



NURZHANOVA ASSIL

Principal Research Associate

Institute of Plant Biology and Biotechnology MSHE PK

# **Phytoremediation of POPs-contaminated soils: solutions and development potential in Kazakhstan**

**Nurzhanova A., Mamirova A.**

## The problem of obsolete pesticides in Kazakhstan (case study of Almaty region)

Table 1 - Inventory of obsolete pesticides in Almaty region

| Districts      | # of<br>storehouses | Pesticide amount, kg                       |                |                               |
|----------------|---------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------|
|                |                     | Ministry of Ecology<br>of Kazakhstan, 2005 | IPBB, 2010     | IPBB, IGG&C,<br>2018-2020     |
| Karasay        | 6                   | 1 350                                      | 600            | NA                            |
| Talgar         | 7                   | 121 449                                    | 31 150         | 450                           |
| Zhambyl        | 5                   | 13 245                                     | 100 700        | NA                            |
| Enbekshikazakh | 9                   | 25 000                                     | 7 970          | NA                            |
| Uygur          | 7                   | 3 250                                      | 3 830          | NA                            |
| Balkhash       | 7                   |  | 500            | NA                            |
| Ile            | 3                   | 17 550                                     | 107 150        | NA                            |
| Eskeldi        | 12                  | 60 000                                     | 100 750        | NA                            |
| Kerbulak       | 8                   |  | 0              | NA                            |
| Koksu          | 0                   | 0  | 0              | NA                            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>64</b>           | <b>436 049</b>                             | <b>352 650</b> | <b>450</b><br>(disposed 2019) |

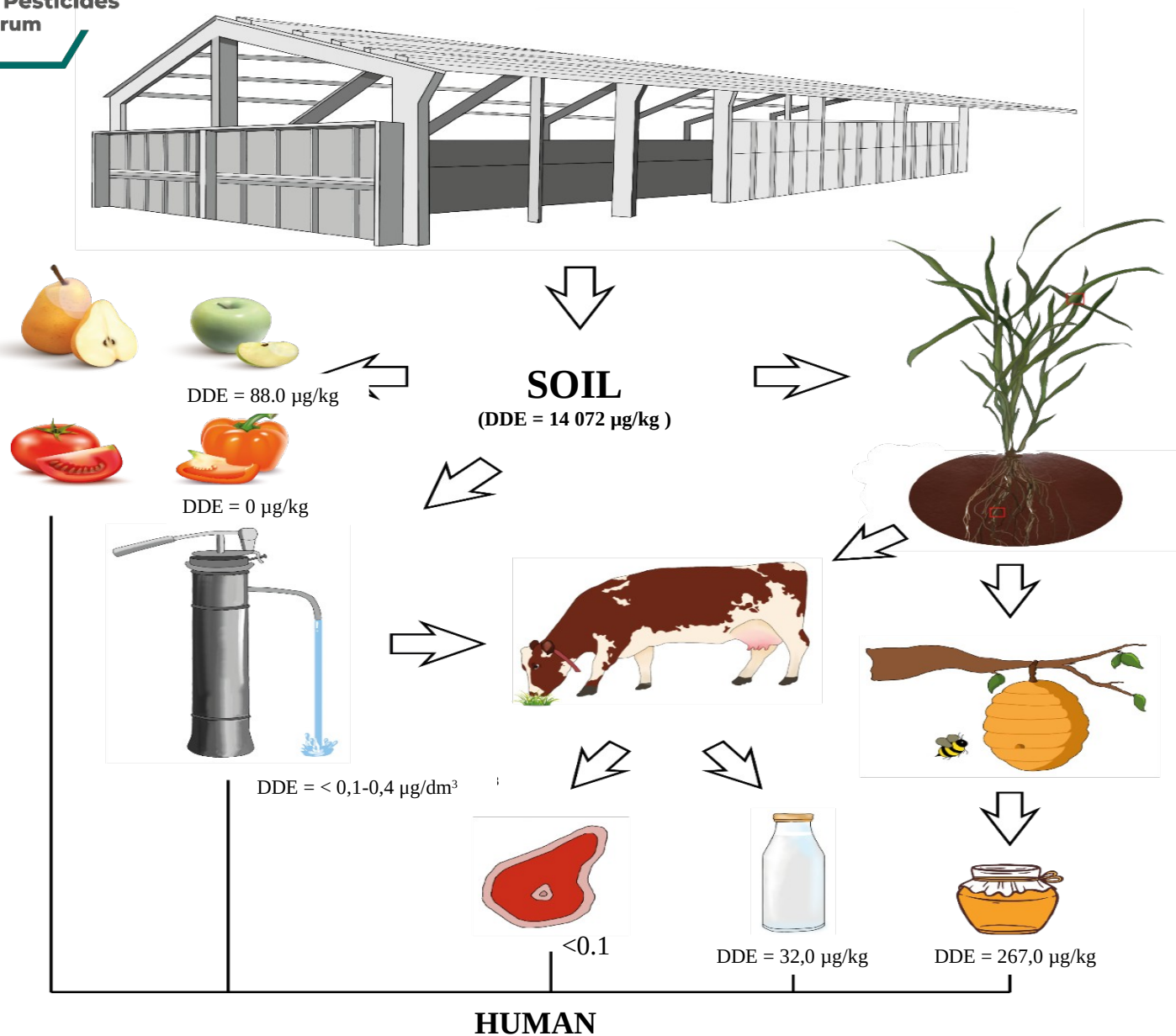


350 kg of banned pesticides (sayfos, metaphos) out of 352 t of obsolete pesticides, 21 % are pesticides in packaging, remaining 79 % are mixed unknown pesticides.

