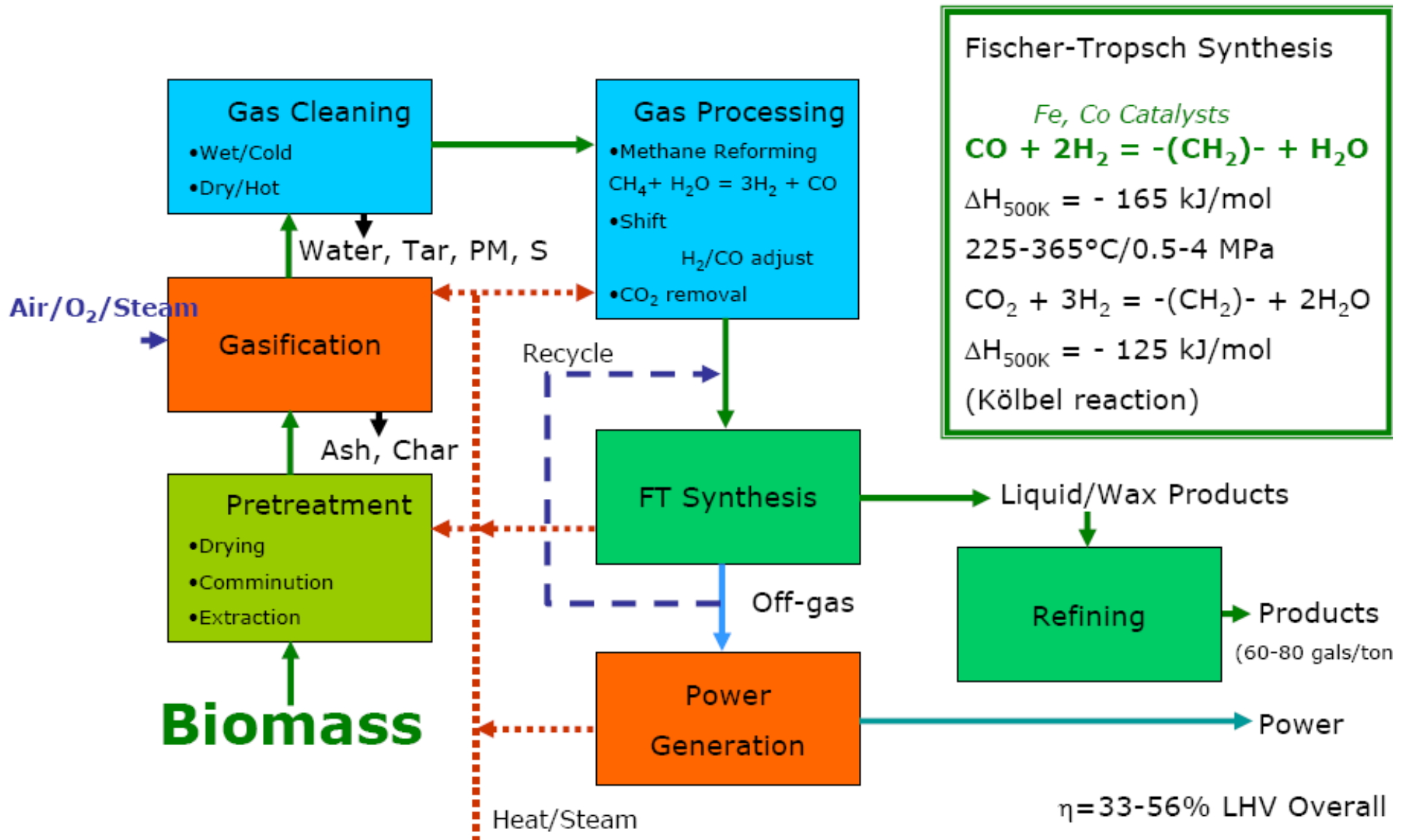
Mixture of gases composed mainly by H_2 e CO , obtained from natural or previously pyrolyzed biomass, and with a potential application for the synthesis of different chemical compounds.

In the case of the BTL technology the main interest in the production of chemicals with similar properties as fossil transport fuels.

Fuel options of syngas and hydrogen



BTL: Biomass To Liquids



Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis

Fe, Co Catalysts

$\text{CO} + 2\text{H}_2 = \text{-(CH}_2\text{)-} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

$\Delta H_{500\text{K}} = -165 \text{ kJ/mol}$

225-365°C/0.5-4 MPa

$\text{CO}_2 + 3\text{H}_2 = \text{-(CH}_2\text{)-} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

$\Delta H_{500\text{K}} = -125 \text{ kJ/mol}$

(Kölbel reaction)

$\eta = 33\text{-}56\%$ LHV Overall

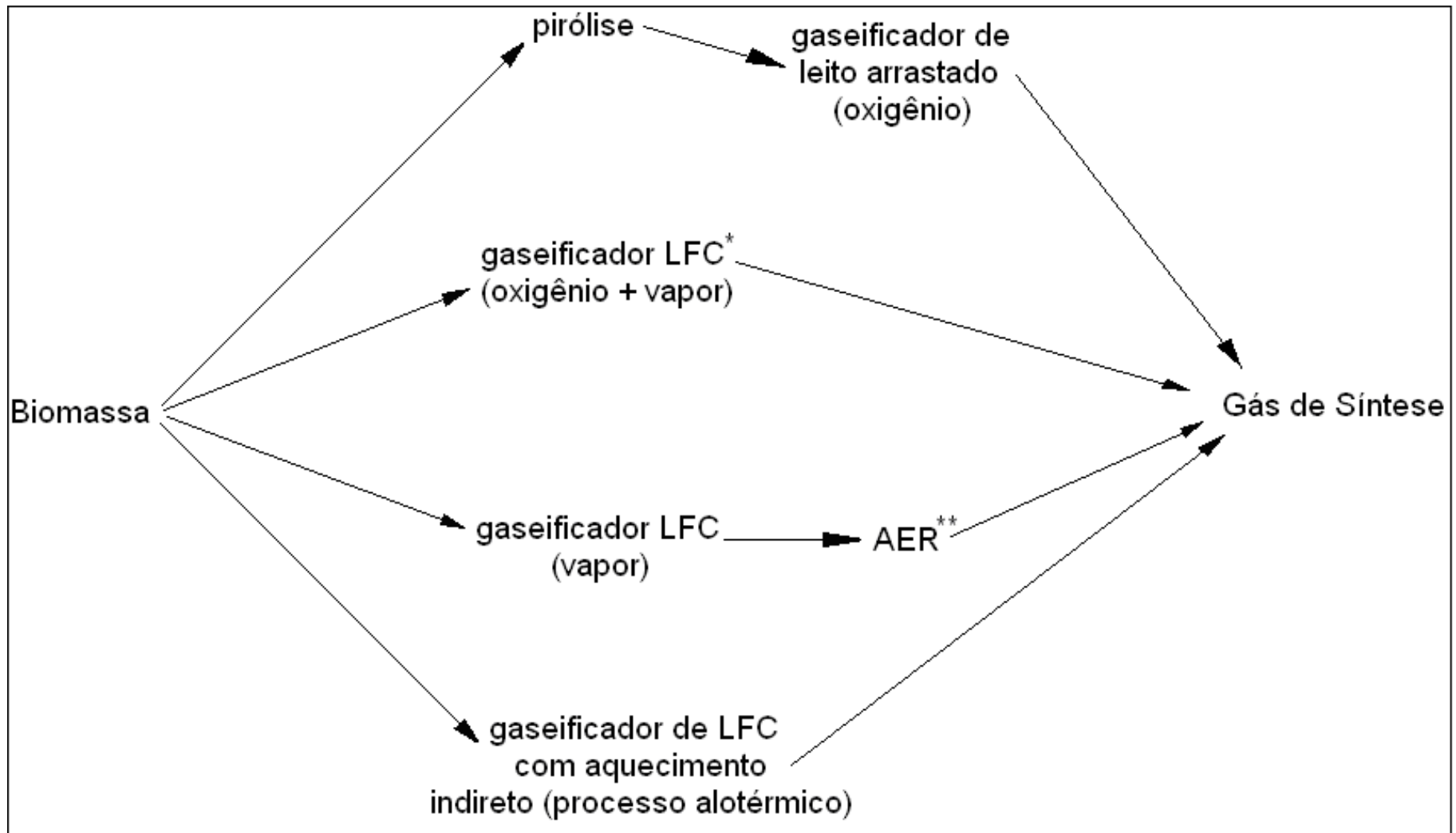
Requirements of the gasification for synthesis gas (I)

- Processing capacities higher than $5 \cdot 10^6$ toneladas of biomass per year.
- Low content of impurities in the gas.
- High content of H_2 and CO (High H_2 content)

Requirements of the gasification for synthesis gas (II)

- Oxygen must be used as gasification gas to avoid N_2 in the synthesis gas.
- Steam injection for reforming and for temperature reduction.

