







José Antonio Sánchez Pérez - Universidad de Almería

# **Pollutant Photo-NF remediation of Agro-Water « LIFE PureAgroH2O »**

PROJECT LOCATION: Greece, Zagora Spain, Almeria BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: 2,163,728€

EC Co-funding: 1,290,177€



DURATION: Start: 02/07/2018 - Expected End Date: 31/12/2021

### **PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:**

**Coordinating Beneficiary: Benaki Phytopathological Institute** 

### **Associated Beneficiaries:**

National Center for Sciencific Research "DEMOKRITOS" Agricultural Cooperative of Zagora Pilios-ZAGORIN University of Almeria (CIESOL) & Citricos del Andarax SA

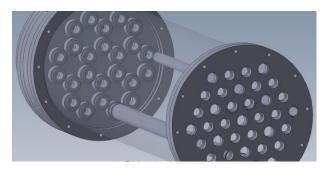






### **OBJECTIVES**

The primary target of LIFE PureAgroH2O is the development of a close-to-market Photocatalytic NanoFiltration Reactor (PNFR) for the treatment of agrofood wastewater.



### **Novelty: Synergetic integration of photocatalysis and NF**



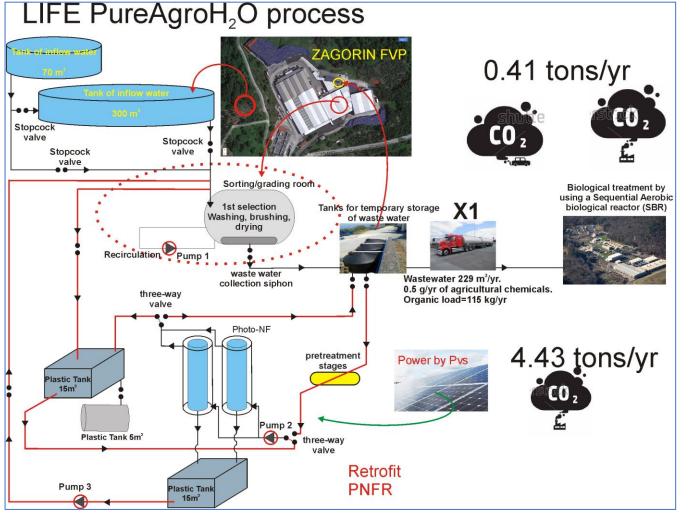
### **Competitive Technologies**

- Granular Activated Carbon
  No regeneration
- Nanofiltration (NF)
  No fouling-No toxic condensates
  - NF-RO Energy efficiency
- Ozonation
  Ozonation
  No influence by Natural Organic Matter (NOM)
- Slurry photocatalysis 
  Simpler and more versatile



**Advantages of PNFR** 

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT-ZAGORIN Greece**



1) 15-20 m<sup>3</sup> of fresh water are used on a daily basis in the washing / brushing / drying process.

2) Annual water usage 4425 m<sup>3</sup>

3) The water effluent, has in average a total number of 51 active substances, with an average concentration of pesticides of  $9.03 \text{ mg/m}^3$ .

