

Synergies from co-digestion of grass silage with other feedstocks

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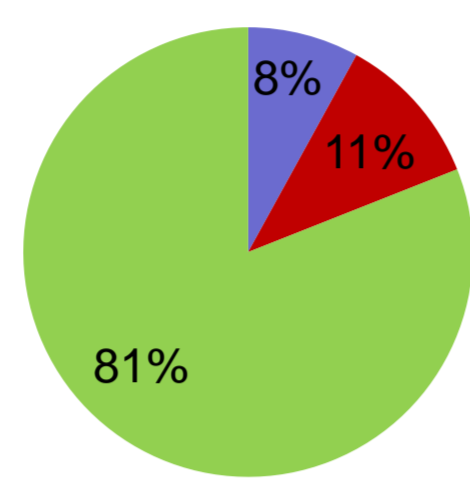
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Introduction

- Ireland has 4.2 million hectares of agricultural.
- 1.7 M t of dry matter (DM) is available in excess of livestock requirements (McEniry et al., 2013).
- This DM can be increased upto 12.2 M t DM/annum average by more intensive grassland management (McEniry et al., 2013).
- 10% of the Ireland's grassland area could fuel up to 55% of all passenger cars with compressed biomethane (Wall et al, 2013).

Ireland's agricultural land utilization



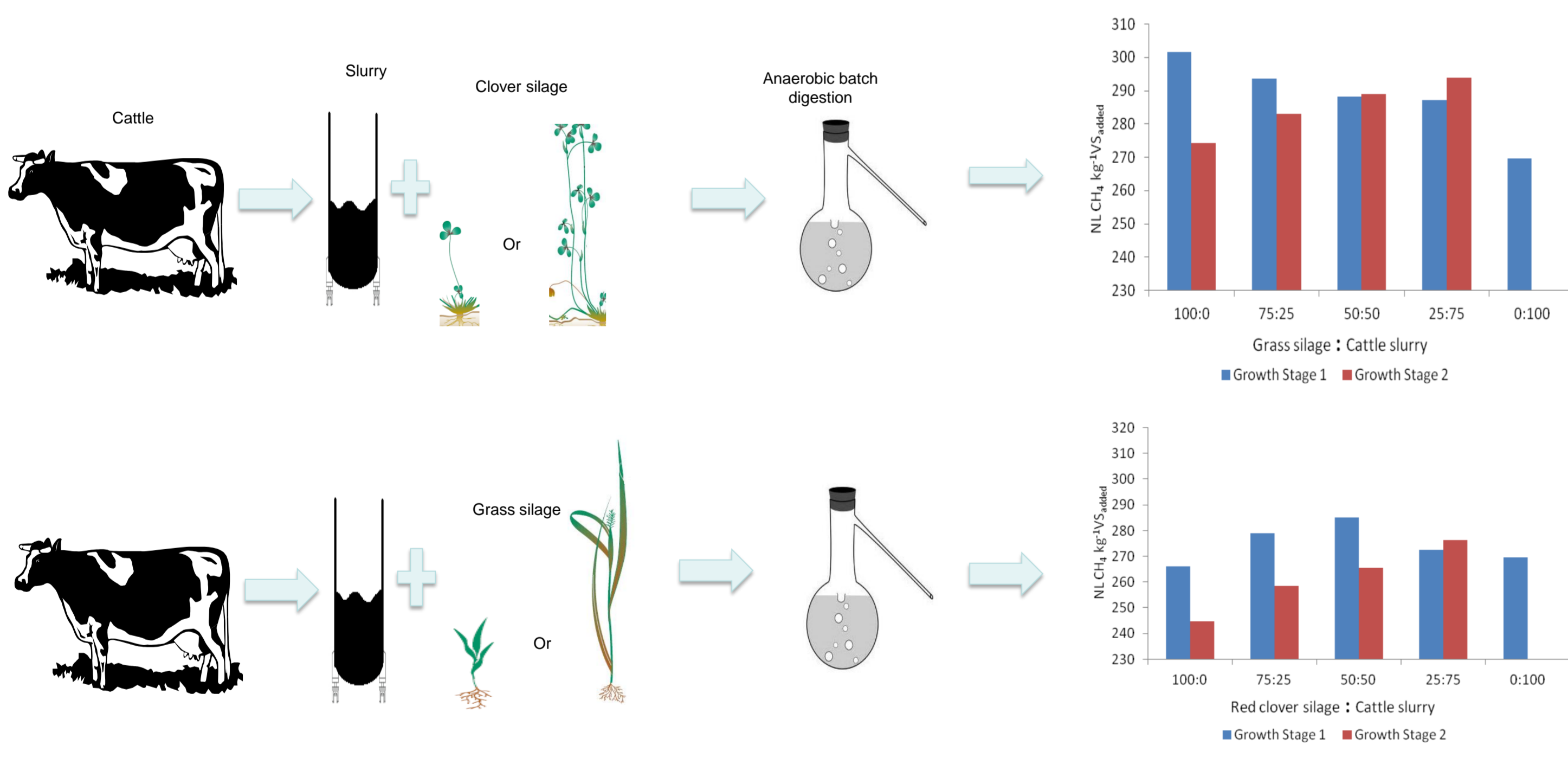
- In 2010 there were 1.07 M dairy cows in Ireland. During the 20 weeks winter storage period of slurry these cows can provide 7.07 M t DS a⁻¹ (Wall et al., 2013).
- Long term mono-digestion of grass silage can suffer due to a deficiency in essential nutrients. Addition of slurry to grass silage can provide these essential nutrients.
- Co-digestion of silage and slurry can produce synergistic effects providing higher biogas yield compared to mono-digestion of silage or slurry.

