



# FIRST2RUN

*Flagship demonstration of an integrated biorefinery for dry crops sustainable exploitation towards biobased materials production*

**WP2: Chemical and Biochemical conversion of vegetable oils into biodegradable esters.  
*Oxidative cleavage of glycols.***

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## Subtask 2.1.2 Catalyst for oxidative cleavage

Activity carried out:

- **February 2016:** delivery of the starting substrate by Novamont S.p.a for the catalytic tests of oxidative cleavage with our catalysts.
- **March – April 2016:** development of the analytical method for the determination of conversions and yields
- **May – June 2016:** catalytic tests

# Starting material: DSA Novamont

(9,10-dihydroxystearic acid)



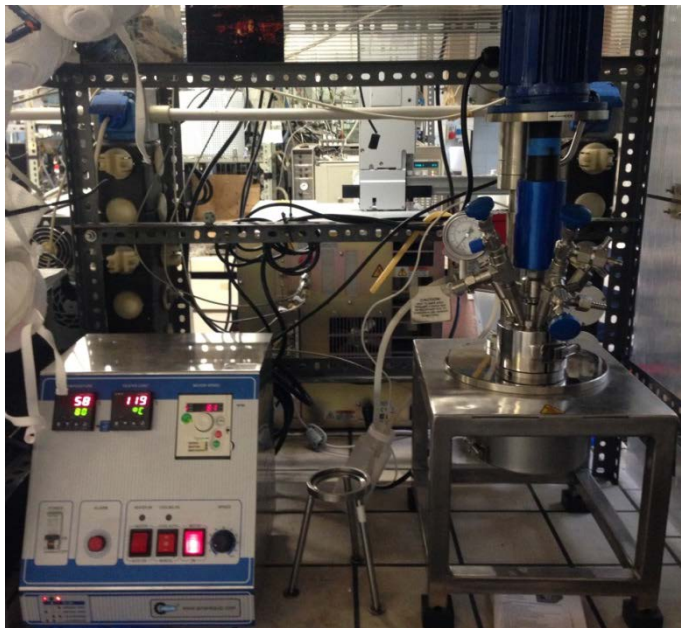
- Obtained from Sunflower oil with  $H_2O_2/H_2WO_4$
- Composition after transmethylation of triglyceride

Methyl esters from sunflower oil*:	Methyl oleate	Methyl linoleate	Methyl palmitate	Methyl stearate
%wt	92	1	4	3

- Problem → **viscosity** (  $T_f \cong 57 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  )

\*arising from **PATENT US 2008/024595 A1**

Catalytic tests were conducted in bench scale reactor under the same conditions for each catalyst tested



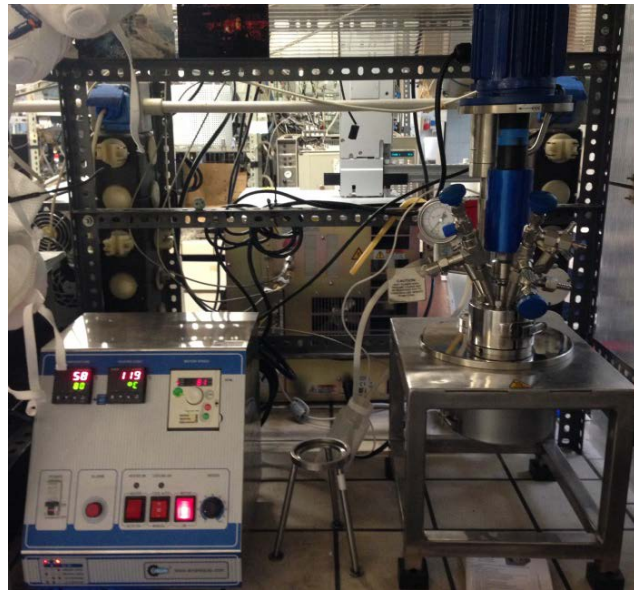
Reaction conditions\*:

- $T = 80 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Stirring = 500 rpm
- $P_{\text{O}_2} = 25 \text{ bar}$
- $t = 5 \text{ h}$

\*arising from **PATENT US 2008/024595 A1**

## Reaction Conditions from PATENT US 2008/024595 A1

- DSA + cat. system (next slide)
- $T = 80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Stirring = 500 rpm
- $P_{\text{O}_2} = 25\text{ bar}$
- $t = 5\text{ h}$



Oily phase

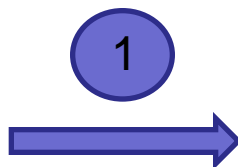
Aqueous phase (with the Novamont catalyst)



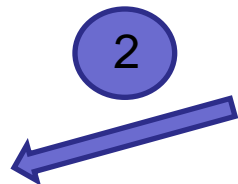
# Catalytic System of Novamont patent: preparation



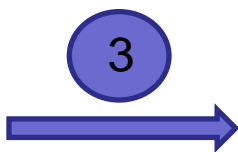
$\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4$  (colourless) +  
 $\text{CoAc}_2$  (pink)



$\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 + \text{CoAc}_2$  (complete mixing)



$\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 + \text{CoAc}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$



$\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4 + \text{CoAc}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 + \text{HCl}$

1

## Example 1\*:

A solution of  $\text{CoAc}_2$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was added to a solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

