

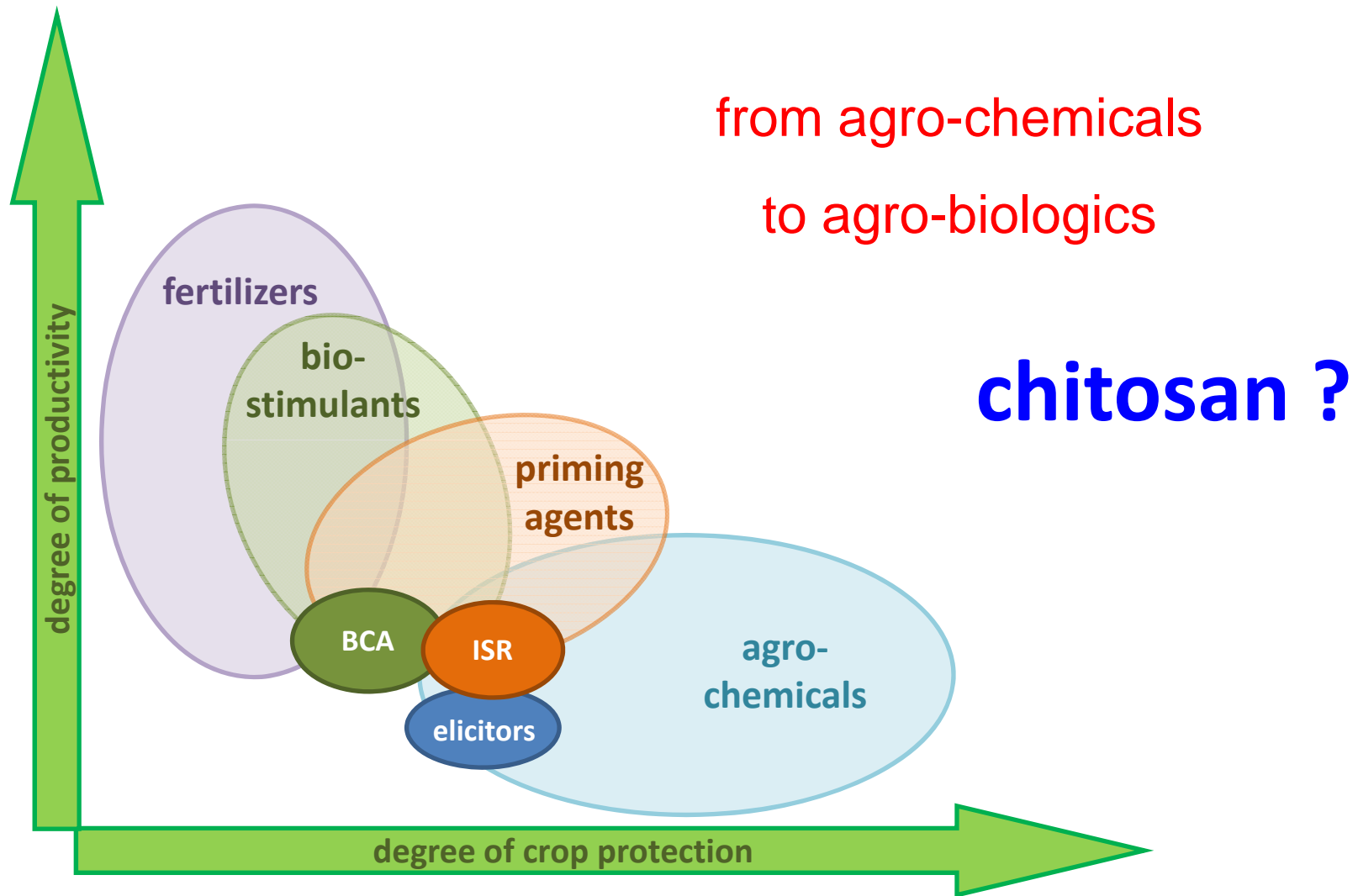
Second Generation ChitosanS as Reliable, Dual-Use Plant Biostimulants

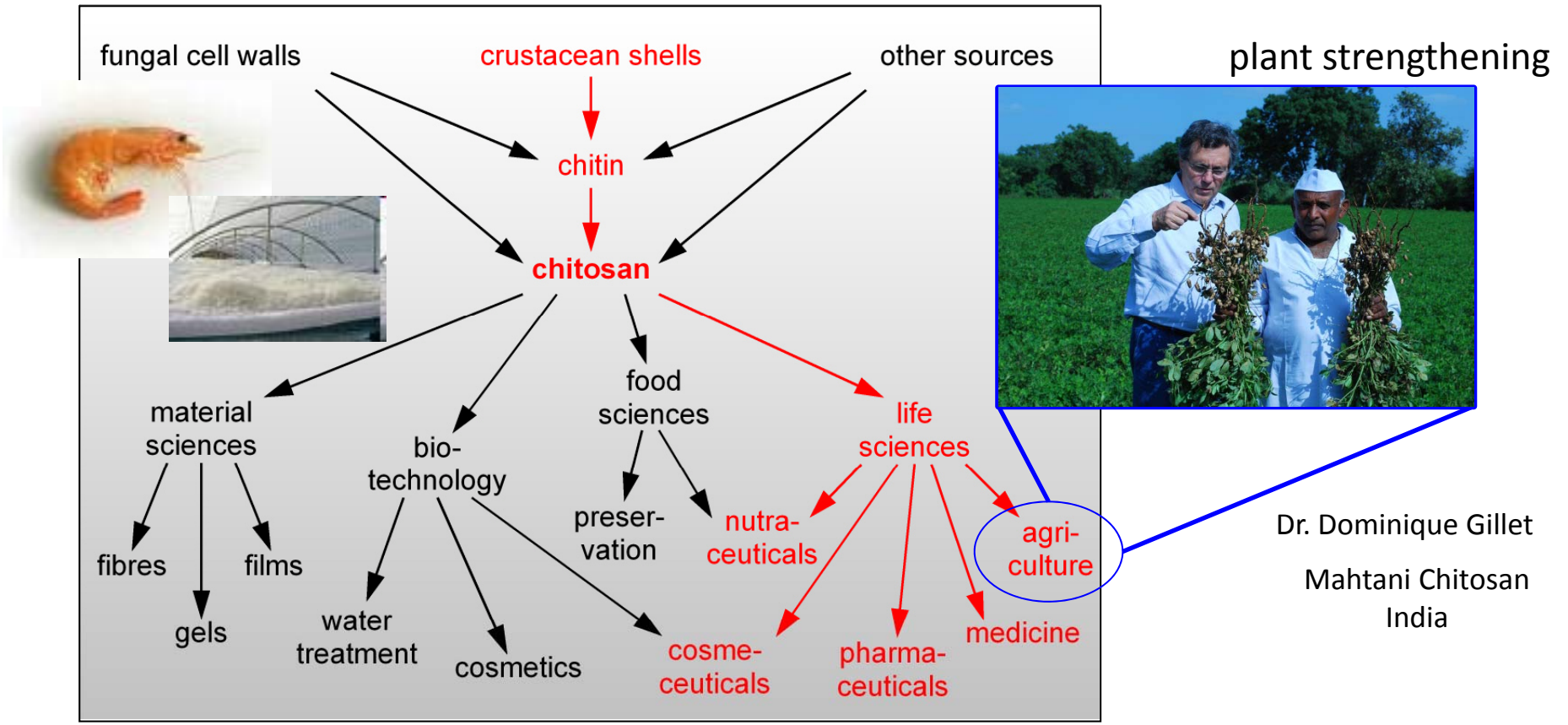
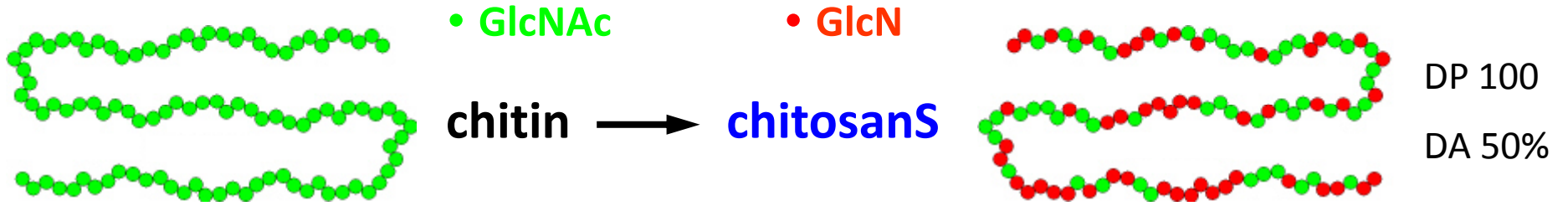
Bruno M. Moerschbacher
WWU Münster University