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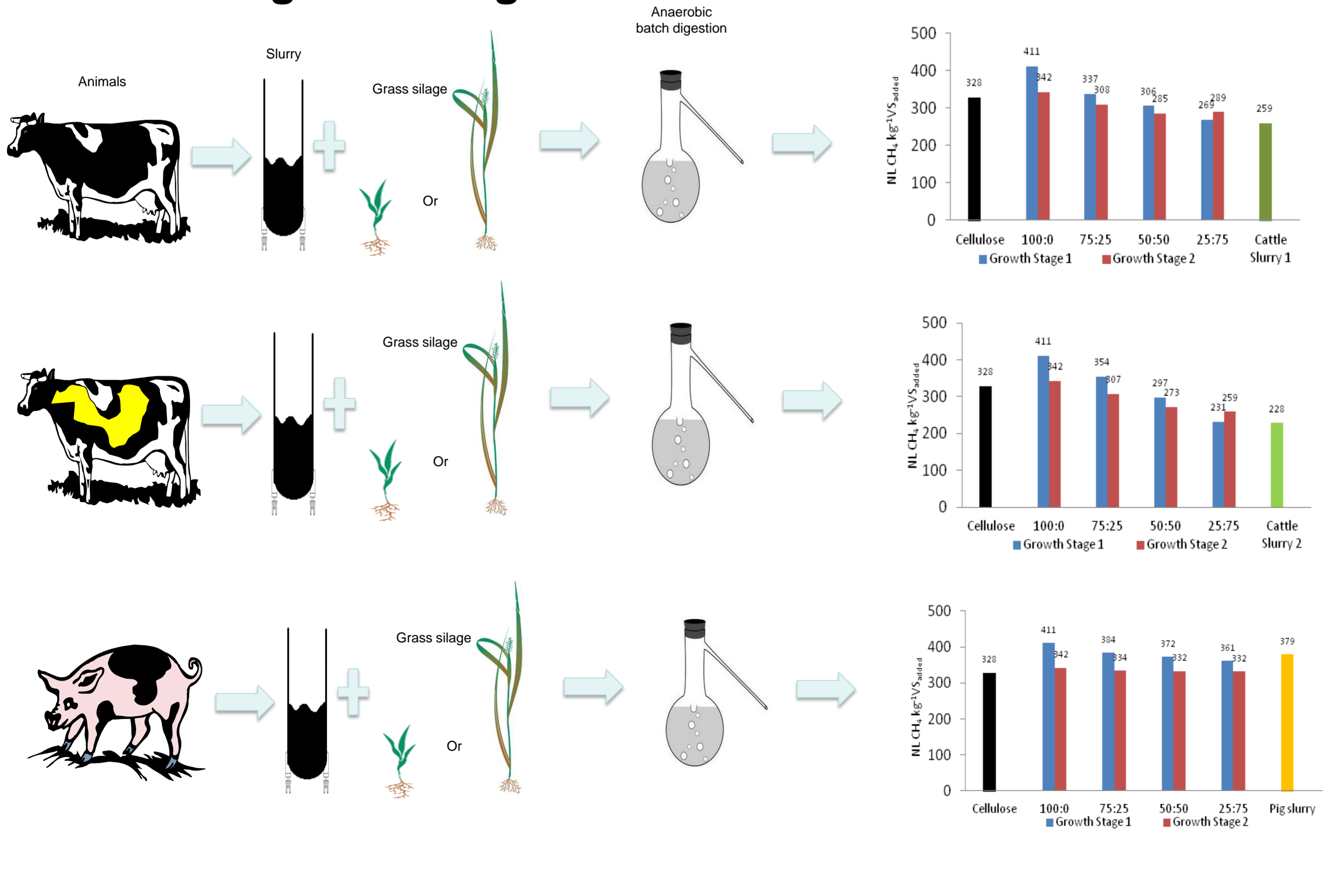
Objectives

- Identify the optimal growth stages of grass and legume silages and the optimal mixture with cattle slurry for biomethane production.
- Identify the optimal slurry type and the optimal mixture with grass silages harvested at different growth stages for biomethane production.
- Undertake a full cost analysis of biogas/biomethane production system based on the silage and slurry feedstock studied above.
- Undertake a full inventory of a farm scale anaerobic digester producing biogas from grass silage and cattle slurry.

