



# *Sustainability Certification of Novel SAF Pathways*

Online Webinar

2 October 2025

# Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
14.00 - 14.10 pm	Welcome & Introduction	Esther Hegel (RSB) - ICARUS
14.10 – 14.25 pm	Novel SAF Pathways in ICARUS	Berend Vreugdenhil (TNO)
14.25 – 14.45 pm	Understanding SAF Certification: EU RED, CORSIA and Voluntary Schemes	George Deslandes (RSB) - ICARUS
14.45 – 15.05 pm	From Innovation to Certification: Insights from the SusAlgaeFuel Project	Darren Carty & Agnes Thornton (SFS)
15.05 – 15.10 pm	The ICARUS SAF Certification Guidance	Esther Hegel (RSB) - ICARUS
15.10 – 15.25 pm	Open Discussion & Online Poll	
15.25 – 15.30 pm	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	Esther Hegel (RSB) - ICARUS

- This webinar is recorded for internal purposes.
- Recording & Slides will be shared on the ICARUS website after the webinar.



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# Welcome & Introduction

Esther Hegel, RSB

ICARUS Project Partner



# ICARUS at a glance



- **Duration & Framework:**  
Runs from **October 1, 2023**, to **September 30, 2026**, under the EU's **Horizon Europe** RIA scheme (Grant Agreement No. 101122303).
- **Budget**  
Total cost approximately **€3.16 million**, fully funded by the EU.
- **Consortium**  
Featuring **20 partners** spanning Europe and Mission Innovation Countries (Canada, India, Brazil), with additional input via an External Executive Advisory Board from the USA.

Partners

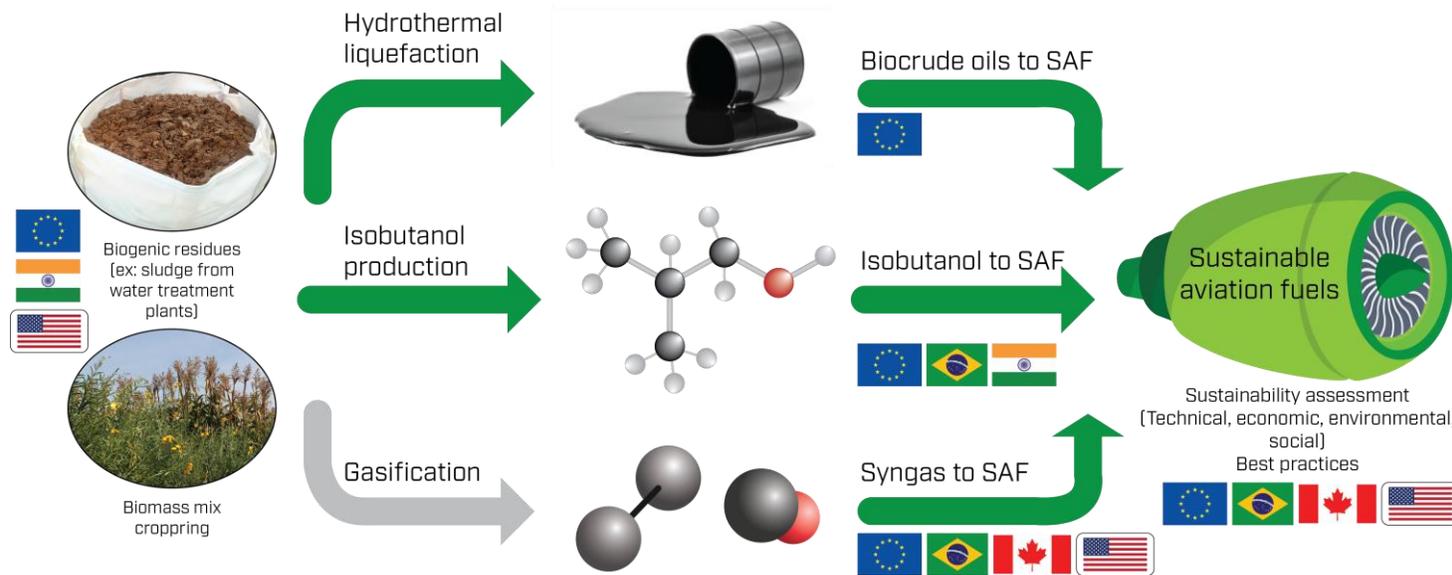


Associated Partners

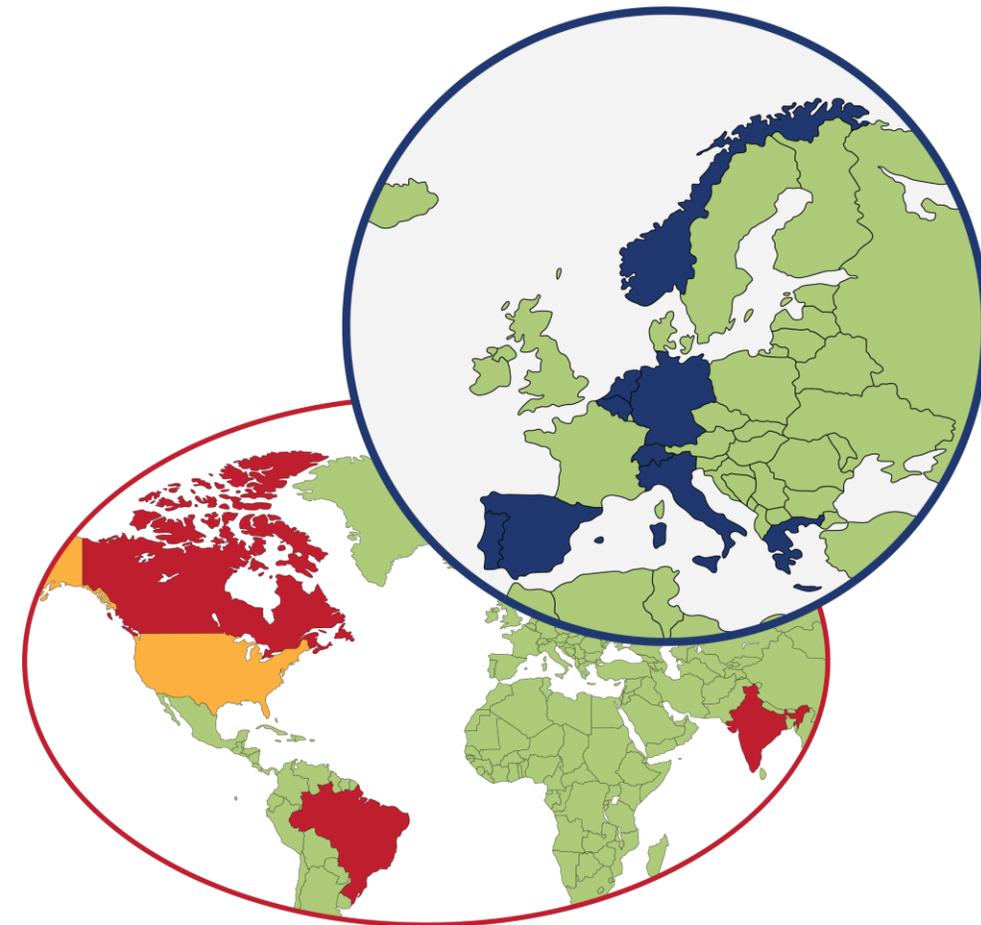
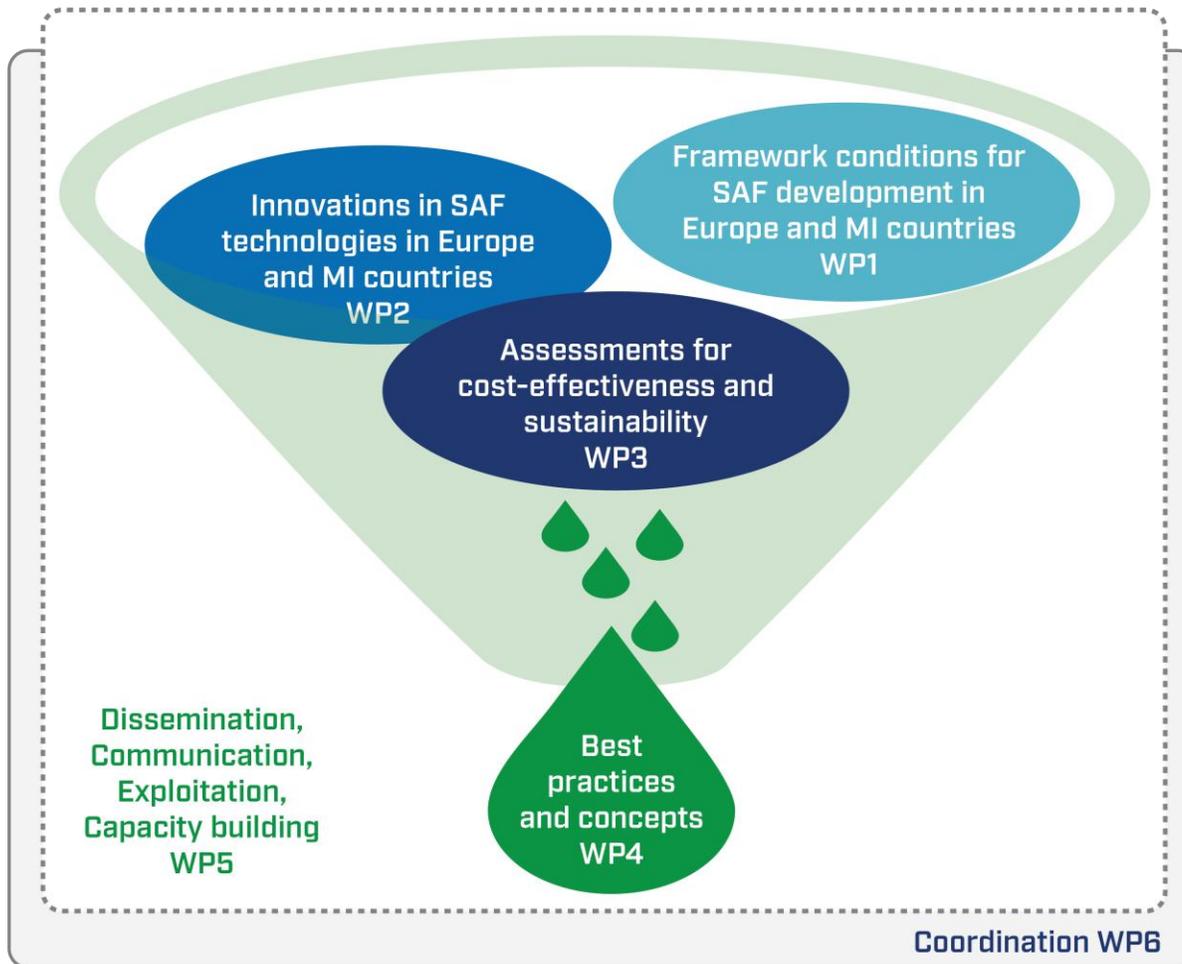


# ICARUS at a glance

Aims to develop future best practices and concepts along the entire value chain for the three technological pathways selected in ICARUS for accelerating the scale-up of sustainable aviation biofuels production worldwide.



# ICARUS at a glance



# Spotlight: Novel SAF Pathways

## *The relevance of novel SAF pathways in mitigating aviation's climate impact*

- SAF is recognised as a **cornerstone** for reducing aviation emissions and enabling carbon-neutral growth.
- To date, only eight SAF production pathways are **ASTM-approved** to be blended and used with kerosene.
- **Scaling challenge**: Current feedstocks and technologies alone cannot meet future demand cost-effectively.

→ Novel pathways are critical, as they have the potential to:

- Unlock **novel feedstocks**, including sustainable low-ILUC bio-feedstocks (e.g. lignocellulosic biomass, algae), wastes and residues, as well as captured CO<sub>2</sub> and renewable electricity.
- Enable new and more efficient **production routes**.
- Improve **cost-competitiveness** and scalability.
- Diversify feedstocks to strengthen **supply security**.
- **Enhance sustainability** across the full life cycle.

# Why Sustainability Certification matters



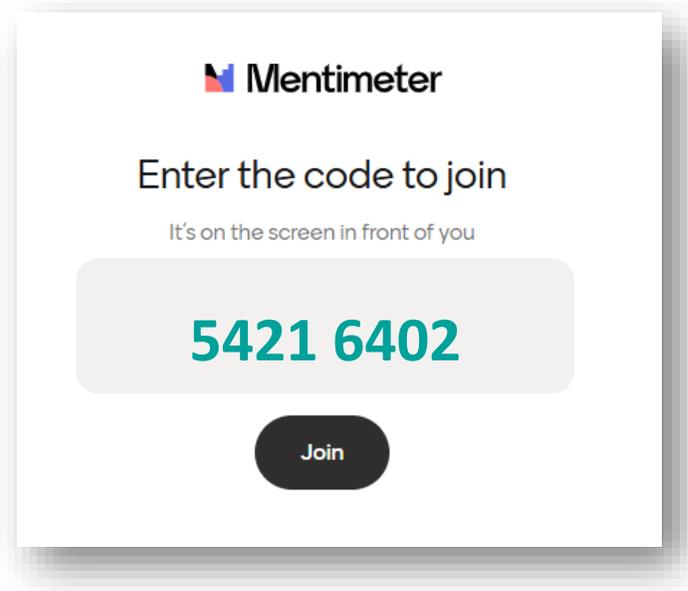
1. **ASTM certification ensures technical performance**, but **sustainability certification is needed** to guarantee environmental and social integrity.
2. **Certification is key for market access**, since only certified SAF can qualify under EU and global schemes, and only then deliver recognised climate benefits.
3. **Different regions apply different schemes (e.g., EU RED / CORSIA)**, creating a complex and sometimes fragmented certification landscape.
4. **Sustainability must be integrated early**: Project developers and researchers should consider certification requirements already during R&D to ensure later compliance.