Braunschweig – PPPHE 2017

plant productivity and plant protection



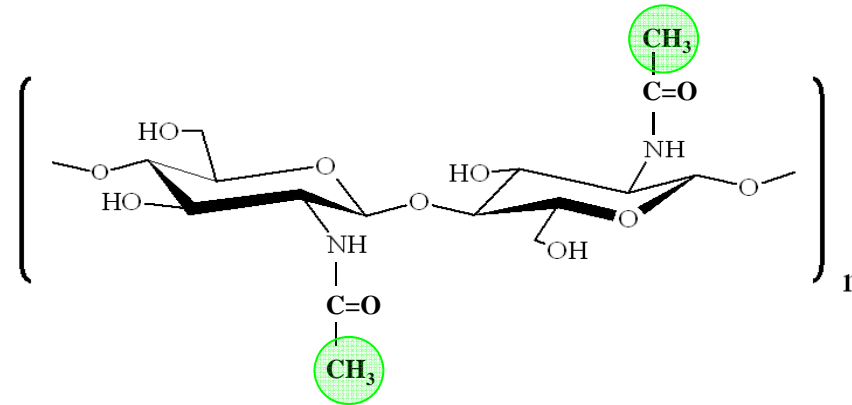


we need to know:
structure / function relationships



chitosan structure

chitin



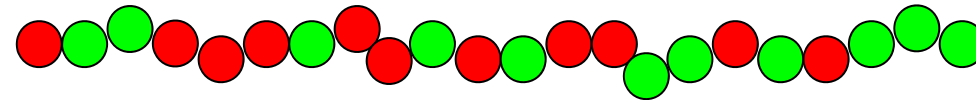
GlcNAc

A

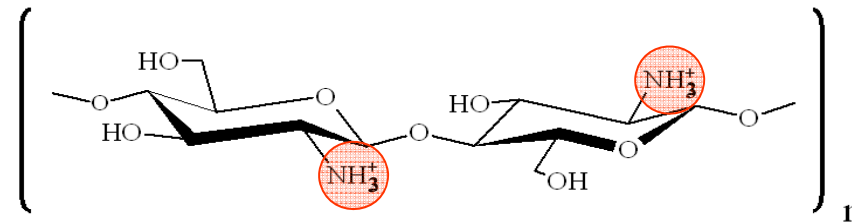


hydrophobic

partially acetylated
chitosans



chitosan



GlcN

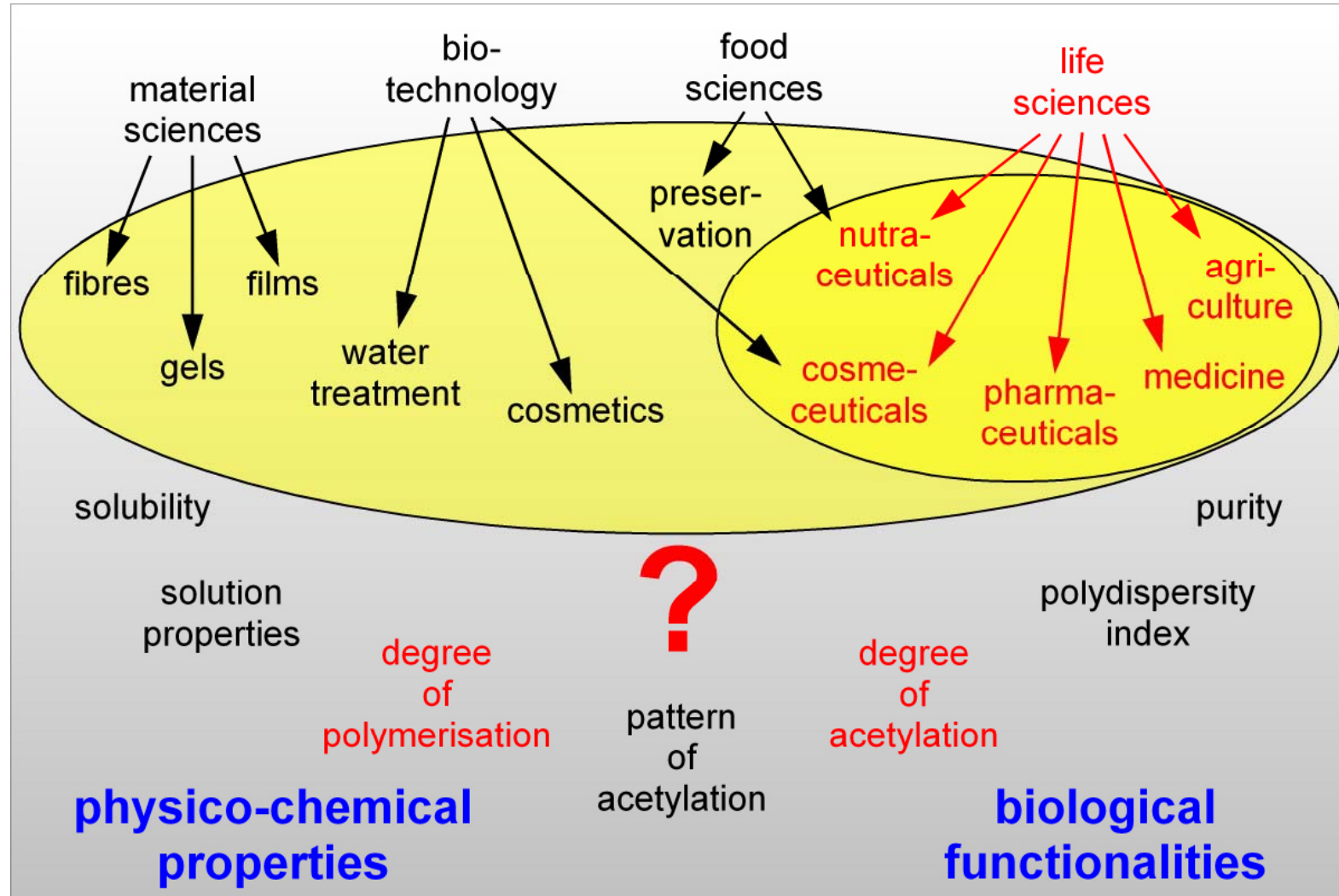
D



hydrophilic
polykationic

(acidic pH)

structure-function relationships of chitosans



chitosan functions



plant cells

animal/human cells

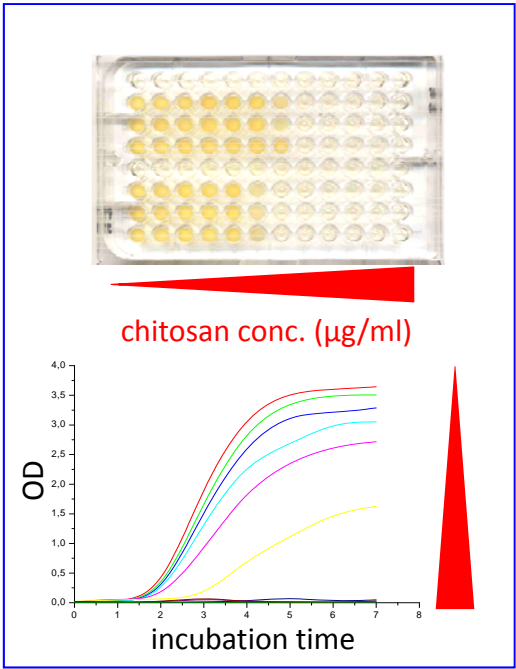
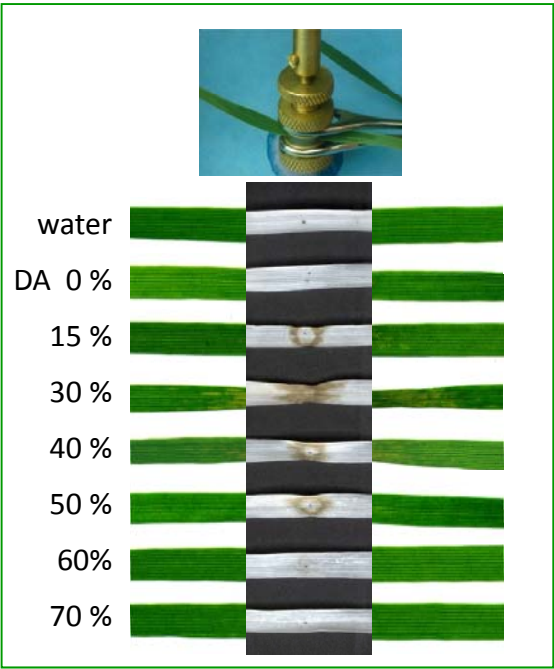
plant strengthening activities