2

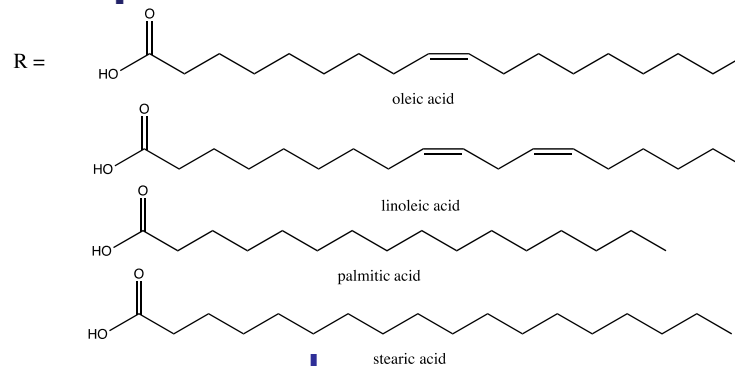
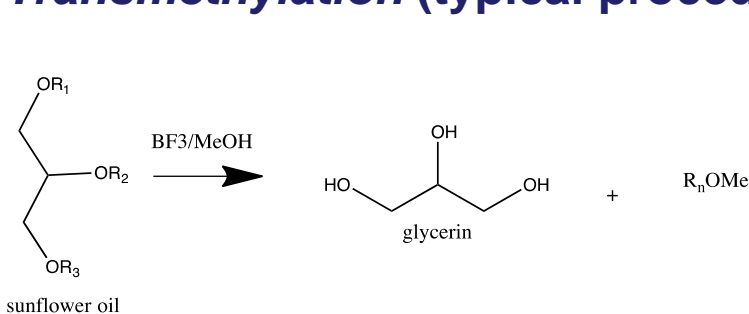
$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (30 %wt.) was added in order to oxidize Co (II) to Co (III).

3

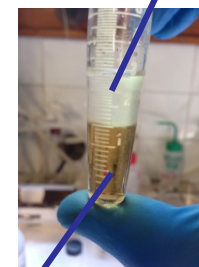
The precipitate was solubilized by means of HCl (3 M).

\* C. Bastioli, T. Milizia, G. Borsotti, Patent: US 2008/0245995

## Transmethylation (typical procedure)<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>:



- 0,1 g of sample, previously dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, was dissolved in 1 mL of toluene
- Add 450 μL of STD Int (solution prepared dissolving 1%wt. of 10-undecenoic acid and 0,8%wt. of nonadecanoic acid in 10 mL of MeOH)
- Add 2,8 mL BF<sub>3</sub>/methanol (10% w/w) and 150 μL 2,2-dimethoxypropane can be added at this point.
- Heat at 80 °C for 1h
- Cool, then add 1mL of water and 1 mL of CHCl<sub>3</sub>.
- Carefully remove the lower (organic) layer, and dry it over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.



Organic phase (with products of reaction)

Aqueous phase (with glycerin)

<sup>1</sup>K. Blau and J. Halket Handbook of Derivatives for Chromatography (2nd ed.) John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1993.

<sup>2</sup>D.R. Knapp Handbook of Analytical Derivatization Reactions John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1979.

<sup>3</sup>Bailey's Industrial Oil and Fat Products, fifth edition, Vol. 5, John Wiley & Sons, New York (1995).



**Shimadzu GC-2025 (arrived 27/04/16)** equipped with:

- auto-injector AOC-20i with syringe (10  $\mu$ L)
- Split injector
- Hydrogen flame ionization detector (**FID**)