## → Today's Webinar: Shaping ICARUS outcomes

- **Navigating certification is challenging** – today's session explores the complexity of sustainability certification for novel SAF pathways.
- **ICARUS is developing guidance** – a 2026 public deliverable will support researchers and developers in applying certification. **Your feedback today will help shape it!**

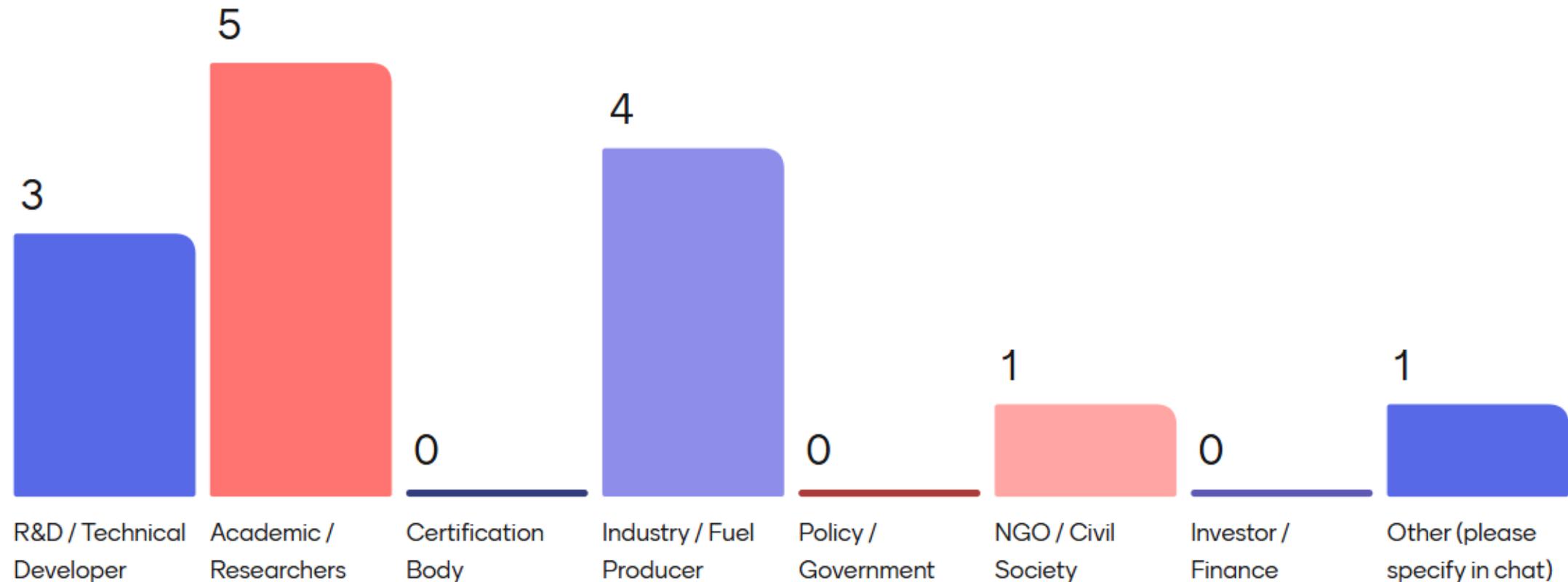
# We want to hear from you!

1. Take your phone/computer
2. Scan the QR code OR go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) & enter the code: 5421 6402



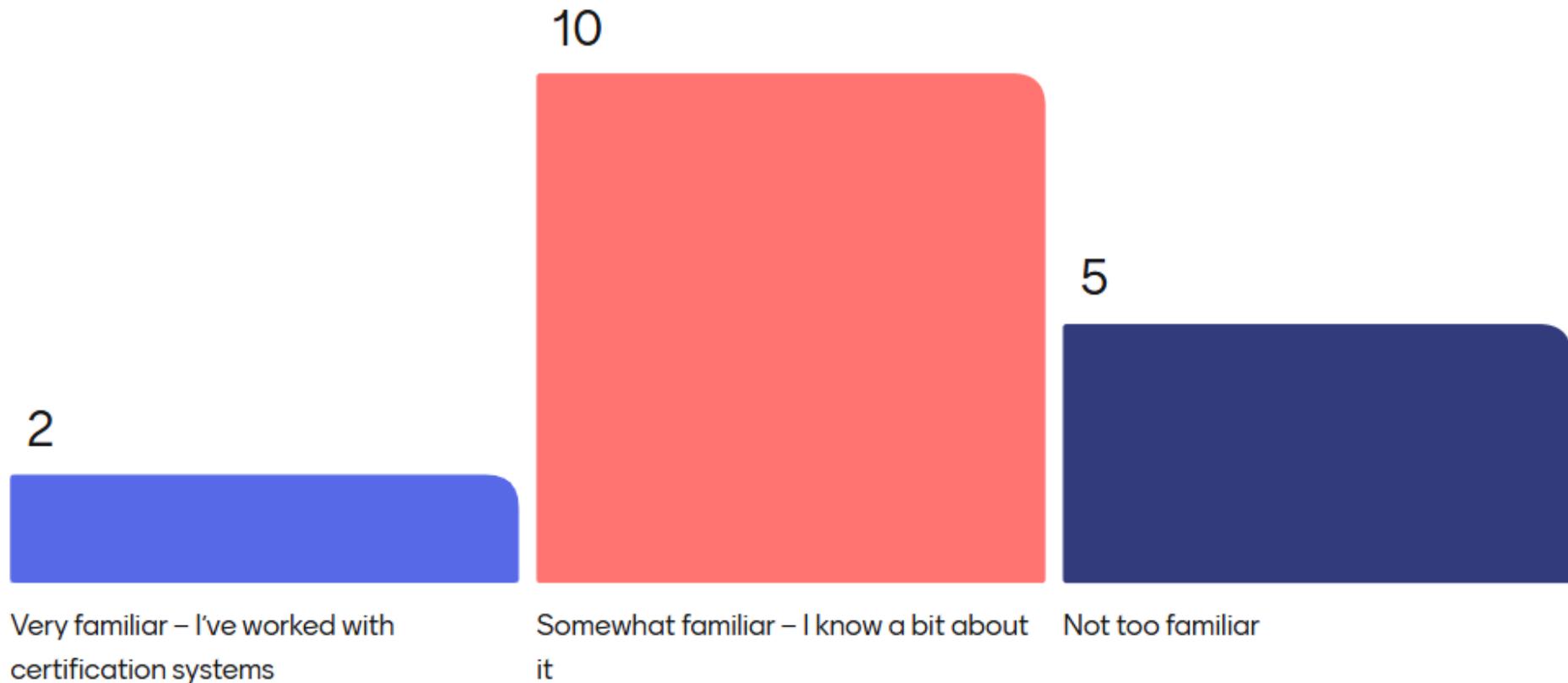
# Multiple-choice question

What is your background or role in the SAF ecosystem?



# Multiple-choice question

How familiar are you with SAF certification?





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# Novel SAF Pathways in ICARUS

Berend Vreugdenhil, TNO  
Specialist gasification





# Sustainability Certification of Novel SAF pathways

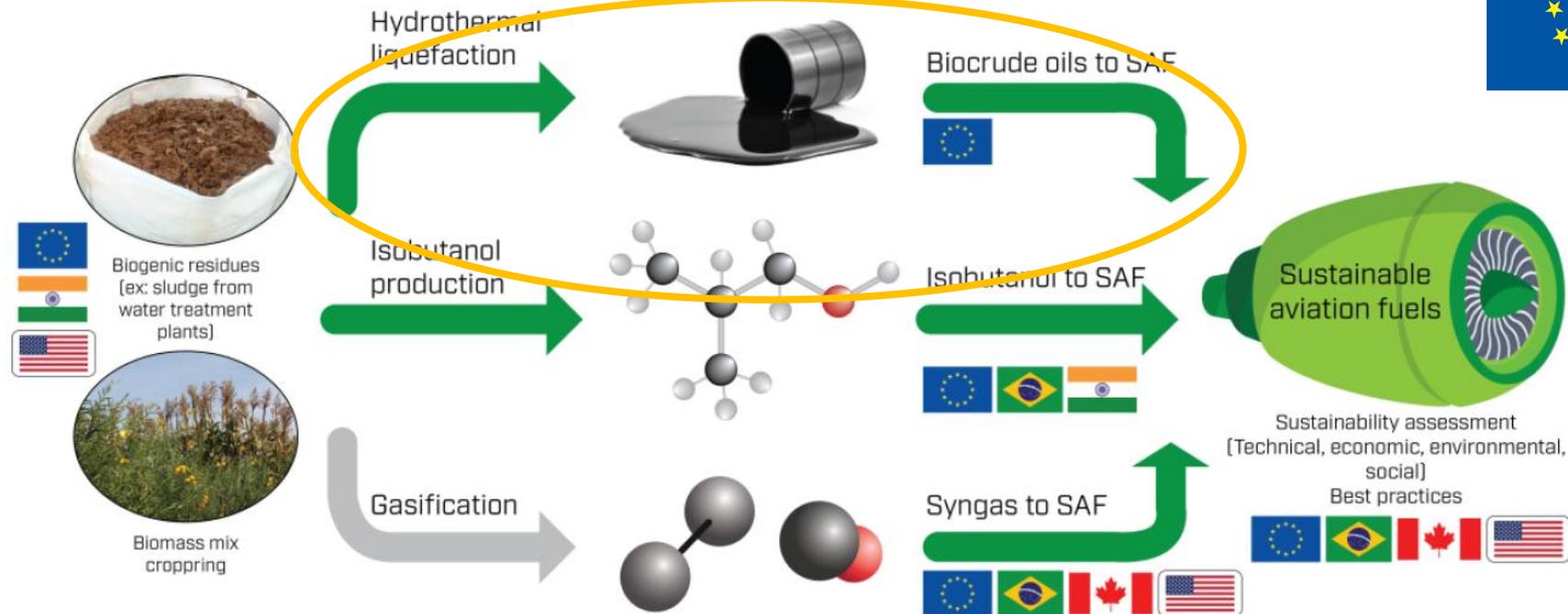
## Webinar

Date: 2nd October 2025

Berend Vreugdenhil

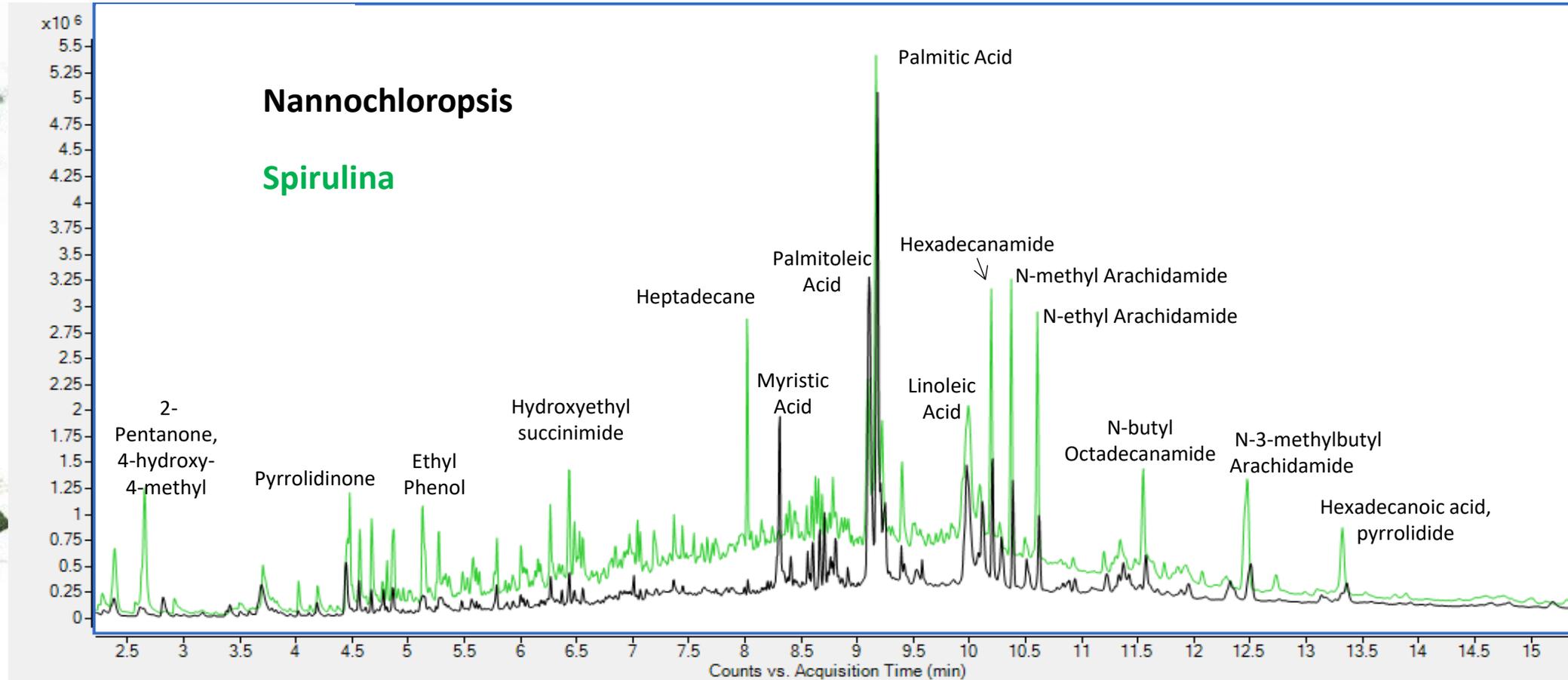
# The ICARUS project

International cooperation for sustainable aviation biofuels.

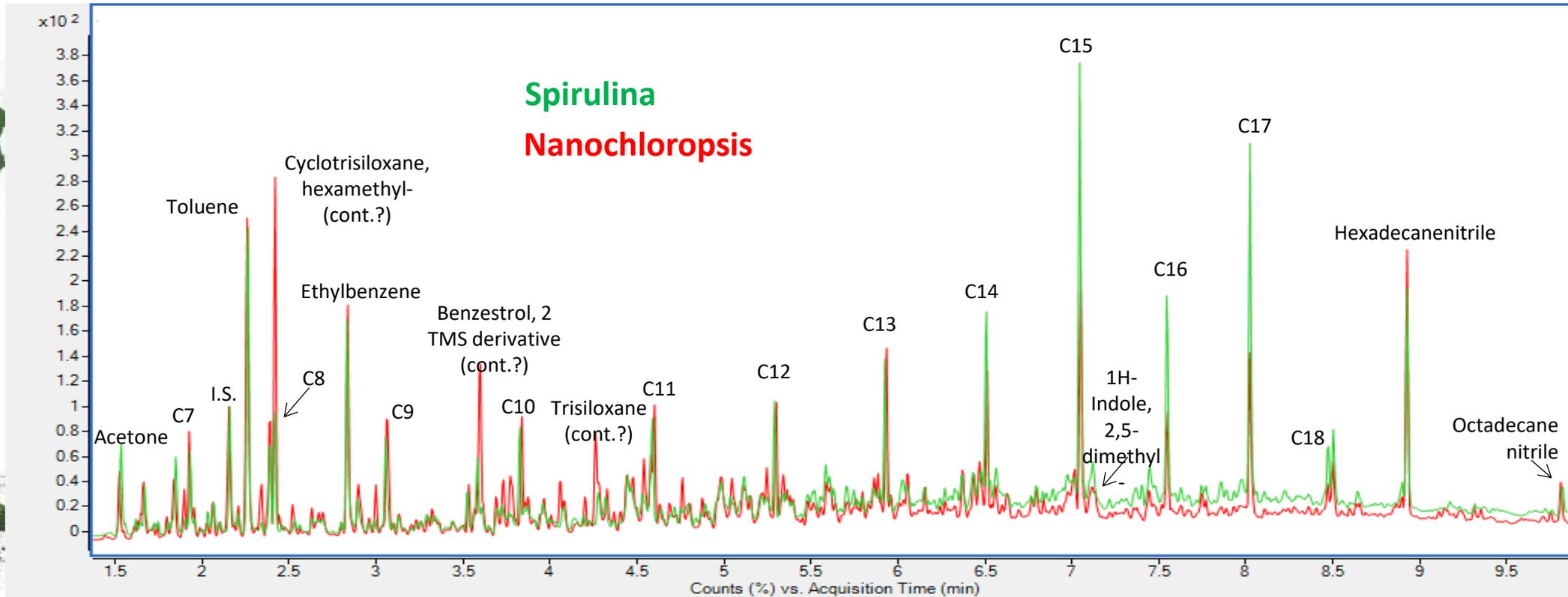


Aim: "Accelerate the deployment of three SAF production pathways by focusing on key technologies that currently limit their scalability."