wound healing activities

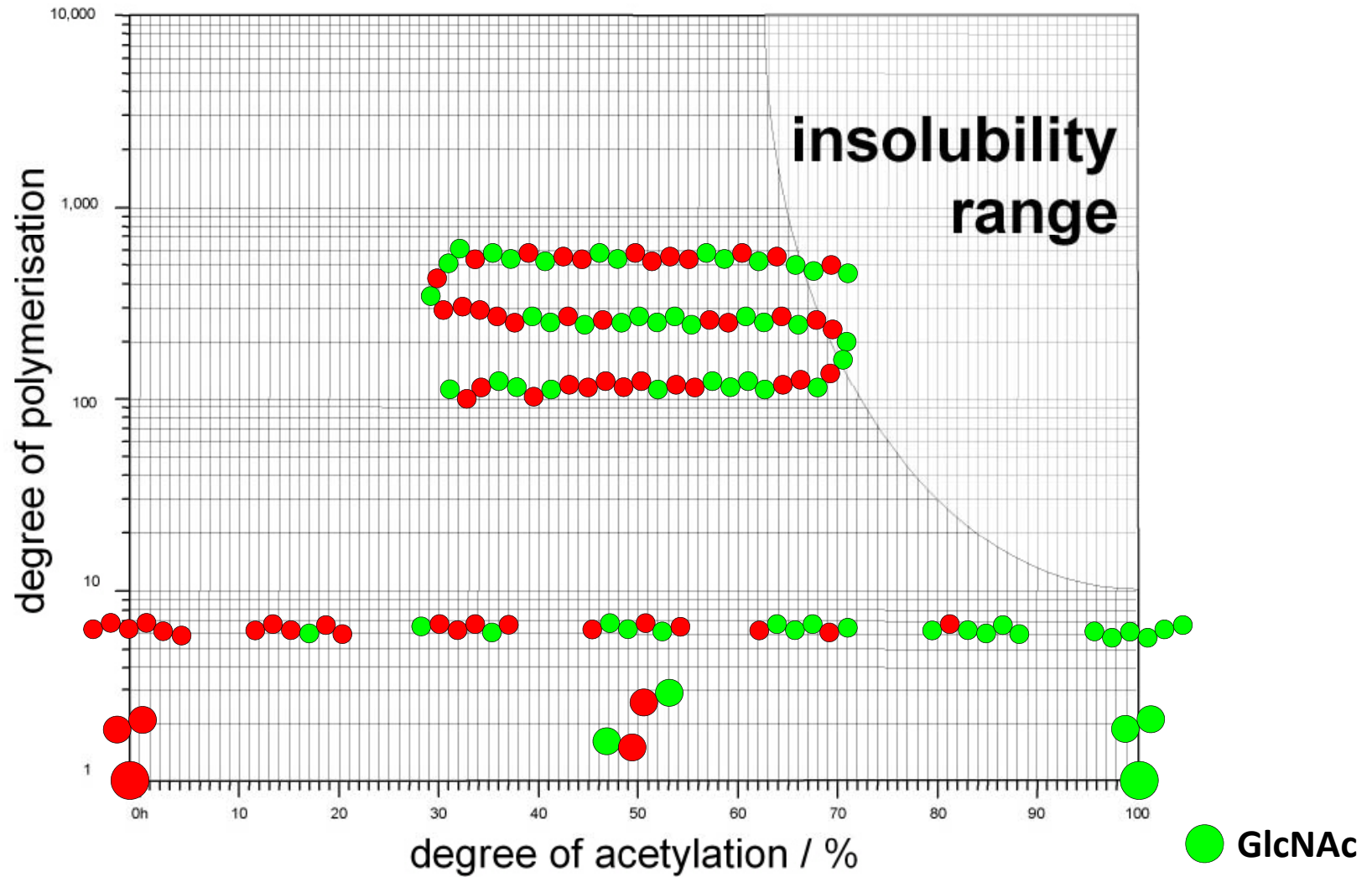
chitosans

anti-microbial activities

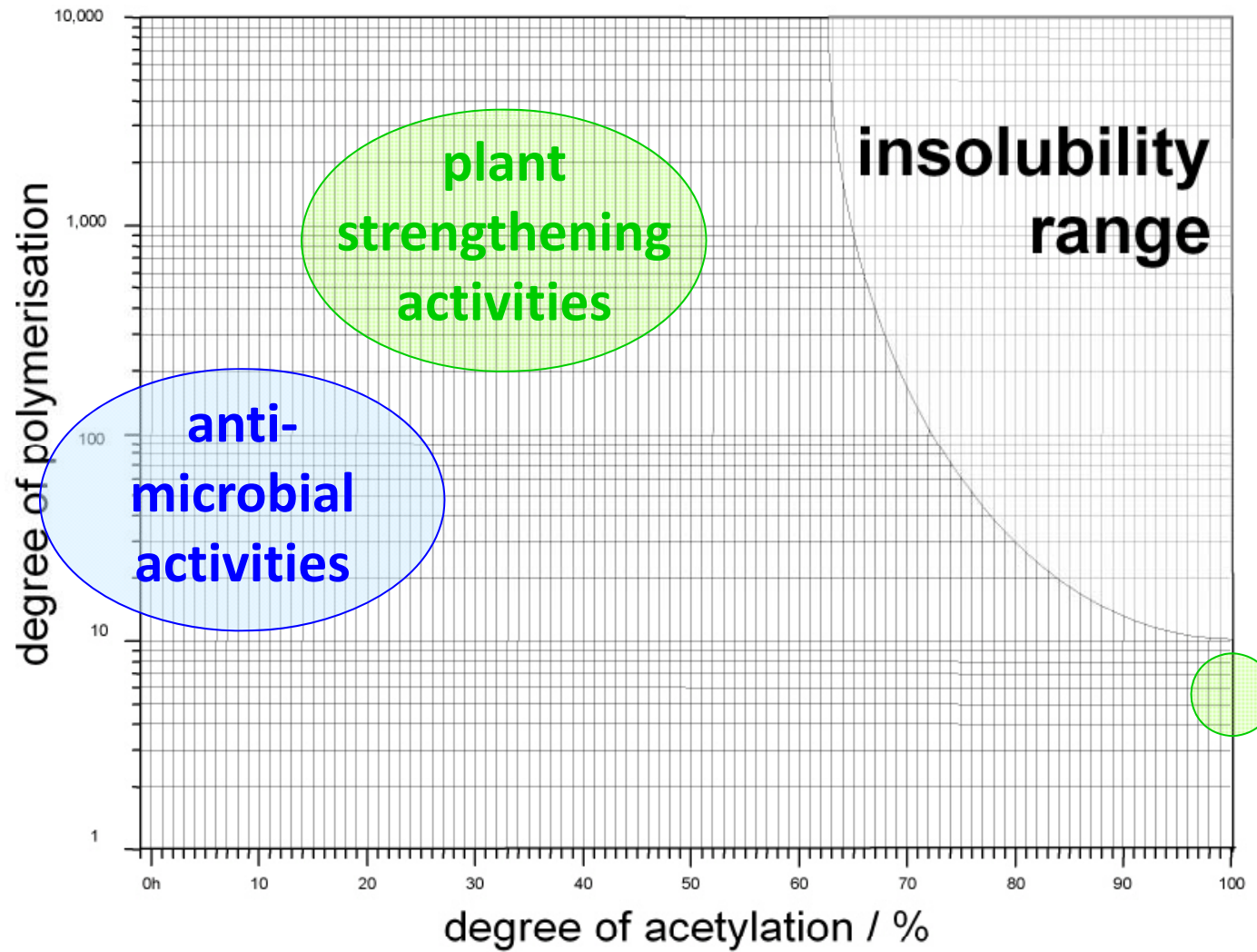
micro-organisms



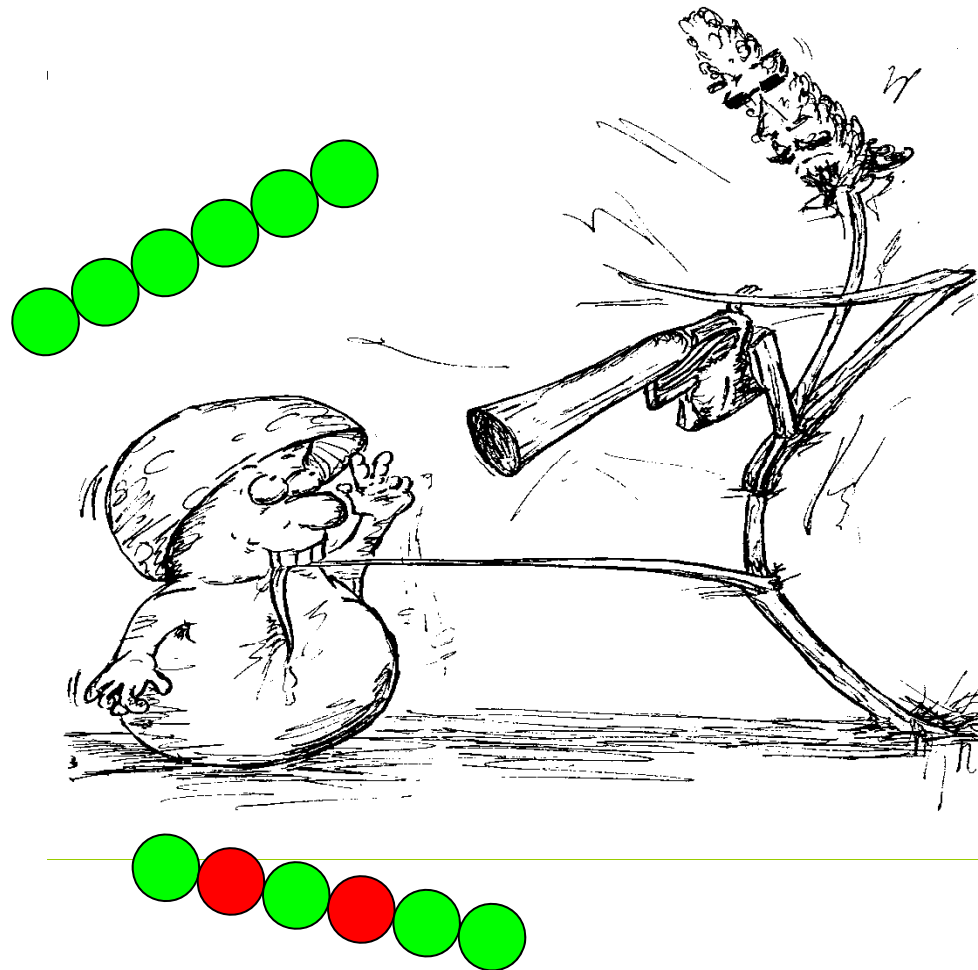
the chitosan matrix



structure/function relationships of chitosanS



towards cellular modes of action



„pathogen !“
(= „stopp all activities,
and defend yourself“)

„pathogen ?“
(= „keep going, but
prepare for defense“)