Technological options of gasification for synthesis gas production



* LFC - Leito Fluidizado Circulante

** AER - Reforma Melhorada por Adsorção

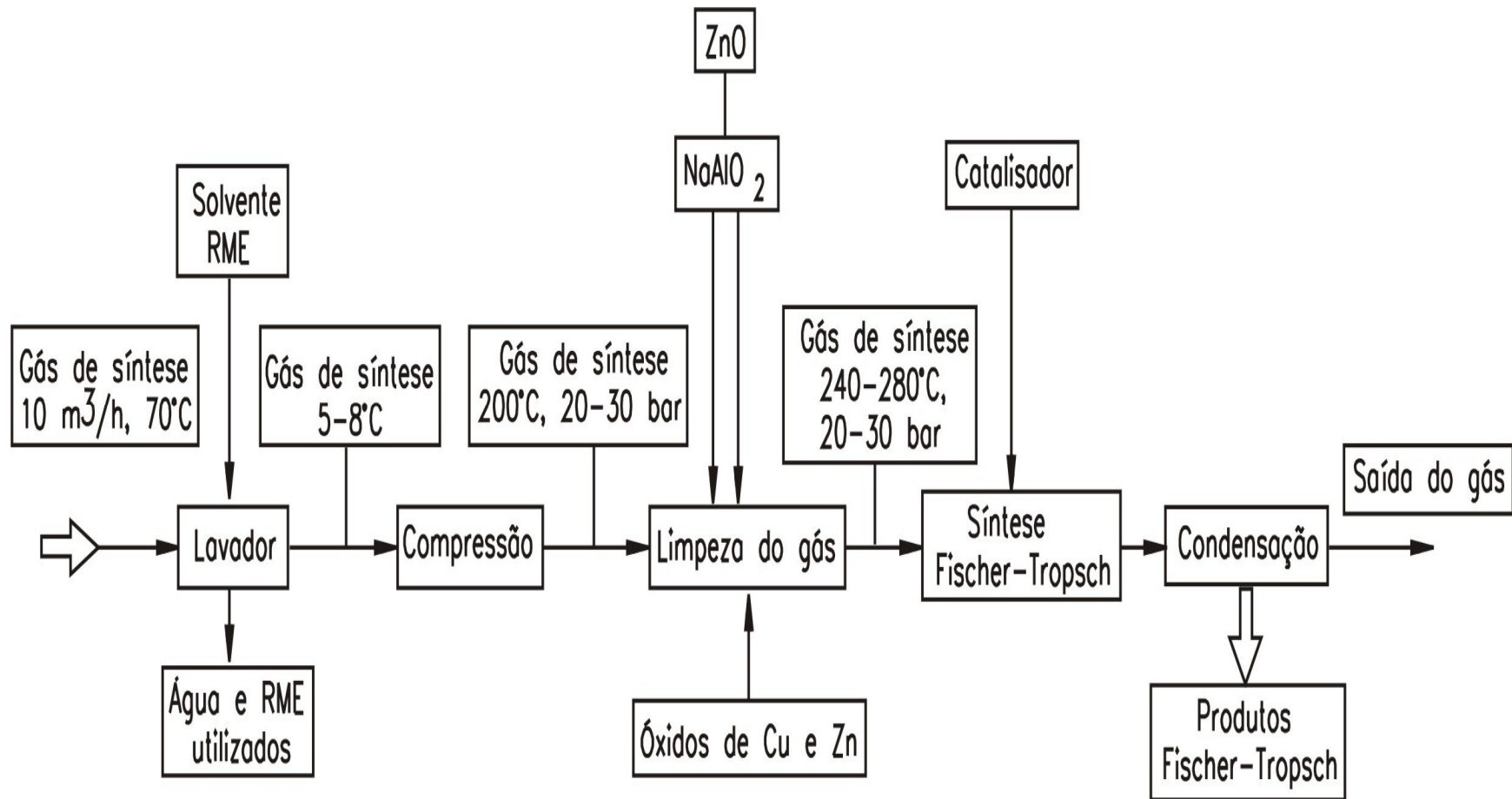
Gasifiers potentially useful for SYNGAS I

- **Renugas (IGT): Bubbling fluidized bed, steam + O₂.**
- **Carbo V (pyrolysis + gaseification): Bubbling fluidized bed, O₂.**
- **HTW (High Temperature Winkler): O₂ + steam.**
- **DMT: indirect heating (steam as heat carrier).**

Gasifiers potentially useful for SYNGAS II

- **Batelle/Ferco: Double indirect heated fluidized bed.**
- **FICFB (Fast Internally Fluidized Bed):
Güssing Plant in Austria.**
- **AER Process AER: Steam gasification.**
- **Entrained flow gasifiers Shell, Siemens,
Lurgi e Texaco.**

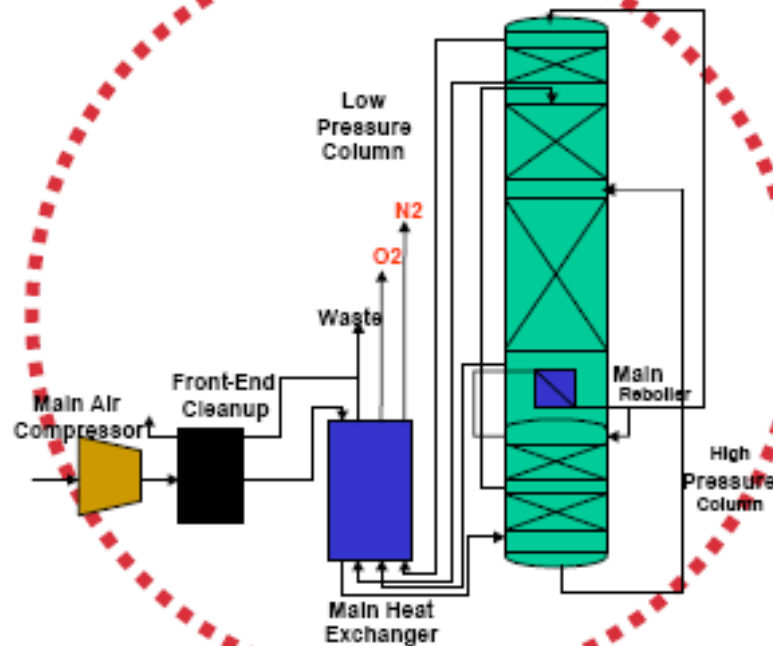
The Gussing gasification plant in Austria



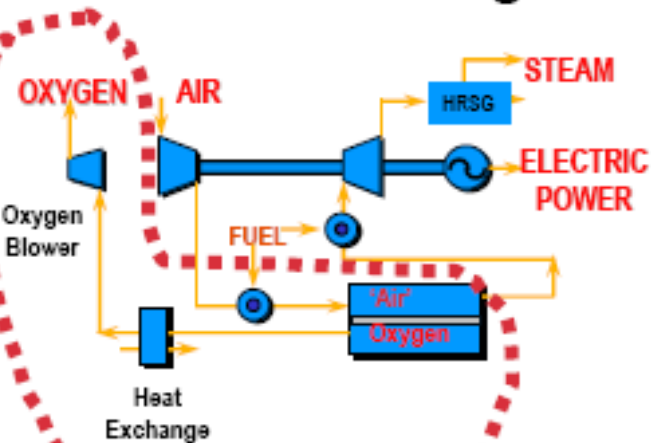
THE OXYGEN PROBLEM: COST

ITM Oxygen is Simpler and Requires Less Power

Cryogenic Air Separation



ITM Oxygen With Power Integration

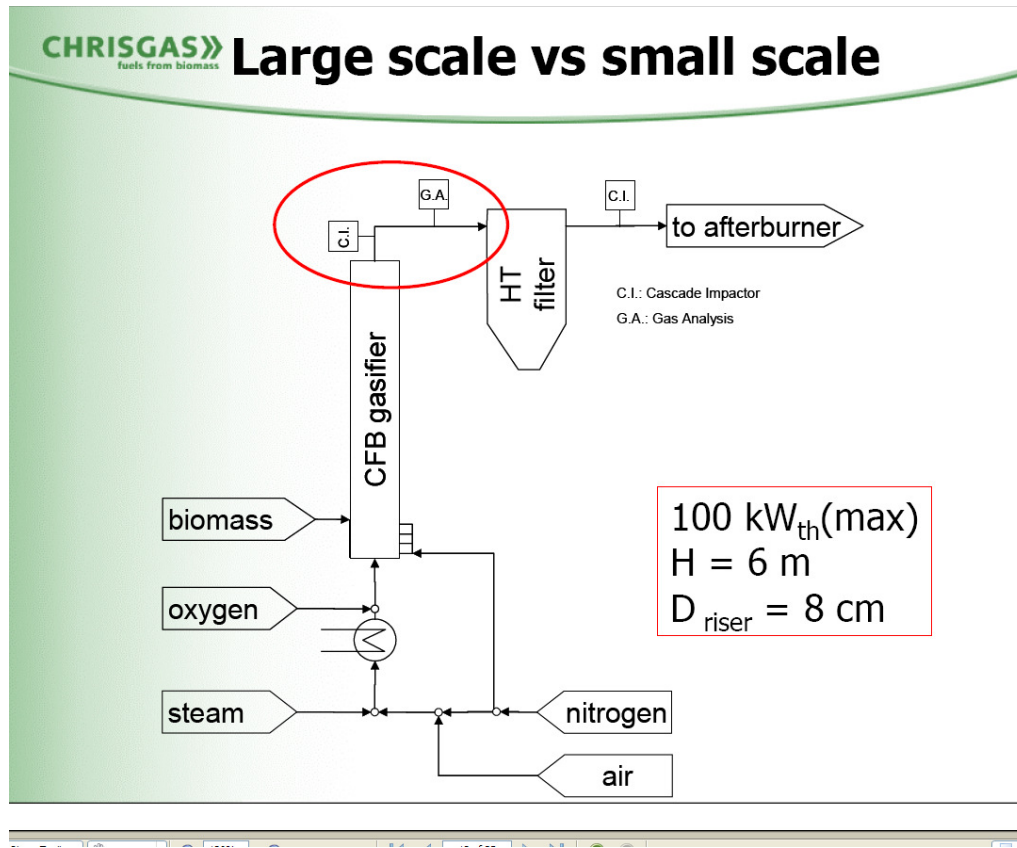


- ➔ ITM O2 Has Much Simpler Flow Sheet and >35% Less Capital
- ➔ ITM O2 Has 35-60% Less Compression Energy Associated with Oxygen Separation