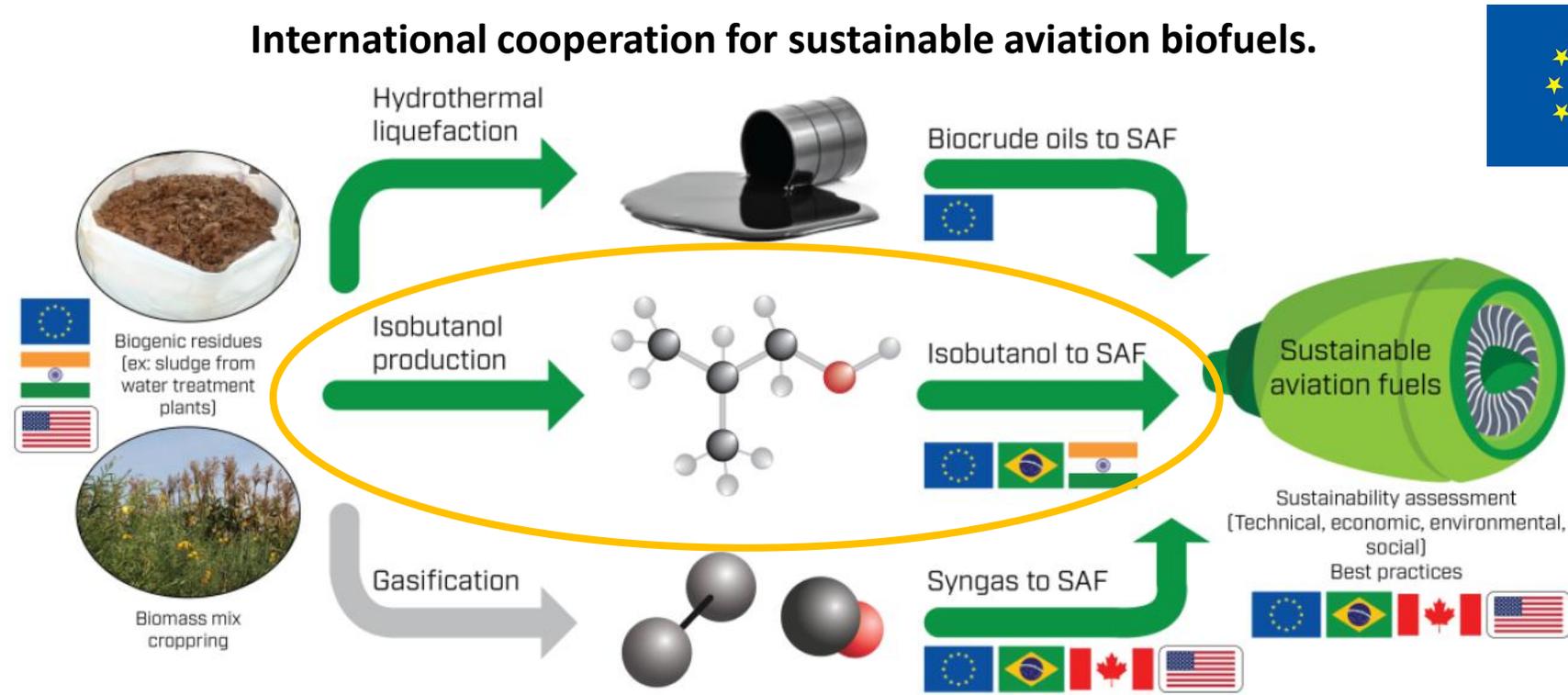
# Bio-oil to SAF pathways – N as an issue



# Bio-oil to SAF pathways – After HDO



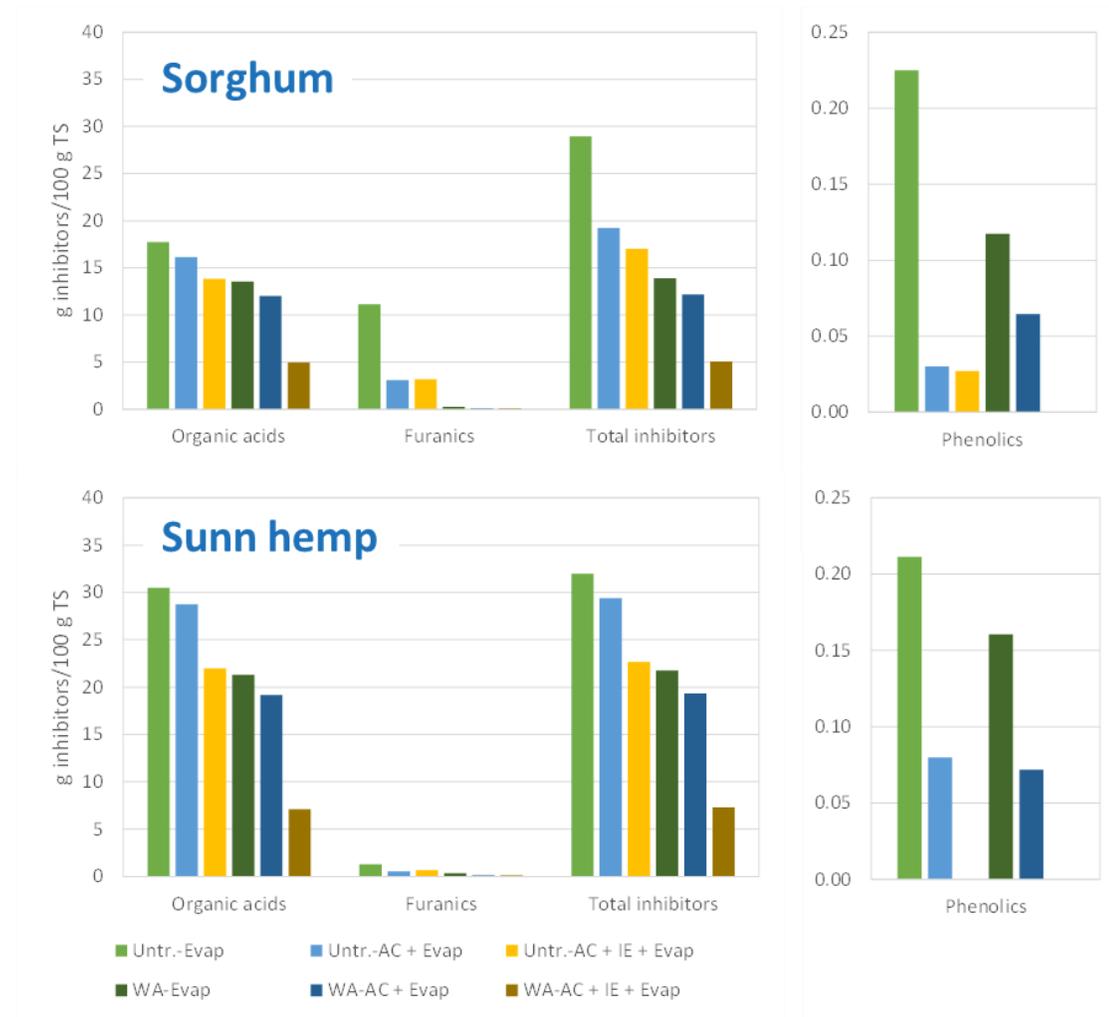
# The ICARUS project



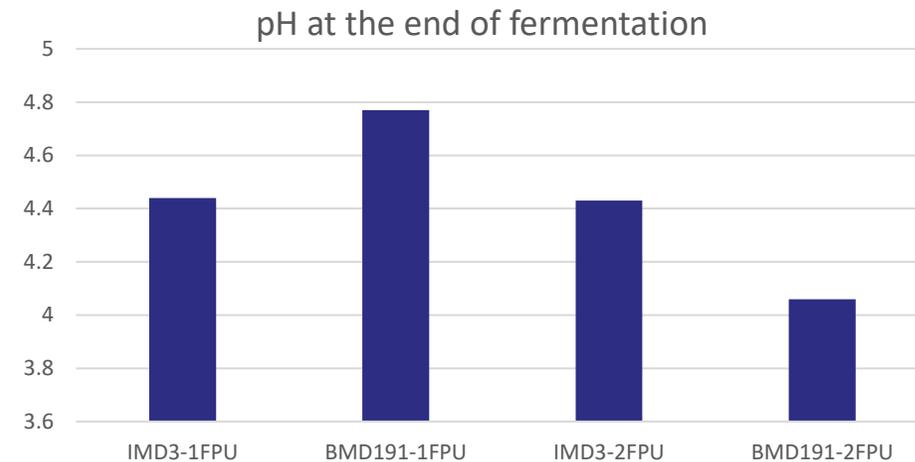
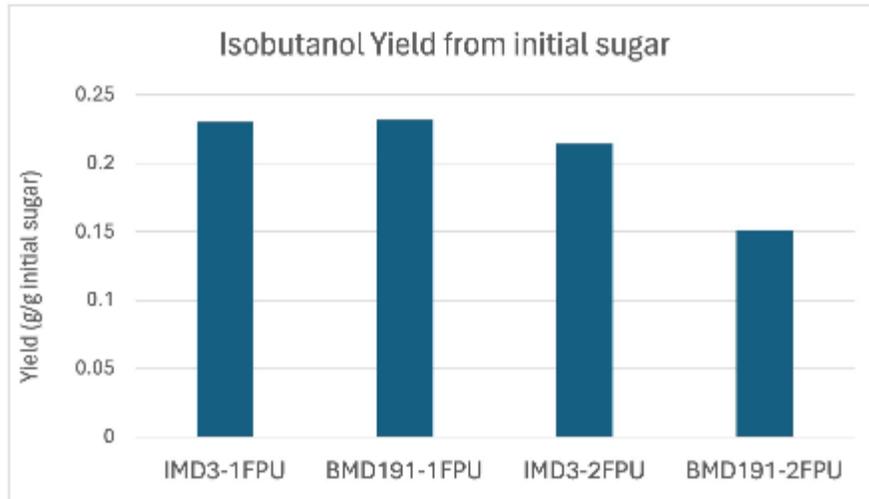
Aim: "Accelerate the deployment of three SAF production pathways by focusing on key technologies that currently limit their scalability."

# Isobutanol to SAF pathway – reducing enzymes

- Isobutanol is produced from sugars.
- ICARUS focusses on converting both C5 and C6 sugars simultaneously to iso-butanol
- Strain development is focussing on utilizing both as well insitu production of enzymes
- First step is providing real sugars from 2<sup>nd</sup> generation feedstocks



# Isobutanol yield

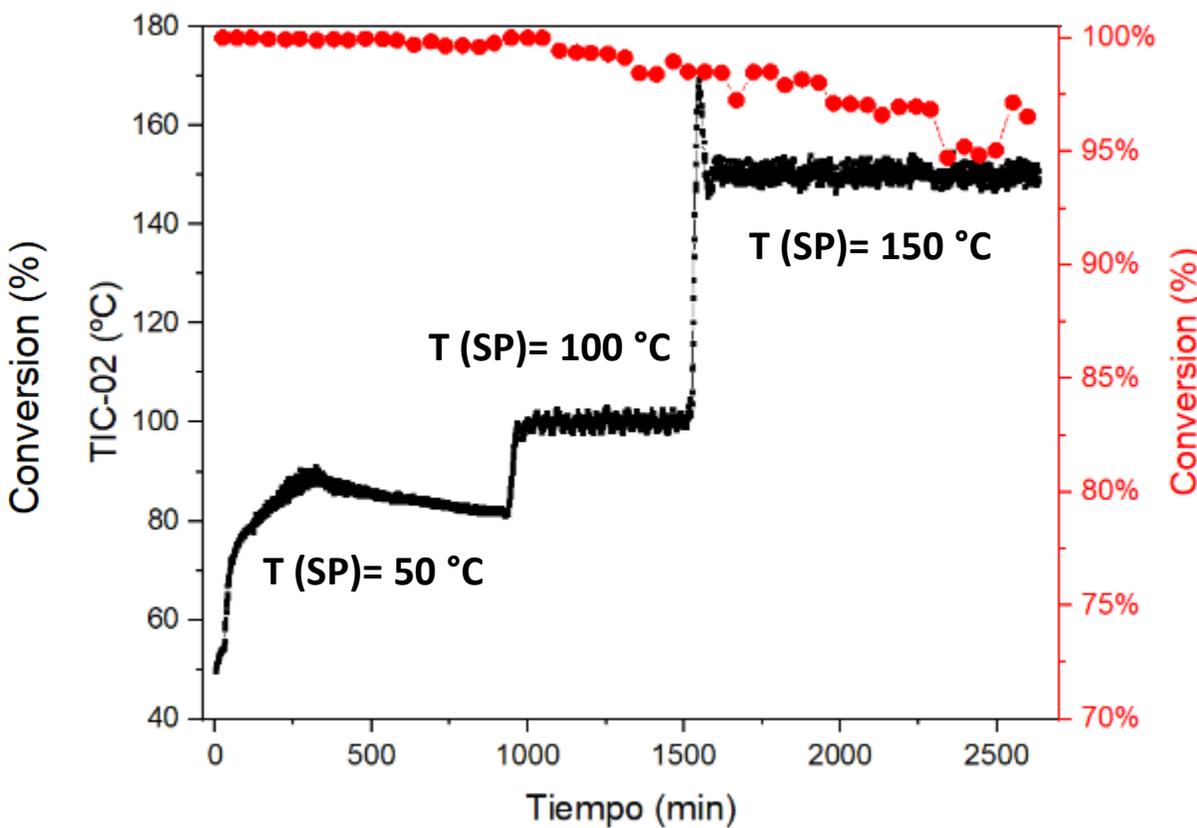
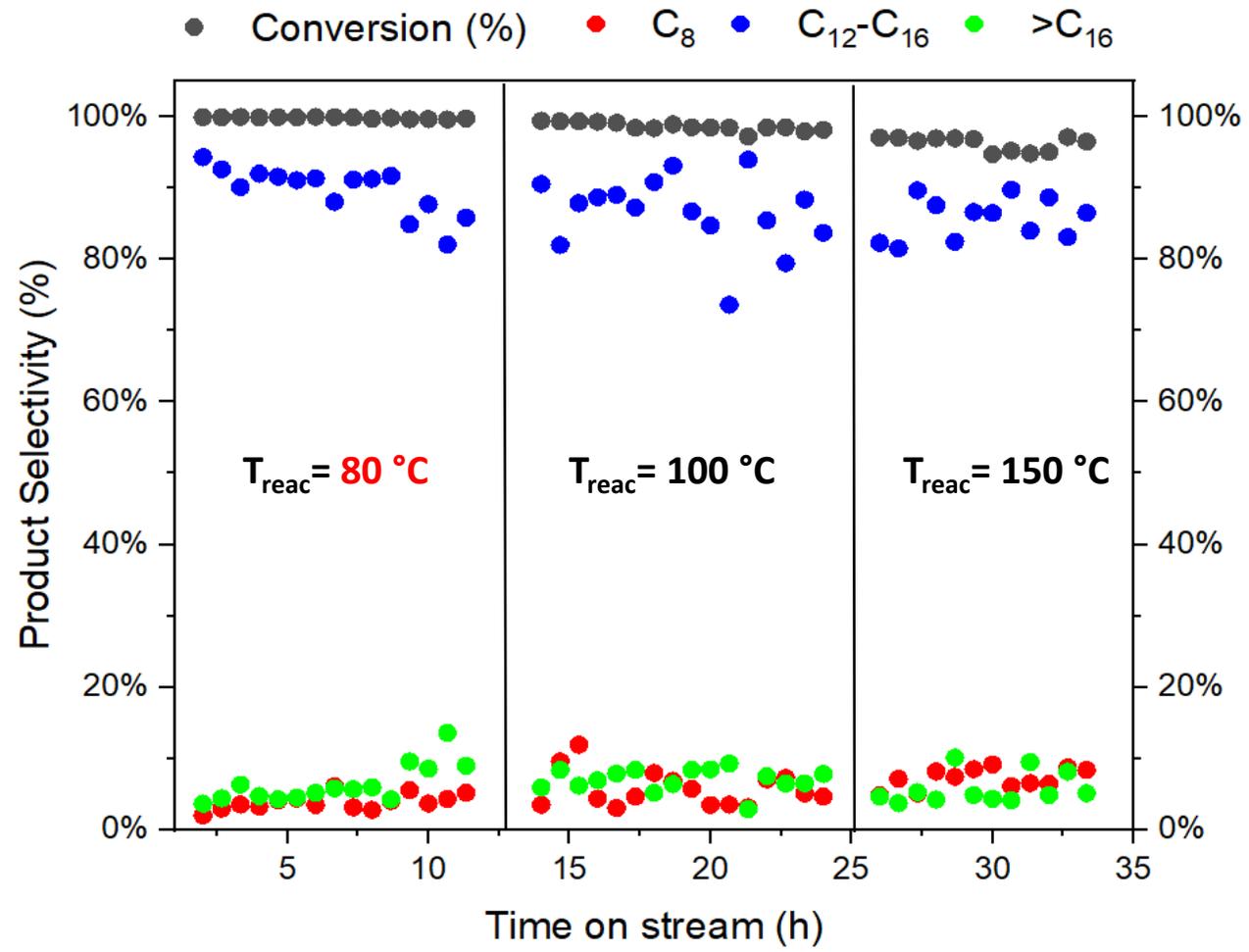