chitosan^S for seed dressing and foliar spray

40 kg ha⁻¹

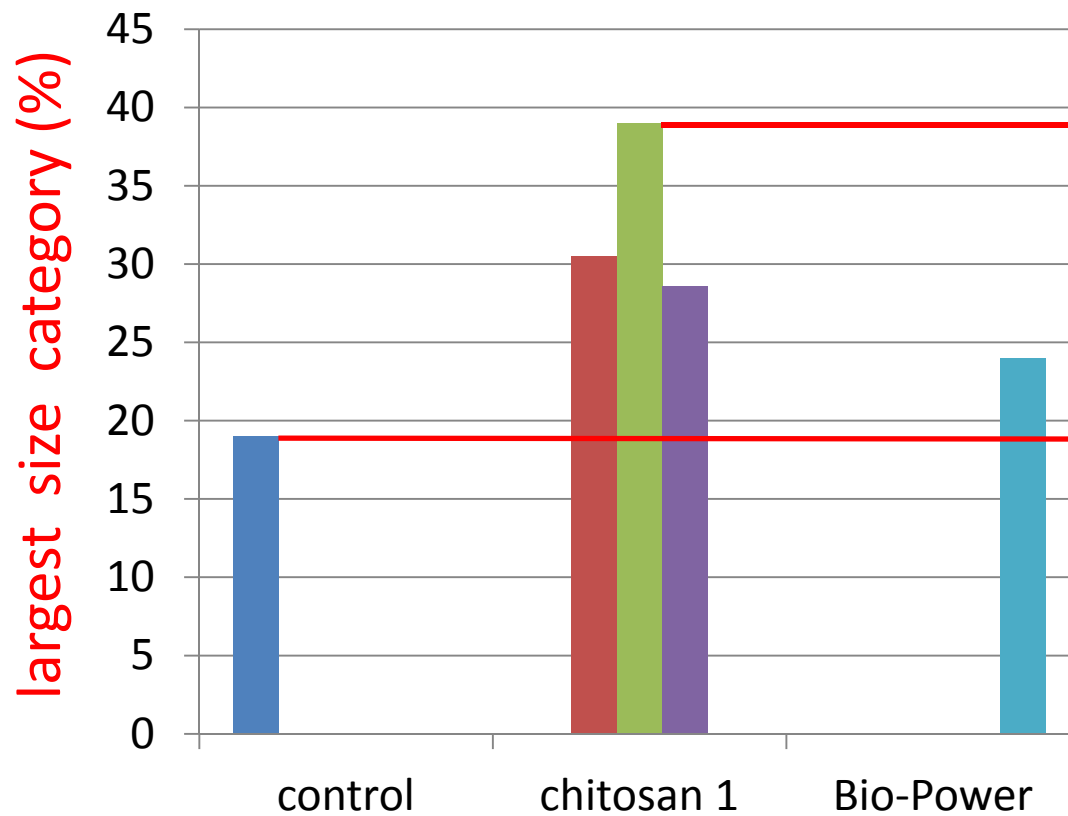
partial disease protection & yield increase (+ ≥ 25%)



40 g ha⁻¹



field trials in Morocco: tomatoes



higher yield
better quality
(larger fruits)

+ 105%



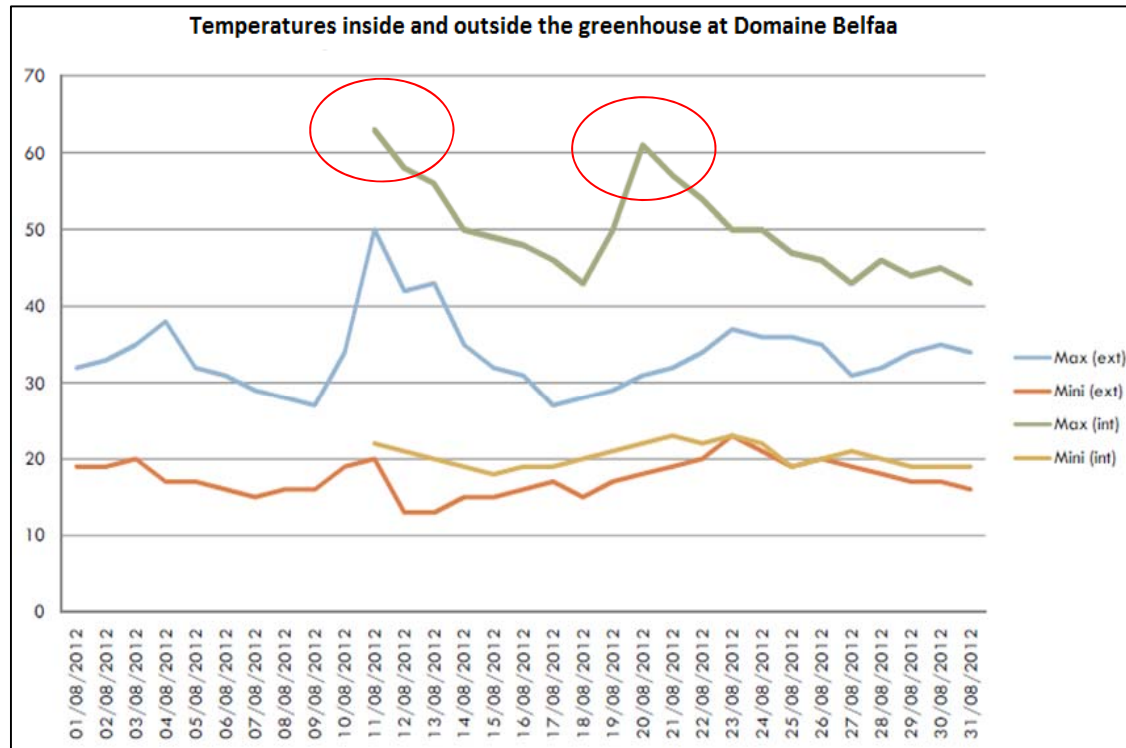
chitosan concentration ■ 0.2% ■ 0.5% ■ 1.0%

field trials in Morocco: tomatoes



abiotic stress (heat) tolerance

largest size category (%)



higher yield
better quality
(larger fruits)

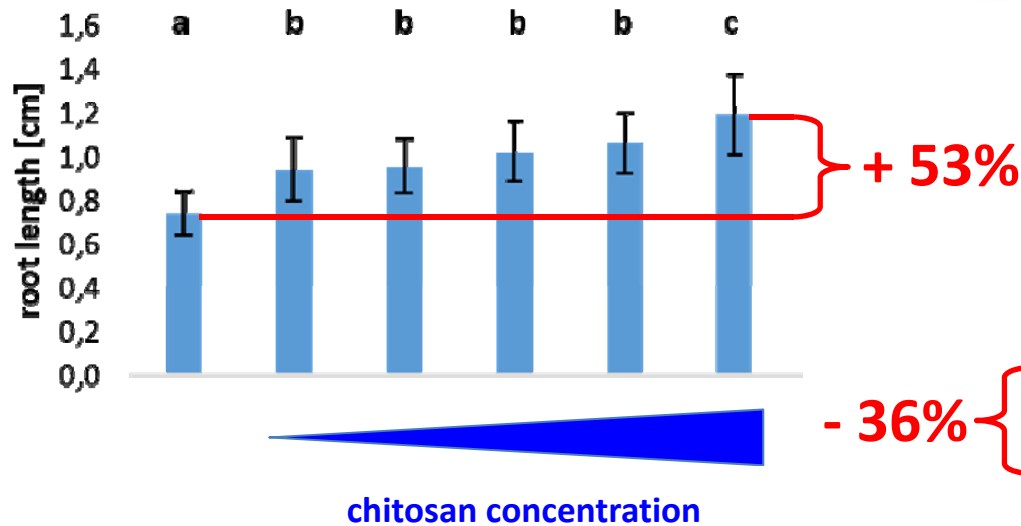
105%



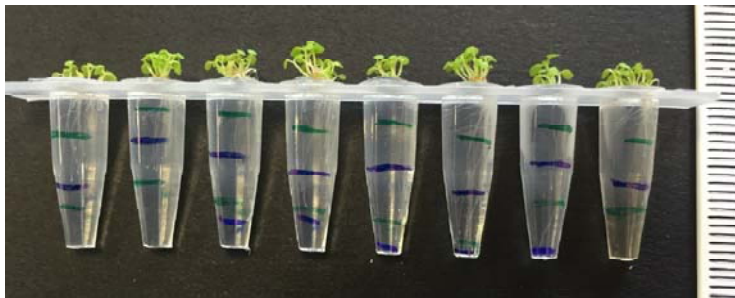
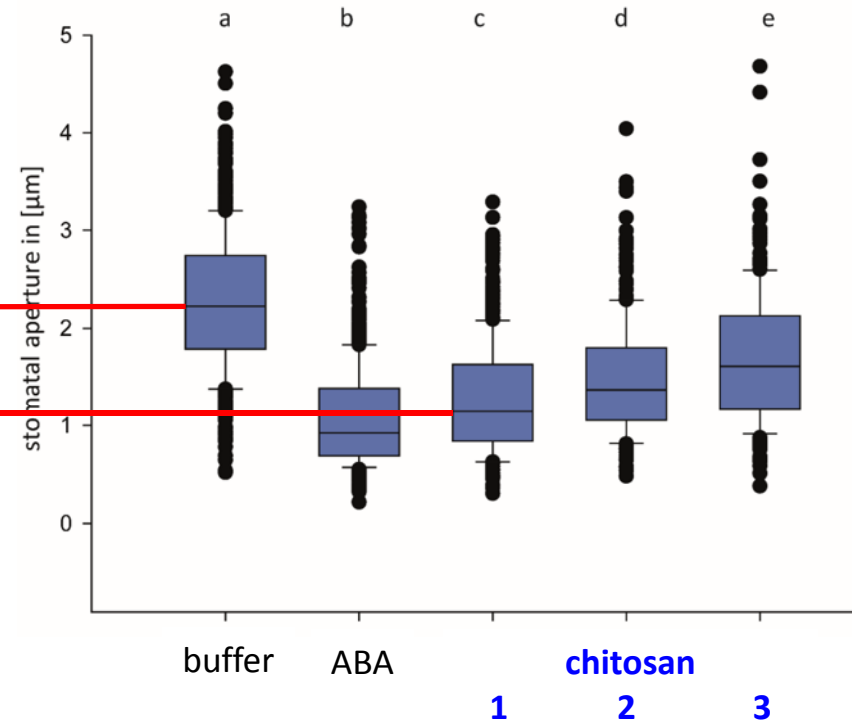
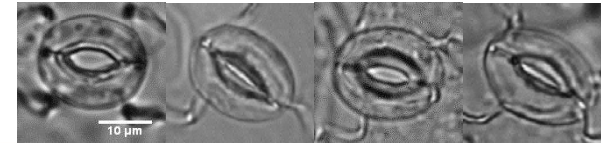
chitosan concentration ■ 0.2% ■ 0.5% ■ 1.0%