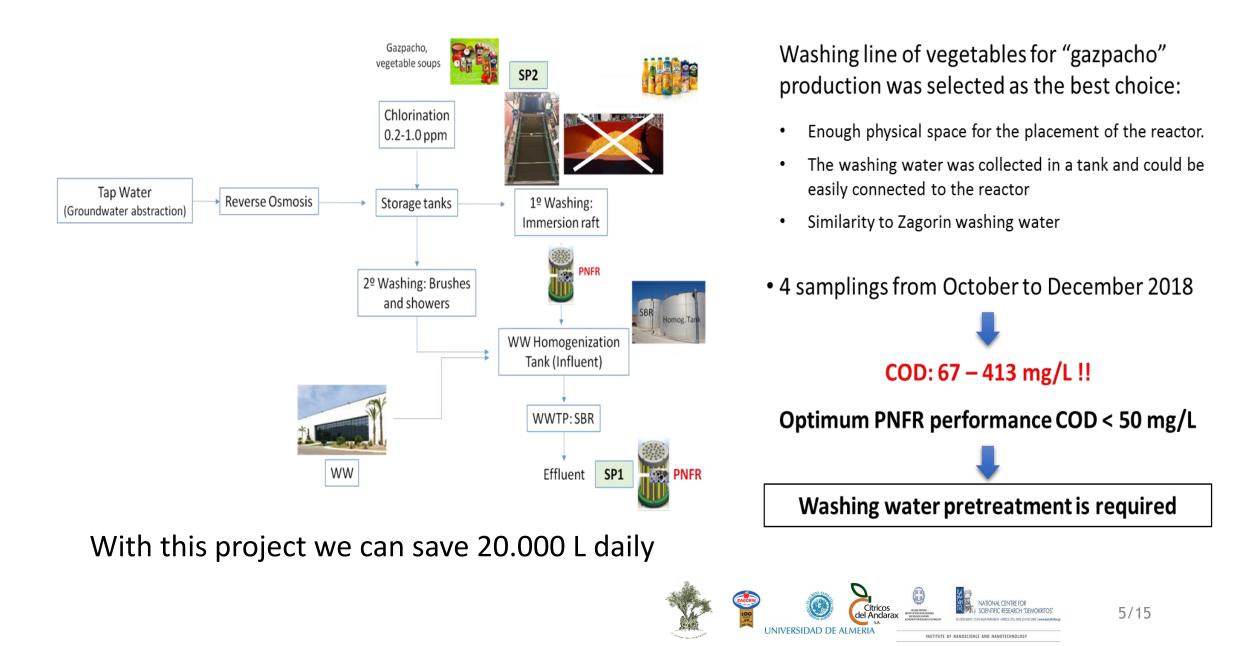
4) The effluent is transferred to a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP)-(Biological treatment). Total carbon emissions annually for the transfer 1.7 tons.

5) The  $CO_2$  emissions resulting from the treatment of the above wastewater in WTP are estimated to be approximately 6.5 tons.

6) Possibly 40 g of pesticides reach the environment on an annual basis, and about 8.2 tons of  $CO_2$  are emitted due to the current wastewater management.

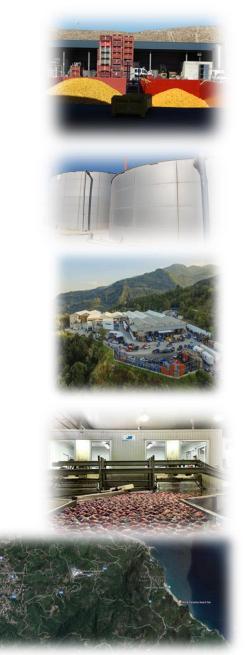


# **PROBLEM STATEMENT-CÍTRICOS DEL ANDARAX Spain**



# **EXPECTED IMPACTS by applying the PNFR technology**

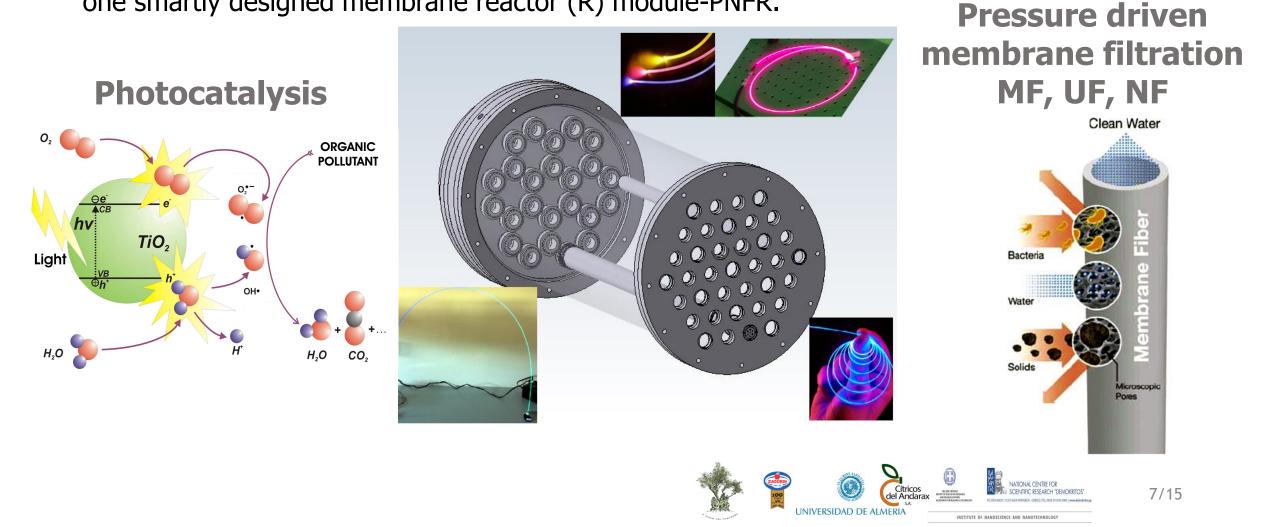
- Recycle/reuse of wastewater generated in fruit-industry by 95% (4,200 m<sup>3</sup>/year will be reused).
- Prevention of losses of inorganic and organic contaminants (pesticides/priority substances and heavy metals) to the environment by 99-100% (~40 g/year)
- Reduction of Carbon Footprint by 41% (save 3.36 tons/year)
- Socioeconomic impact-Job creation +10% (4 FTE)
- Legislation / Environmental Technology