| Districts      | Number of storage facilities |                       |                        |                        |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                | Total                        | Without contamination | Contaminated, MPC <100 | Contaminated, MPC >100 |
| Karasay        | 6                            | 0                     | 0                      | 6                      |
| Talgar         | 7                            | 1                     | 1                      | 5                      |
| Zhambyl        | 5                            | 1                     | 2                      | 2                      |
| Enbekshikazakh | 9                            | 0                     | 2                      | 7                      |
| Ile            | 3                            | 1                     | 1                      | 1                      |
| Uygur          | 7                            | 4                     | 3                      | 0                      |
| Balkhash       | 7                            | 2                     | 4                      | 1                      |
| Kerbulak       | 8                            | 8                     | 0                      | 0                      |
| Eskeldi        | 12                           | 4                     | 6                      | 2                      |
| Koksu          | 0                            | 0                     | 0                      | 0                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>64</b>                    | <b>21</b>             | <b>19</b>              | <b>24</b>              |

The soil around 24 former pesticide storehouses is contaminated with organochlorine pesticides and concentrations of these compounds exceed the limits of Kazakhstan's maximum permissible concentrations (MPC) (for organochlorine pesticides MPC is 100 µg/kg). The most common contaminants were **α-HCH, β-HCH, 4,4-DDE, and 4,4-DDT**. The depth of soil contamination was 30 cm.

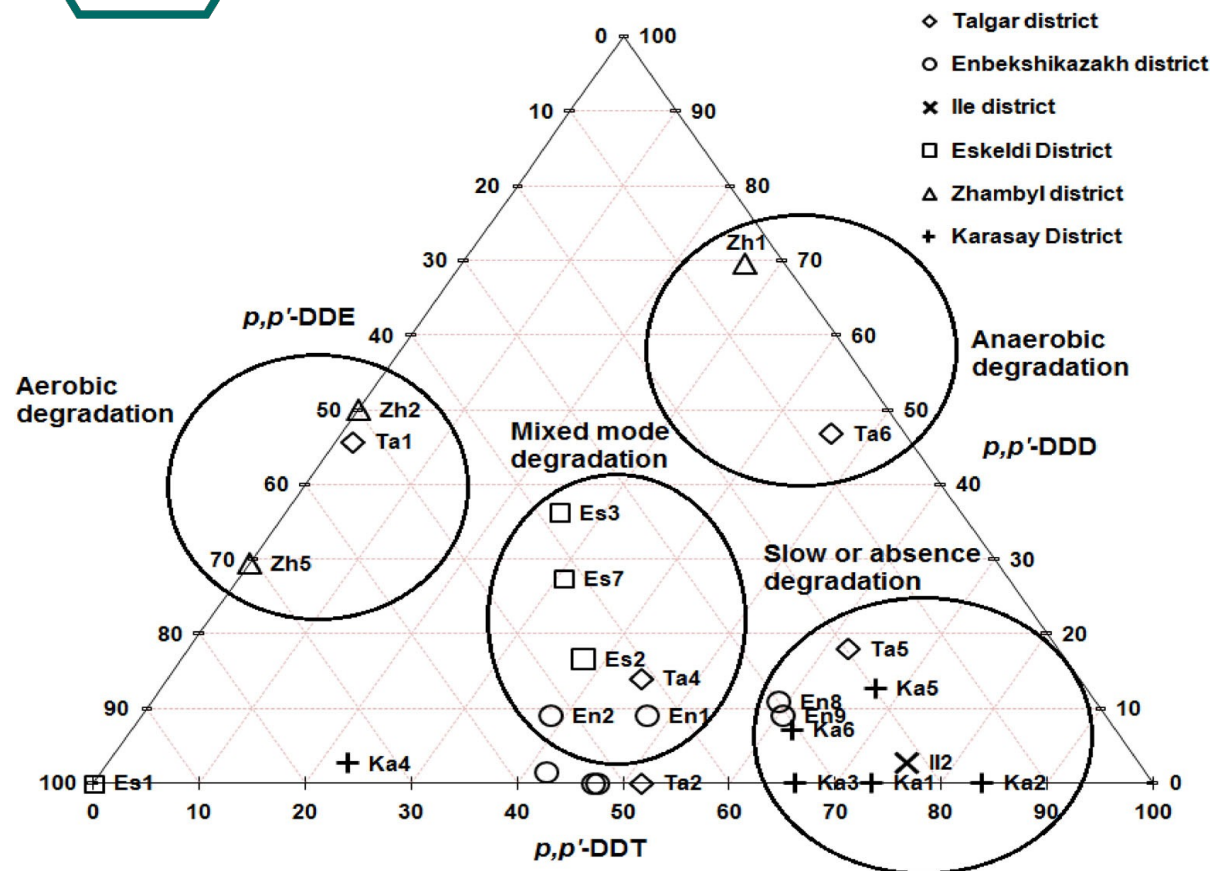
## Residuals of highly hazardous pesticides in food