chitosan induces drought stress tolerance

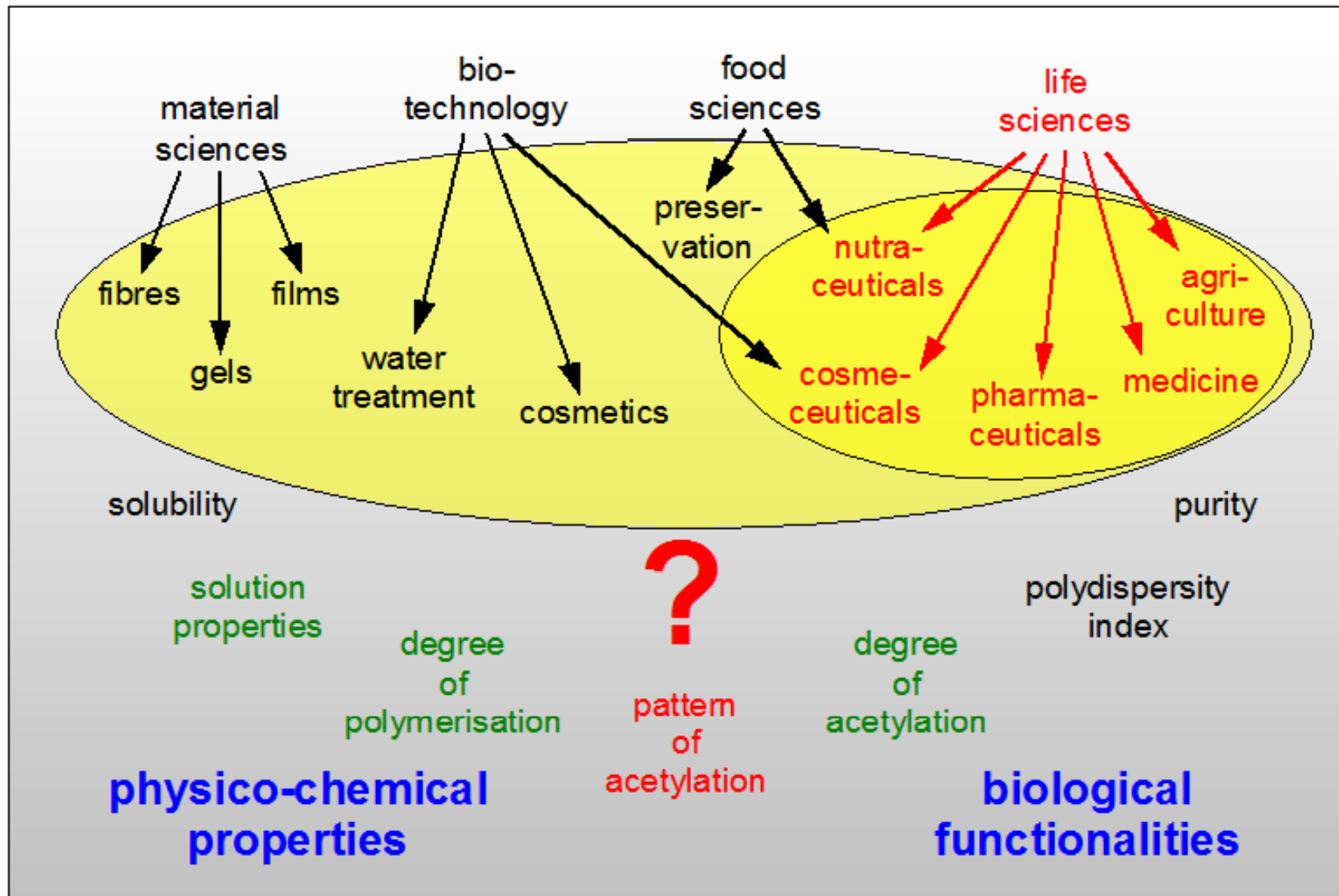
root growth promotion



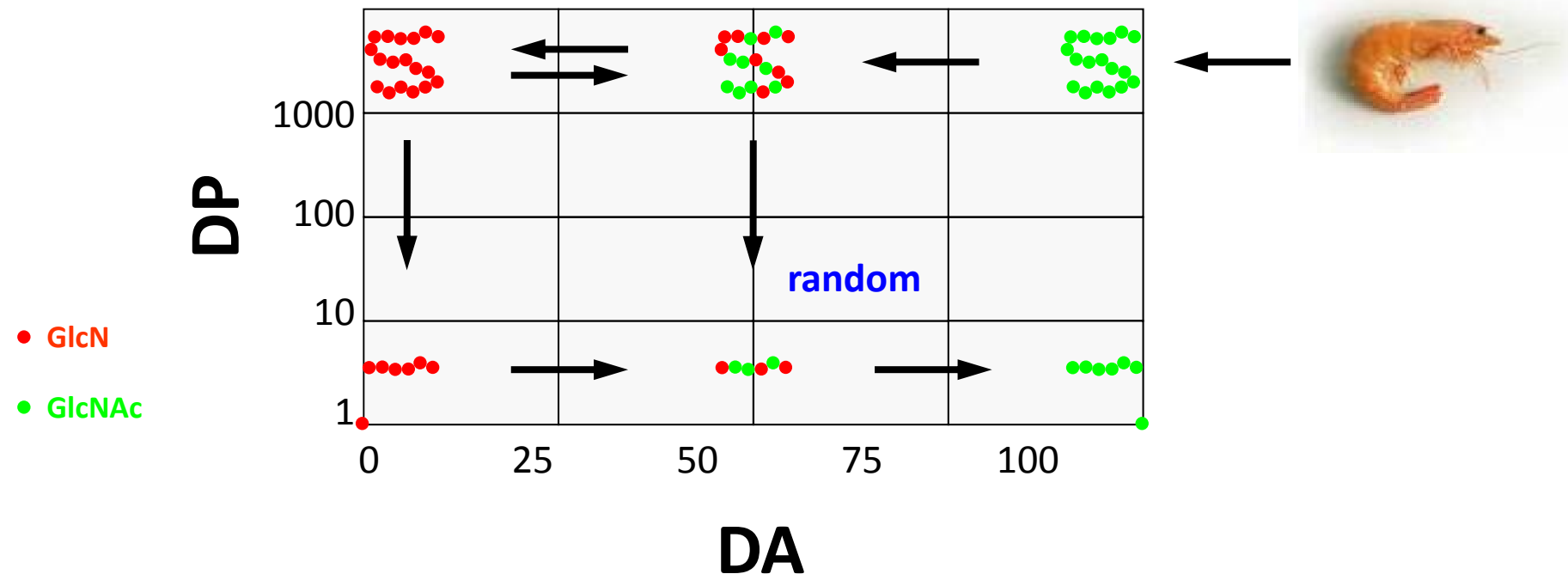
stomatal closure



structure-function relationships of chitosans



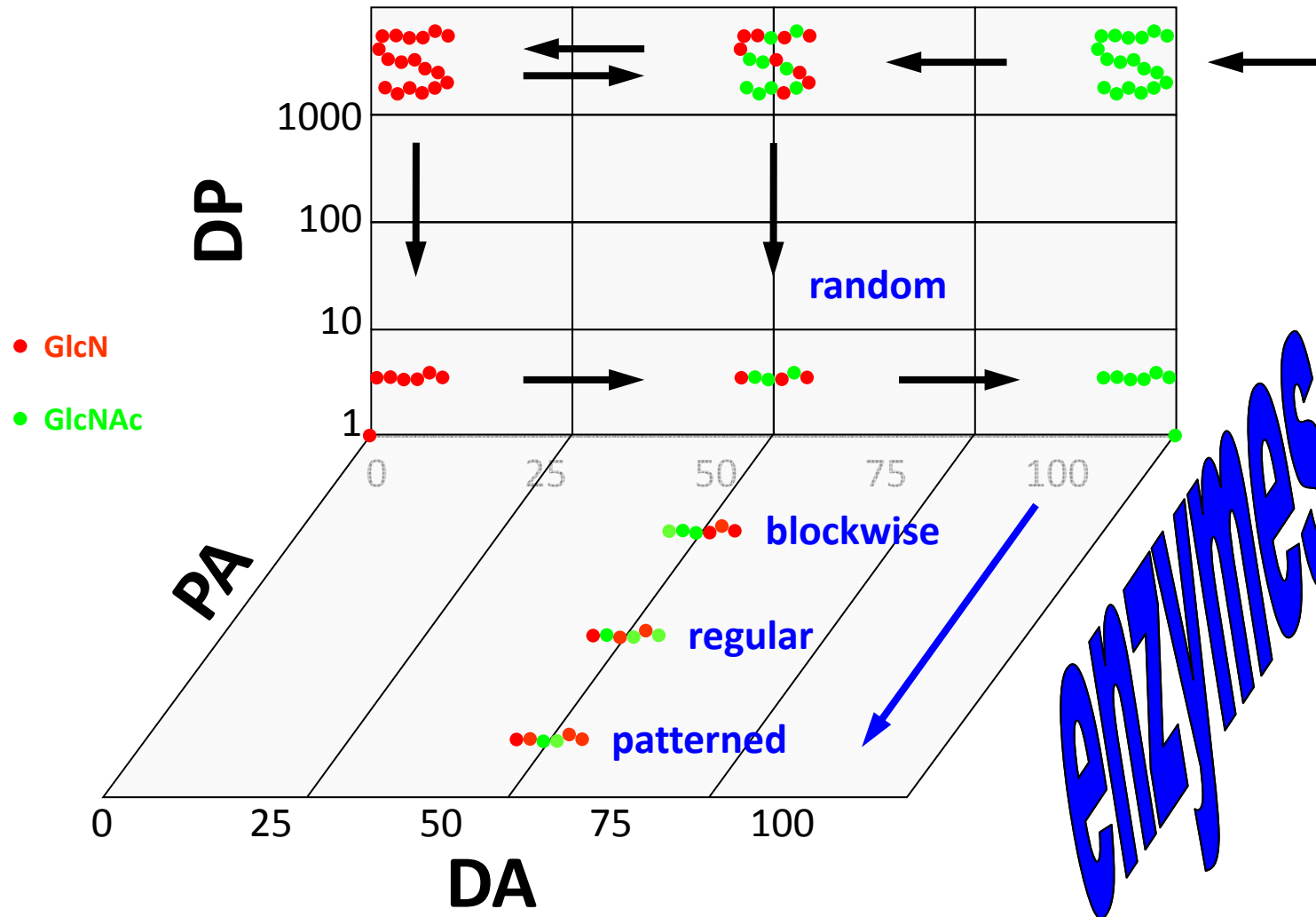
chemical preparation of chitosans: 2D matrix