- Similar yield of isobutanol by IMD3 and BMD191 in 1FPU condition, despite a lower final pH in IMD3
- Higher yield of isobutanol by IMD3 in 2FPU condition –
  - Possible positive effect of enzyme secretion by IMD3
  - Also associated to lower pH by BMD191 at the end of the fermentation

# Catalytic tests:

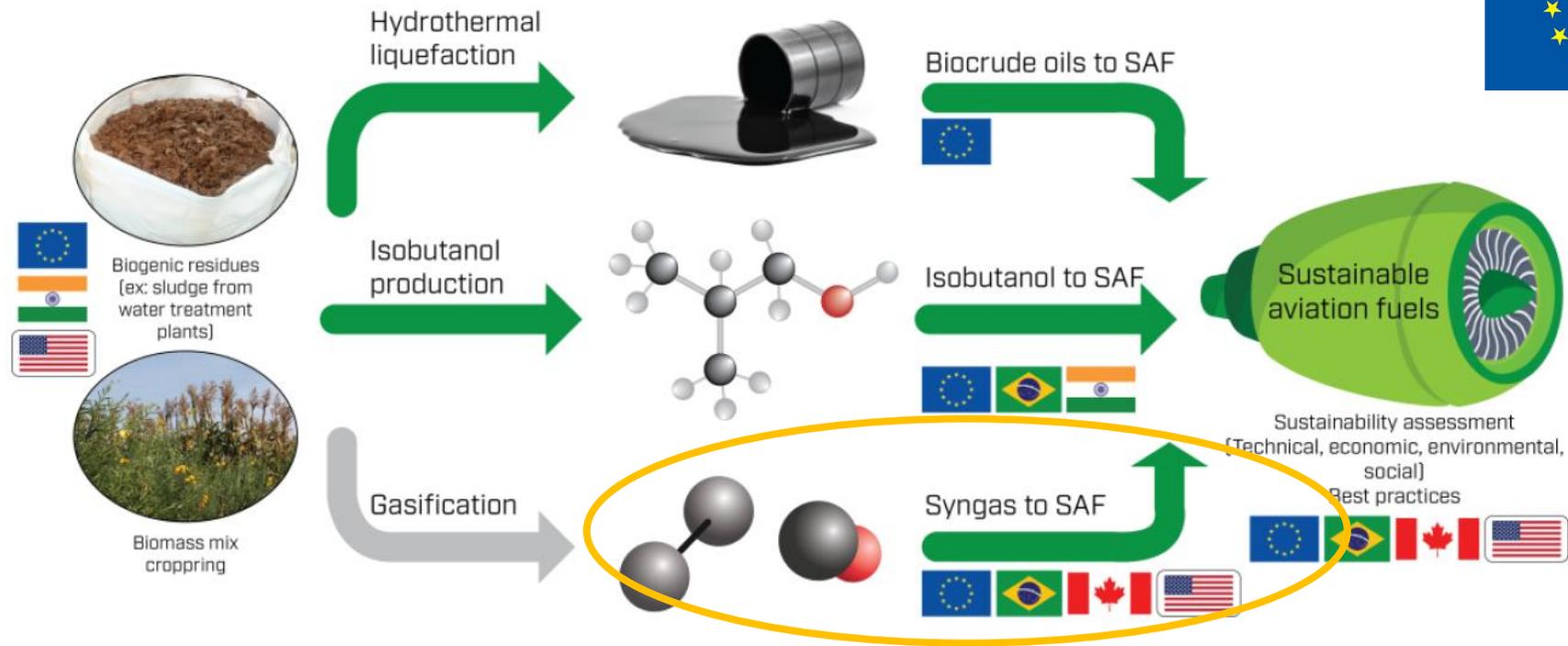
0,50 g of cat., WHSV= 7,0  $\text{g}_{\text{isob}} \cdot \text{h}^{-1} \text{g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1}$   $P_{\text{isob}} = 5,7 \text{ bar}$   
 Pretreatment: 350 °C 1 h with  $\text{N}_2$

Sample (from commercial  $\text{NH}_4^+$ -ZSM-5 ( $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 23$ ): Previously calcined at 550 °C, 5 °C/min, isotherm 4 h) → H-ZSM-5\_23 dissolved in silica



# The ICARUS project

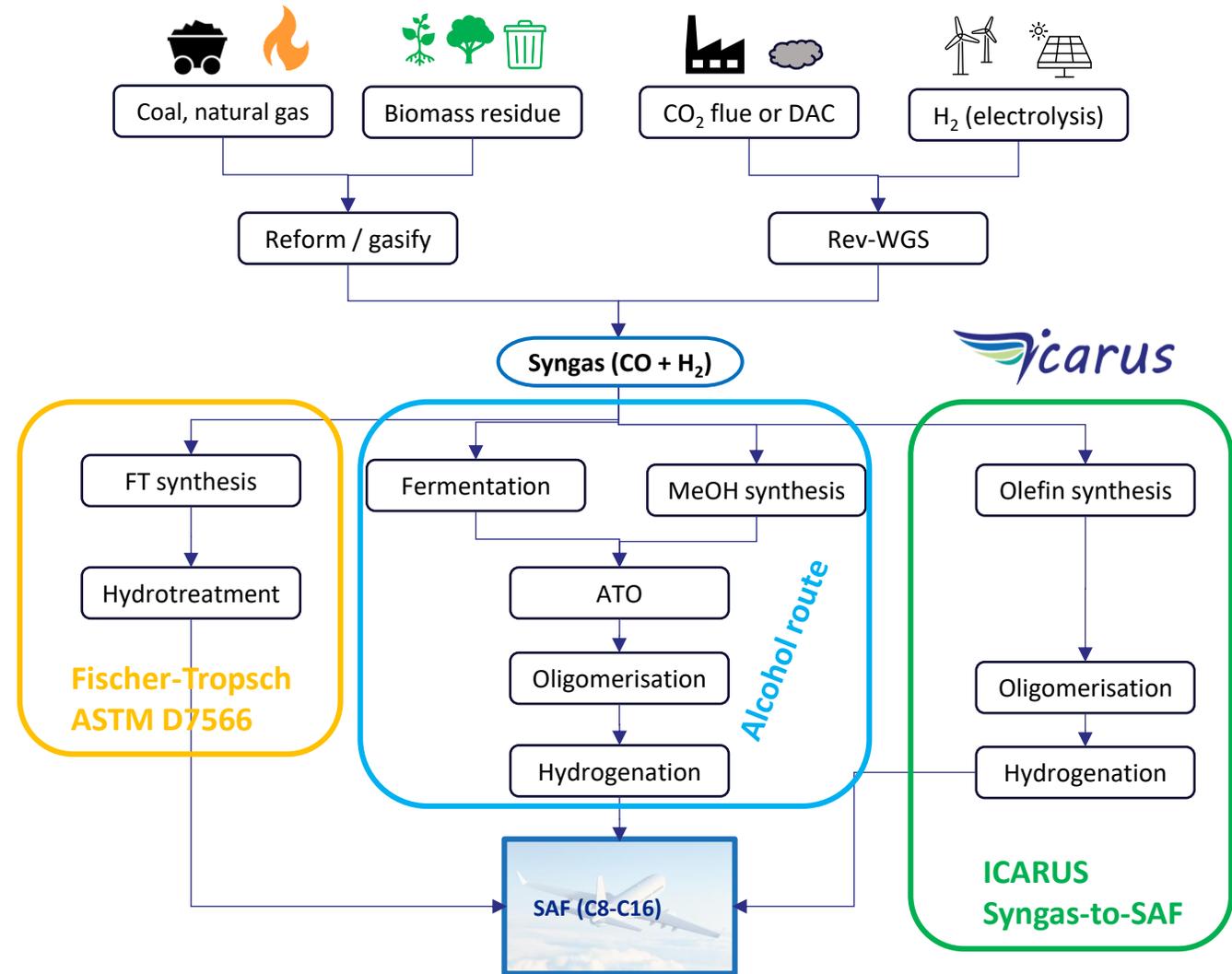
International cooperation for sustainable aviation biofuels.



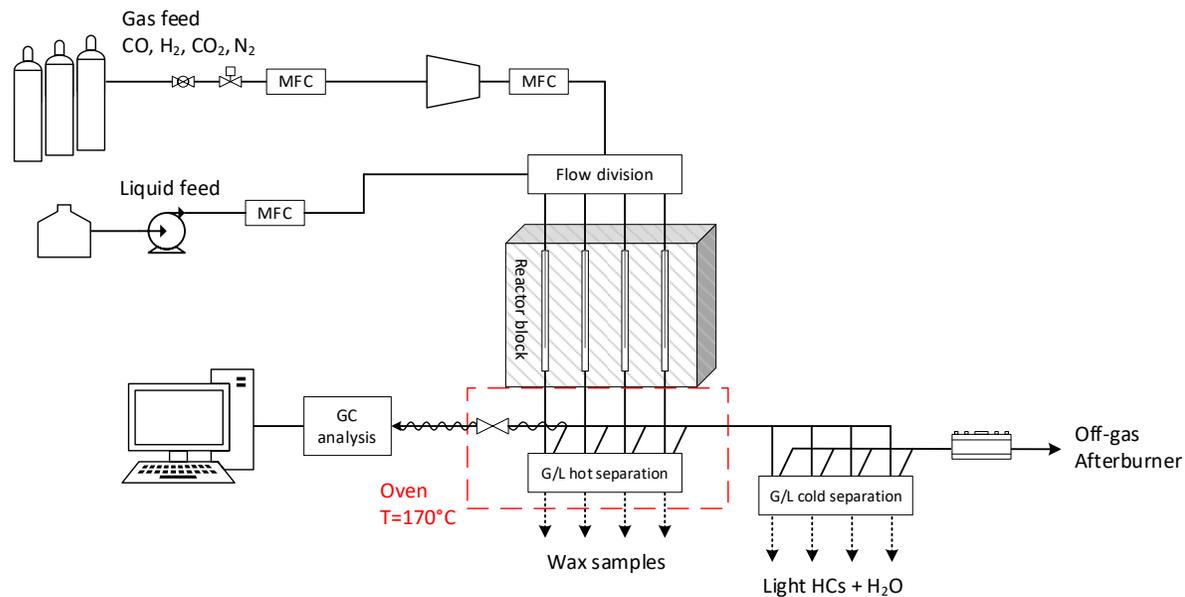
Aim: "Accelerate the deployment of three SAF production pathways by focusing on key technologies that currently limit their scalability."