Research projects in gasification for synthesis gas

- **Delft University** - Holland: CFB gasification with steam and O₂.
- **ECN** (Energy Research Centre of Netherlands) - Holland:
- **CIEMAT** (Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas) Spain: CFB gasifier using air in a first stage.
- **VTT** (Technical Research Centre of Finland): Pressurized BFB gasifier (O₂ + steam).
- **Chrisgas project**. EU Project.
- **IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

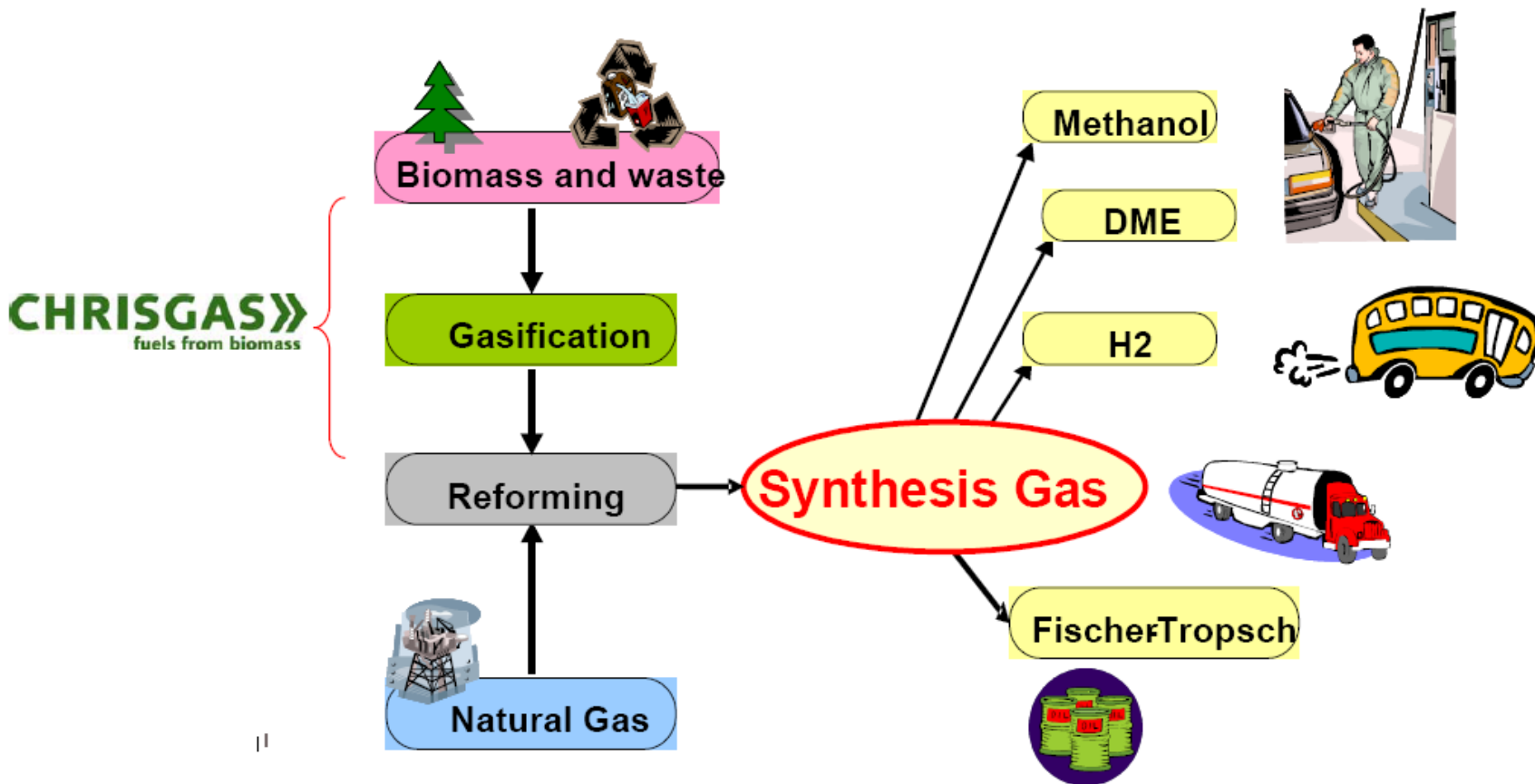
Delft University (Holland)



Varnamo (Sweden)

CHRISGAS:

Clean Hydrogen-rich Synthesis Gas



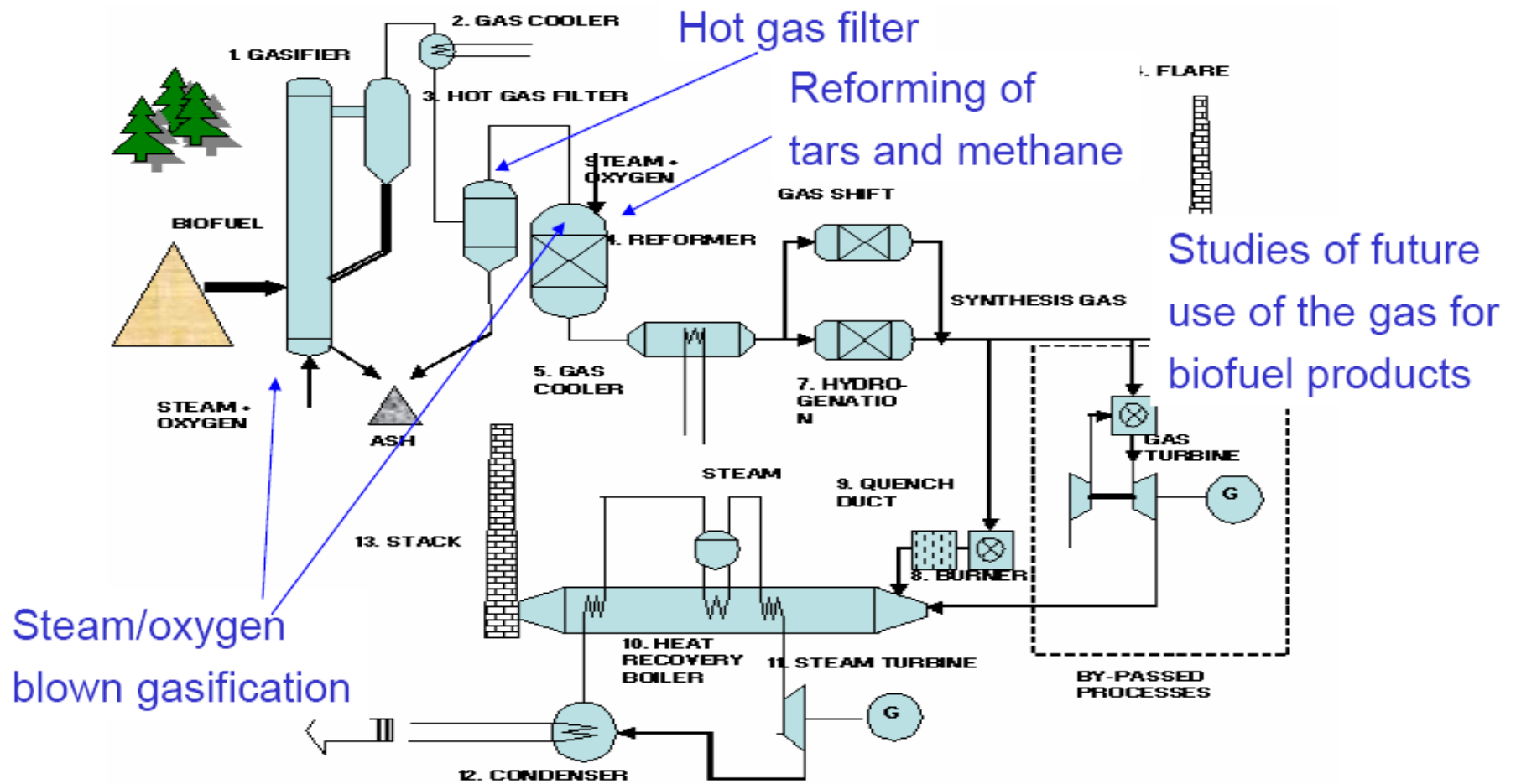
CHRISGAS Objectives

To demonstrate the production of a clean hydrogen-rich synthesis gas
(within a 5 year period at 18 MWth, 3 500 Nm³/hr H₂ equivalent)

based on:

- steam/oxygen-blown gasification of biomass
- hot gas cleaning (to remove particulates)
- steam reforming (of tar and light hydrocarbons, incl CH₄)