### **Column DB-23 J&W**

Max Temperature: 250 °C

Length: 60 m

Diameter: 250  $\mu$ m

Film thickness: 0,25  $\mu$ m

### **Operation Method**

#### **Column**

Max Temperature: 250 °C

Mode: constant linear velocity

#### **Detector**

Temperature: 250 °C

#### **Injector\***

Temperature: 250 °C

Mode: constant linear velocity

Pressure: 337,3 kPa

Flow: 158,8 mL/min

Flow: 3,8 mL/min

Linear velocity: 46,6 mL/min

Purge Flow: 3,0 mL/min

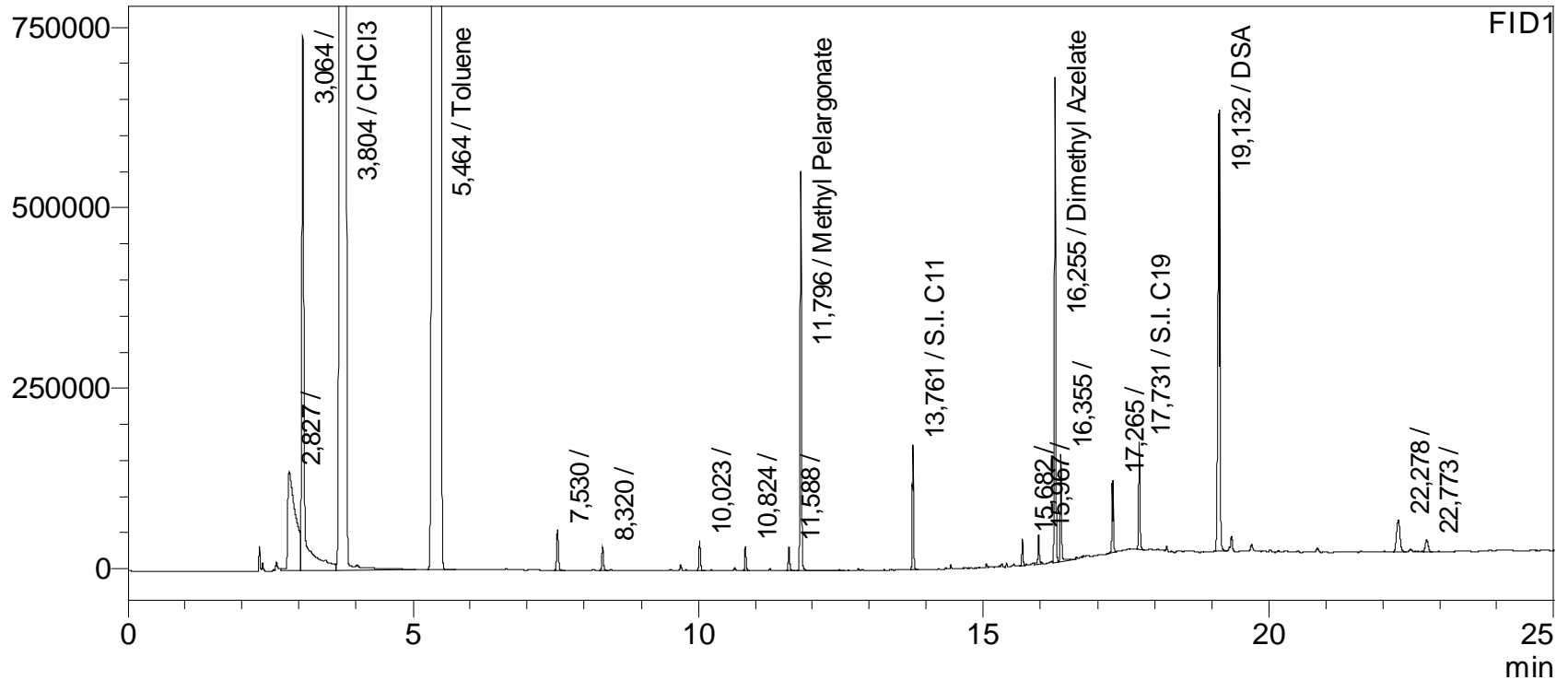
Split ratio: 40,0

\*Method delivered by Novamont S.p.a.



## Typical chromatogram of scissed oil (batch Reaction) Test

uV





## Products analysis: *chromatograms*



Problems:

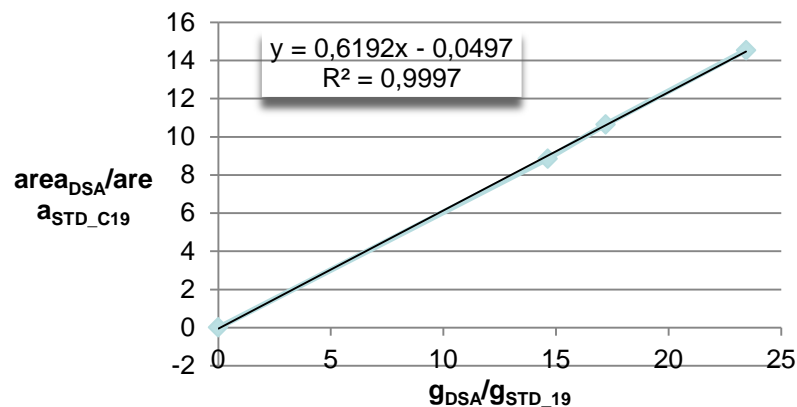
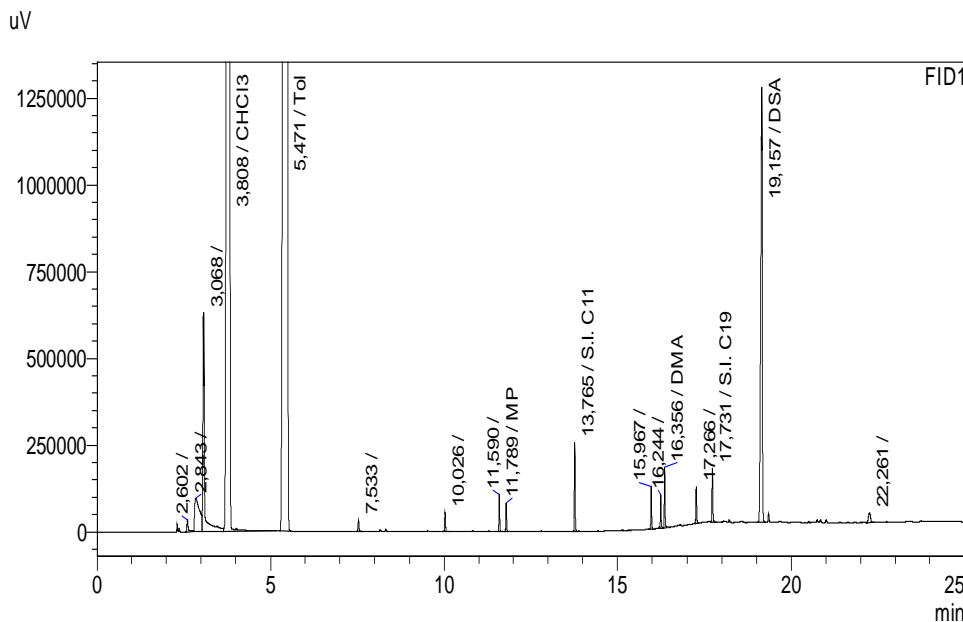
- ***Several products***

Determination **only** of products of interest for conversions & yields evaluation:

- ***Methyl pelargonate***
- ***Methyl azelate***
- ***9,10 – dimethoxymethylstearate***