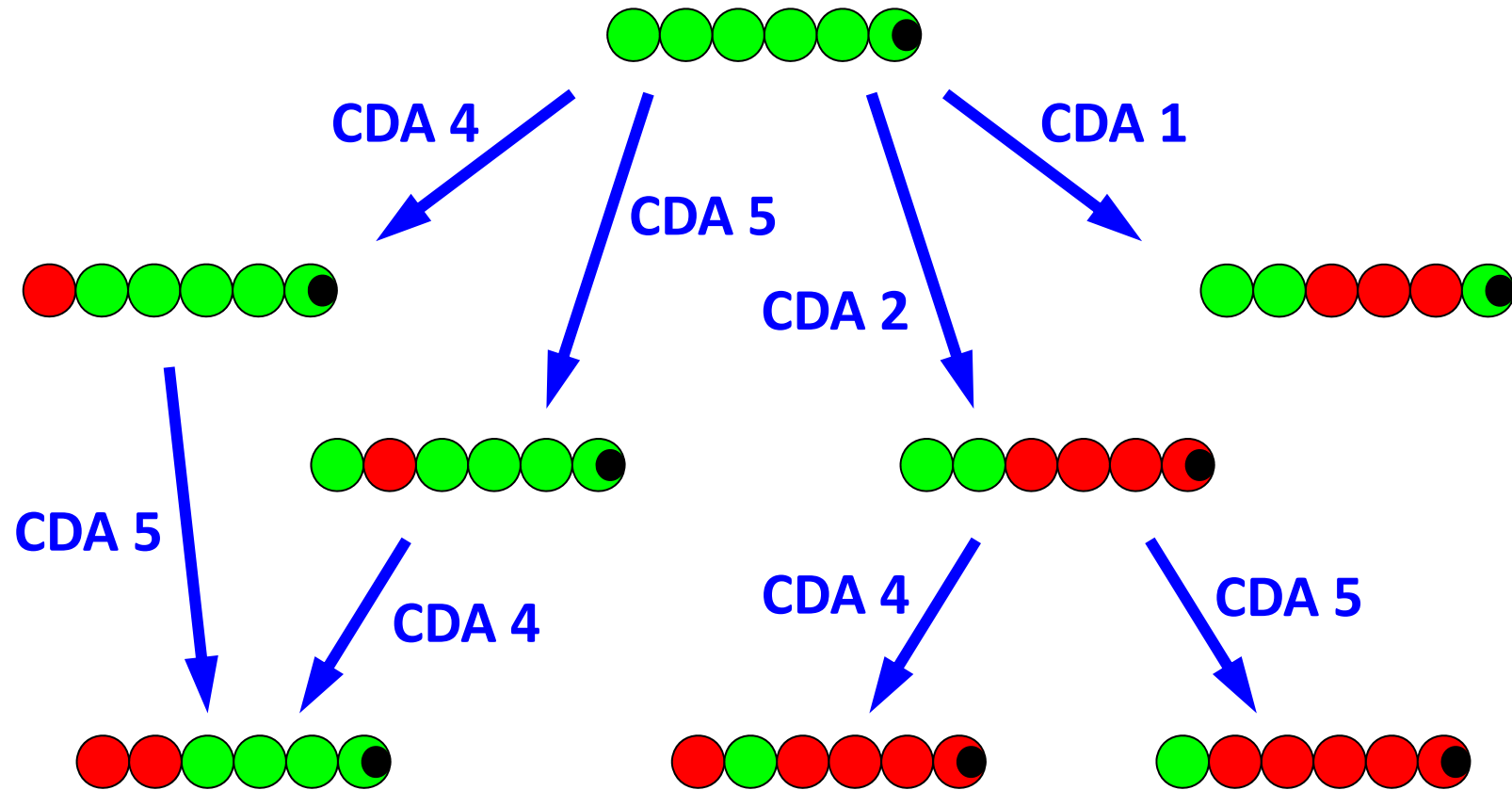
- chemical - de-N-acetylation
- de-polymerisation
- re-N-acetylation

yield chitosan oligo- and polymers with **random PA**

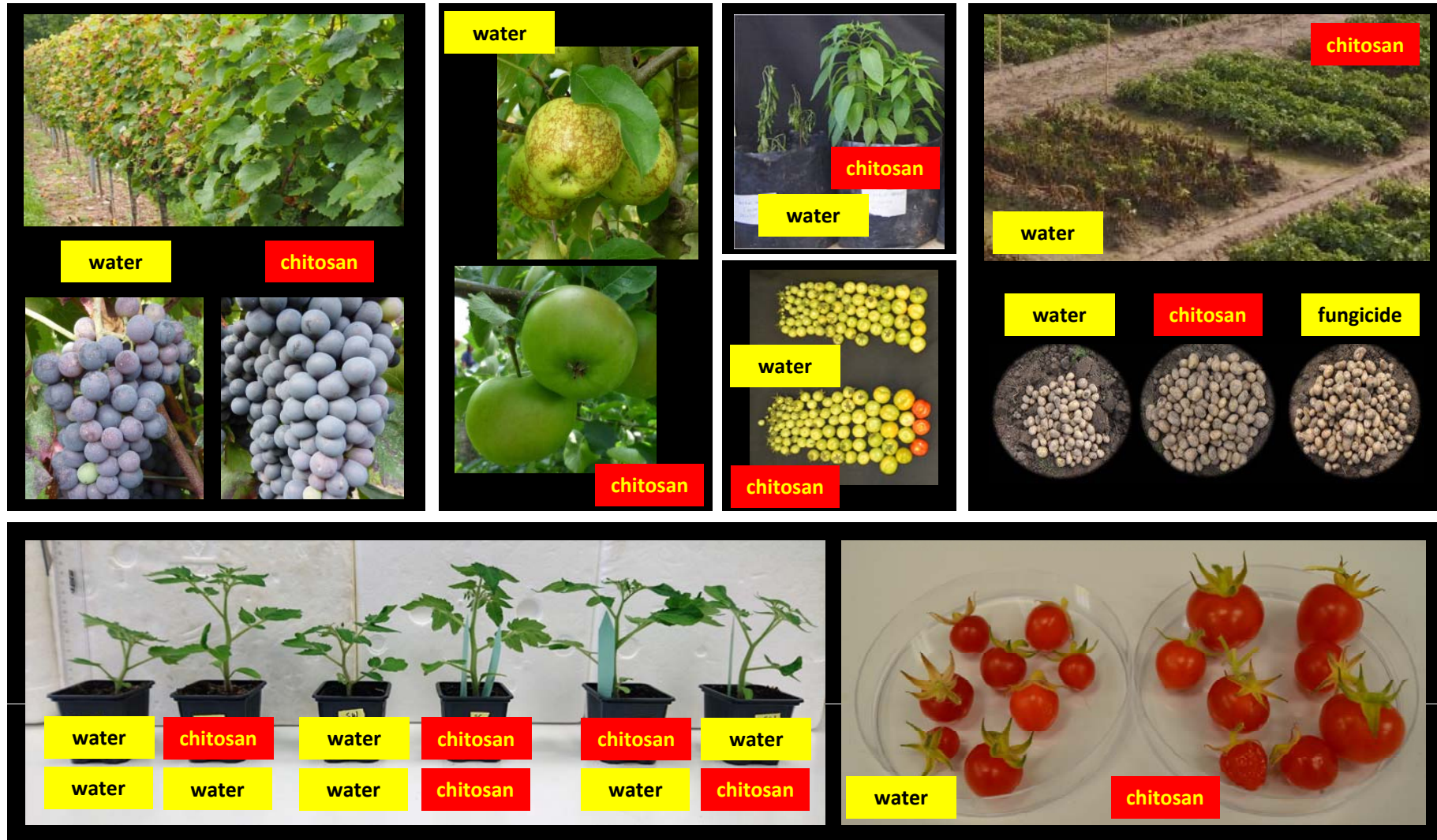
enzymatic modification of chitosans: 3D matrix



regio-selective chitin deacetylases



applications of well-defined chitosans



chitosanS for sustainable agriculture

some chitosanS can inhibit growth of microbial pathogens

some chitosanS can induce disease resistance in plants

some chitosanS can induce stress tolerance in plants

some chitosans can promote growth & development in plants

chitosanS for sustainable agriculture

some chitosanS can inhibit growth of microbial pathogens

- these chitosanS are **plant protectants**

some chitosanS can induce disease resistance in plants

- these chitosanS were **plant strengtheners**
- these chitosanS are now **plant protectants**

some chitosanS can induce stress tolerance in plants

some chitosans can promote growth & development in plants

chitosanS for sustainable agriculture

some chitosanS can inhibit growth of microbial pathogens

- these chitosanS are **plant protectants**

some chitosanS can induce disease resistance in plants

- these chitosanS were **plant strengtheners**
- these chitosanS are now **plant protectants**