# Syngas-to-SAF overview

- Fischer-Tropsch **ASTM D7566** approved
  - Large scale, still fossil based, SAF as co-product
- MeOH route MtJ under ASTM approval
  - Exxon/UOP/Topsoe in lead
  - MeOH and MeOH-to-olefins established processes
  - Oligomerisation of C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> olefins challenging compared to higher olefins (still low TRL to SAF)
- Direct olefin synthesis intermediary system identified as promising
  - Direct olefins from syngas
  - Low C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> olefins for more facile oligomerisation

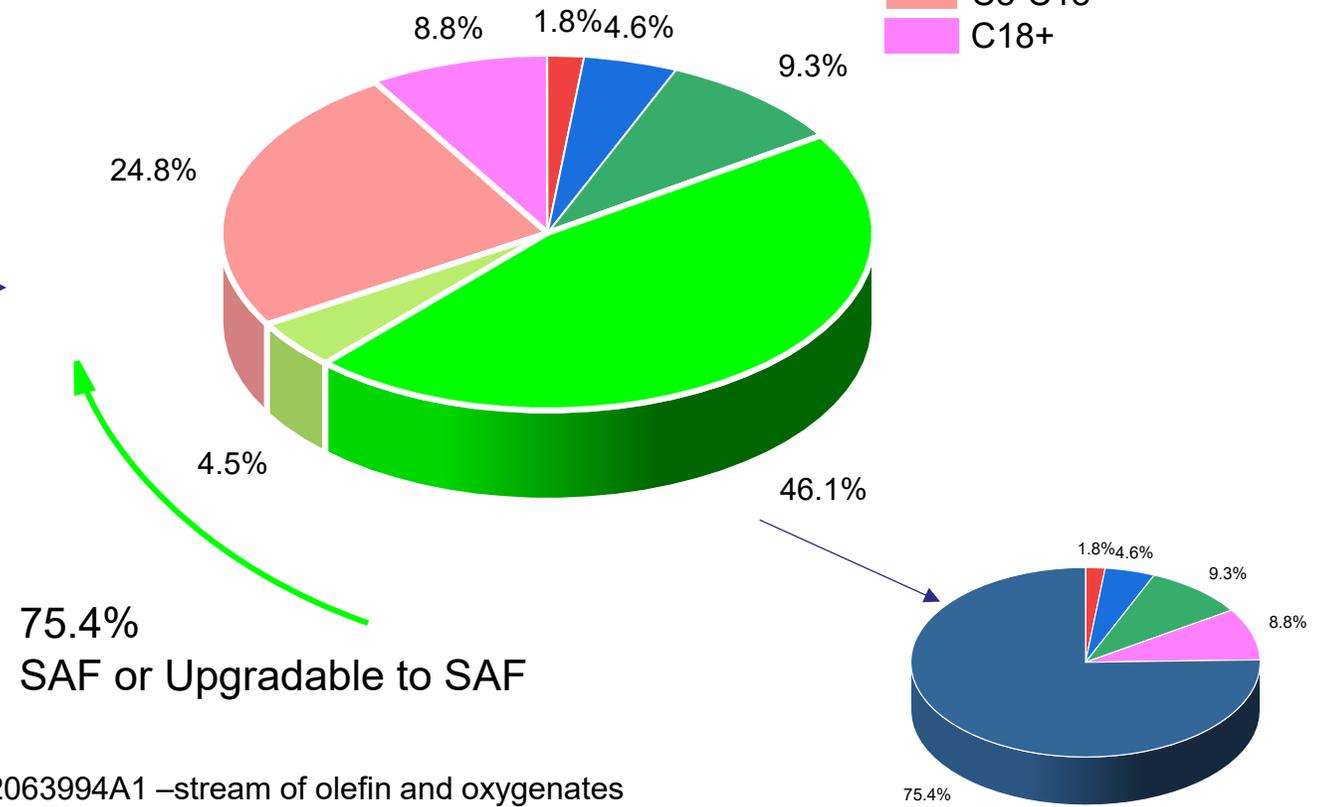
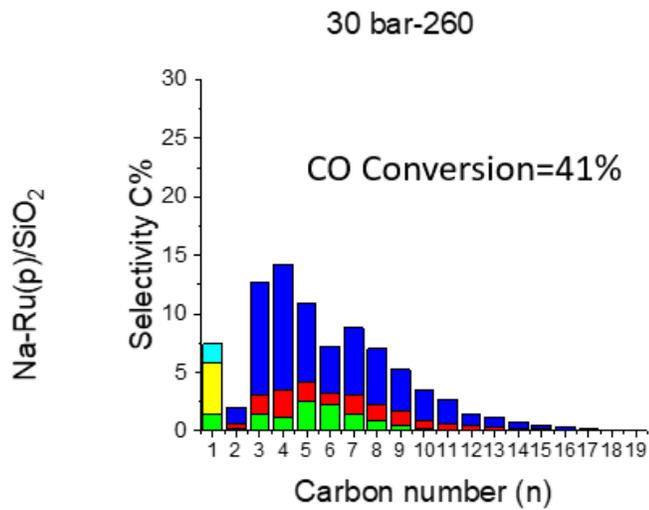


# Reactor system



- 4 isothermal fixed bed (FT) reactors, ca. 1 g catalyst per reactor
- Up to 100 bar, 600 °C, 4-200 g/h gas feed, 10 g/h liquid feed (MeOH/water design)
- **Online GC hot gas analysis (syngas, C1-C6, incl. alcohols olefins)**
  - Collected liquid product offline GC-MS/FID, HPLC, other physicochemical

# Product distribution



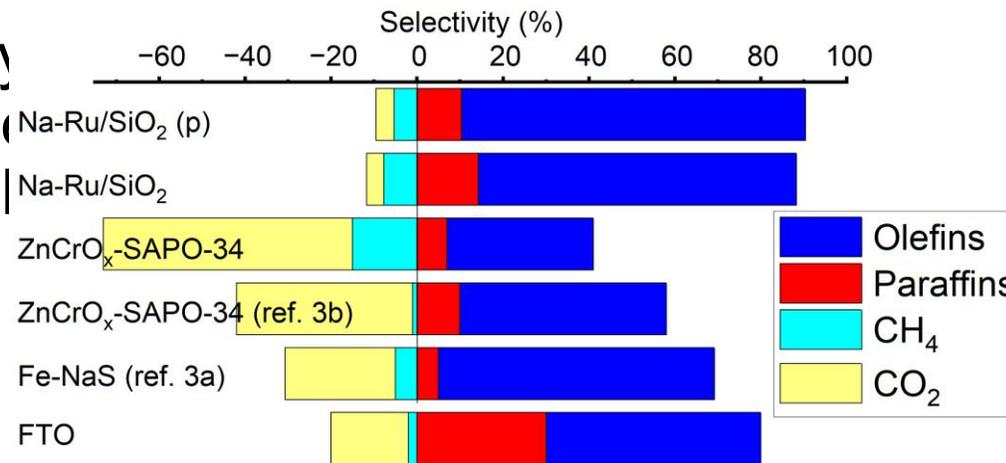
75.4%  
SAF or Upgradable to SAF

\*Patent by Haldor Topsøe A/S-WO2022063994A1 –stream of olefin and oxygenates can be upgraded to jet fuel.

# STO compared

- Selectivity comparison between the different syngas-to-olefin catalytic systems
- Na-Ru demonstrates high olefin selectivity at low WGS and C<sub>1</sub> formation

- Additionally SAF (oxygen though high



acid-catalysed oligom. to minimal at low P (vity)



*"To maximize SAF-range products, a feed composed of C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>5</sub> olefins is most desirable, while controlled C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>, and C<sub>7</sub> olefin cofeeding and C<sub>4</sub>/C<sub>5</sub> olefin feed ratio are required to finely tune the SAF product composition."*

# Innovations drive change

- Novel pathways SAF are not automatically cleared to be called SAF.
  - But Novel pathways are needed to achieve SAF mandates in the future
  - Certification is therefore important already at an early stage
- 
- Good to keep in mind other outlets for your products, which allow a business case development on the road to SAF

# Thank you

## Partners



## Associated Partners



ICARUS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 101122303



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# Understanding SAF Certification: EU RED, CORSIA and Voluntary Schemes

George Deslandes, RSB

Certification lead



## The world we are trying to create

RSB is a collaborative network that works together to *ACCELERATE* the transformation to a sustainable circular and bio-based economy

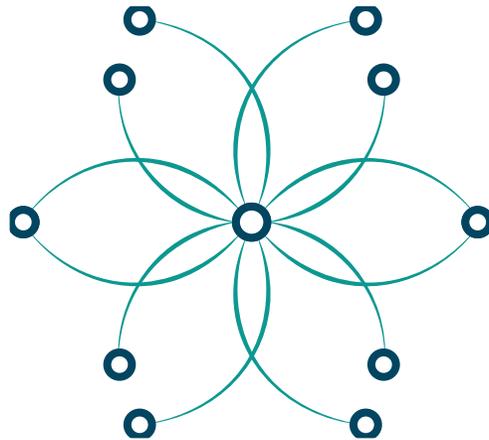


where climate change has been mitigated, ecosystems have been restored and livelihoods have been enhanced

# Holistic approach to support creating a positive impact



## Our mission



To advance the just and sustainable transition to a net-positive world, in collaboration with global partners from industry, civil society, policymakers and academia.

## Our activities



### Certification

Providing clarity on what good looks like



### Programmes

Building capability to make change happen



### Community

Enabling collaboration for greater impact

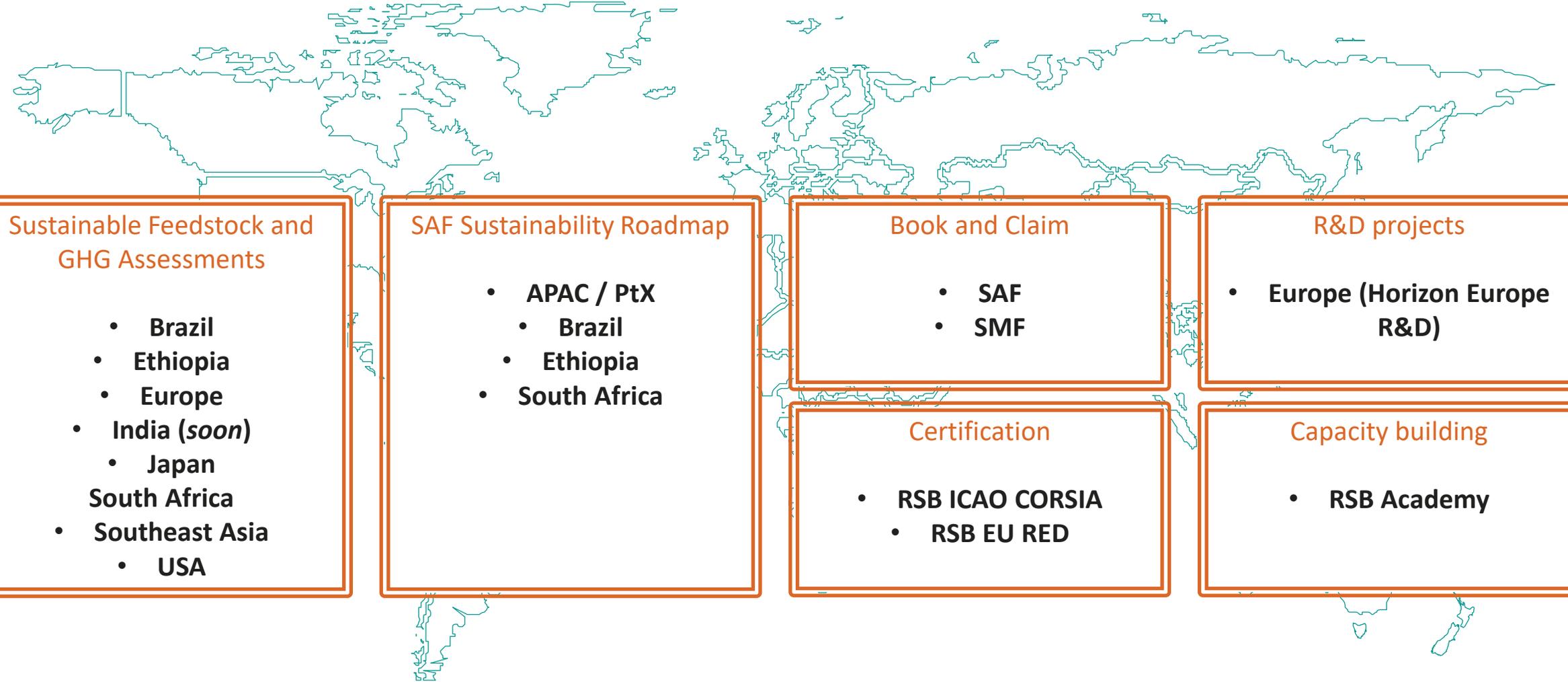




Our global membership is highly diverse  
 A wide range of organisations across supply chains, regions and industries



# RSB: Supporting the transition to sustainable industries



## Sustainable Feedstock and GHG Assessments

- Brazil
- Ethiopia
- Europe
- India (*soon*)
  - Japan
- South Africa
- Southeast Asia
  - USA

## SAF Sustainability Roadmap

- APAC / PtX
  - Brazil
  - Ethiopia
- South Africa

## Book and Claim

- SAF
- SMF

## R&D projects

- Europe (Horizon Europe R&D)

## Certification

- RSB ICAO CORSIA
- RSB EU RED

## Capacity building

- RSB Academy



# SAF Certification



# SAF Certification Schemes

	 <b>RSB Global</b> Fuels & Advanced Products	 <b>RSB EU RED</b>	 <b>RSB CORSIA</b>
<b>Sustainability requirements</b>	<b>RSB Principles and Criteria</b>		
<b>Type of claim</b>	Voluntary	Regulatory; linked to EU RED targets	Regulatory; linked to ICAO CORSIA targets
<b>Scope</b>	Fuels and materials produced from biocircular feedstock	Renewable fuels and energy produced with bio-based feedstock and RCF/RFNBOs	SAF from bio-based feedstock and waste gases
<b>Renewable input allocation</b>	Across all outputs, based on energy or economic value. Flexible attribution options.	Across all outputs, based on energy value (LHV).	Across all outputs, based on energy value (LHV).
<b>GHG reduction threshold</b>	Fuel: 50% (60% after 2015) Products: 10%	60% (65% after 2021) RCF/RFNBO: 70%	50% core LCA (10% LCA+ILUC)
<b>Fossil baseline</b>	Fuel: 90g CO <sub>2</sub> e/MJ Products: fossil comparator	94g CO <sub>2</sub> e/MJ RCF/RFNBO:	89g CO <sub>2</sub> e/MJ
<b>Book and claim allowed?</b>	Yes	No	No



# Pillars of sustainability certification

## Management system

- **Clear responsibilities of staff pertaining to all relevant RSB requirements** (e.g. record keeping, GHG calculation, forwarding of sustainability documents)
- **Yearly internal audit** conducted and results kept for check by auditor
- **Written commitment by Management** to comply with relevant rules

## Sustainability

- **Meet the RSB 12 Principles and Criteria – Industrial and Agricultural sites**
- Meet social, legal & rights-based, environmental and management practices for sustainable production in a bio-based supply chain