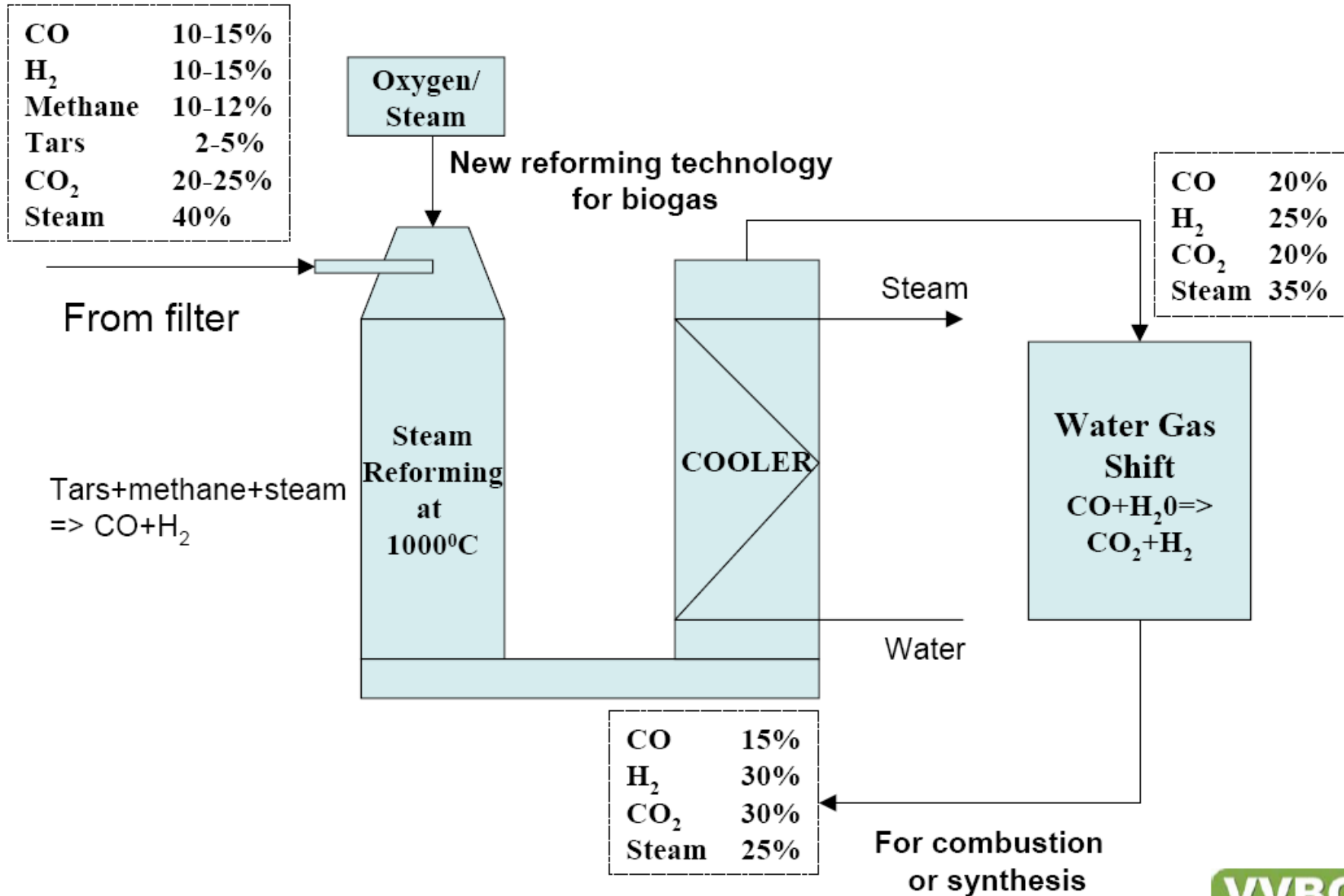
Värnamo Gasification Plant (after rebuild)



Steam/oxygen
blown gasification

Studies of future
use of the gas for
biofuel products

Gas Upgrading to Syngas



VISITING VARNAMO



GASIFICATION RESEARCH

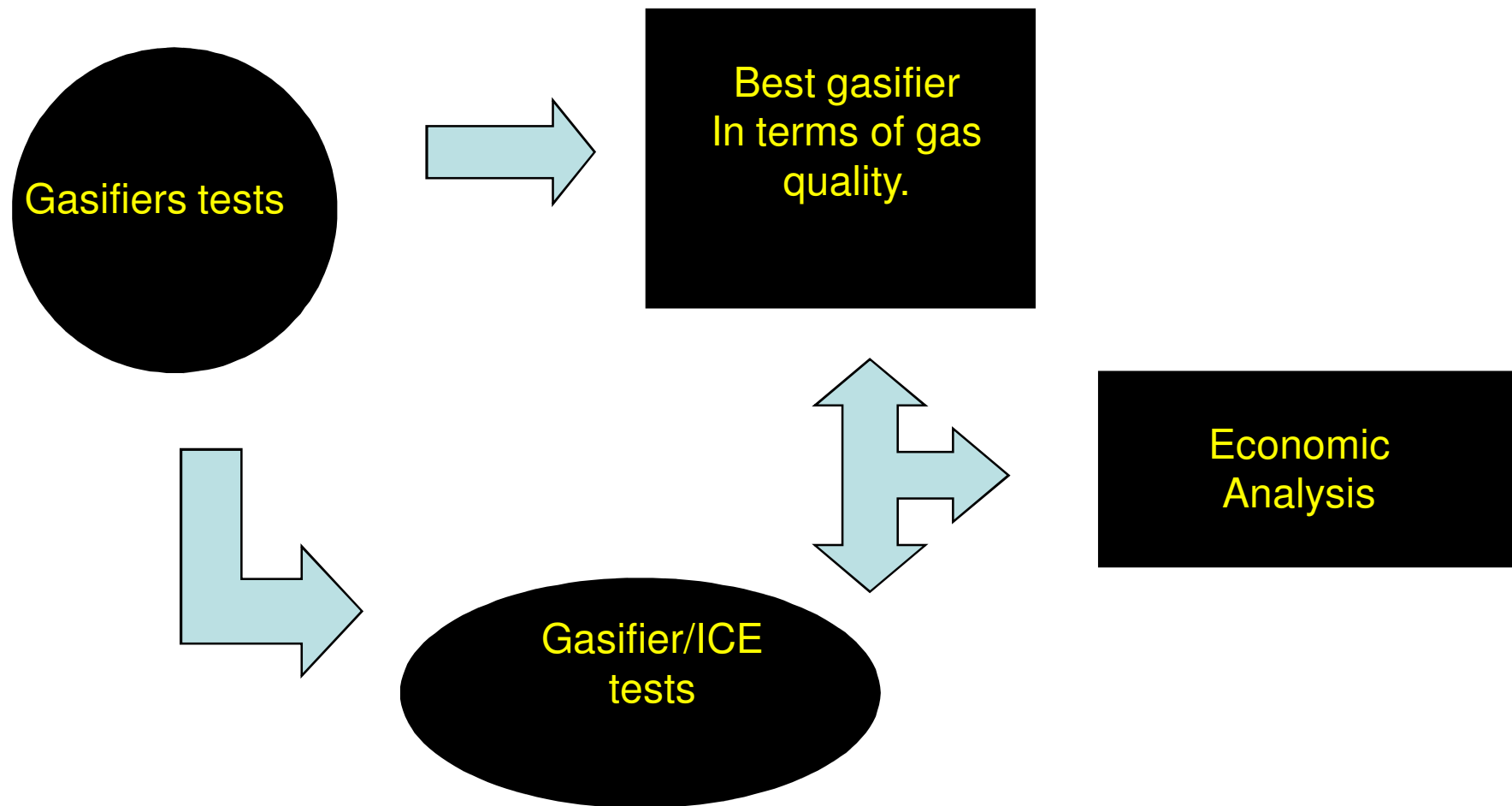
AT

NEST/IEM/UNIFEI

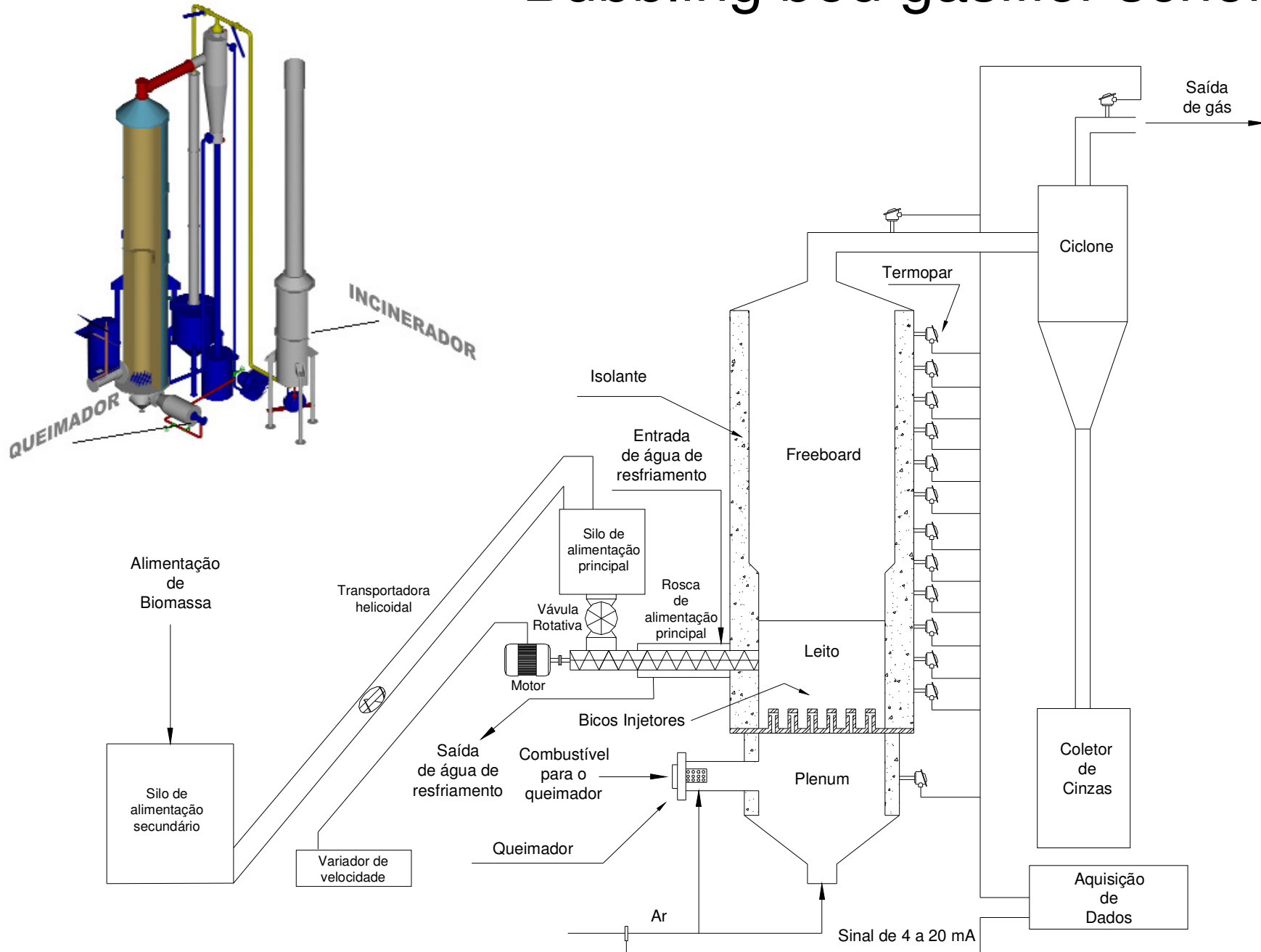
Present activities of NEST/IEM/UNIFEI in the field of biomass gasification

- Built-up and tests of a set comprising a two stage downdraft gasifier and an internal combustion engine.
- Design of a circulating fluidized bed gasifier for synthesis gas production (O_2 + Steam).
- LCA of the bio- H_2 and biomethanol production.