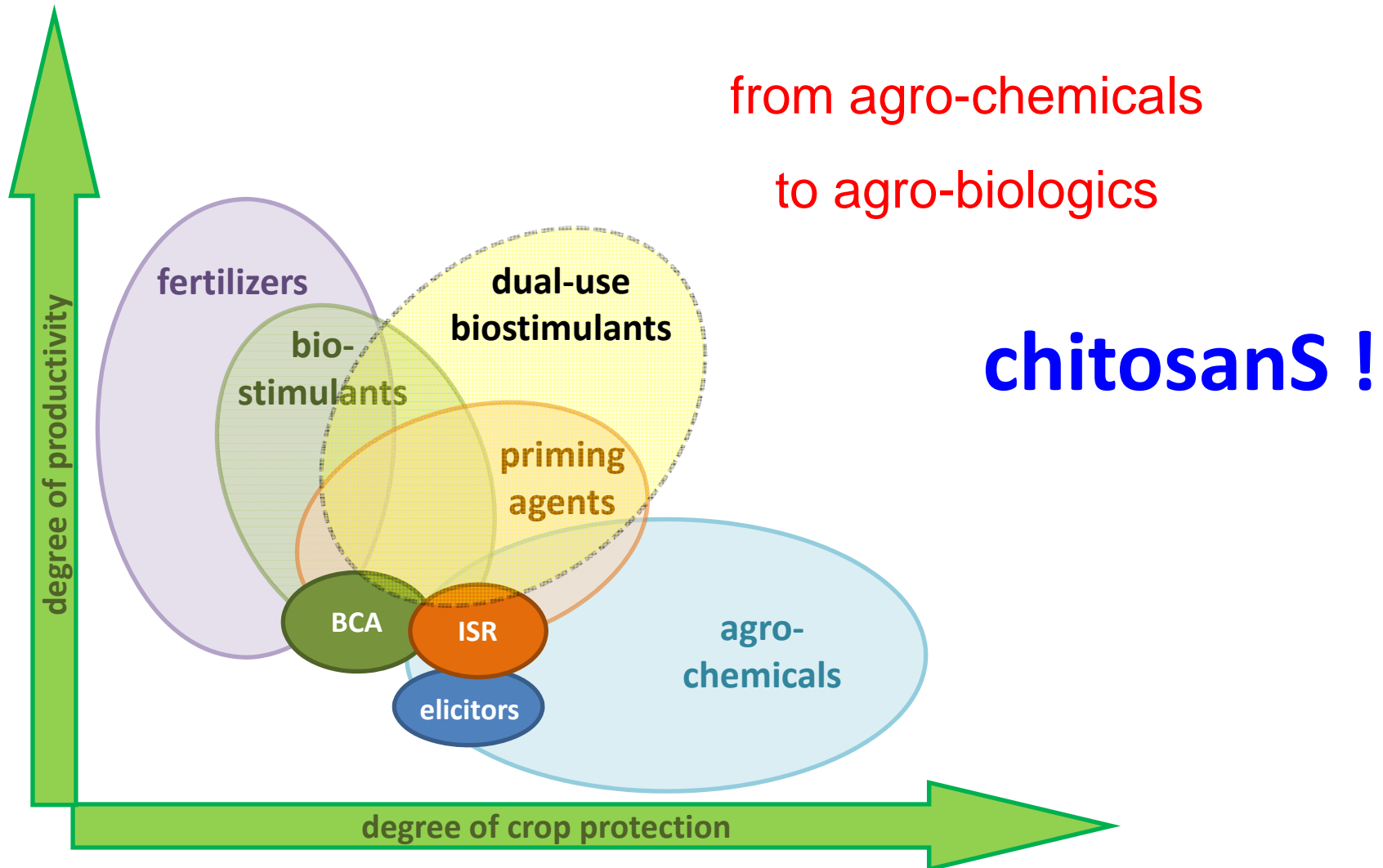
some chitosanS can induce stress tolerance in plants

- these chitosanS will be **plant biostimulants**

some chitosans can promote growth & development in plants

- these chitosanS will be **plant biostimulants**

chitosans for knowledge-based plant protection





thanks



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DFG

DAAD



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Bruno Moerschbacher . WWU Münster University . Germany



from 1st generation chitosan to 2nd generation chitosans

first generation chitosan

- rather poorly defined mixture of polymers, of varying purity and varying composition
- mostly unfit for the development of successfully marketable products

This chitosan was dominating the market for decades and is still widespread today.

second generation chitosans

- well defined in terms of their DP and DA, with known molecular structure-function relationships
- more suitable for the development of reliable products

These chitosans are now increasingly appearing on the market.

from 2nd to 3rd generation chitosanS

second generation chitosanS

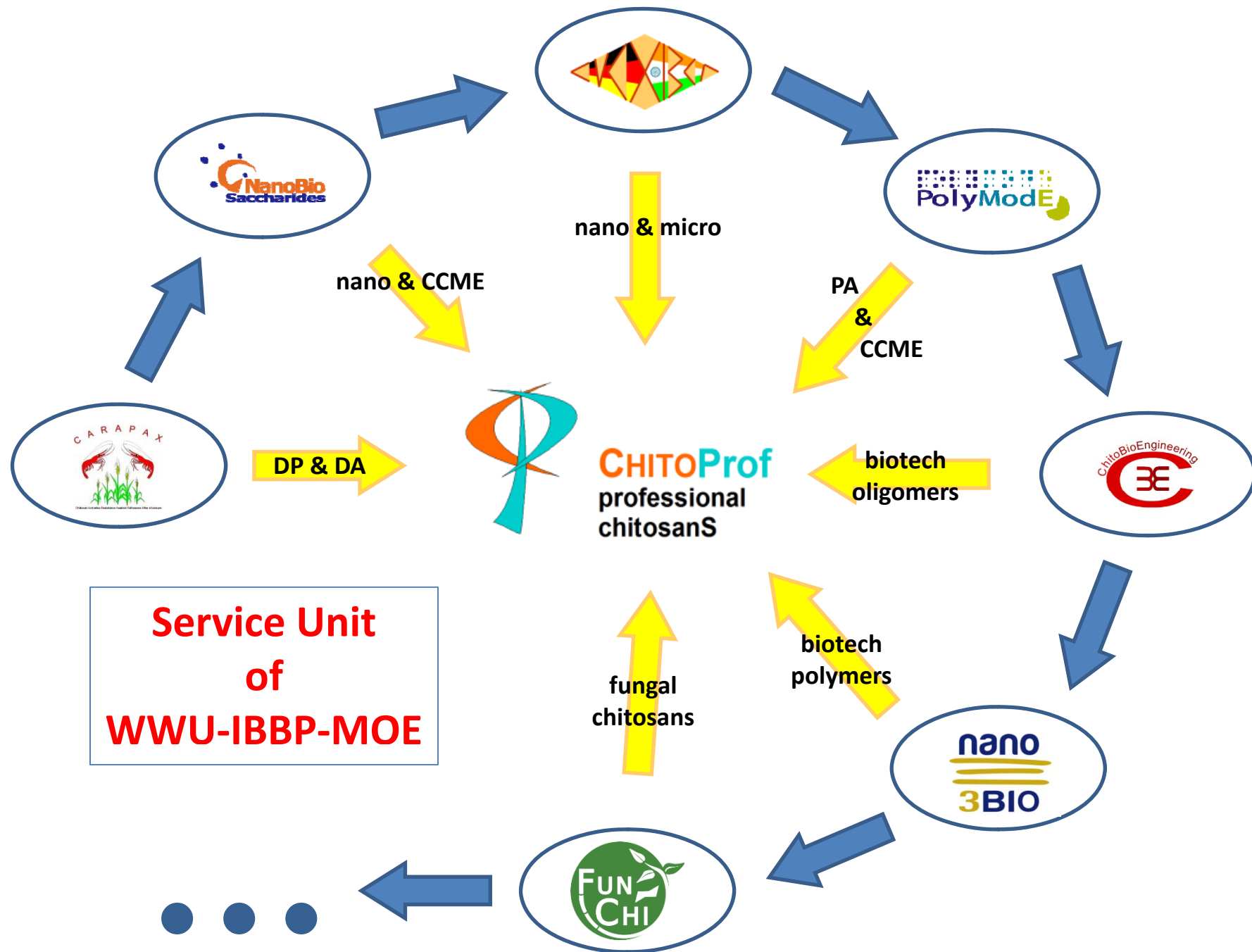
- well defined in terms of their DP and DA,
with known molecular structure-function relationships
- more suitable for the development of reliable products

These chitosans are now increasingly appearing on the market.

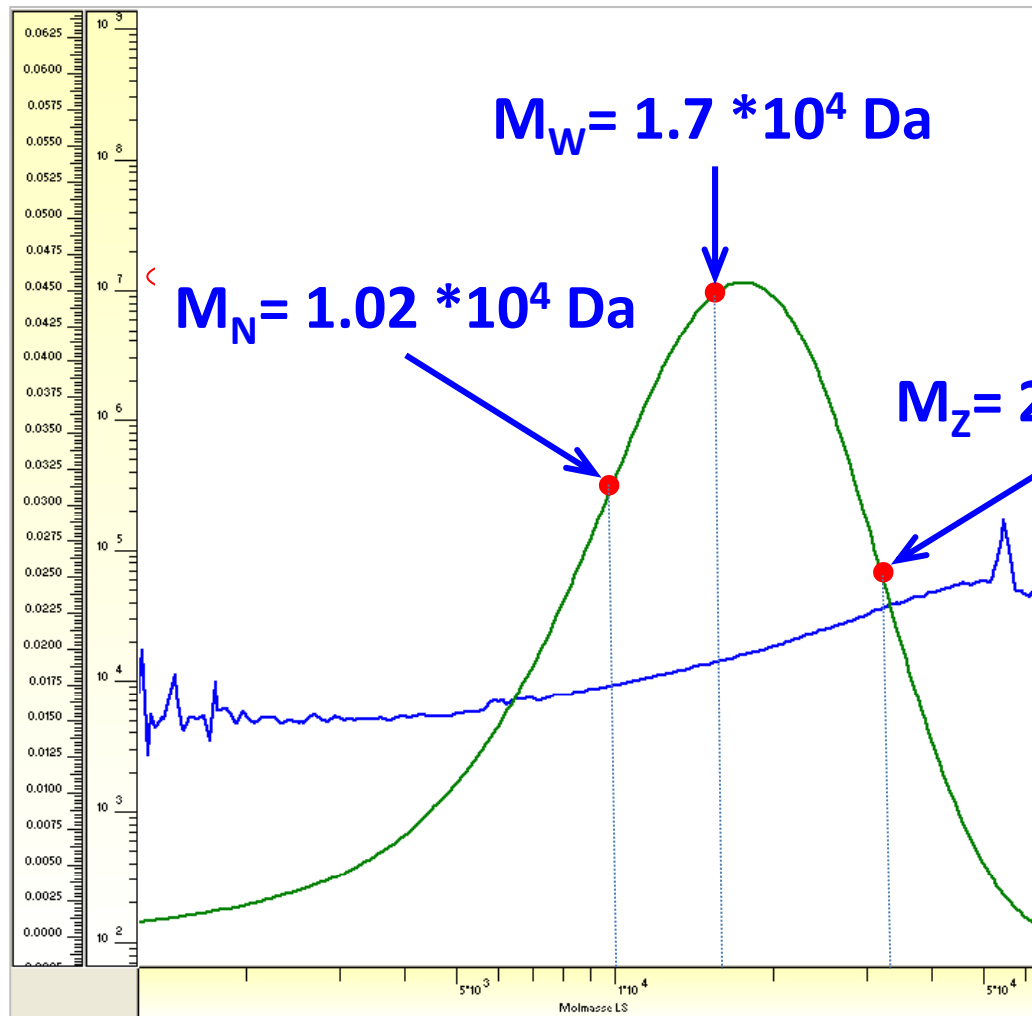
third generation chitosanS

- less polydispers polymers and monodispers oligomers,
with well-defined, non-random PA,
nano-formulated if required,
with defined biological activities
and known cellular modes of action