*According to the World Health Organization (WHO), everyone's health depends 25-30 % on the condition of the natural environment*



# DDT degradation methods



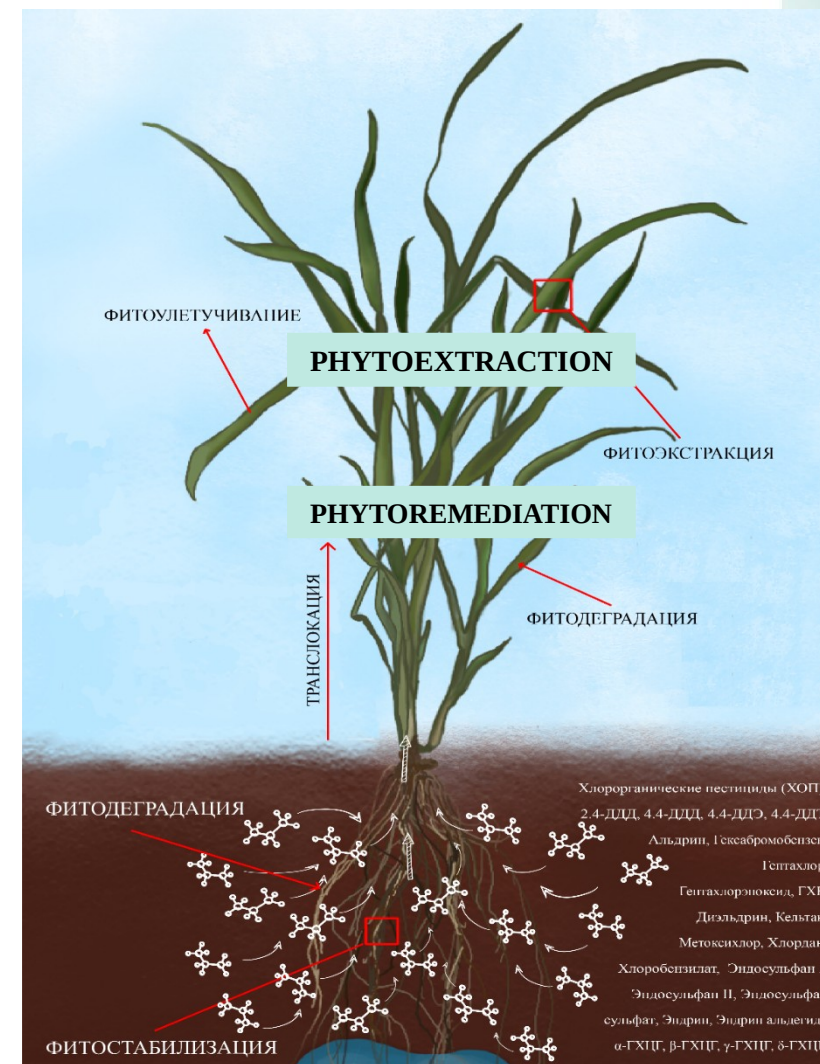
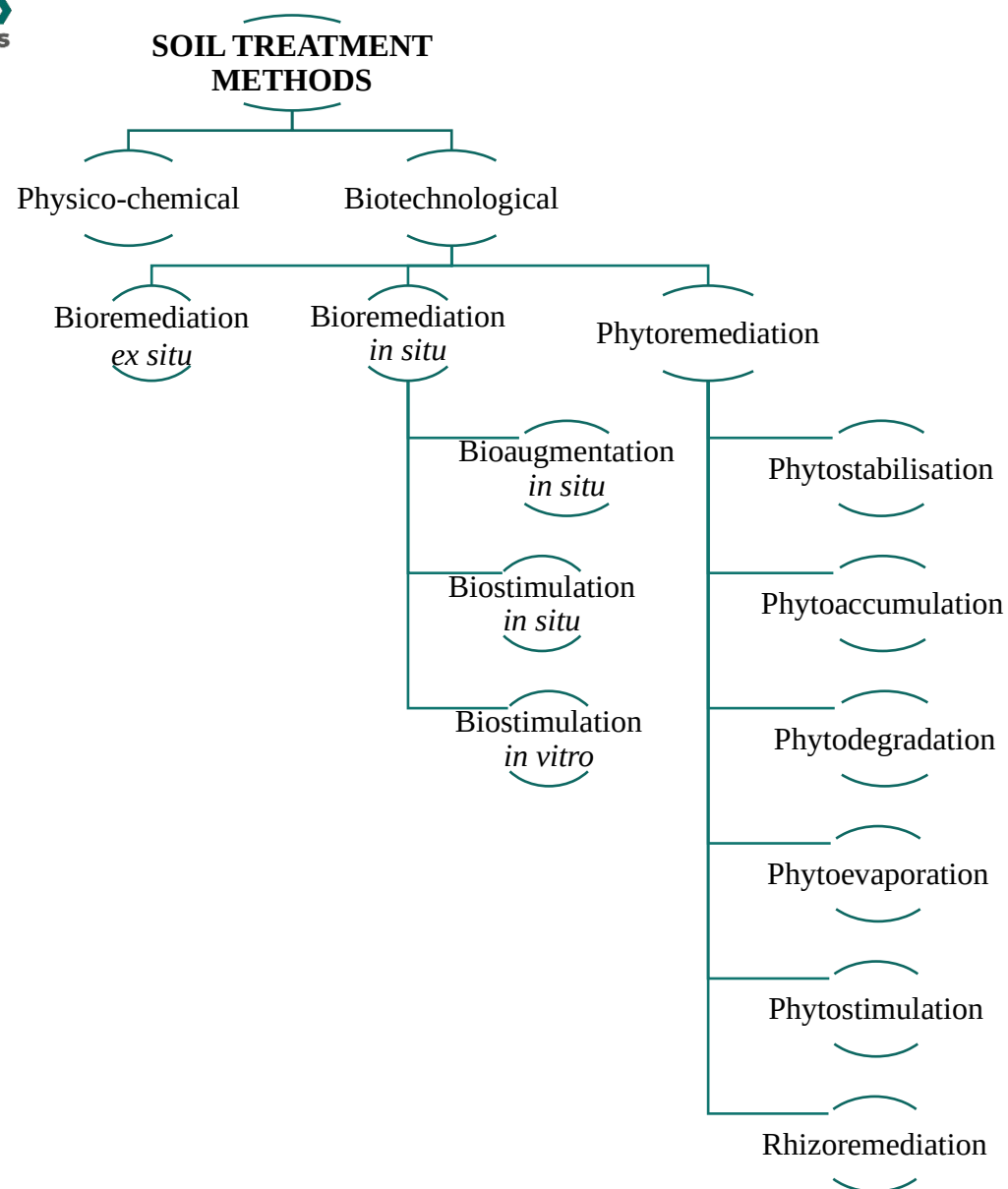
In Zhambyl and Talgar districts, points near DDT-DDE degradation axis indicate **aerobic degradation** of metabolites, points near DDT-DDD axis, on the contrary are associated with **anaerobic degradation pathway**.