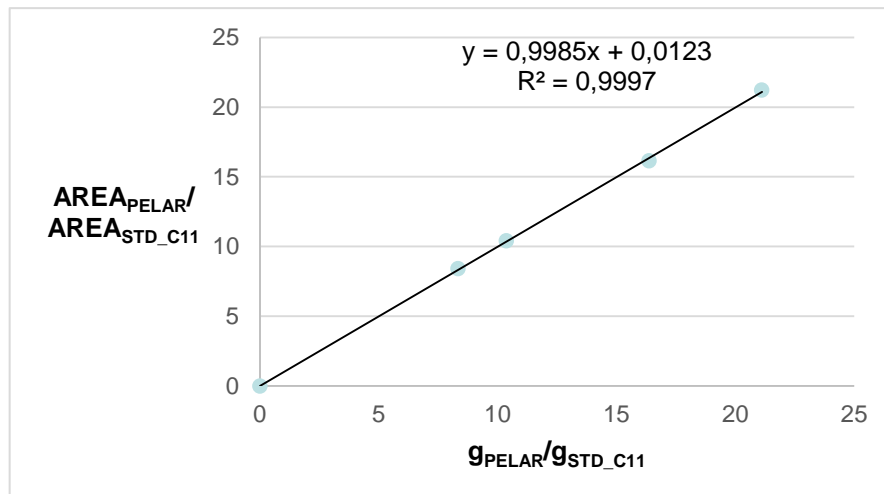
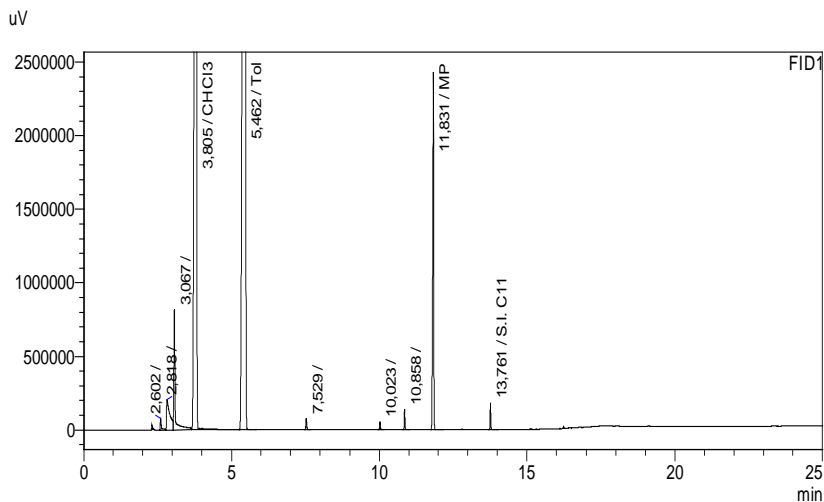
## DSA Novamont (9,10-dimethoxymethylstearate):

$g_{\text{DSA}}/g_{\text{STD}_{19}}$	$\text{area}_{\text{DSA}}/\text{area}_{\text{STD}_{C19}}$
0	0
14,63021092	8,849167136
17,20324708	10,64171978
23,43862995	14,53458703



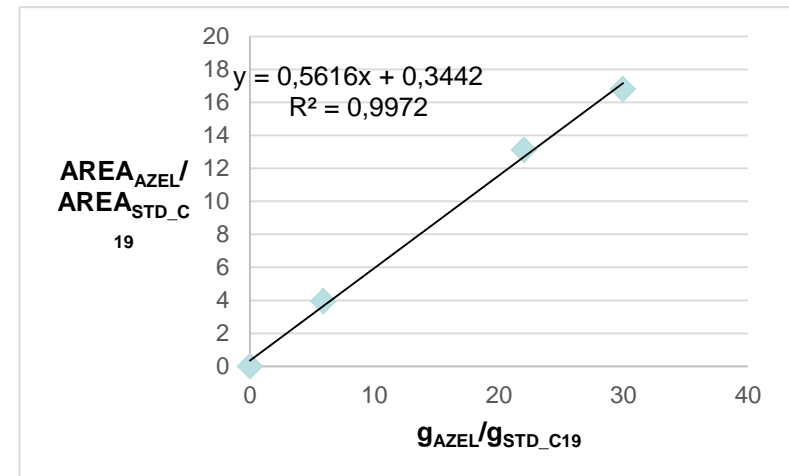
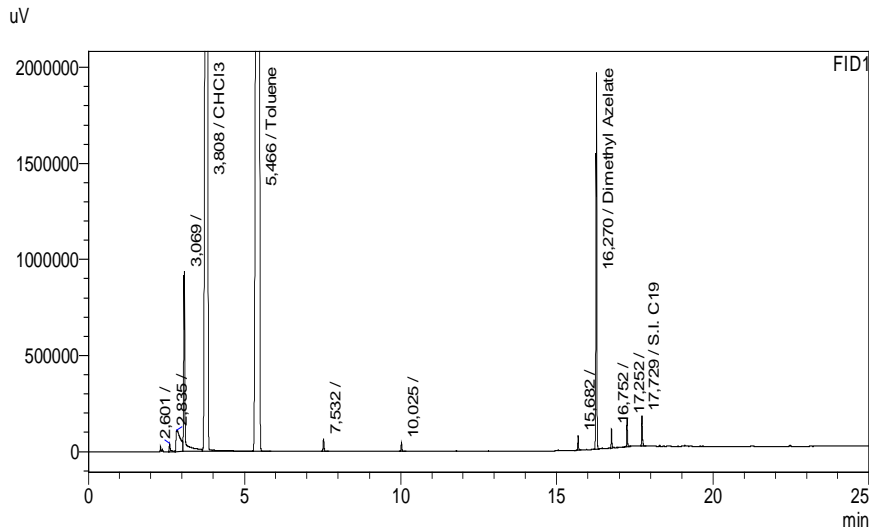
## Methyl Pelargonate:

$g_{PELAR}/g_{STD\_C11}$	$AREA_{PELAR}/AREA_{STD\_C11}$
0	0
21,1150614	21,22217984
10,3685592	10,41447768
8,34048398	8,4030506
16,3787232	16,14129687