## GHG emissions calculation

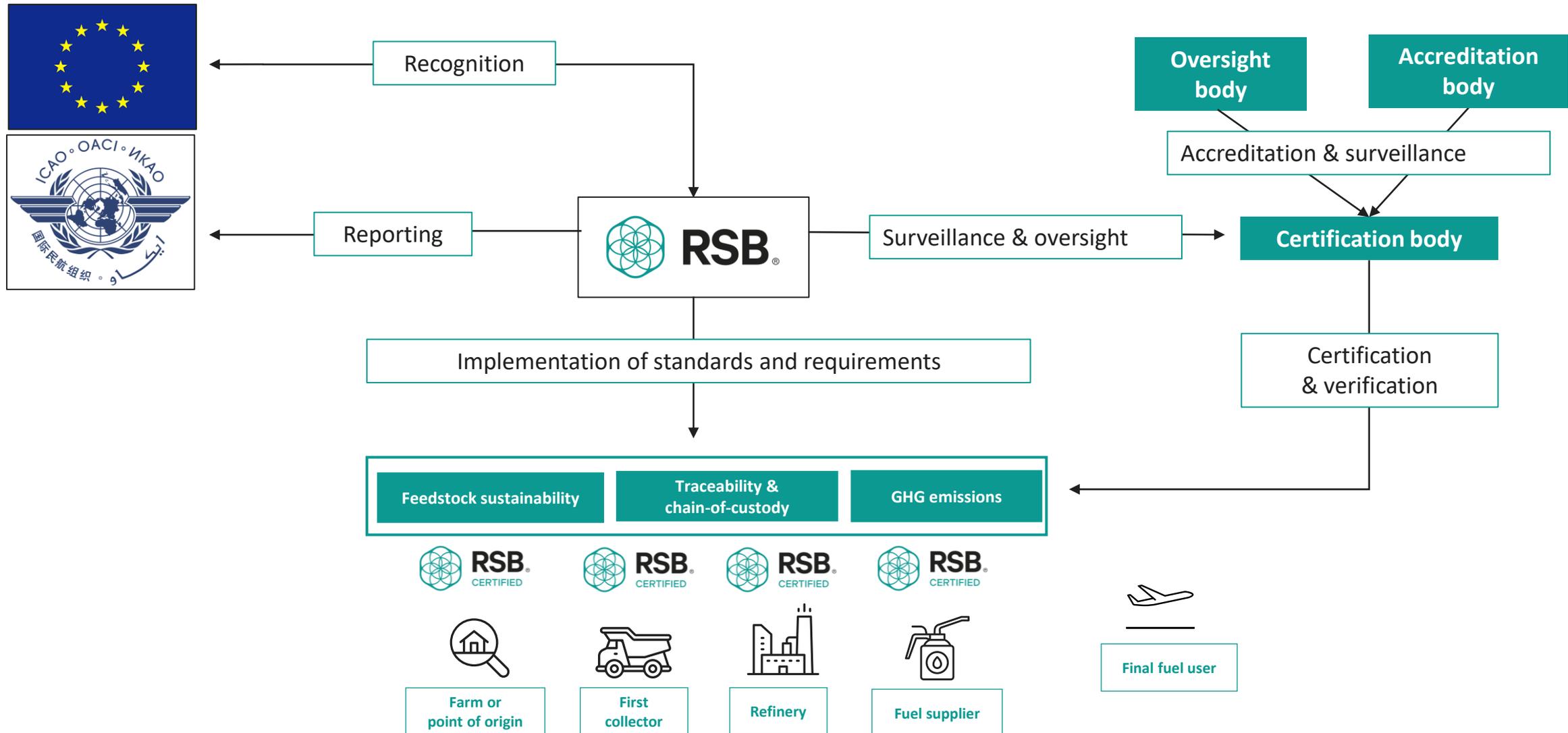
- **Availability, completeness and correctness of GHG calculation**
- Appropriate use of **emission factors**
- **Correct indication of GHG emission value on sustainability documents** (e.g., on Proof of Sustainability)

## Traceability and chain of custody system

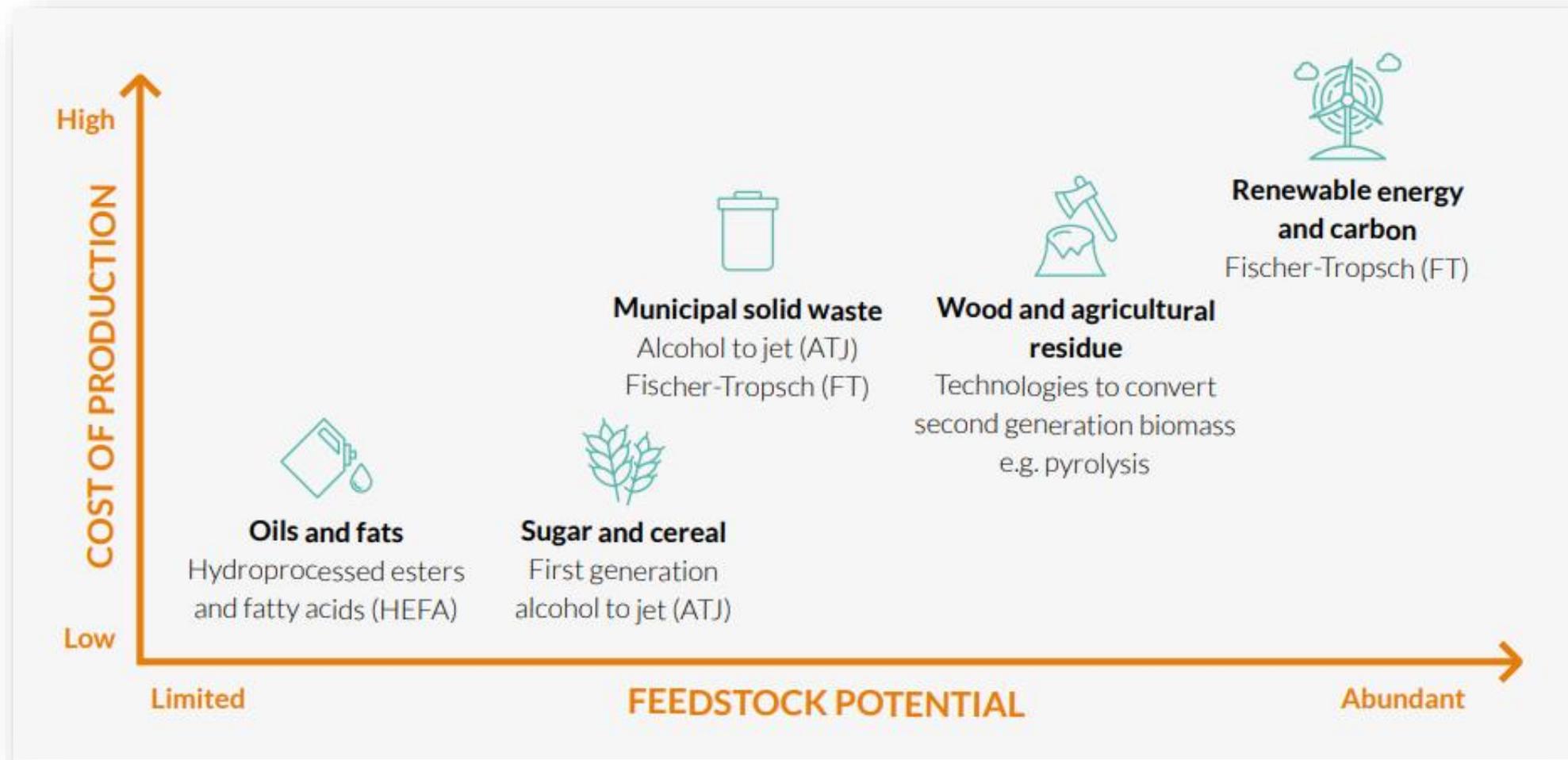
- **Record of documentation** (e.g. Proofs of Sustainability documents, delivery documents, contracts, weighbridge tickets, etc.)
- Fit-for-purpose **traceability and mass balance system**



# SAF certification ecosystem



# Main feedstock families



Source: BP (April 2023), "How all sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) feedstocks and production technologies can play a role in decarbonizing aviation"



# What feedstock pathways are eligible under EU RED?

Annex IX Part A	Annex IX Part B
Feedstocks that can be processed into biofuels, or biogas for transport, with “advanced technologies”	Feedstocks that can be processed into biofuels, or biogas for transport, with “mature technologies”
E.g. algae, biomass fractions of MSW, and other waste-based feedstocks not fit for food or feed.	E.g. UCO and animal fats
No cap	1.7% cap (can be modified by Member States)

Category in Annex IX to Directive (EU) 2018/2001	Feedstock sub-category/examples
Annex IX Part A d)	Drink waste
Annex IX Part A d)	Fruit/vegetable residues and waste (Only tails, leaves, stalks and husks)
Annex IX Part A d)	Bean shells, silverskin, and dust: cocoa, coffee
Annex IX Part A p)	Shells/husks and derivatives; soy hulls
Annex IX Part A d)	Residues and waste from production of hot beverages: spent coffee grounds, spent tea leaves
Annex IX Part A d)	Dairy waste scum
Annex IX Part A d)	Food waste oil: oil extracted from waste food from industry
Annex IX Part A d)	Non-edible cereal residues and waste from grain milling and processing: wheat, corn, barley, rice
Annex IX Part A d)	Olive oil extraction residues and waste: olive stones
Annex IX Part A p)	Agricultural harvesting residues
Annex IX Part A q)	Palm fronds, palm trunk
Annex IX Part A q)	Damaged trees
Annex IX Part A p)	Unused feed/fodder from ley
Annex IX Part B b)	Waste fish oil classified as categories 1 and 2 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.
Annex IX Part A d)	Other slaughterhouse waste (Animal residues (non-fat) Cat.1)
Annex IX Part A d)	Industrial wastewater and derivatives
Annex IX Part A g)	Palm sludge oil (PSO)
Annex IX Part A d)	Industrial storage settlings
Annex IX Part A d)	Biogenic fraction of end-of-life tyres
Annex IX Part A q)	Recycled/waste wood
Annex IX Part A d)	Humins
Annex IX Part A d)	Spent bleaching earth

Source: RSB EU RED Standard for Advanced Fuels– RSB-STD-11-001-01-010 Version 2.0

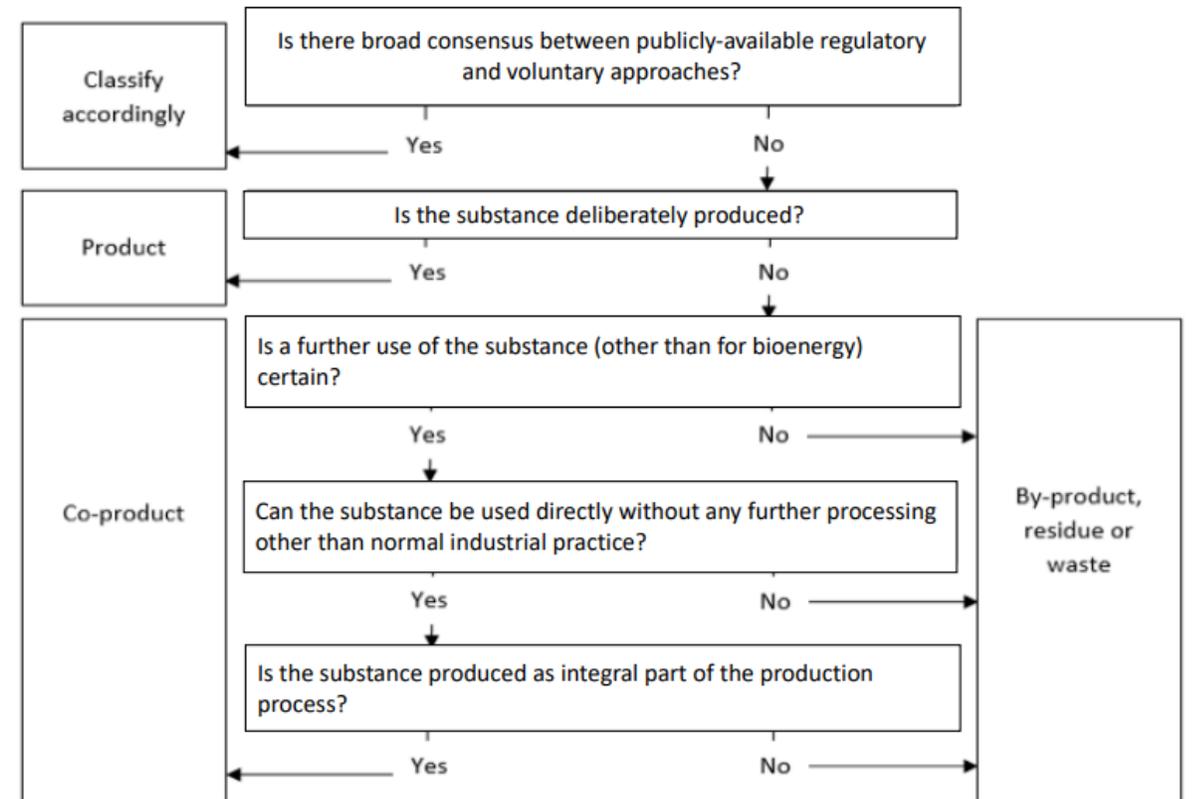


# What feedstock pathways are eligible under CORSIA?

## List of CORSIA-eligible waste & residues

Residues	Wastes	By-products	Co-products
<b>Agricultural residues:</b>	Municipal solid waste (see details in Section 4.2.2)	Palm Fatty Acid Distillate	Molasses
Bagasse	Used cooking oil	Beef Tallow	
Cobs	Waste gases	Technical corn oil	
Stover		Non-standard coconuts (see details in Section 4.2.3)	
Husks		Poultry fat	
Manure		Lard fat	
Nut shells		Mixed Animals Fat	
Stalks			
Straw			
<b>Forestry residues:</b>			
Bark			
Branches			
Cutter shavings			
Leaves			
Needles			
Pre-commercial thinnings			
Slash			
Tree tops			
<b>Processing residues:</b>			
Crude glycerine			
Cobs			
Forestry processing residues			
Empty palm fruit bunches			
Palm oil mill effluent			
Sewage sludge			
Crude Tall Oil			
Tall oil pitch			
Wheat Starch Slurry (see details in Section 4.2.1)			

## CORSIA product classification decision tree



Source: CORSIA Methodology For Calculating Actual Life Cycle Emissions Values, Oct 24



## Feedstock Classification - CORSIA

Primary and co-products



Main products of a production process. These products have significant economic value and elastic supply.

Must comply with the CORSIA Sustainability Criteria.

By-products



Secondary products with inelastic supply and economic value (e.g. tallow, corn oil).

Residues



Secondary materials with inelastic supply and little economic value (e.g. agricultural residues, like sugarcane bagasse).\*

Waste

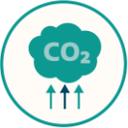


Materials with inelastic supply and no economic value. A substance that will be discarded or required to be discarded (e.g. UCO).\*

\* Must be *genuine* waste/residues, included in the ICAO CORSIA positive list.