In the territory of Karasay, Ile, and Enbekshikazakh districts, DDT dominates in the soil, which reflects slow or even no degradation.

Fig. 1. Three-fold diagram illustrating  $p,p'$ -DDT degradation pathways in soil samples from various locations within Almaty Region, Kazakhstan.

## Biological methods of soil remediation

Phytoremediation is a promising technology in balance with the ecosystem.



# Strategies for the development of phytotechnology

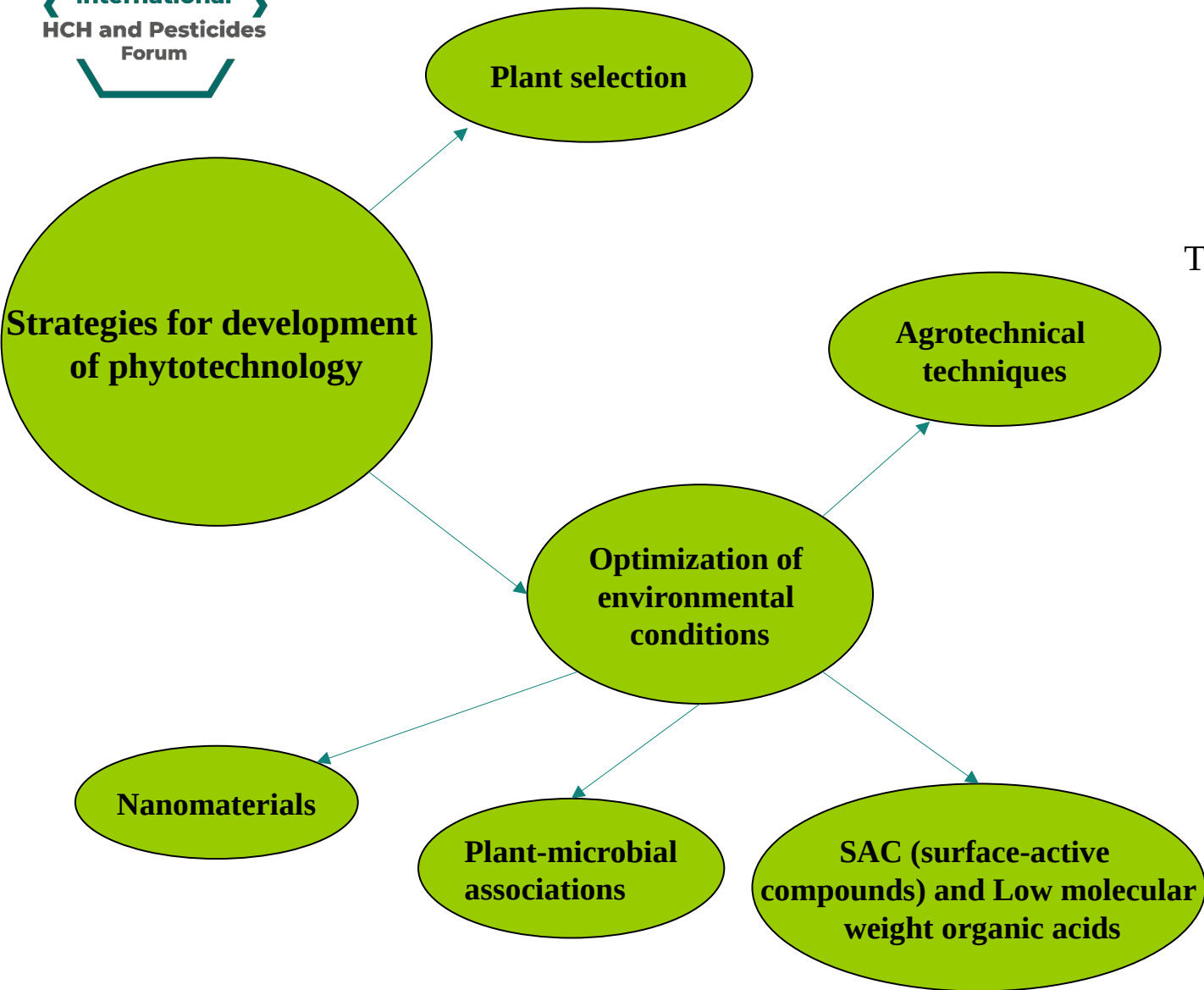


Table 2 - Phytoremediation plants of Kazakhstan's flora

| Pollutants                | woody     | perennial  | annual    |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Petroleum hydrocarbons    | 9         | 18         | 5         |
| <b>Pesticides</b>         | <b>5</b>  | <b>10</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>POPs-Pesticides</b>    | <b>3</b>  | <b>7</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| Radionuclides             | 8         | 26         | 3         |
| Explosives                | 0         | 3          | 2         |
| Chlorinated solvents      | 4         | 3          | 1         |
| Arid zones                | 19        | 0          | 0         |
| Plants with large biomass | 9         | 0          | 0         |
| Bioenergy species         | 2         | 4          | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>65</b> | <b>102</b> | <b>40</b> |

# Advantages and disadvantages of phytotechnology

## USE OF CONTAMINATED SOILS

### PHYTOREMEDIATION

The process of soil **remediation** from xenobiotics for further use.

### PHYTOMANAGEMENT

The process of growing energy crops on contaminated sites to **produce clean biomass**.

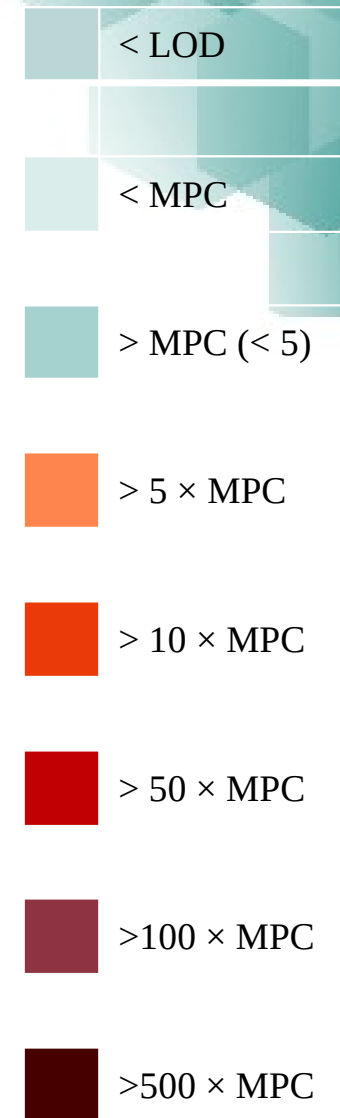
| PHYTOREMEDIATION                               |                                    | PHYTOMANAGEMENT                         |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Advantages                                     | Disadvantages                      | Advantages                              | Disadvantages                                     |
| Eco-friendliness                               | Access to land use in the long run | Use of marginal and contaminated sites  | Lack of quality standards for input raw materials |
| Economic efficiency                            | Long time                          | Profitability                           | Strict requirements for the output product        |