## Dimethyl Azelate:

$g_{AZEL}/g_{STD\_C19}$	$AREA_{AZEL}/AREA_{STD\_C19}$
0	0
5,89613972	3,946013554
22,0062238	13,12062388
29,9590944	16,80569477

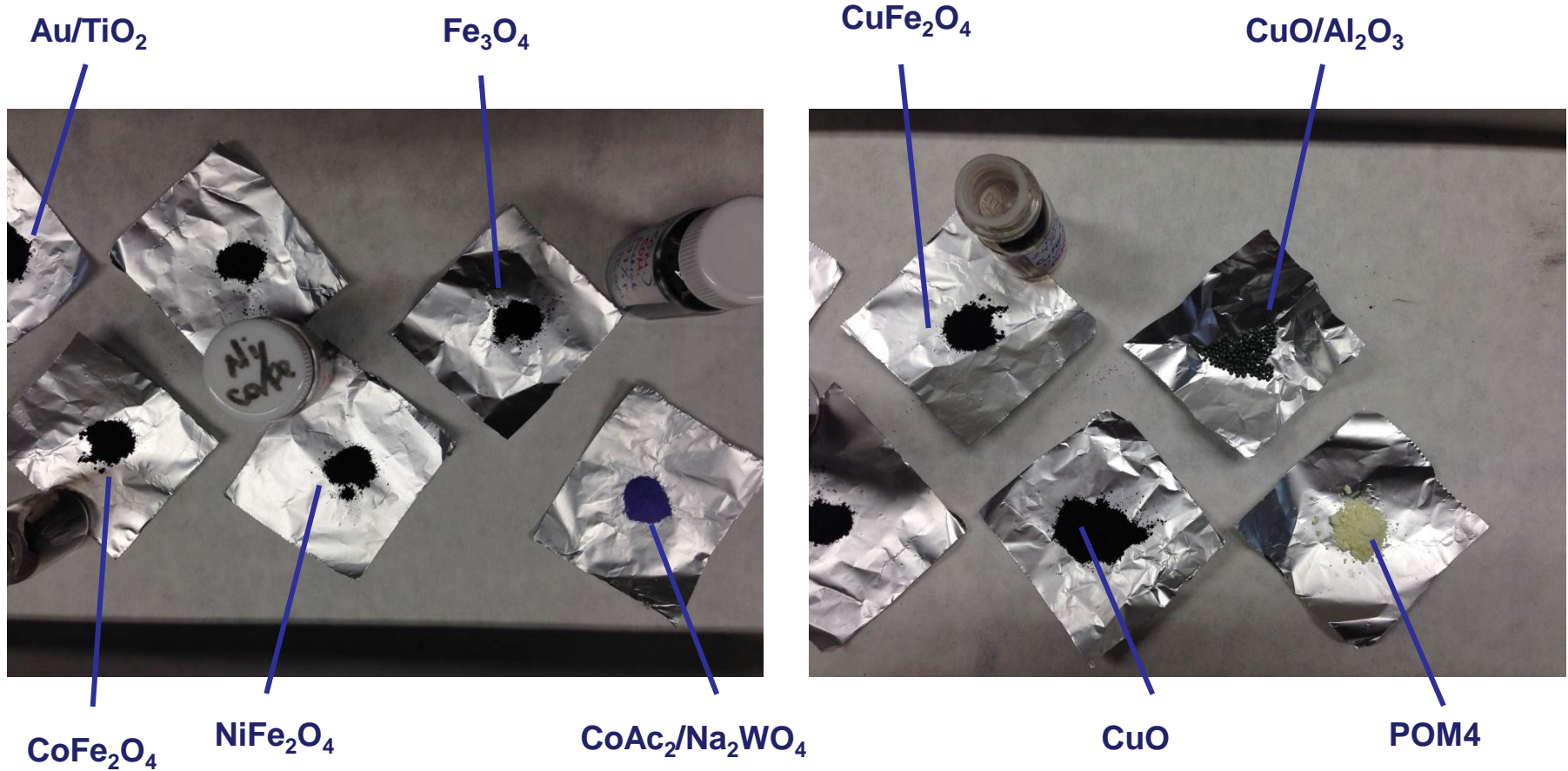




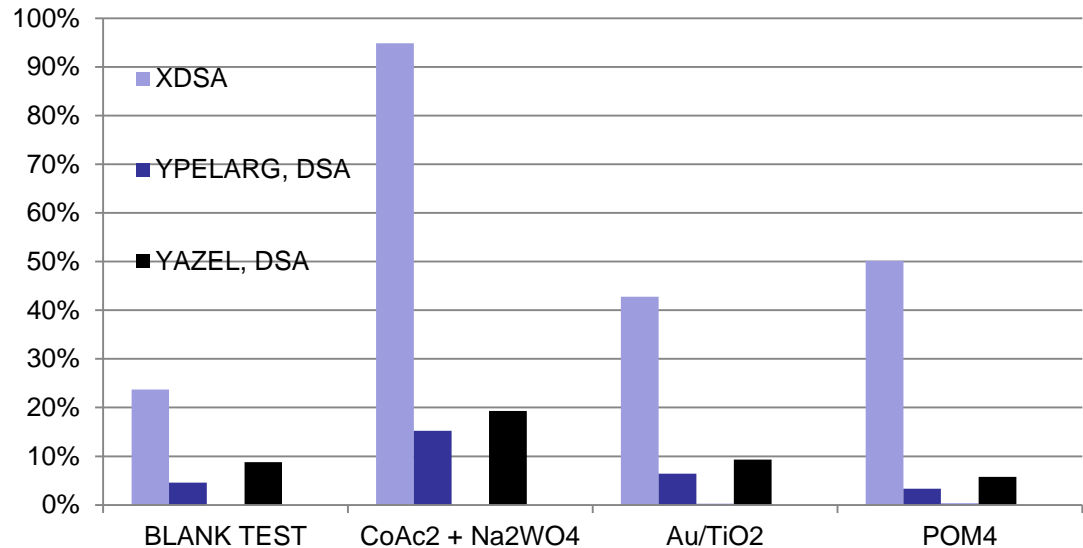
# Catalysts Tested

- Blank Test
- $\text{CoAc}_2/\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4$
- $\text{Au}/\text{TiO}_2$  (Au = 1,5 % wt.)
- $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-016)
- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (ovo-036)
- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (ovo-036) +  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_{4(\text{aq})}$
- $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-017)