Research logic



Bubbling bed gasifier scheme

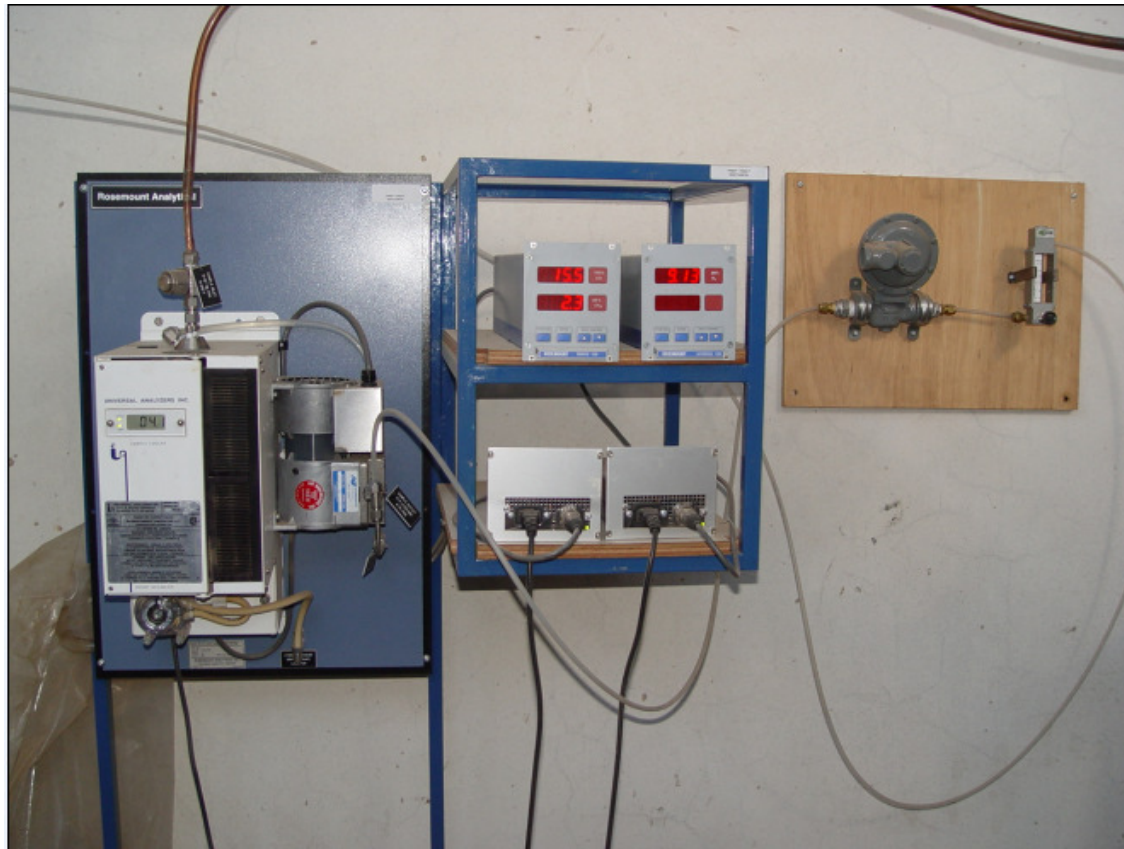




The gasifier in operation...