| Can be applied to a wide range of contaminants | Continuous monitoring and control  | Eco-friendliness                        |   |
|  |                                    | Can be combined with phytostabilisation |   |



# Phytoremediation of soil polluted with pesticides

Table 3 - Organochlorine pesticides concentrations in soil before phytoremediation

| Pesticides             | MPC, µg/kg |       | Amangeldy | Belbulak | Beskainar | Kyzylkairat |
|------------------------|------------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
|                        | KZ         | EU    |           |          |           |             |
| <b>2,4-DDD</b>         | 100        | 10.0  | 487       | 176      | 848       | 14 072      |
| <b>4,4-DDD</b>         | 100        | 10.0  | 654       | 198      | 824       | 11 434      |
| <b>4,4-DDE</b>         | 100        | 10.0  | 784       | 576      | 34 215    | 777         |
| <b>4,4-DDT</b>         | 100        | 10.0  | 1 237     | 62       | 6 274     | 10 023      |
| α-HCH                  | 100        | 220.0 | 7.30      | < LOD    | 7.33      | 45.1        |
| β-HCH                  | 100        | 92.0  | 6.5       | < LOD    | 13.4      | 25.5        |
| <b>γ-HCH</b>           | 100        | 0.01  | 97.0      | 9.50     | 251       | 488         |
| <b>Endrin</b>          | 1          | 2.9   | 859       | 23.9     | 32548     | 4485        |
| <b>Aldrin</b>          | 2.5        | 7.0   | 12.2      | < LOD    | 64.0      | 230         |
| Chlordane              | 100        | 4.3   | 30.1      | 4.1      | < LOD     | 48.1        |
| <b>Chlorobenzilate</b> | 20         | -     | 277       | 25.7     | 4 067     | 32 061      |
| Dibutyl chlorendate    | -          | -     | 511       | 154      | 1 285     | 2 134       |
| Dicofol                | 100        | -     | 11.9      | < LOD    | 14.7      | 21.9        |
| <b>Dieldrin</b>        | 0.5        | 7.0   | 42.3      | 22.0     | 194       | < LOD       |
| Endosulfan α           | 100        | 0.003 | 83.1      | 5.06     | 4.40      | < LOD       |
| Endosulfan β           | 100        | 0.003 | 27.8      | < LOD    | 77.8      | 253         |
| Endosulfan sulfate     | -          | -     | 654       | 258      | 266       | 119         |