- $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-017) +  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_{4(\text{aq})}$
- $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-029)
- $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-029) +  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_{4(\text{aq})}$
- $\text{H}_3\text{PW}_{11}\text{FeO}_{40}$  (POM4)
- CuO (Merck)
- $\text{CuO}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (Sigma Aldrich Pcode:1001502365)

# Catalyst Tested: CATALYSTS



- Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> (Au = 1,5 % wt.)
- H<sub>3</sub>PW<sub>11</sub>FeO<sub>40</sub> (POM4)



$$\text{CONVERSION} = X_{DSA} = \frac{m^i_{DSA} - m^f_{DSA}}{m^i_{DSA}}$$

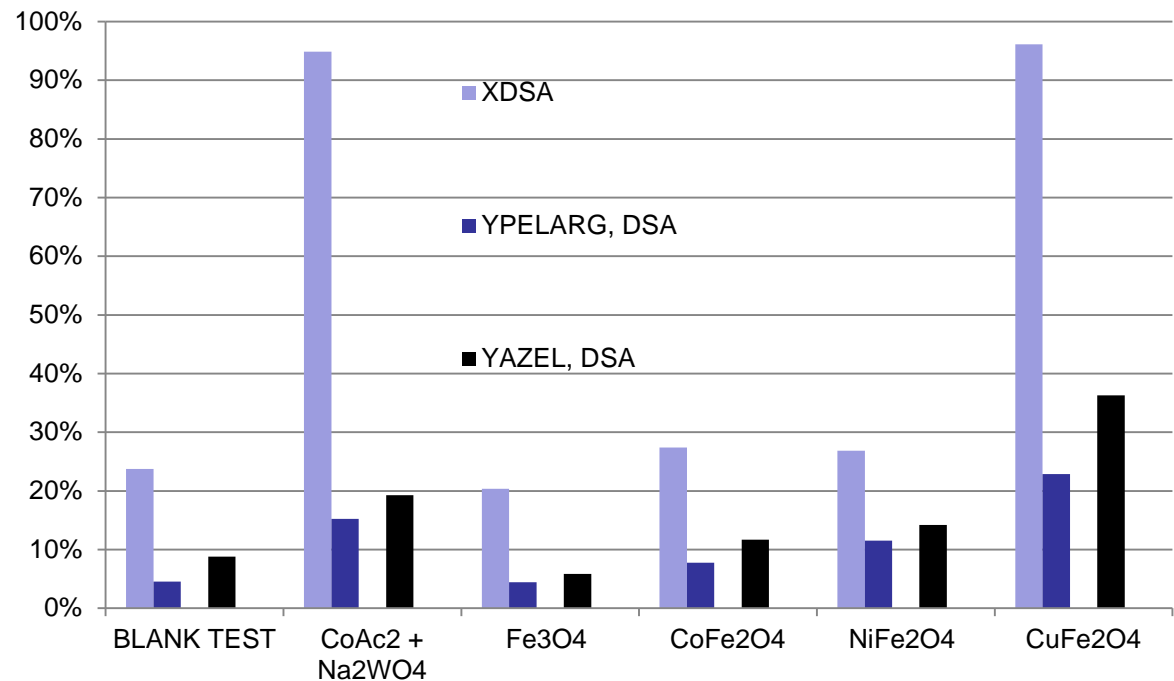
$$\text{YIELDS} = Y_{i,DSA} = \frac{m^f_i}{m^i_{DSA}}$$