3. Co-digestion of grass and red clover silages of different growth stages with cattle slurry

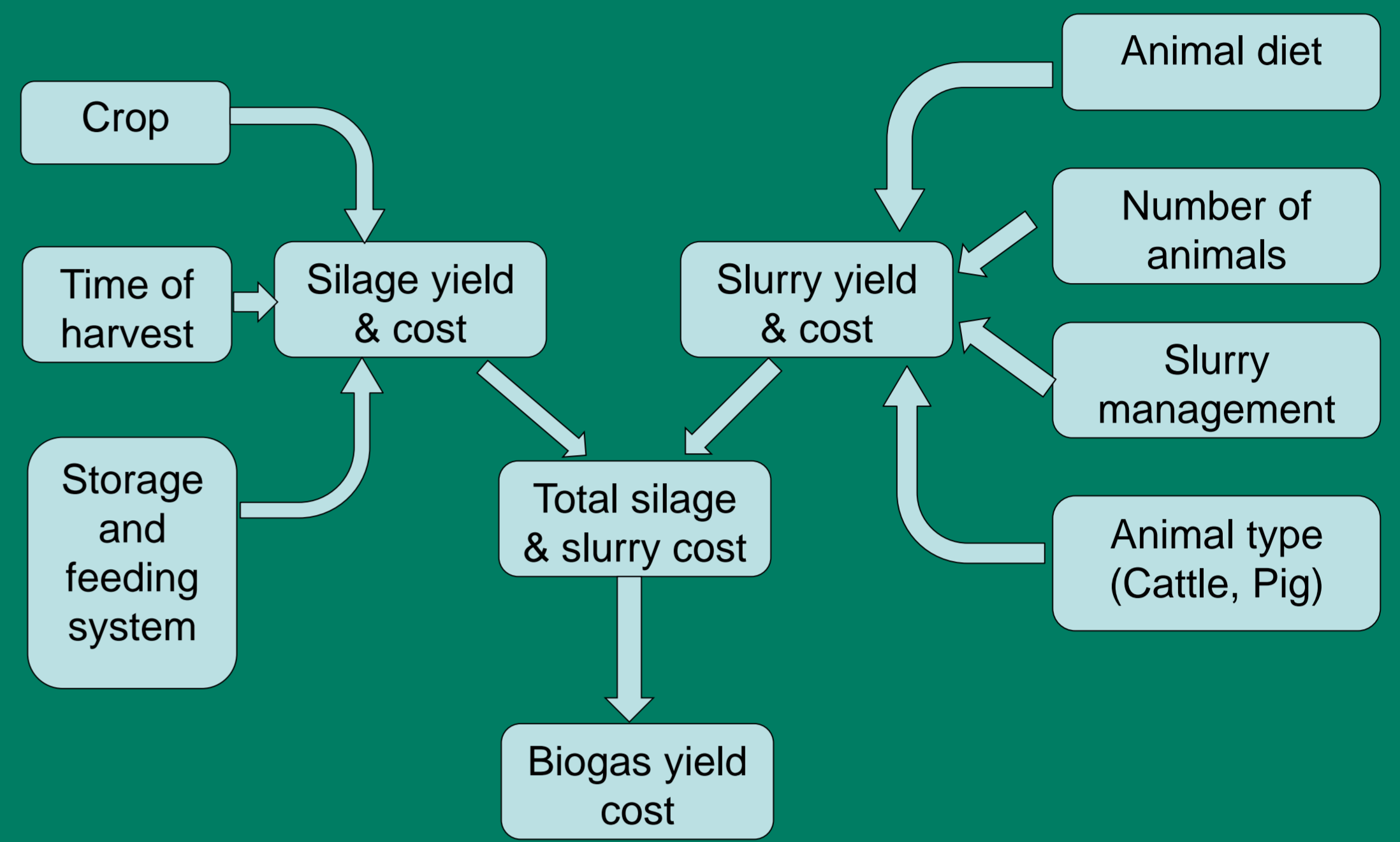


4. Co-digestion of different slurry types with grass silage of different growth stages



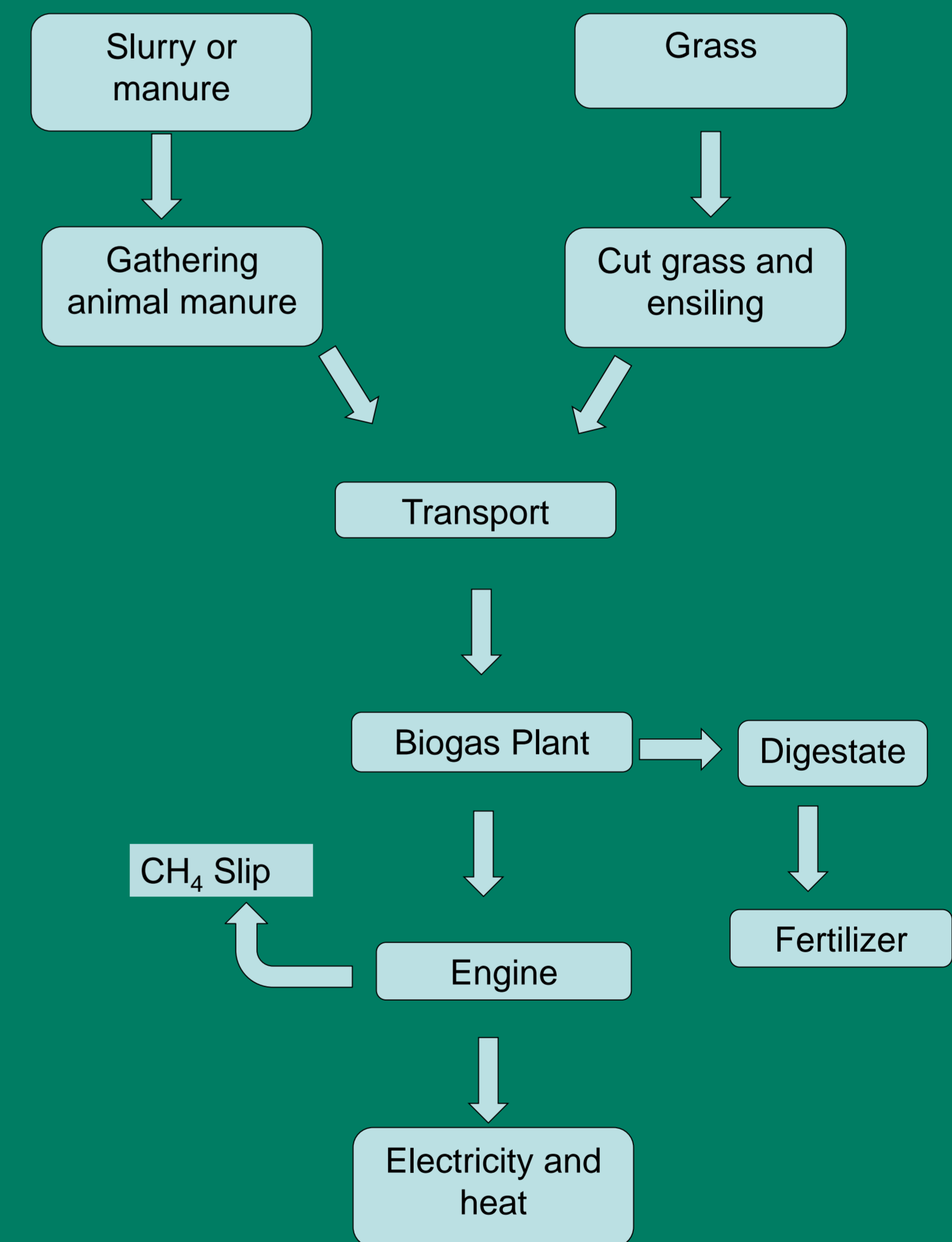
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Economic modelling of biogas yield from the co-digestion of grass silage and slurry



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LCA of anaerobic digester (to be built at Teagasc Grange) fed with grass silage and slurry mixture



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References

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- Wall, D.M.; O'Kiely, P.; Murphy, J.D. (2013) The potential for biomethane from grass and slurry to satisfy renewable energy targets. *Bioresource technology* **149**: 425-431

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Acknowledgements

Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute, for the inoculum. This work was completed as part of the ATBEST (Advanced Technologies for Biogas Efficiency, Sustainability and Transport) Marie-Curie Initial Training Network. The network has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement n. 316838. ATBEST is coordinated by the QUESTOR Centre at Queen's University Belfast www.atbest.eu.