## *Miscanthus sinensis*

### CANNOT

*Miscanthus sinensis* –  
energy species  
(Area – Altai)

Absorb and accumulate in tissues (BCF < 1)  
following pesticides **9 OCPs out of 24**

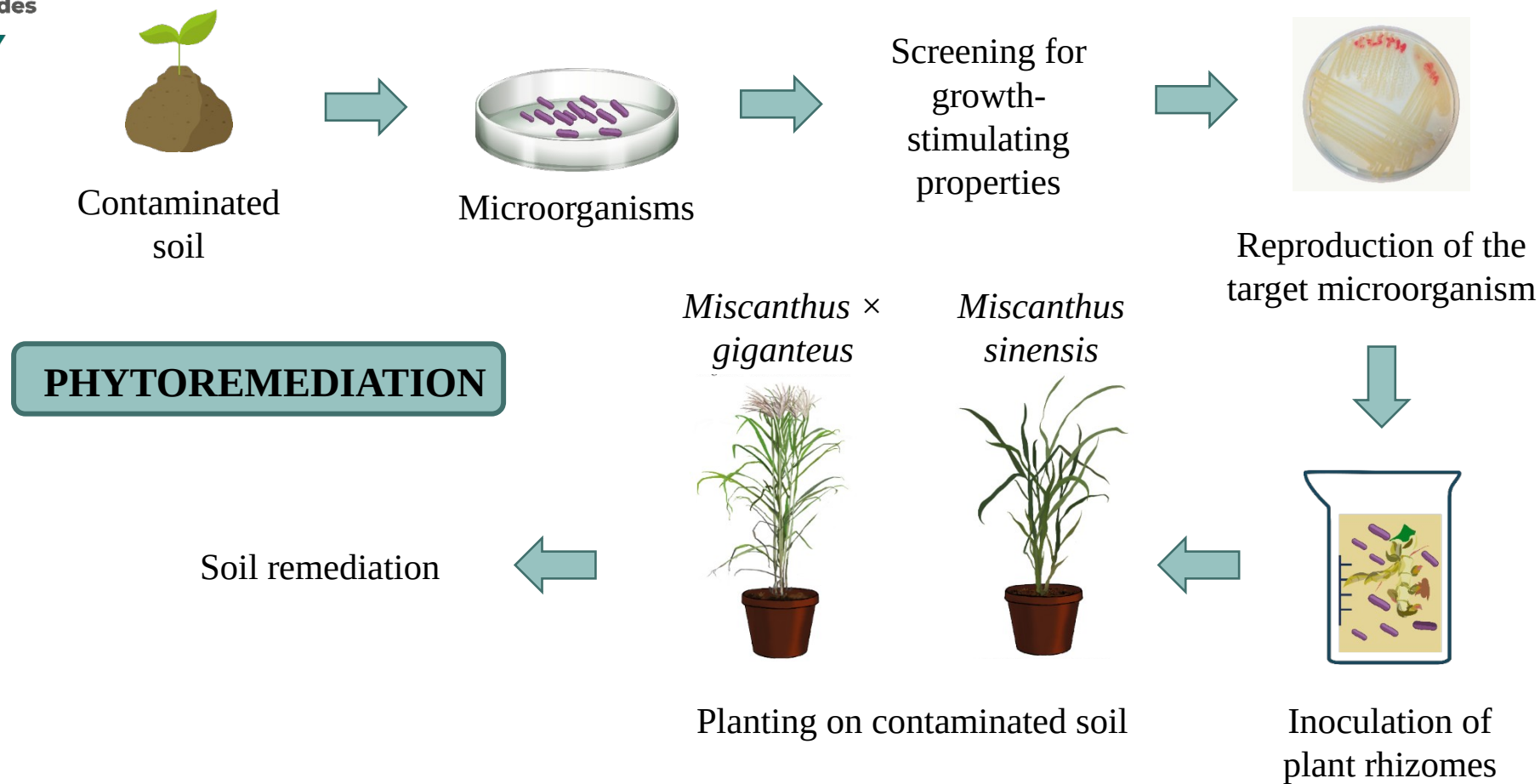
- 2,4-DDD
- 4,4-DDD
- Chlorobenzylate
- $\alpha$ -HCH
- $\delta$ -HCH
- Heptachlor epoxide
- Endosulfan  $\alpha$
- Endrin
- Dibutyl chlorendate