# Sustainability Themes: CORSIA and EU RED

<b>GHG</b>	CORSIA SAF = 10% reduction EU RED = 65% reduction	<b>RSB Principle 3</b>	
<b>Carbon stock</b>	CORSIA and EU RED SAF should not be made from biomass obtained from land with high carbon stock.	<b>RSB Principle 7</b>	
<b>Water</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should maintain or enhance water quality and availability	<b>RSB Principle 9</b>	
<b>Soil</b>	Production of CORSIA SAFs should maintain or enhance soil health.	<b>RSB Principle 8</b>	
<b>Air</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should minimise negative effects on air quality	<b>RSB Principle 10</b>	
<b>Conservation</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should maintain biodiversity, conservation value & ecosystem services.	<b>RSB Principle 7</b>	

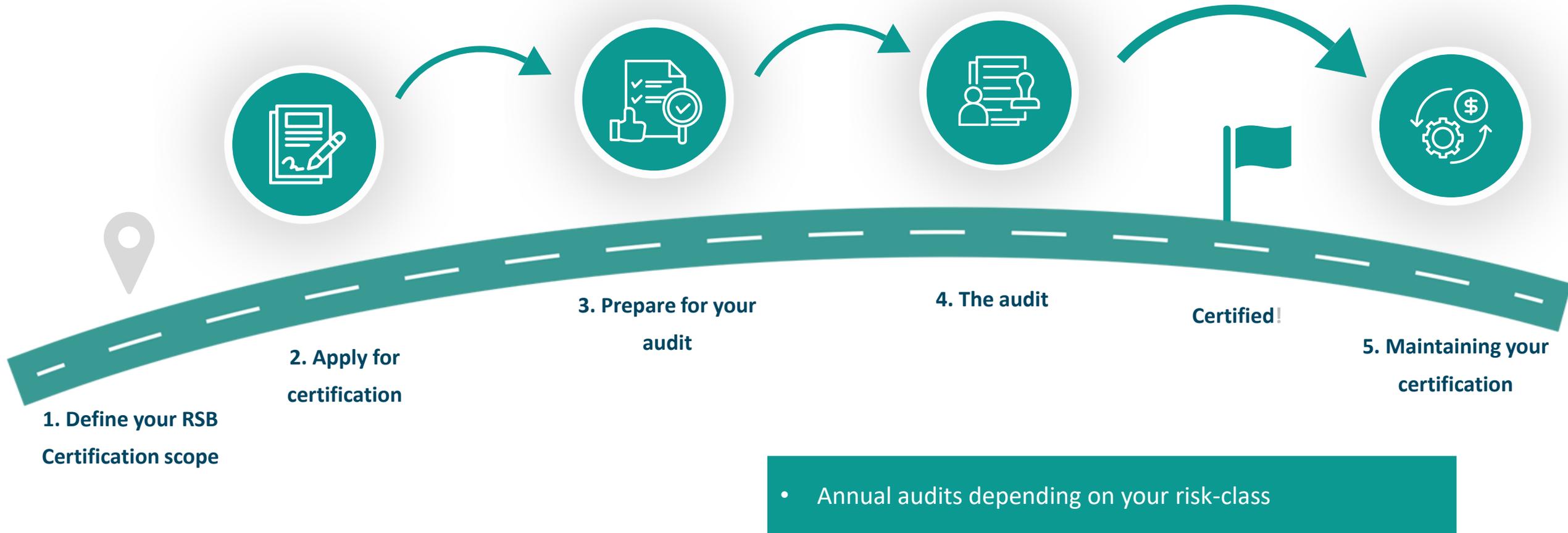


# CORSIA themes

<b>Waste &amp; chemicals</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should promote responsible management of waste and the use of chemicals.	<b>RSB Principle 11</b>	
<b>Human rights</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should respect human and labour rights.	<b>RSB Principle 4</b>	
<b>Land-use rights</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should respect land rights and land use rights including indigenous and/or customary rights.	<b>RSB Principle 12</b>	
<b>Water-use rights</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should respect prior formal or customary water use rights.	<b>RSB Principle 9</b>	
<b>Local development</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should contribute to social and economic development.	<b>RSB Principle 10</b>	
<b>Food security</b>	Production of CORSIA SAF should promote food security in food insecure regions.	<b>RSB Principle 6</b>	



# Certification Journey





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# From Innovation to Certification: Insights from the SusAlgaeFuel Project

Darren Carty, SFS Ireland

Agnes Thornton, SFS Ireland





**SFS Ireland**

*Piloting a Pathway to Net-Zero*

# ICARUS Webinar Case Study Presentation

Darren Carty

Agnes Thornton

SFS Ireland

25.09.2025

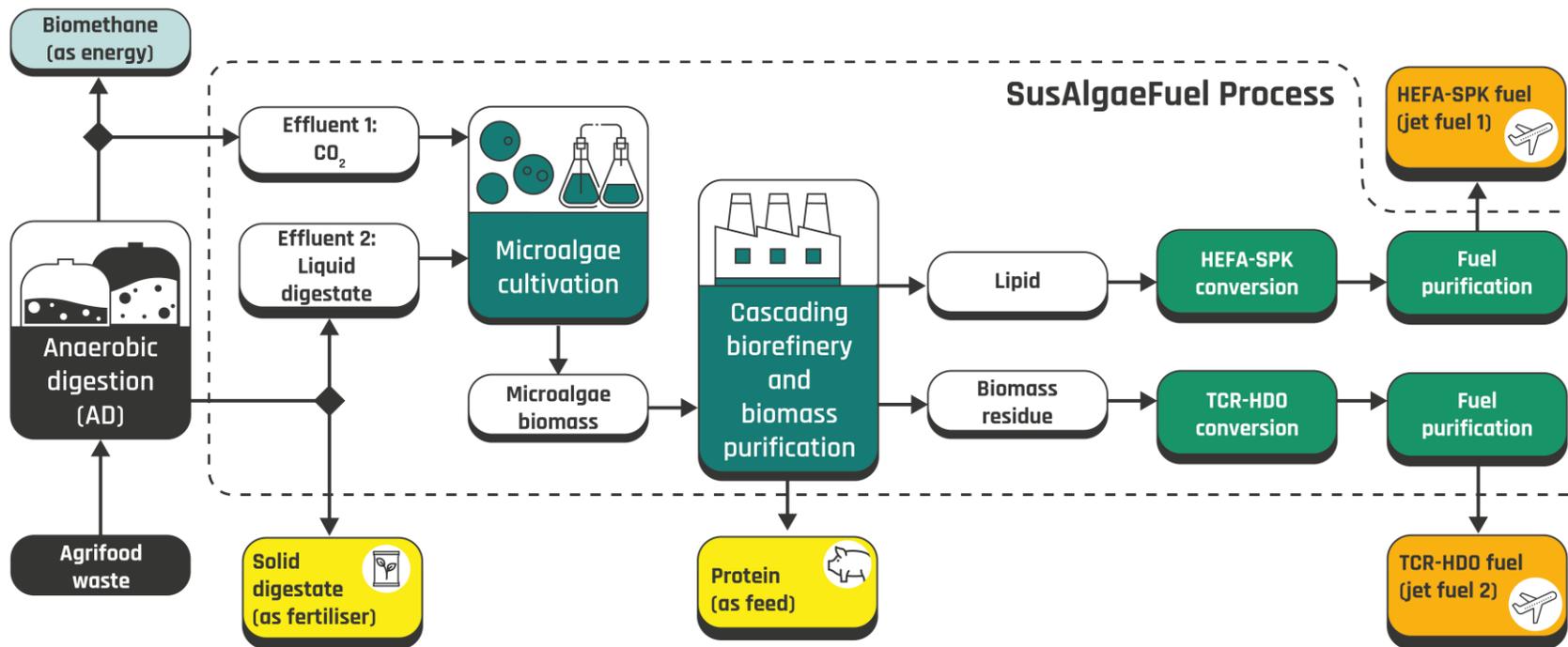




# SusAlgaeFuel Project Summary

## Objectives:

Developing Innovative and sustainable processes for producing microalgae-based sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs).



✓ Innovate across multiple stages of the microalgae value chain

✓ Cost-competitive and Sustainable SAF

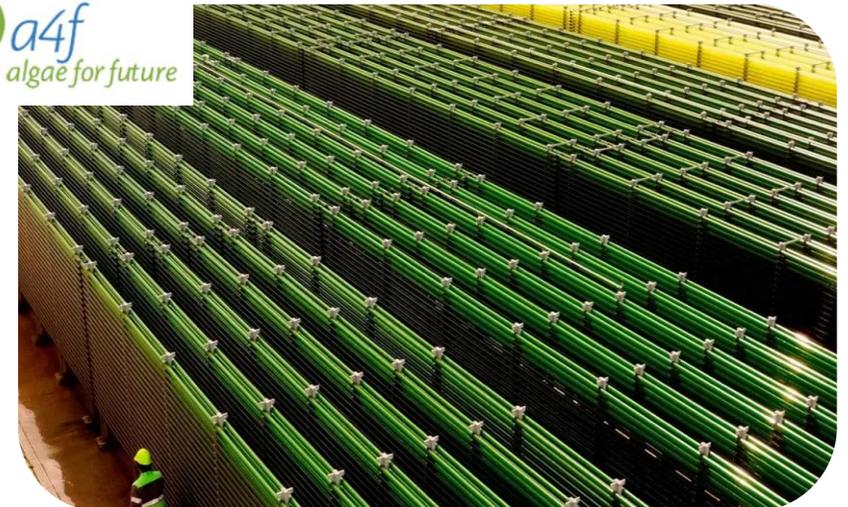
✓ Create a synergistic relationship between anaerobic digestion by-products and microalgae cultivation



# SusAlgaeFuel Project Summary

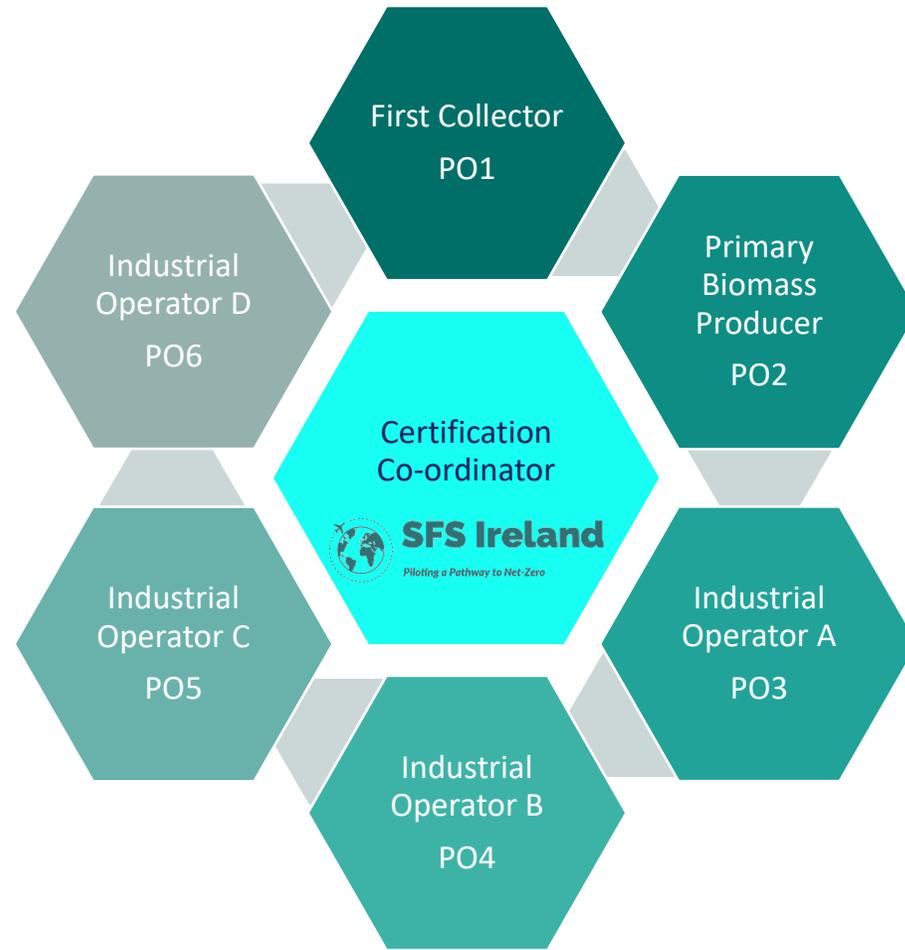
## Objectives:

Developing Innovative and sustainable processes for producing microalgae-based sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs).





