

# Science ABC related to the large scale industry production of chemicals

## TRENDS IN BIOPRODUCTION AND BIOREACTOR DESIGN IN RELATION TO PRODUCTION OF SPECIALTY CHEMICALS



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# Example of producing bio-based chemicals

## Technologies / unit operations

### UPSTREAM

Mixing raw materials

Sterilization

Fermentation

### DOWNSTREAM

Cell separation  
(filtration, centrifugation,  
sedimentation)

Purification  
(crystallization, filtration,  
chromatography, IX, etc.)

Concentration  
(filtration, spray-drying,  
etc.)

### REACTION / FORMULATION

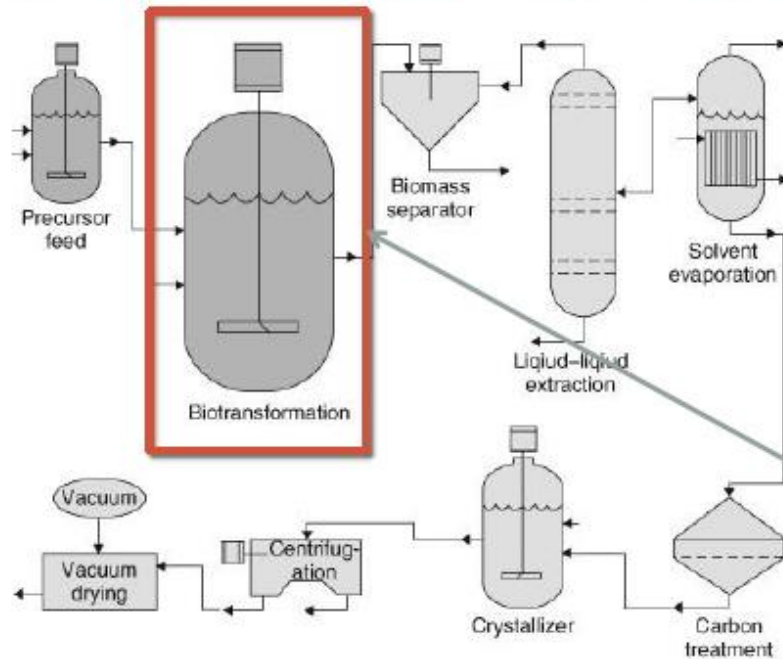
Reaction (enzymatic,  
catalytic)

Mixing

Concentration  
(filtration, spray-drying,  
etc.)

# Process lay-out example

(biocatalysis of ferulic acid to vanillin by *Streptomyces sp.*, Givaudan)



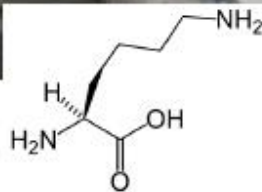
# Typical fermentation factories



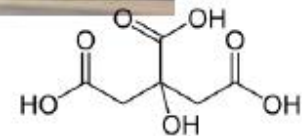
Biopharmaceuticals



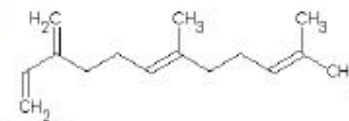
Lysine (C6)



Citric acid (C6)



Farnesene (C10)



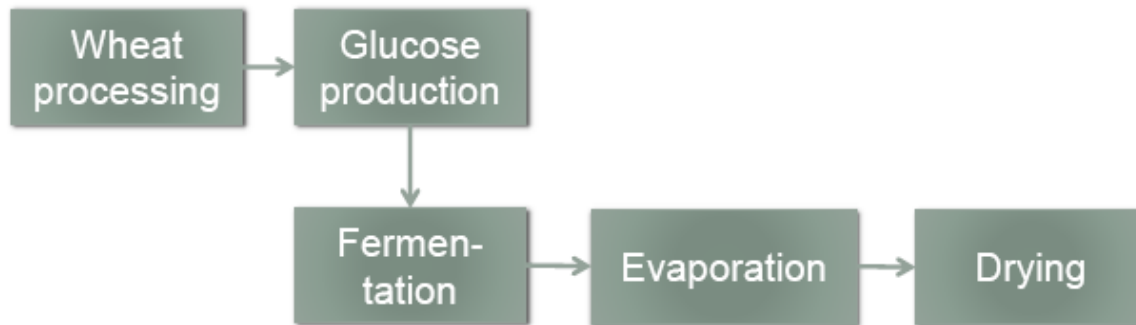
## Requirements to run a fermentation process

- Raw materials
- Gene technology
- Fermentation equipment (up to large scale)
- DSP equipment
- Process and fermentation knowledge
- Sterility engineering
- Operational excellence
- .....

Starch  
Sugar  
Cellulose  
Carbohydrates  
Glycerol  
.....