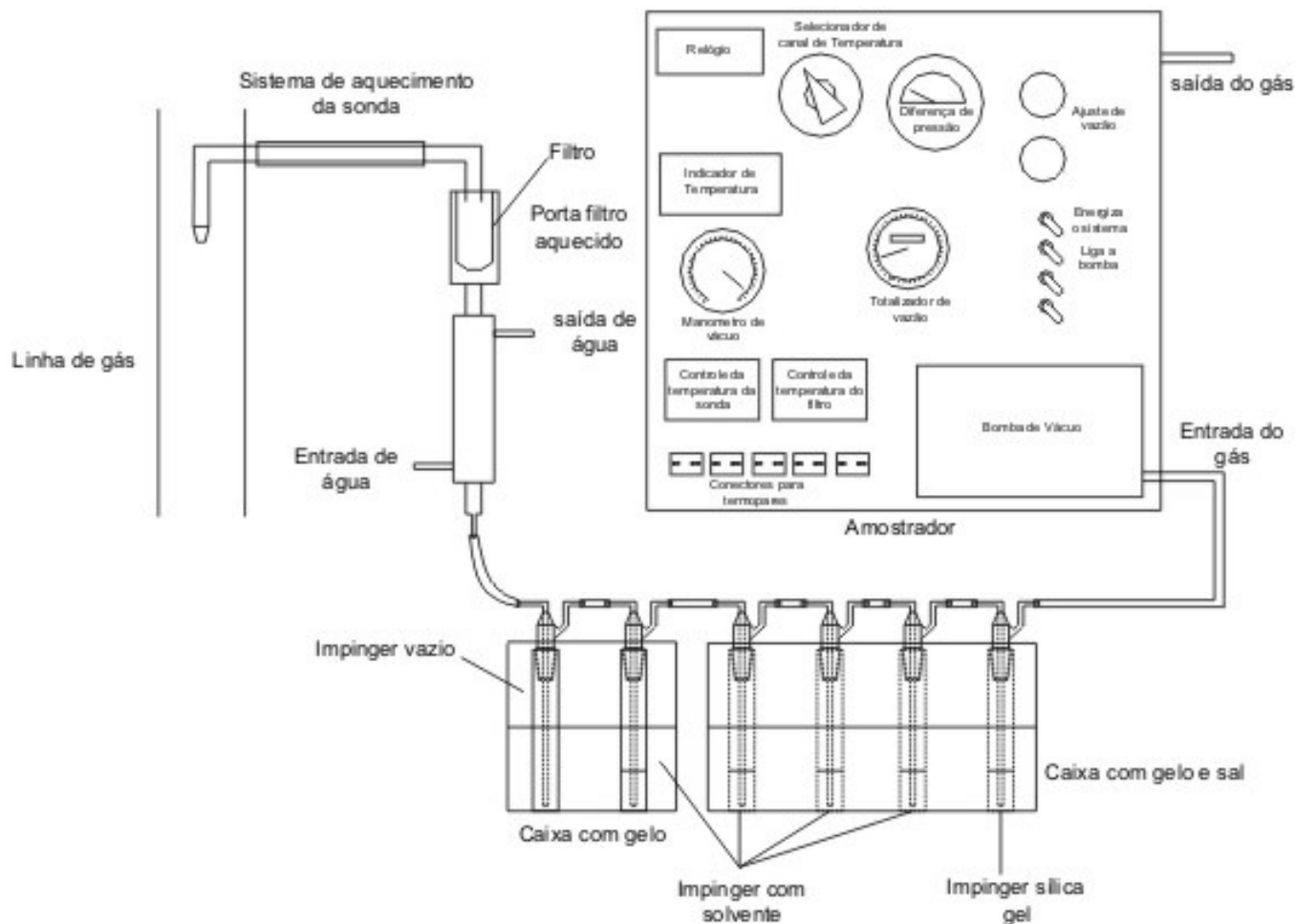


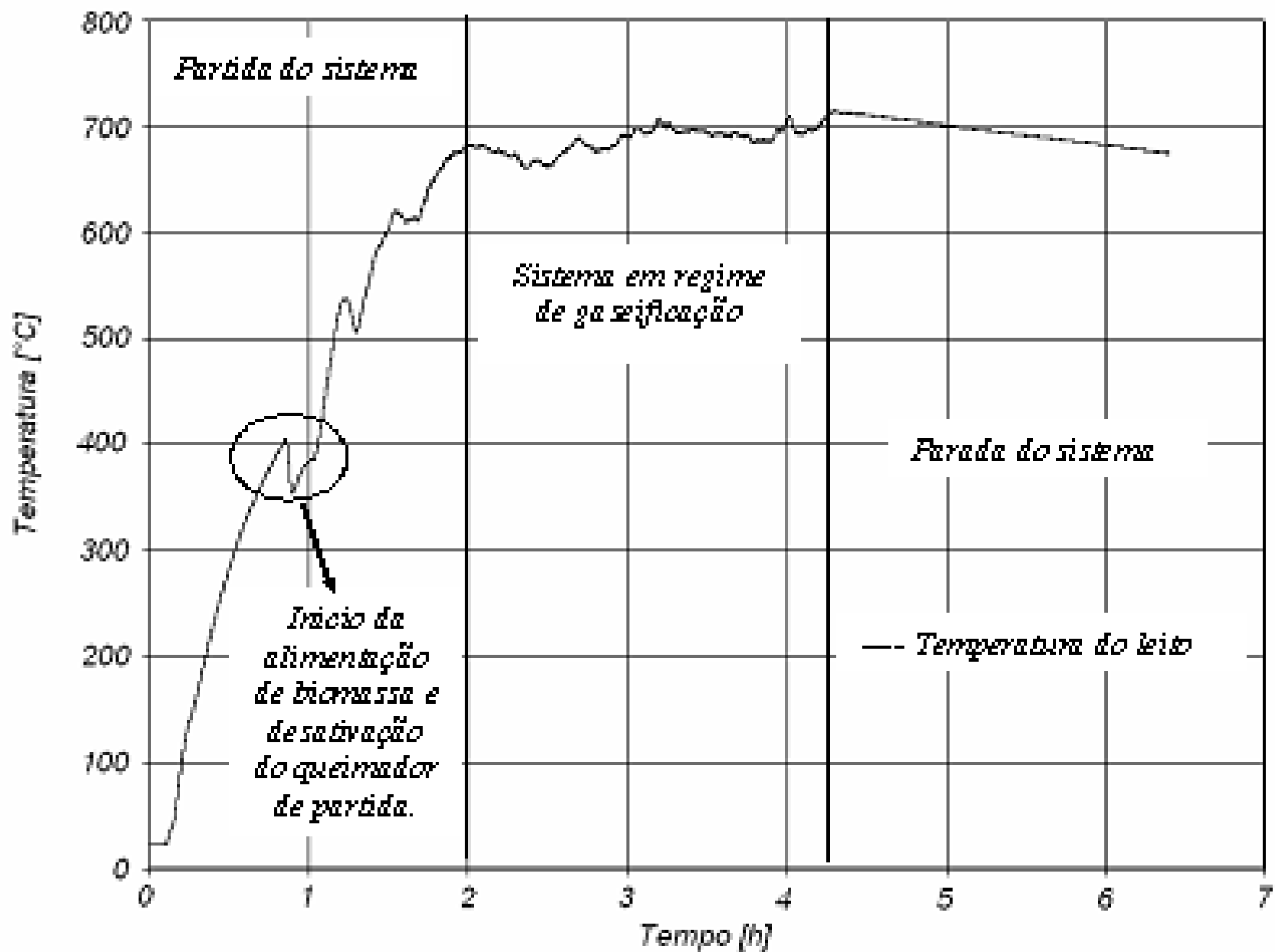
Continuous gas analyzers



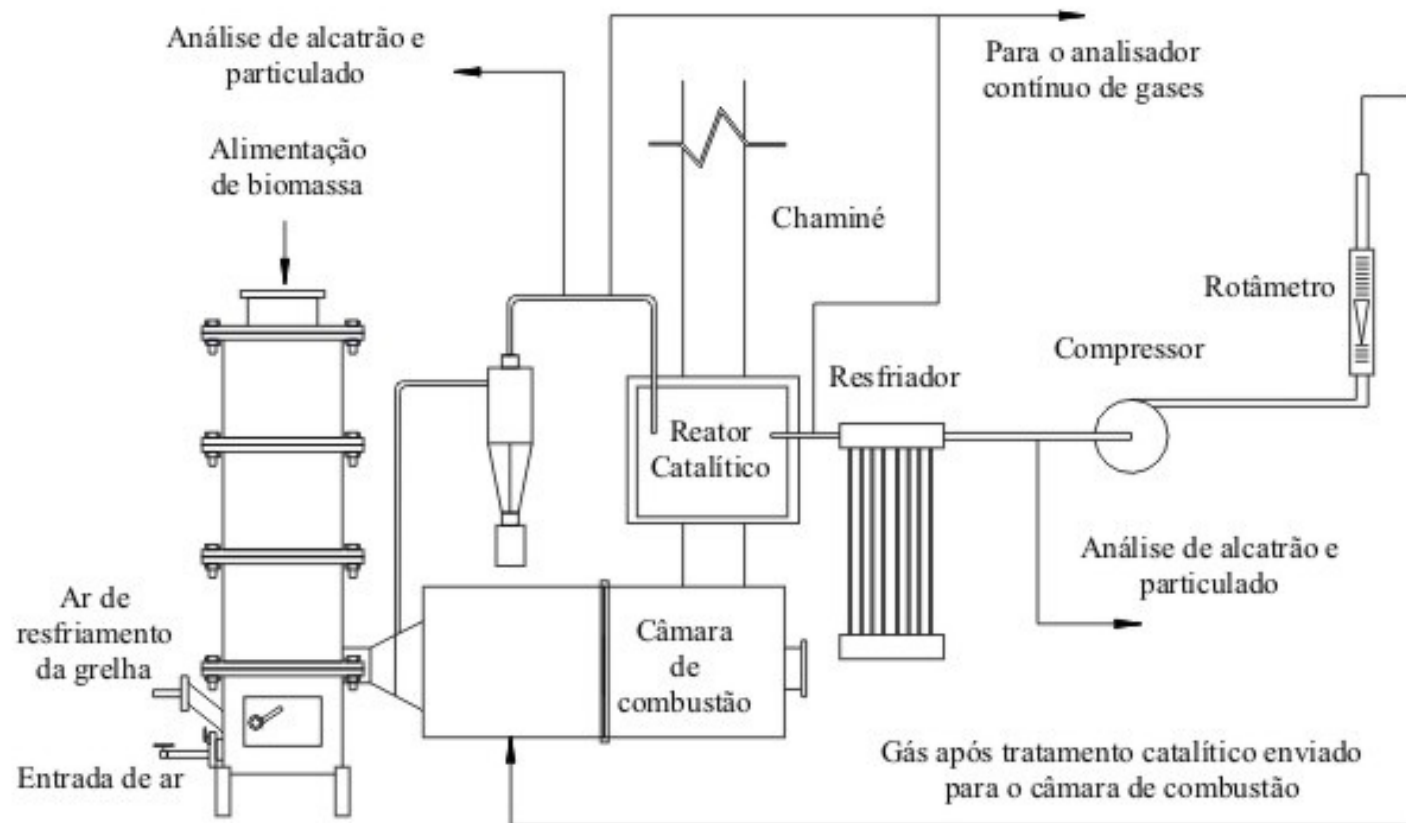
Tar and particulate content measurement

- Gravimetric analysis

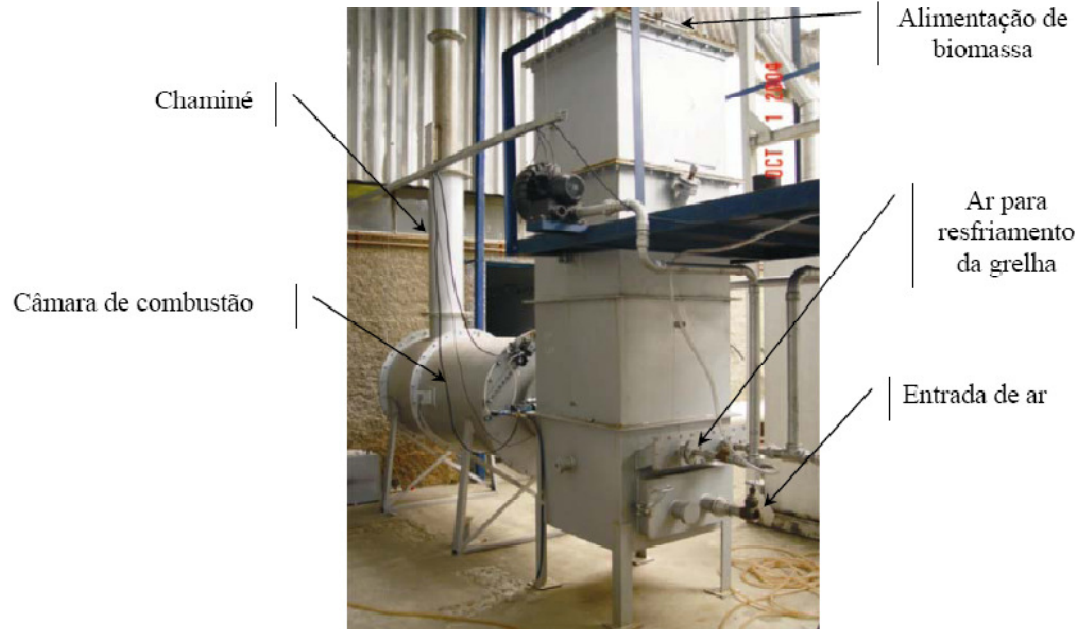




Catalytic cleaning as a secondary method for tar conversion



System equipment



Catalytic cleaning results

Gas composition

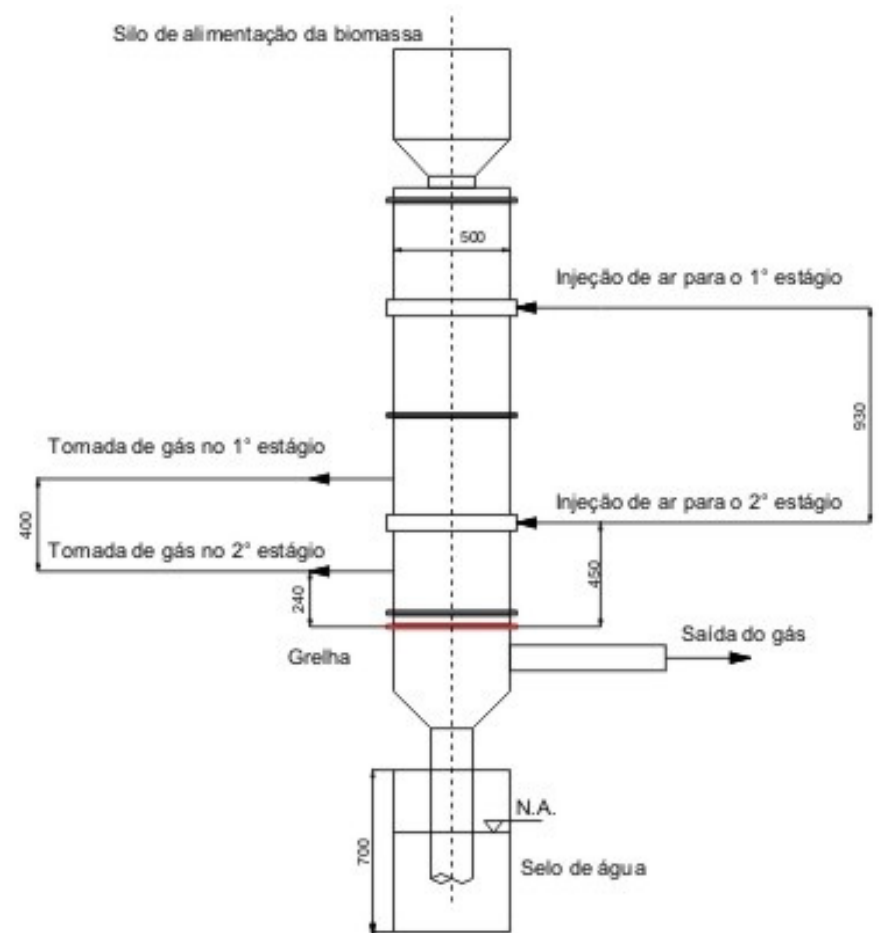
	CO	H ₂	CH ₄
Before CR	20	4	1,5
After CR	20	7	1,8

Tar content

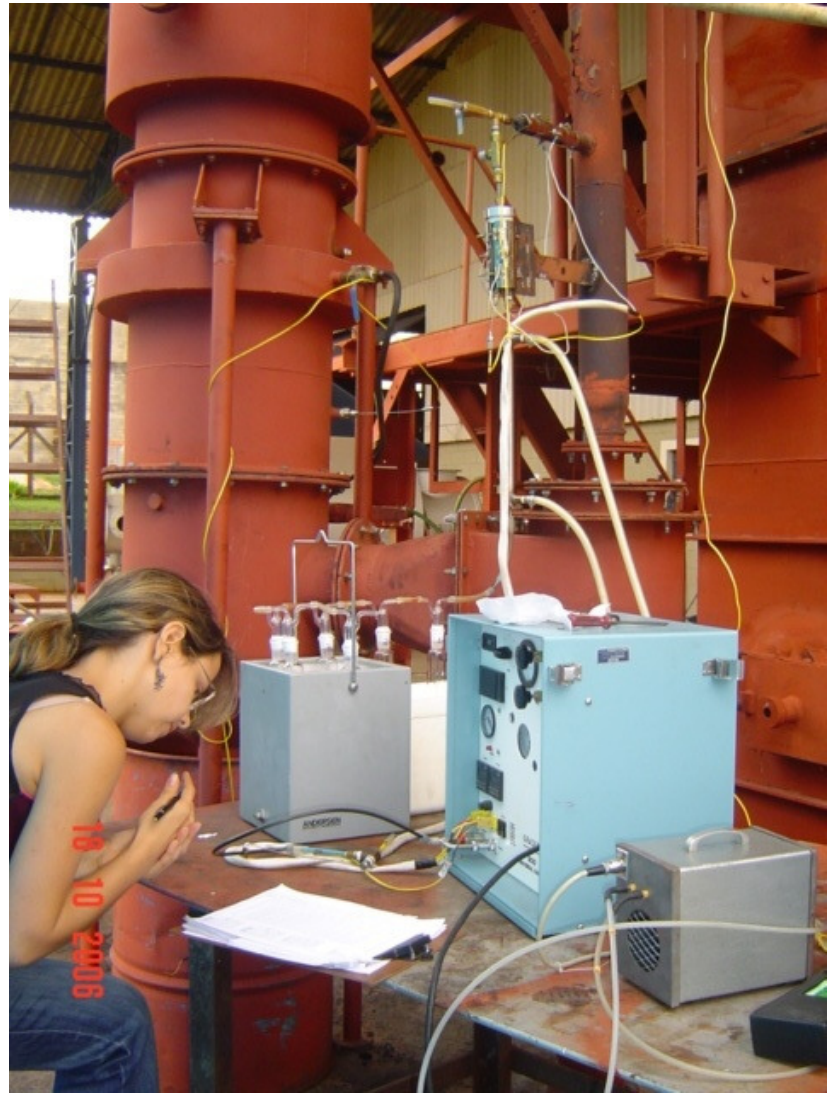
Sampling point	Tar content (g/ Nm ³)	Particulate content [g/Nm ³]