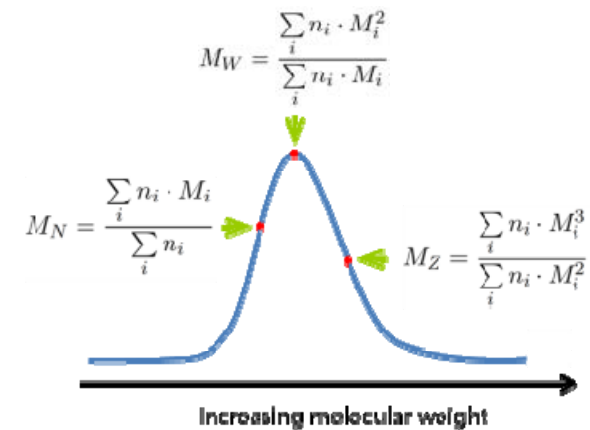
These chitosans will create new market opportunities in future.



DP analysis of chitosan polymers using SEC-MALLS



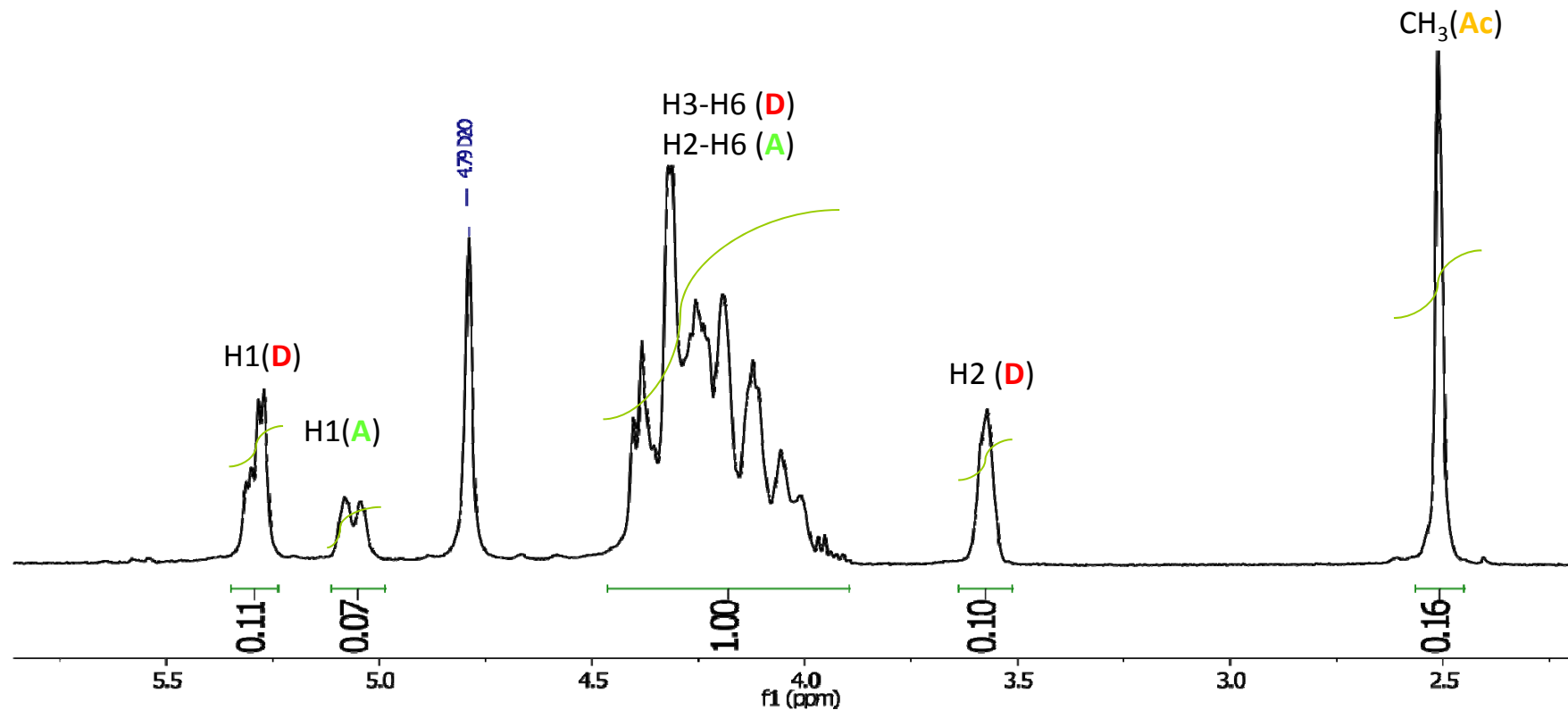
$$I_p = M_W / M_N = 1.68$$



DA analysis of chitosan polymers using $^1\text{H-NMR}$

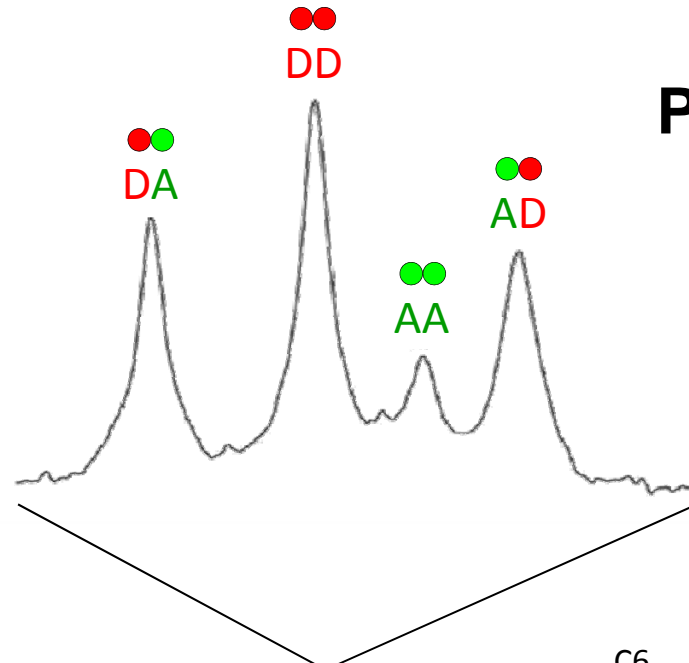
$$\%DA = \frac{7(I_{H1(A)} + I_{CH_3(A)})}{4(I_{H1(D)} + I_{H2-H6(A+D)}) + I_{H1(A)} + I_{CH_3(A)}} * 100$$

DA = 30%



PA analysis of chitosan polymers using ^{13}C -NMR

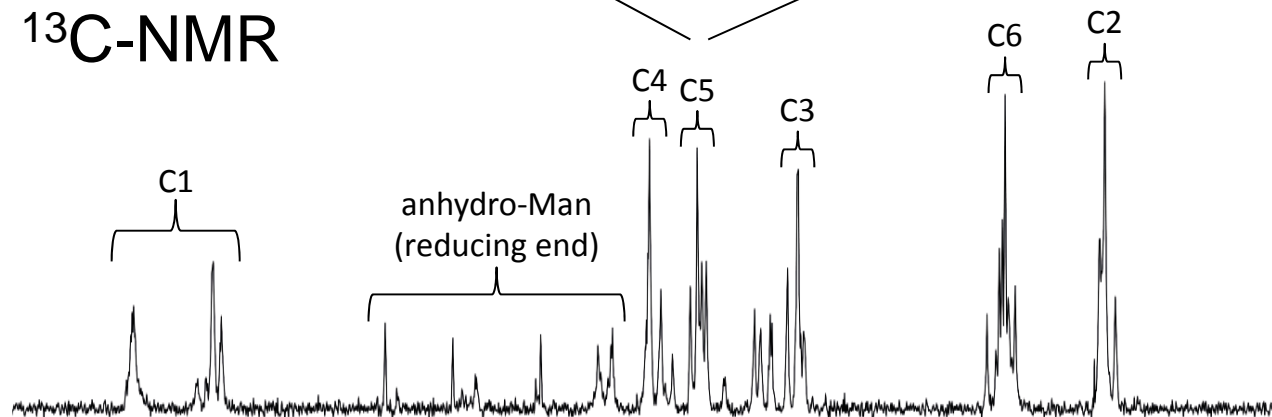
C5 region



$$PA = \frac{F_{DA}}{F_{DD} + F_{DA}} + \frac{F_{AD}}{F_{AA} + F_{AD}}$$

random PA = 1
 block PA < 1
 regular PA > 1

^{13}C -NMR



DP, DA, PA analysis of chitosan oligomers using HPLC-MS