**OCPs - organochlorine pesticides**

### CAN

- **Bioconcentrate** (BCF > 1) **15 OCPs out of 24**  
4,4-DDE, 4,4-DDT, Methoxychlor,  $\gamma$ -HCH, Aldrin, Heptachlor, Endosulfan  $\beta$ , Endrin aldehyde, and Hexabromobenzene
- **Hyperaccumulation** **6 OCPs out of 15**  
Dicofol,  $\beta$ -HCH, Dieldrin, Chlordane, Endosulfan sulfate, and HCB
- **Phytostabilization** (TLF < 1) **3 OCPs out of 15**  
4,4-DDE, Dicofol, and Chlordane
- **Phytoextraction** (TLF > 1) **5 OCPs out of 15**  
 $\beta$ -HCH,  $\gamma$ -HCH, Heptachlor, Hexabromobenzene, and HCB)
- **Evenly distributed in plant tissues** (TLF ~ 1) **7 OCPs out of 15**  
4,4-DDT, Methoxychlor, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endosulfan  $\beta$ , Endosulfan sulfate, and Endrin aldehyde

## RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES



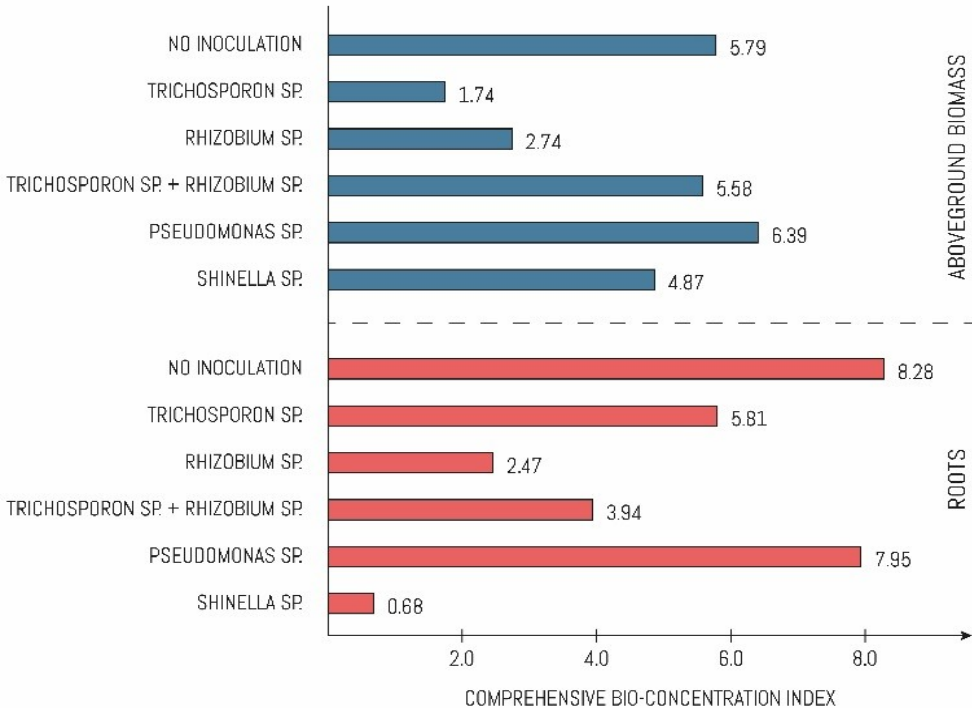
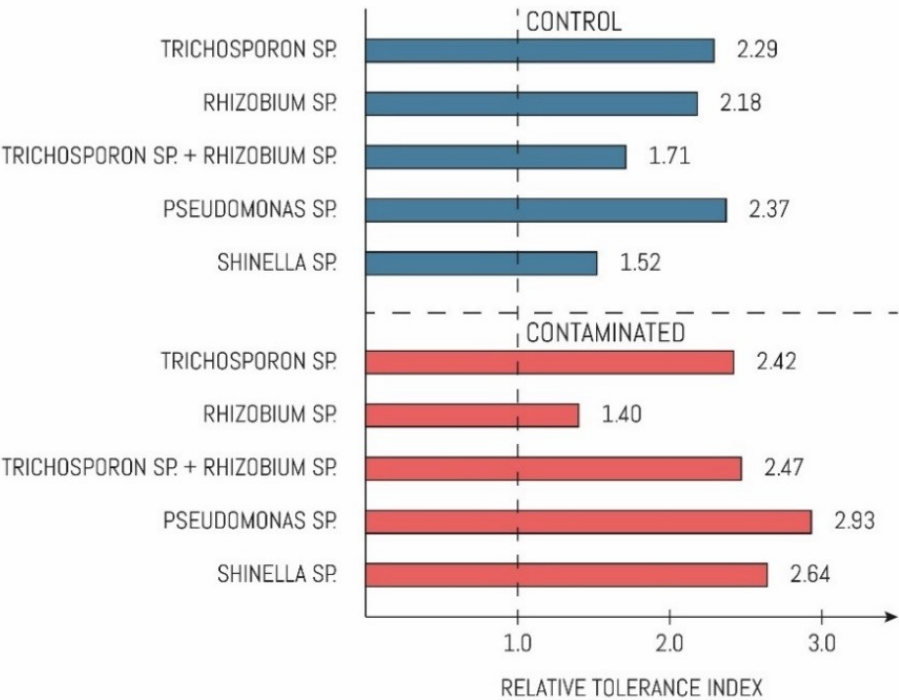
# Phytoremediation of soil polluted with trace elements (heavy metals)



*Miscanthus × giganteus* is an allotriploid, bioenergetic, highly productive, sterile hybrid (Area – East Asia)