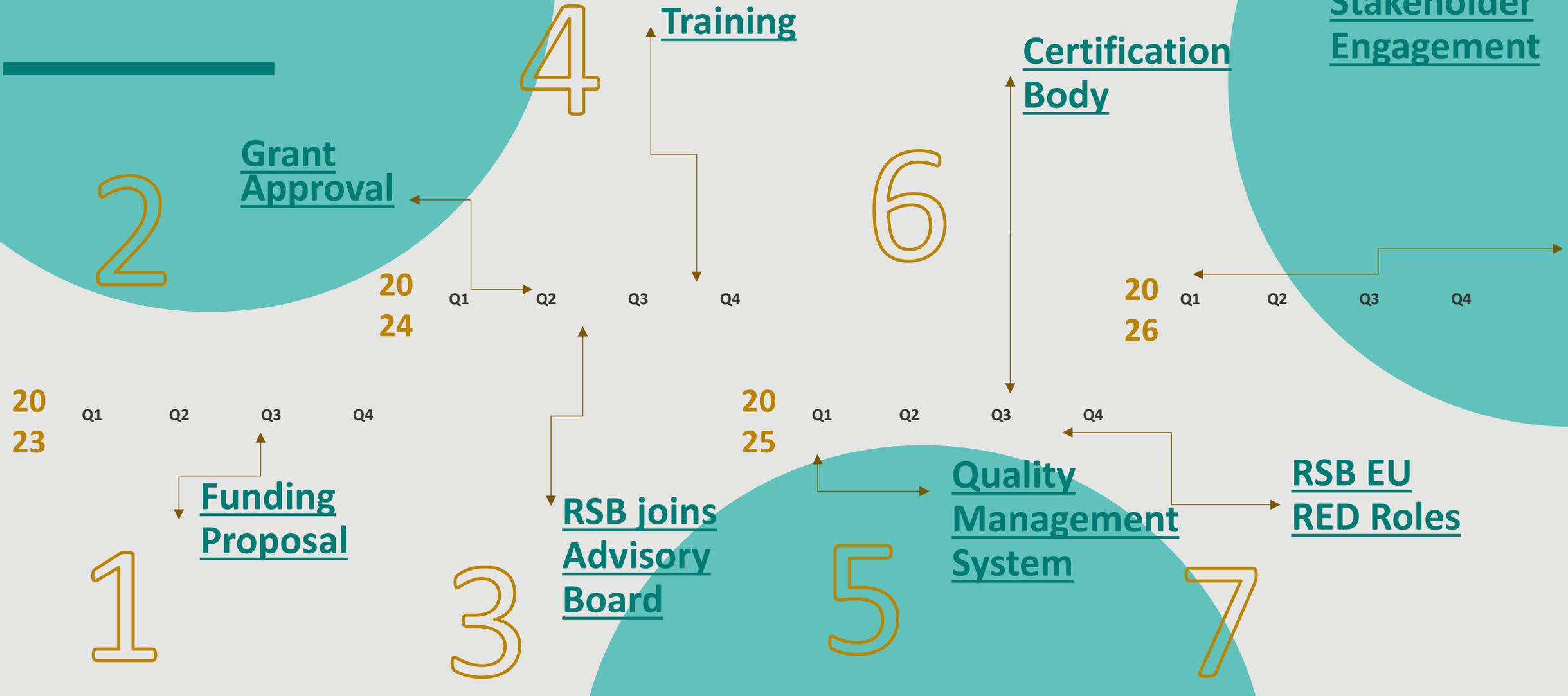
# Our Role in the Project



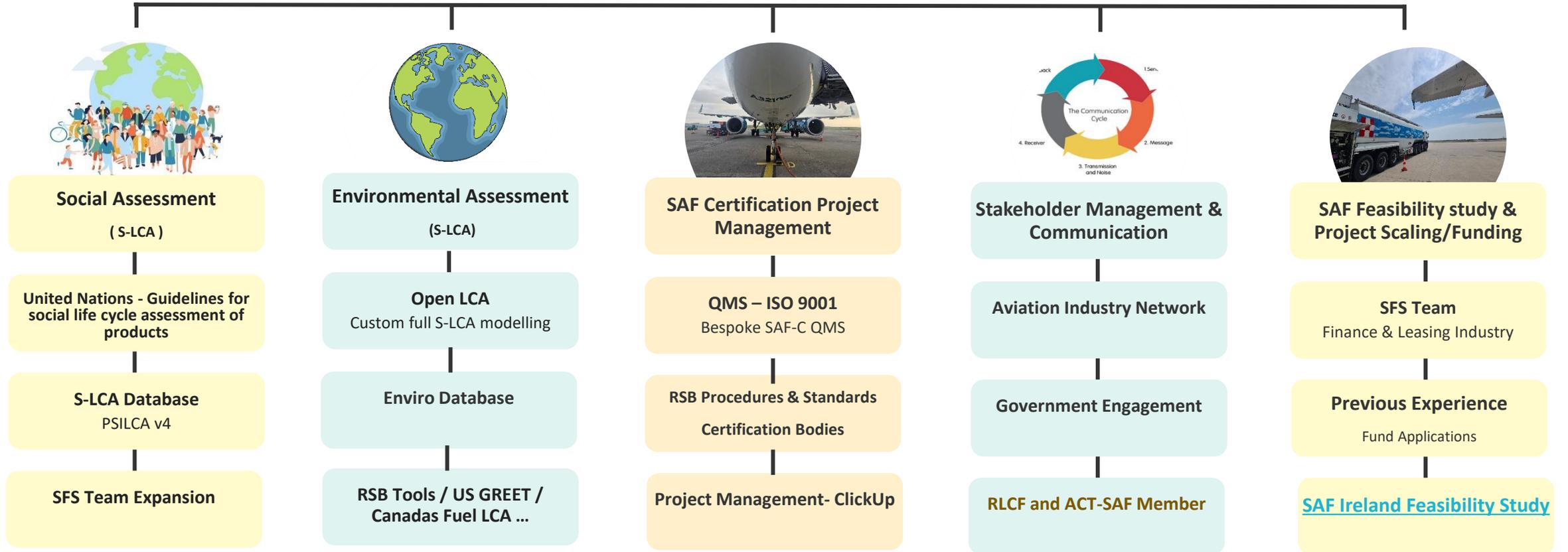
- S-LCA & S-LCA Optimisation
- Fuel Certification Assessment
- Stakeholder Management
- COMs & Industry Engagement



# RSB EU RED Roadmap for SusAlgaeFuel



# Our project Toolset



# Thank you

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**SFS Ireland**

*Piloting a Pathway to Net-Zero*



**SusAlgaeFuel**



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE AVIATION BIOFUELS



# The ICARUS SAF Certification Guidance

Esther Hegel, RSB  
ICARUS Project Partner



# ICARUS DELIVERABLE

## “Sustainability Certification Guidance for Novel SAF Pathways”



- **Goal:** Provide practical guidance to make sustainability certification transparent, usable, and integrated early in R&D for novel SAF pathways.
- **Audience:** Researchers, technology developers, and project partners working on new feedstocks and production routes.
- **Scope:** Explains certification basics, compares major schemes (CORSA, EU RED, voluntary), and offers step-by-step guidance on criteria, LCA, chain-of-custody, and scheme-specific rules.

### Scope of the guidance (tentative outline):

- **SAF certification basics:** ASTM vs. sustainability certification and why both are needed.
- **Certification schemes explained:** Overview of CORSA, EU RED, and major voluntary schemes.
- **Practical guidance for R&D projects:** Feedstock eligibility, sustainability criteria, life-cycle assessment basics, chain-of-custody, and scheme selection.
- **Deep-dives into key schemes:** Specific requirements under CORSA (feedstocks, GHG thresholds, auditing, use in offsetting) and under EU RED (Annex IX, land-use rules, GHG savings, access to incentives).



# ICARUS Guidance Development Timeline

## 1. WEBINAR

*September 2025*

Main topics: Introduction to SAF certification, presentation of goal & scope of the ICARUS guidance, stakeholder feedback

## 2. WEBINAR

*July 2026*

Presentation & feedback of the final guidance document



## GOAL & SCOPING

*March – September 2025*

Drafting of goal and scope of the guidance document including pathways, certifications and standards, the main target group and broader applicability of the guidance.

## FROM DRAFT TO FINAL

*September 2025 – July 2026*

- Guidance development:
- Refinement of goal & scope
  - Exchange with external experts and related projects
  - Certification case studies

## FINAL GUIDANCE

*September 2026*

The guidance for SAF certification will be finalised





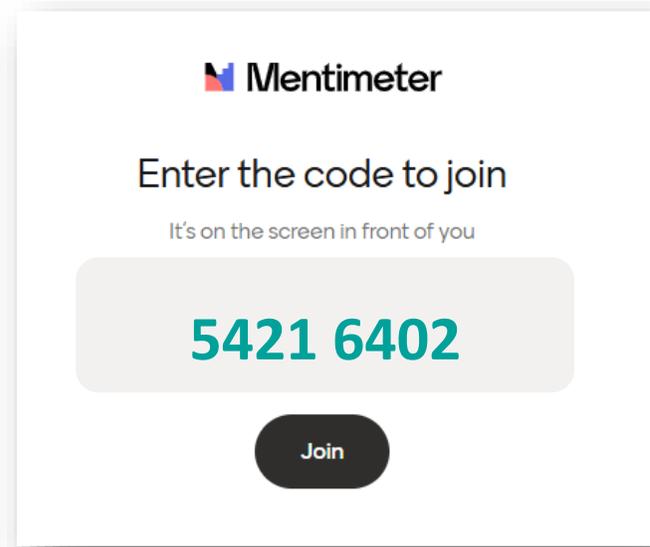
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# Open Discussion & Online Poll

# We want to hear from you!

1. Take your phone/computer
2. Scan the QR code OR go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) & enter the code: 5421 6402



# Open-ended question

## What is your biggest challenge or question about SAF certification?

Can this certification process be simplified?

Lack of understanding about certification requirements.

Scoping the work, costs, timelines. What resources are required specific to the project?

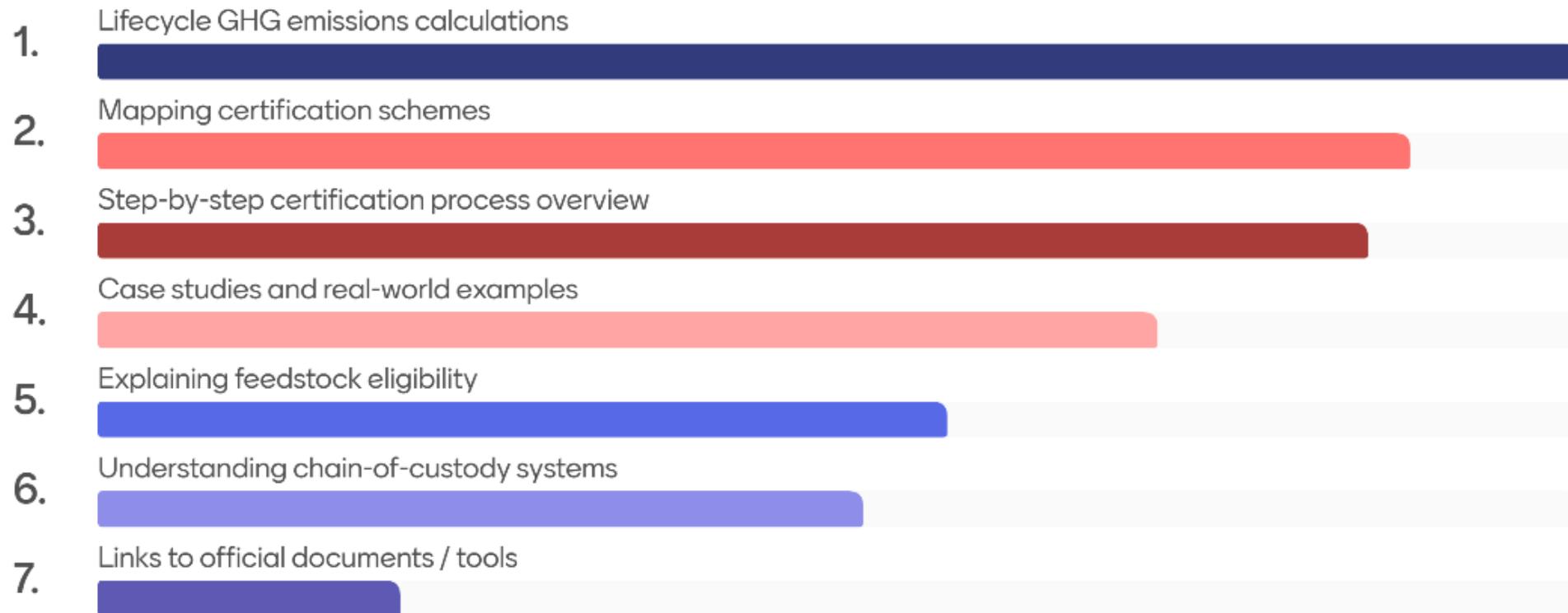
what type of verifiers or auditors is needed?

How transferable is data from a pilot scale-up to a full commercial scale operation

Lack of detailed understanding around the fuel certification steps and how these link to other voluntary and compliance standards like CORSIA and EU RED

# Raking question

What should be the top priority in a certification guidance for new SAF pathways?



# Open-ended question

Which specific novel feedstocks or pathways would you like us to include in the guidance?

Green methanol to SAF

Recycled Carbon Fuels

AtJ

BTG pyrolysis of saw dist with upgrading to SAF

Mixed-alcohol to jet

Microalgae

Methanol-to-Jet

direct alcohol to olefins pathways

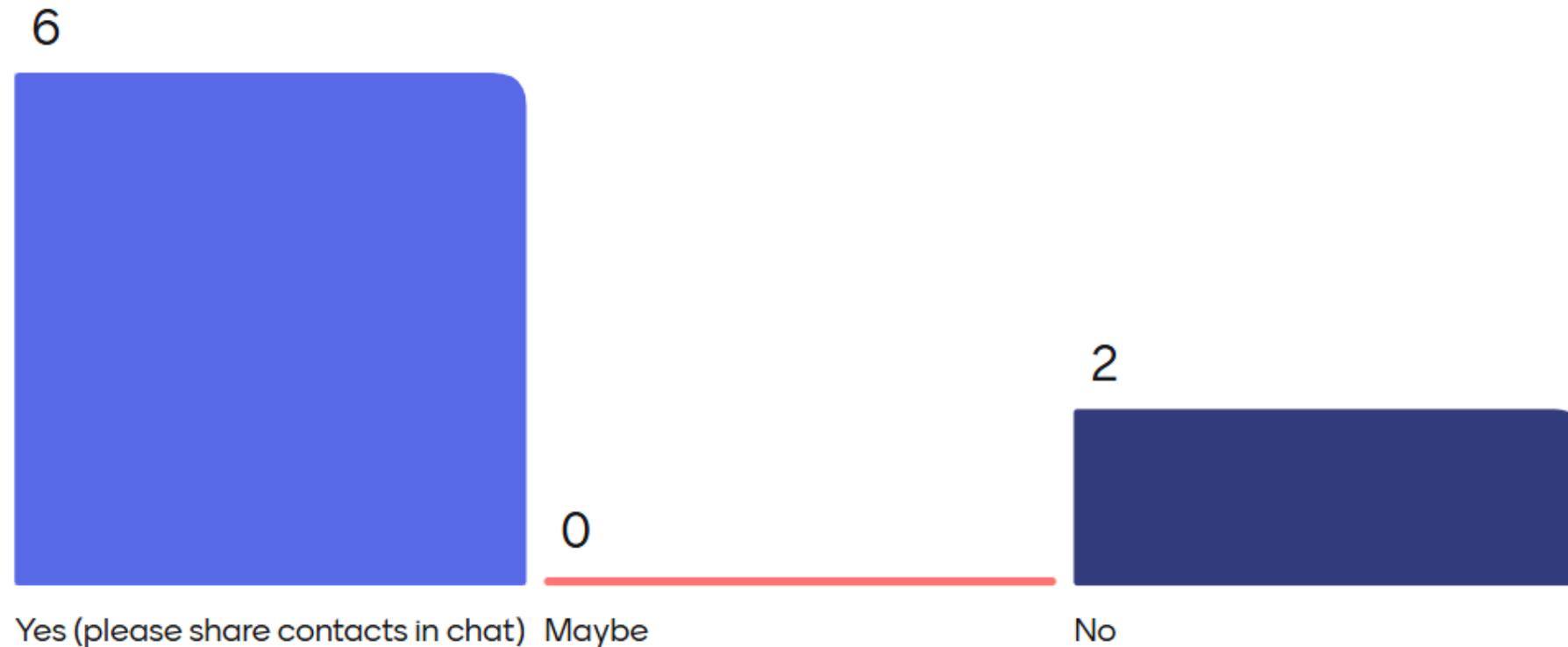
Cassava

Pyrolysis of waste tyres

rfnbo:%20FT%20with%20CO2%20from  
%20waste%20incineration%20

# Multiple-choice question

Would you be interested in reviewing or contributing to the SAF certification guidance later in the project?





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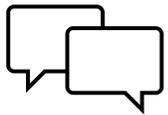
# Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Esther Hegel, RSB  
ICARUS Project Partner



# Outlook & Closing

- You can access the slides & recordings via the ICARUS website soon!  
→ <https://www.icarus-biojet.eu/>
- Development of **ICARUS Deliverable** on “Sustainability Certification Guidance for Novel SAF Pathways” in 2026 & **Webinar** on final study findings in Q3 2026



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*This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101122303.*