## Lysine production process



World capacity:  
1,5 MT/ year

China, US, Brazil, S-  
Korea

Corn, wheat

COP: ± 1-1,5 €/kg



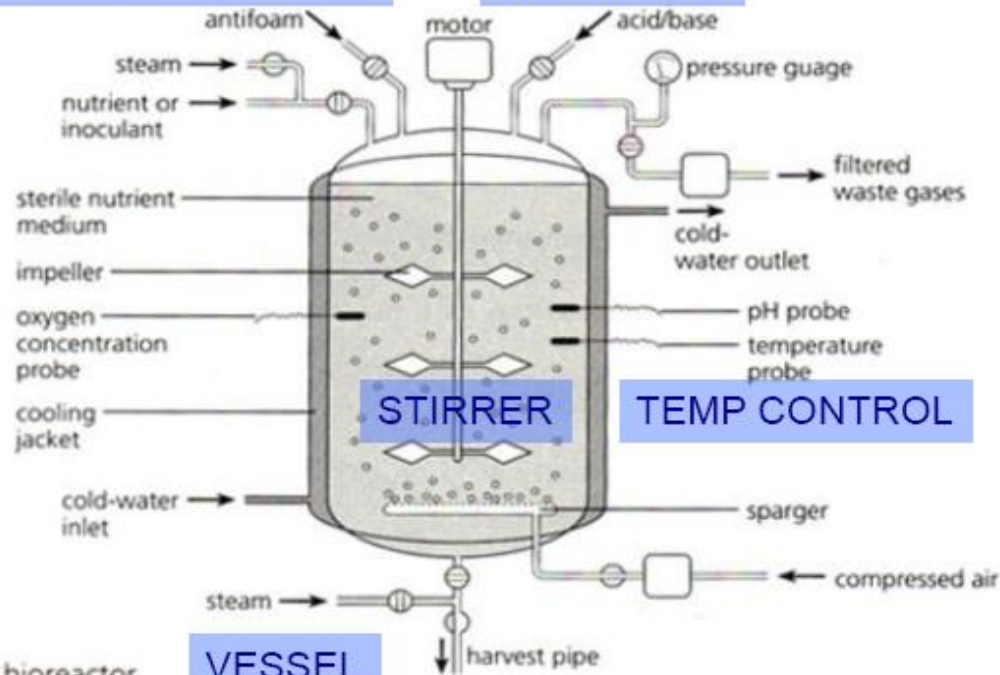
## Lysine – factory under construction (Russia)



# (Traditional) stirred tank bioreactor (STR)

PROCESS CONTROL

NUTRIENTS



A bioreactor

VESSEL

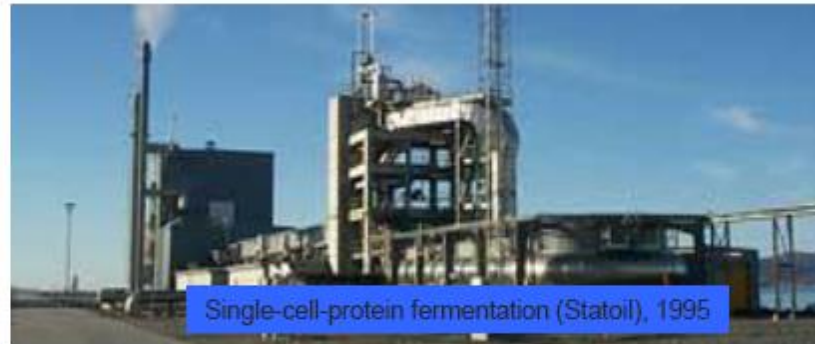
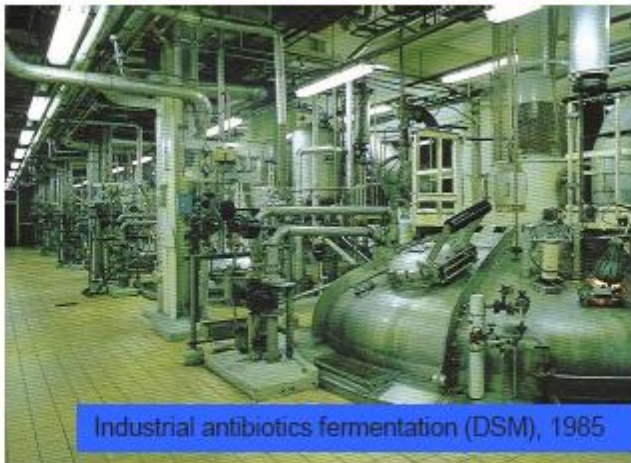
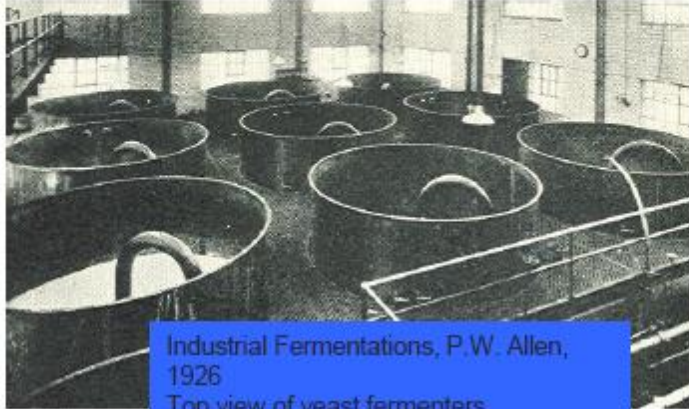
harvest pipe