$$\text{PRODUCTIVITY} = P_{i,DSA} = \frac{m^f_i}{t_{BATCH} \cdot m_{CAT}}$$

# Activity & Results

## Ferrites:

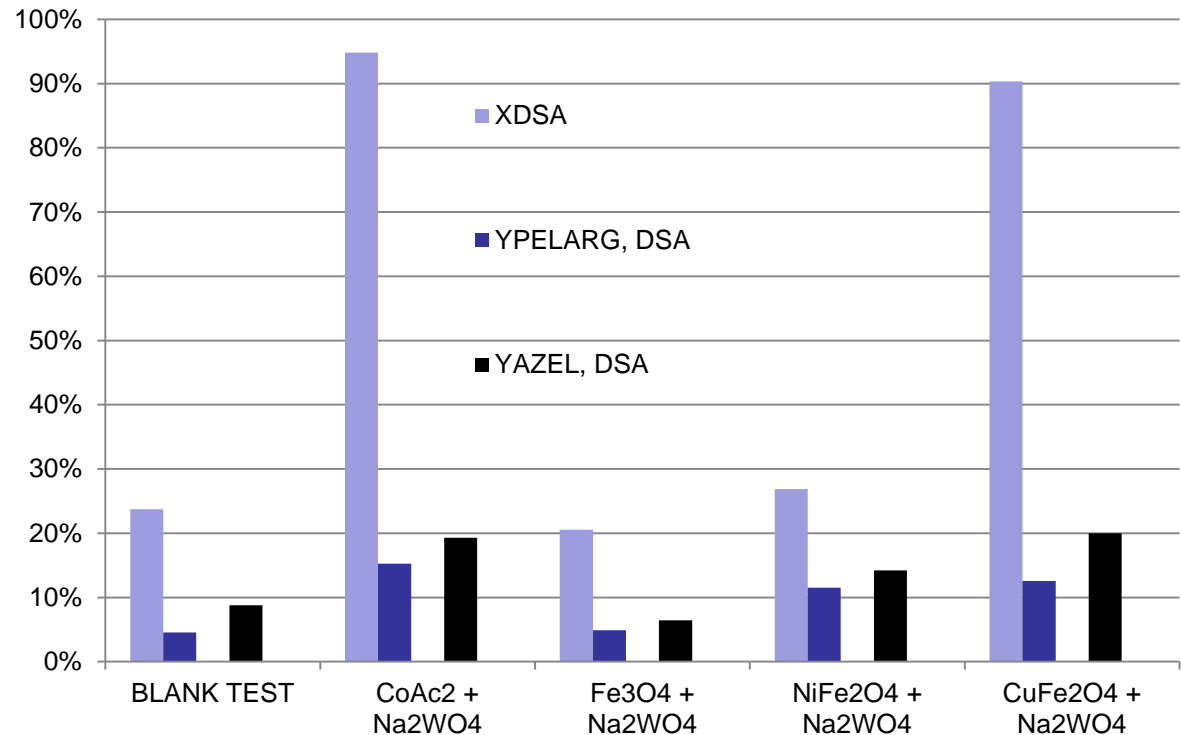
- $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  (ovo-036)
- $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-016) → is the cobalt the active metal?  
No!
- $\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-017)
- $\text{NiFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-029)



## Ferrites with Tungstate → Synergic effects??

- $F_3O_4$  (ovo-036) +  $Na_2WO_4(aq)$
- $CuF_2O_4$  (ovo-017) +  $Na_2WO_4(aq)$
- $NiF_2O_4$  (ovo-029) +  $Na_2WO_4(aq)$

In this case, we added an aqueous solution of  $WO_4^{2-}$  to the system.





# Catalyst Tested

$\text{CuFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (ovo-017) → Copper as active phase

- CuO (Merk)
- CuO/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (Sigma Aldrich)

$\text{ASS}_{\text{B.E.T.}} = 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

$\text{ASS}_{\text{B.E.T.}} = 170 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$

Problem:

- leaching of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  from the oxide