Before CR	47,93	3,87
After CR	20,12	7,65

Downdraft two-stage gasification

- Double stage gasification (Primary method for tar control)







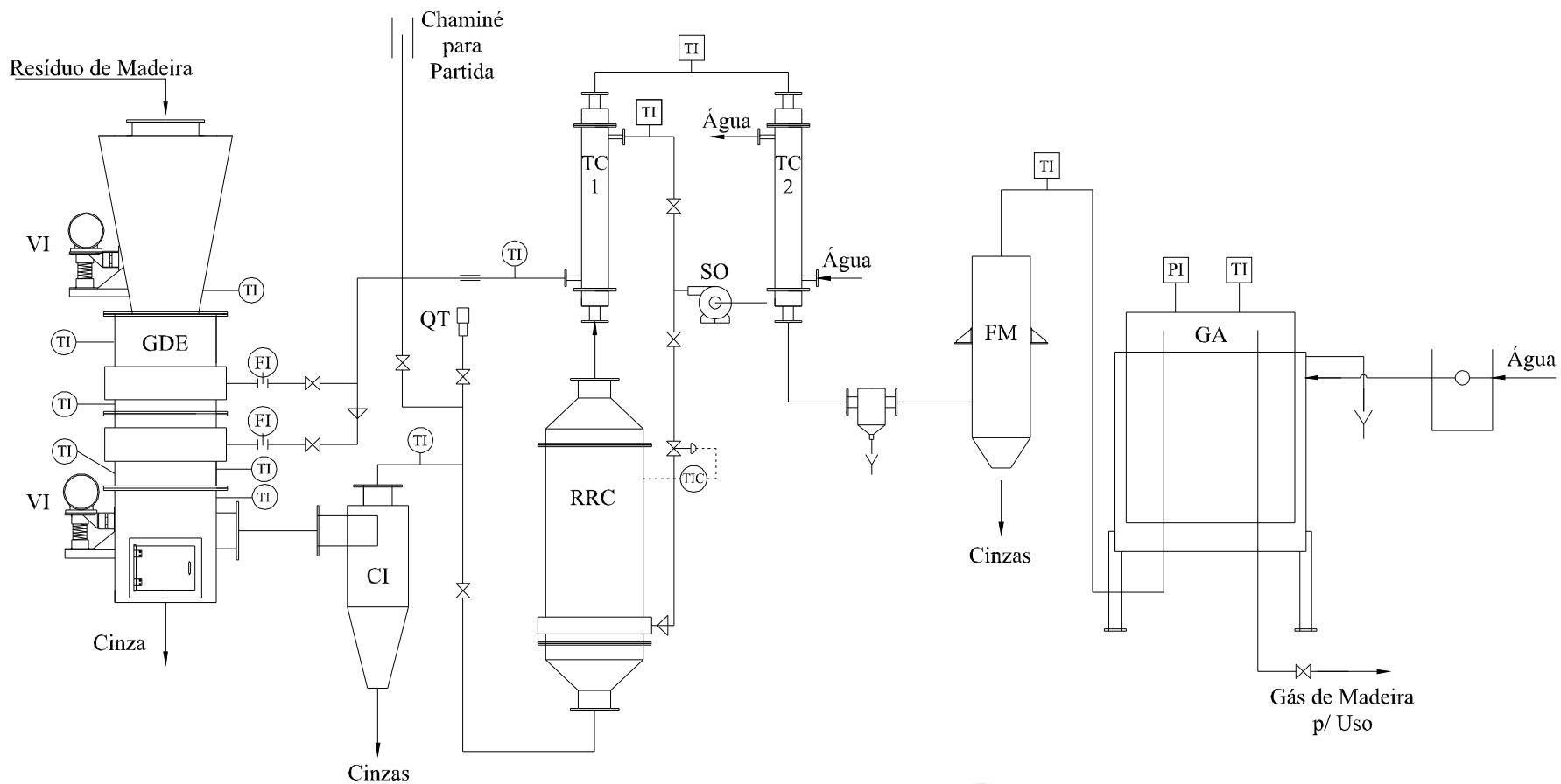
Two stage fasifier at NESTNEST

Característica	Valor	Unidade
Thermal power	50	kW
Electric power	10	kW
Biomass consumption (dry basis)	10	kg/h
Biomass size	2 - 6	cm
Air factor	0,35	---



Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)







Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)





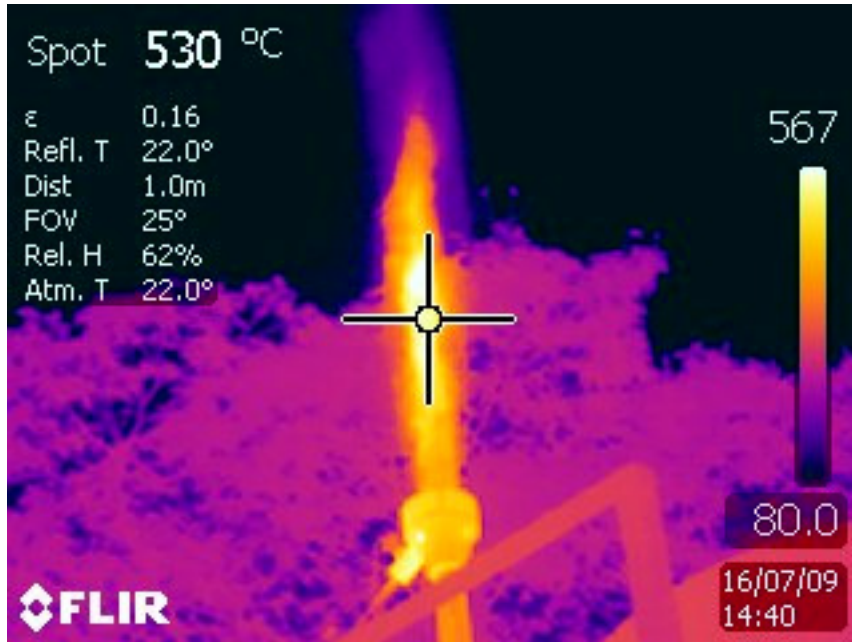
Continuous analyzers: CO, CH₄ (BINOS 100) and H₂ (HYDROS 100).