STIRRER

TEMP CONTROL



# Microbial: not only STR



# Evolution of bioreactor and its trends / developments

## Cell culture bioreactors



Roller bottles  
1980



Vaccine production (verocells), Sanofi-Pasteur,  
1985

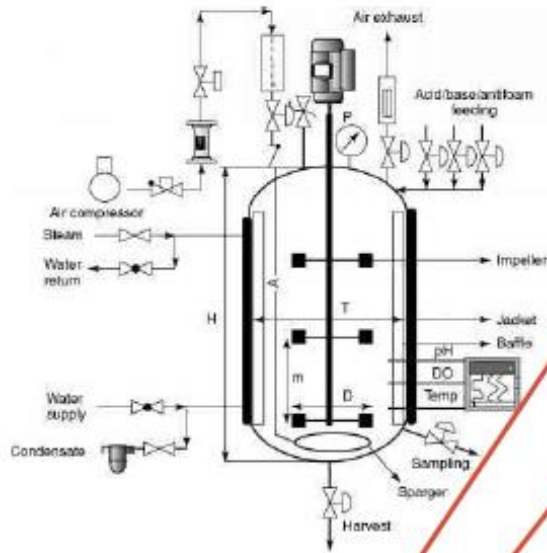


Steel stirred bioreactors,  
1995



Single-use bioreactor, 2013

# Stirred bioreactor – most commonly used



Special stirrer design:  
Rushton  
Curved blade  
(inter)-MIG  
A316



- Improved mixing
- Less energy
- Higher mass transfer
- Low shear
- Combinations*

## Bioreactor development over the last century

Steel  
(HDPE)



Stainless steel



Single-use



1920



1970

2000



2010

2015

Special stirrer  
designs  
Rushton  
(inter)-MIG  
A316



### SAFETY

- Pre-sterilized
- No contamination

### COSTS

- No cleaning
- Simple infrastructure
- Lower maintenance

## Bioreactor trends

- **Large-scale bioreactors**
  - special stirrer designs / combinations
- **Single-use**
  - No cleaning (validation)
  - Less infrastructure
  - Sterility guarantee
- **Continuous processing => smaller bioreactors**
  - Perfusion – high cell density / volumetric productivity
  - Micro-carriers – new (dissolving) materials
- **Instrumentation**
  - Better level of process control
  - More in-line / difficult for single-use
  - Model based process control

Dedicated  
facilities

Smaller  
reactors

## Biopharmaceuticals

- All based on gene technologies
- Produced in multi-purpose installations
- Dedicated purification processes

AND:

- Introduction of single-use equipment makes installations more versatile
- **Installations can be used for production of:**
  - Toxins
  - Viruses
  - Modified bacteria / viruses
  - Etc.

## Single-use bioreactors



### SAFETY

- Pre-sterilized
- No contamination

### COSTS

- No cleaning
- Simple infrastructure
- Lower maintenance

### REQUIREMENTS

- Equipment
- Bags
- Components
- Clean room(s)
- Experience

# Type of single-use bioreactors

Stirred systems  
0.1 L- 2000 L



Hyclone S.U.B.



BIOSTAT CultiBag STR



Xcellerex XDR



PadReactor

Wave mixed systems  
0.1 L- 500 L



GE Wave



BioStat CultiBag



CELL-tainer

Orbitally shaken systems  
1mL – 2500 L



OrbShake



CURRENT Bioreactor

Pneumatically driven systems  
1.5 L-500 L (2500 L\*)



PRS Biotech



Protalix Bioreactor



CellMaker





# Biotoxin production: requirements

- (Single-use) bioreactor
- Simple laboratory
- Micro-organism + process
- Simple filtration or purification (crystallization)



Product	Production strain	Process
Dysport®	Hall	Fermentation Dialysis Chromatography
Azzalure®	Hall	Fermentation Dialysis Chromatography
Botox®	Allergan "hyper"	Fermentation Precipitation "Crystallisation"
Vistabel® & Vistabex®	Allergan "hyper"	Fermentation Precipitation "Crystallisation"
Xeomin®	Hall	[Unpublished]
Bocouture®	Hall	[Unpublished]