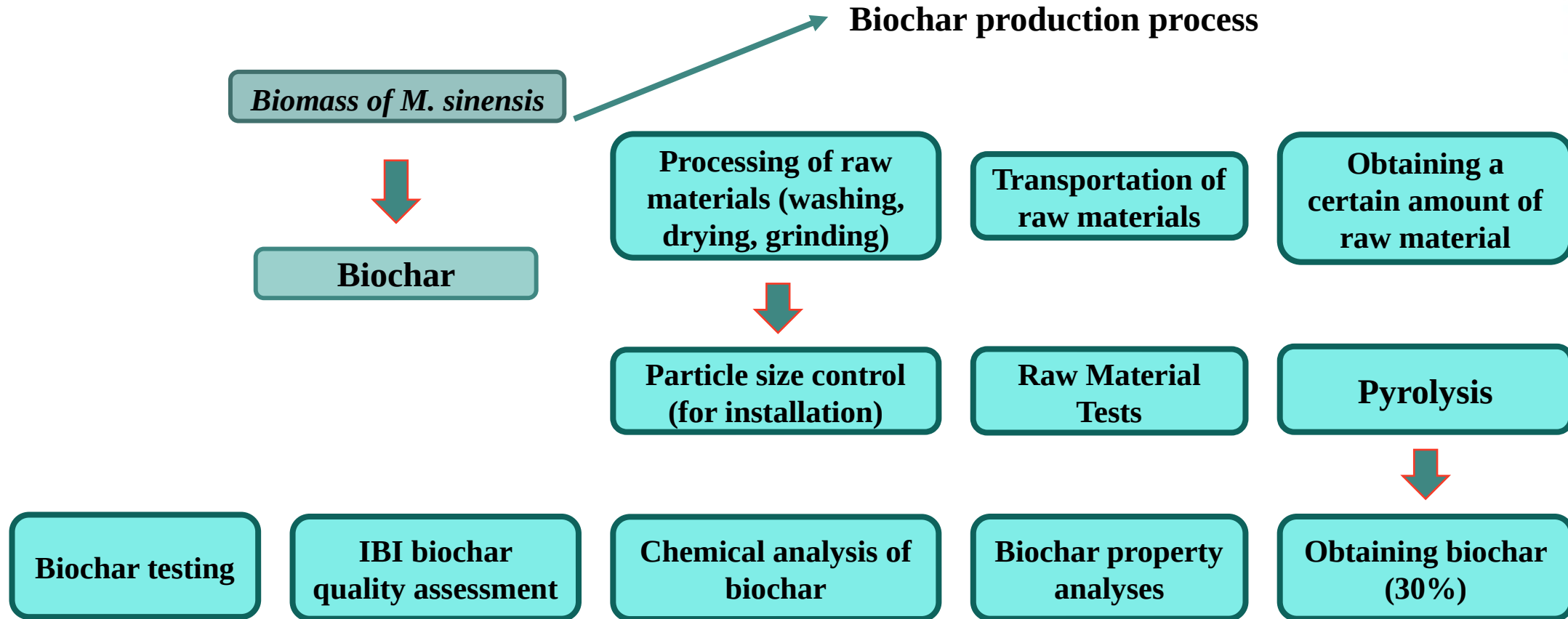
Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR)

| PGPR                          | N <sub>2</sub> fixation | P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> solubilization | Siderophore synthesis | IAA synthesis, $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ | Zn tolerance, mM | Pb tolerance, mM |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Trichosporon</i> sp. CA1   | +                       | +  | +                     | 50.2 ± 1.2                           | 4.0              | 4.0              |
| <i>Rhizobium</i> sp. Zn1-1    | +                       | +  | ±                     | 12.0 ± 0.2                           | 2.5              | 0.5              |
| <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. ChA1-4 | +                       | +  | ±                     | 31.0 ± 1.1                           | 2.5              | 0.5              |
| <i>Shinella</i> sp. Zn5-6     | +                       | +  | ±                     | 19.1 ± 0.1                           | 2.5              | 0.5              |





## PROSPECTS FOR THE USE OF BIOMASS IN BIOENERGY



Standardized Product Definition and Product Testing Guidelines for Biochar That Is Used in Soil (International Biochar Initiative).

## New project supported by FAO

“Technical assistance in implementation of laboratory and field trials on bioremediation and phytoremediation of soils contaminated by POPs and heavy metals” 2023  
as part of FAO project “Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs  
Pesticides in Central Asian countries and Türkiye”

Destroyed storage facilities of obsolete pesticides in villages of Enbekshi-Kazakh district, Almaty region: **Saimasai**

GPS coordinates: 43°27'19" N 77°18'53" E

Ownership: state property, can be used

Suspected soil contamination level based on inventory of 2010 (concentrations of DDT metabolites and HCH isomers): 23 × MPC.

Satellite pictures: since 2002

### Tasks:

1 Site recultivation

2.1 Field trials on bio- and phytoremediation

2.2 Microbial preparation application on field scale

3 Cultivation of seeds/plants on OCP-contaminated soils in greenhouse





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

Prof. A.A. Nurzhanova, Principal Research Associate, Doctor of Biological Sciences

E-mail: [gen\\_asil@mail.ru](mailto:gen_asil@mail.ru)

Institute of Plant Biology and Biotechnology under the Committee of Science of the  
Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.  
45 Timiryezhev st., 050040. Almaty