Syngas combustion in the flare



Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)

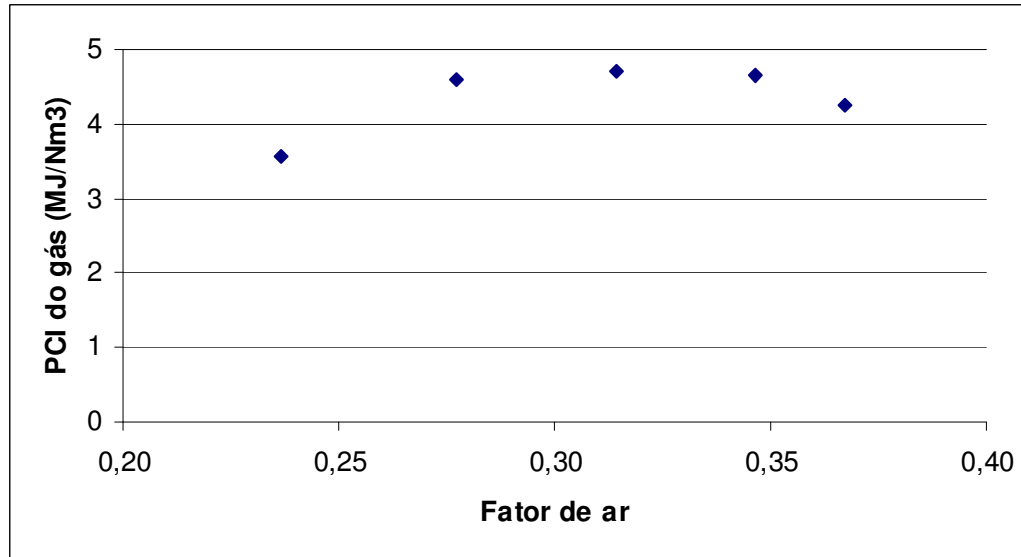
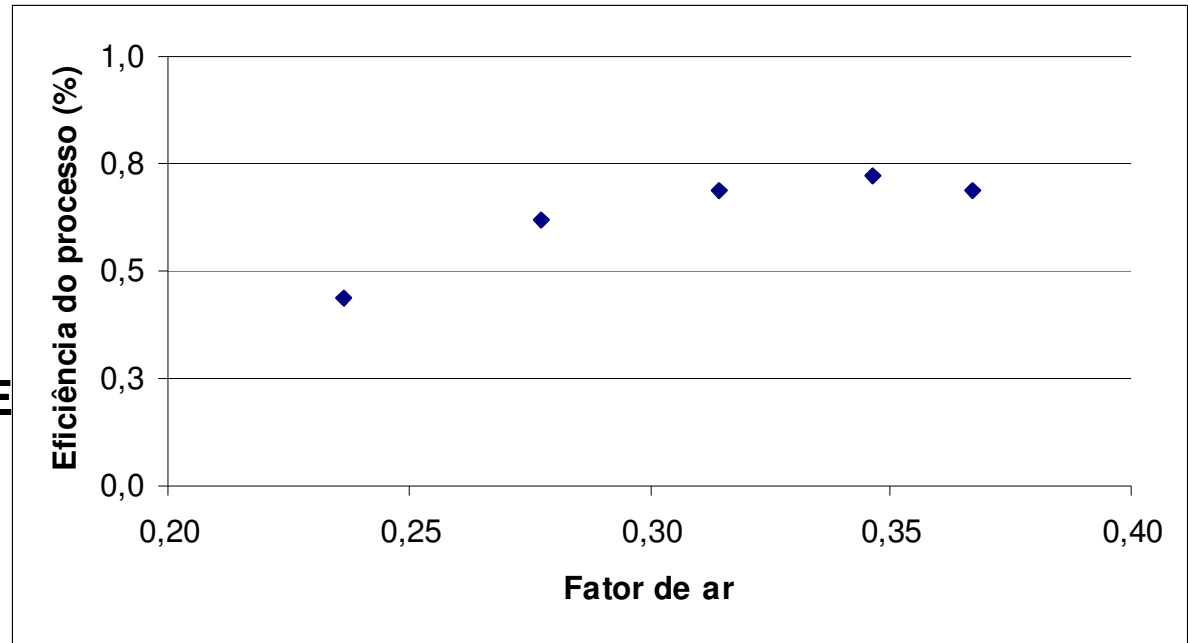




Test results

EFFICIENCY

GAS CALORIFIC VALUE

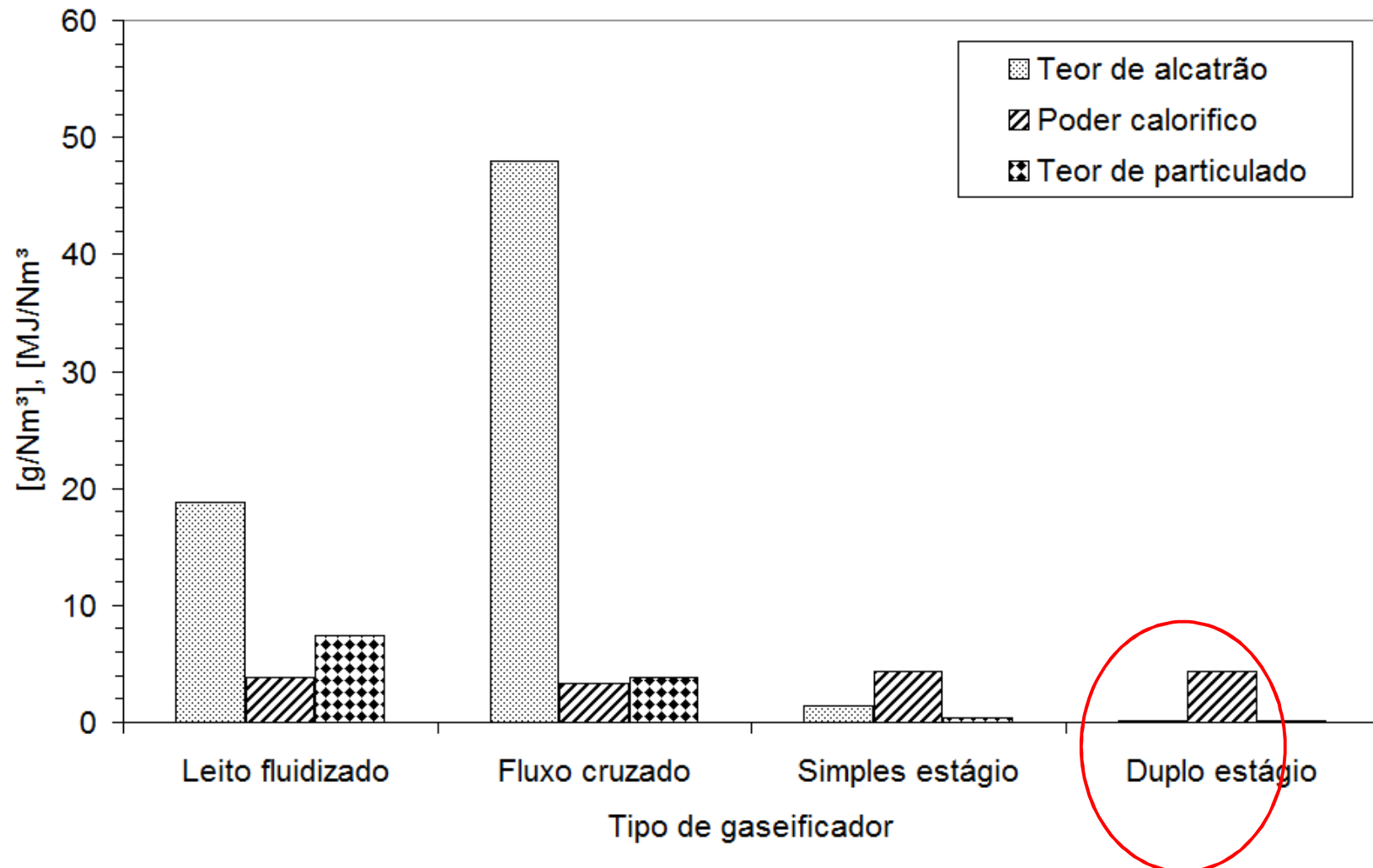




Instituto de Engenharia Mecânica (IEM)
Núcleo de Excelência em Geração Termelétrica e Distribuída (NEST)
Universidade Federal de Itajubá (UNIFEI)



Tests results for the three evaluated gasifiers



Gasification at home



Thanks

Doubts, questions, suggestion and
voluntaries for biomass gasification

electo@unifei.edu.br