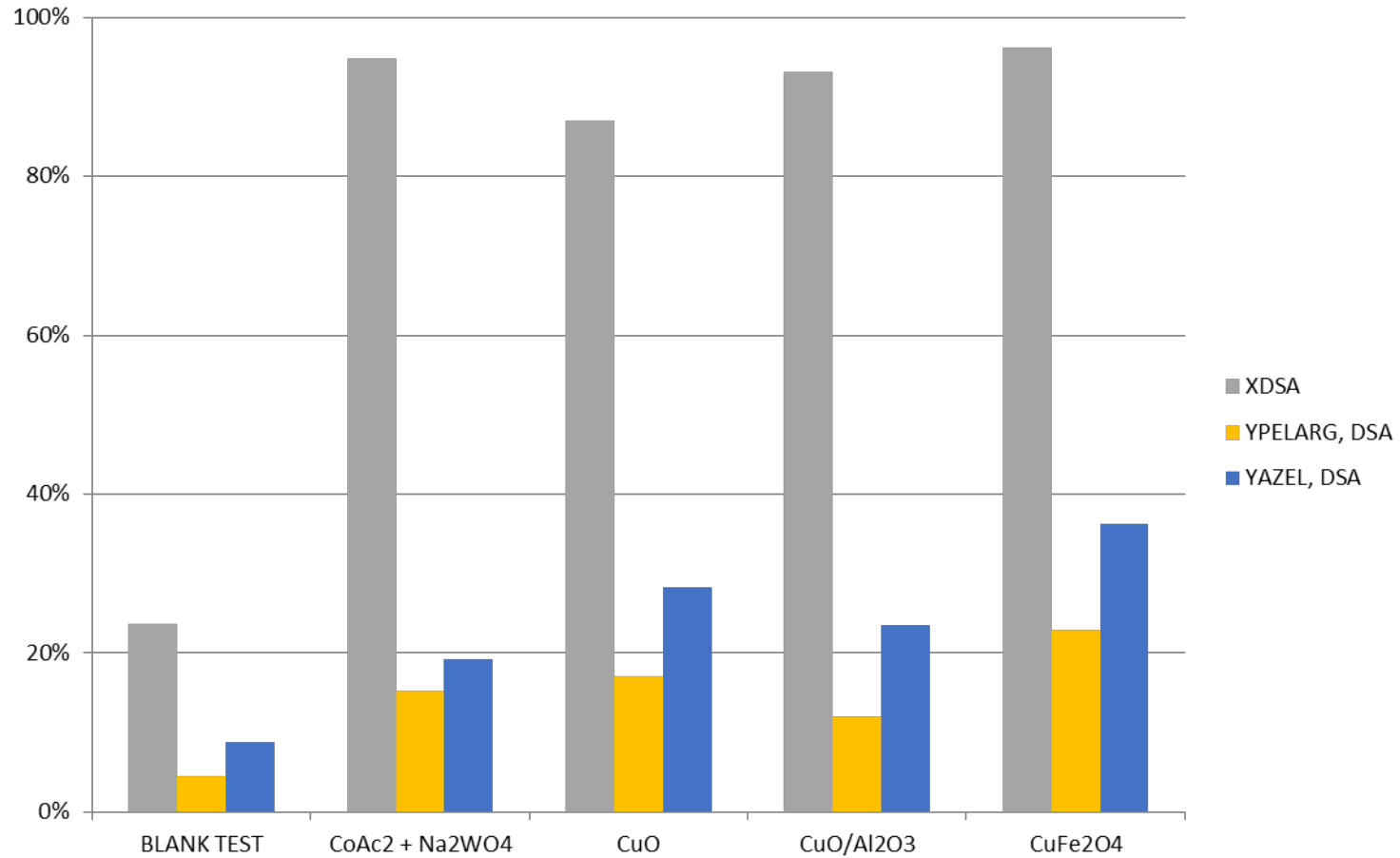


Role of the **support**:

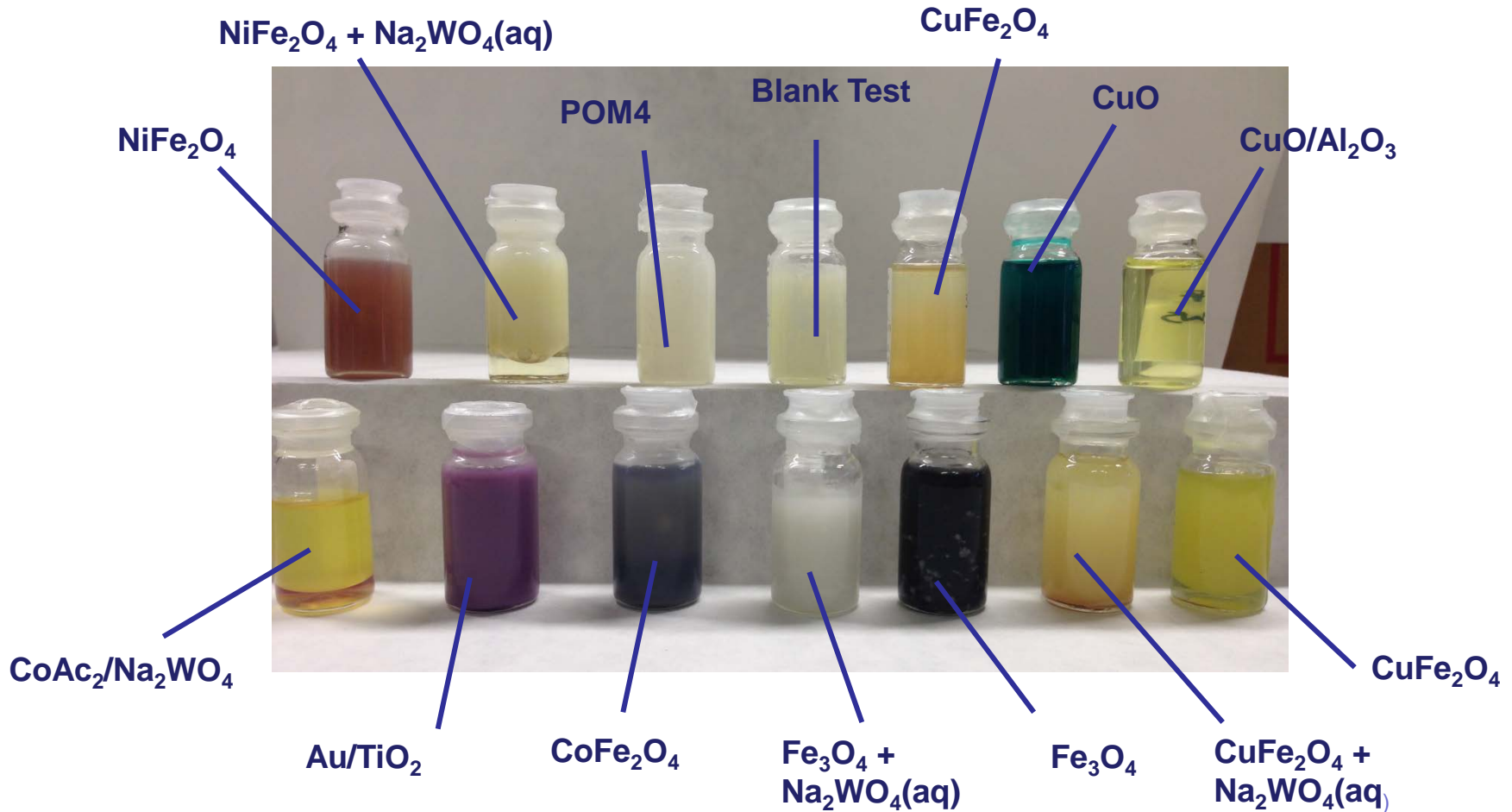
- avoid leaching of the Copper
- increase the surface area



# Catalysts Tested



# Catalyst Tested: PRODUCTS



## TASK 2.1.2. – Next steps:

- Optimise the analysis (close the mass balance): precise determination of DSA RF from a pure reference; identification and calibration of main by-products.
- Catalysts: identification of the “best catalyst” (based on CuO): amount of Cu loading ? Support ? Synergy with Fe oxide ?
- Catalyst recyclability and reuse (regeneration necessary ?)
- Effect of reaction conditions (T, time, catalyst/oil ratio, O<sub>2</sub> pp)



Dissemination activity.  
Participation to  
**CatPrep2016 :**  
**2nd EFCATS - CNRS EUROPEAN  
SUMMER SCHOOL ON CATALYST  
PREPARATION**

**Vogüe (F) 12-17 June 2016**