**Biotoxins:**

LD50 = 0,0004 – 0,002 µg/kg  
 or: at 75 kg => 0,03 – 0,2 µg

**very little amounts needed of biotoxins**



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## Conclusions in relation to (bio)chemical weapons

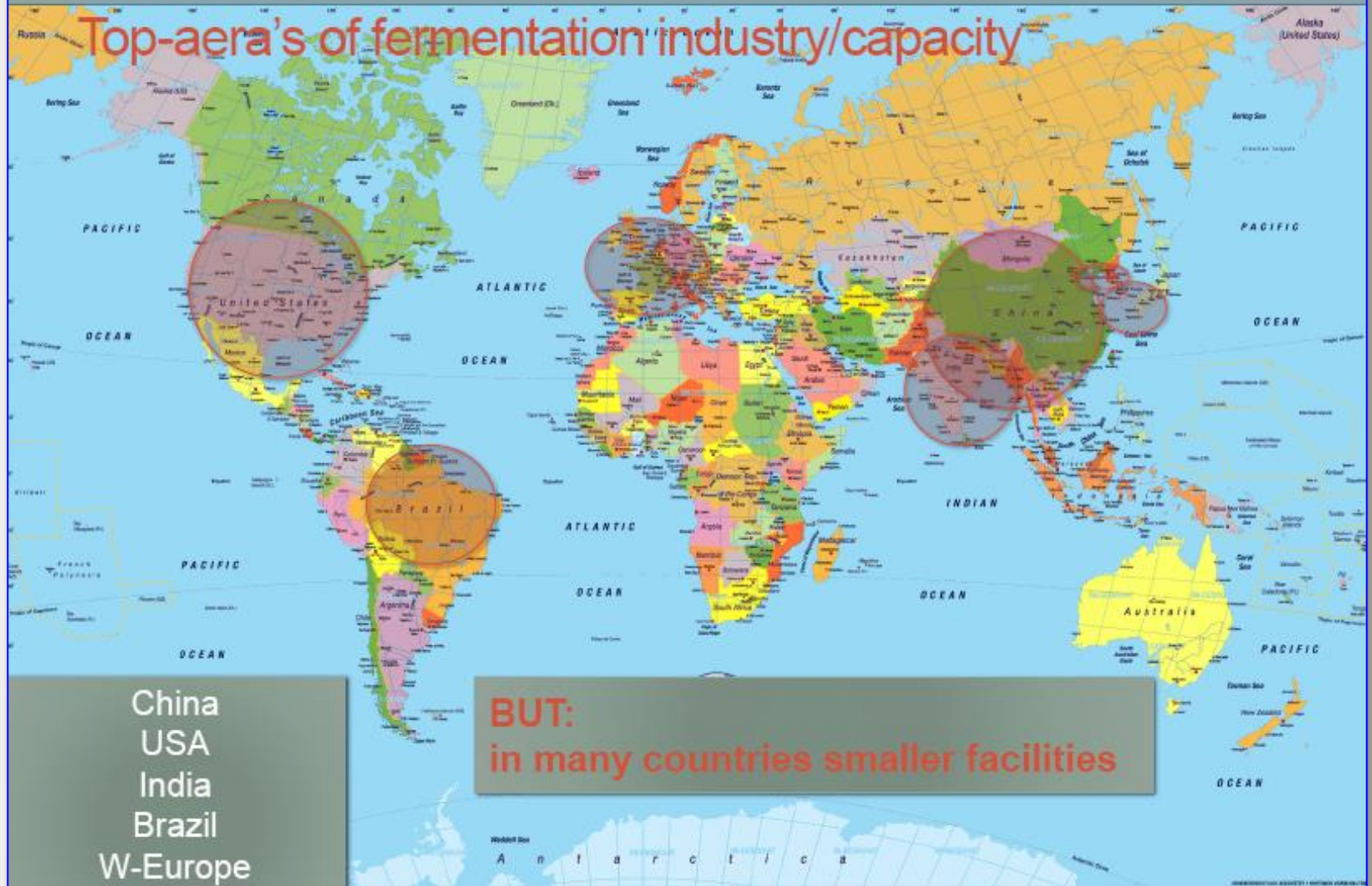
### LARGE SCALE PROCESSES

- Fermentation processes are very dedicated
- Raw material position required
- Capital and energy intensive productions
- **Bio-building blocks to be used for further chemical modifications**

### SMALL SCALE PROCESSES

- Introduction of single-use technologies: less infrastructure required
- Limited number of technology suppliers (US/Europe)
- Installations too small for production of chemical weapons
- **Availability of genetic modification techniques**
- **Production of bio-toxins / viruses / bacteria becomes more easy**

# Top-aera's of fermentation industry/capacity



China  
USA  
India  
Brazil  
W-Europe  
S-Korea  
Japan

**BUT:**  
in many countries smaller facilities