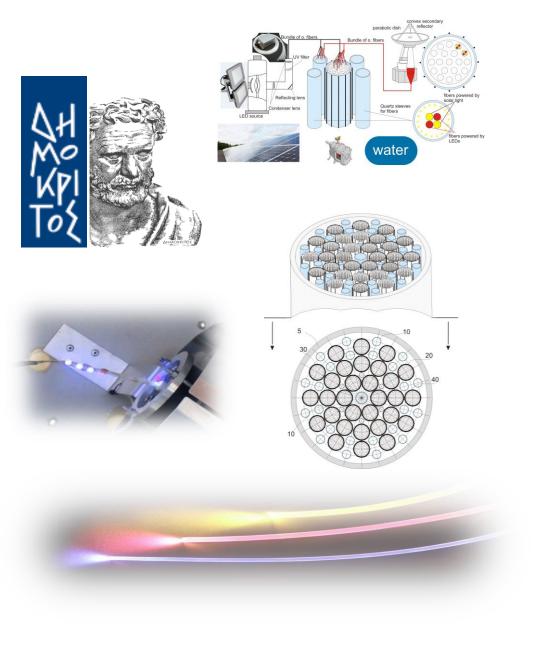
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## **Description of the technology**

The PNFR technology/reactor, integrates synergistically the most effective, currently existing, micropollutant abatement technologies such as photocatalysis (P) and nanofiltration (NF), in one smartly designed membrane reactor (R) module-PNFR.



## **Patented by NCSR "Demokritos"**







#### EP 2 409 954 A1 (11)

#### (12)

#### EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

- (43) Date of publication: 25.01.2012 Bulletin 2012/04
- (21) Application number: 10275076.7
- (22) Date of filing: 20.07.2010

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(84) Designated Contracting States: AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO SE SI SK SM TR Designated Extension States:

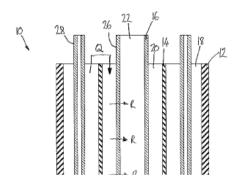
#### (51) Int Cl.: C02F 1/30 (2006.01) B01J 19/12<sup>(2006.01)</sup> B01J 21/18<sup>(2006.01)</sup> B01D 53/00<sup>(2006.01)</sup>

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- C02F 1/44 (2006.01) B01J 35/00 (2006.01) B01D 69/04 (2006.01) C02F 1/72 (2006.01) C02F 9/00 (2006.01)
- (72) Inventors: · Falaras, Polycarpos 15351, Pallini Attikis (GR) Romanos, Georgios 15562, Cholargos Attikis (GR) Aloupogiannis, Panagiotis 14341, Nea Philadephia Attikis (GR) · National Center for Scientific Research (74) Representative: Holmes, Derek Malcolm Keltie LLP Fleet Place House 2 Fleet Place Innovative Research & Technology Limited London EC4M 7ET (GB)

#### Photocatalytic purification device (54)

(57) A photocatalytic reactor (10) for the treatment of contaminated fluids, such as water, is described. The reactor comprises a first flow channel (18) for receiving fluid from an inlet means, a second flow channel (22) for delivering fluid to an outlet means, a selectively-permeable filtration membrane (16) intermediate the first and second flow channels (18, 22), having a first surface (26) that receives fluid from the first flow channel (18) and an opposite second surface (24) defining, at least in part, the second fluid flow channel (22), and at least one photocatalyst support (28) disposed in the first flow channel (18). The first and second surfaces (24, 26) of the filtration membrane (16) and the photocatalyst support (28) each comprise an immobilised photocatalytic material capable



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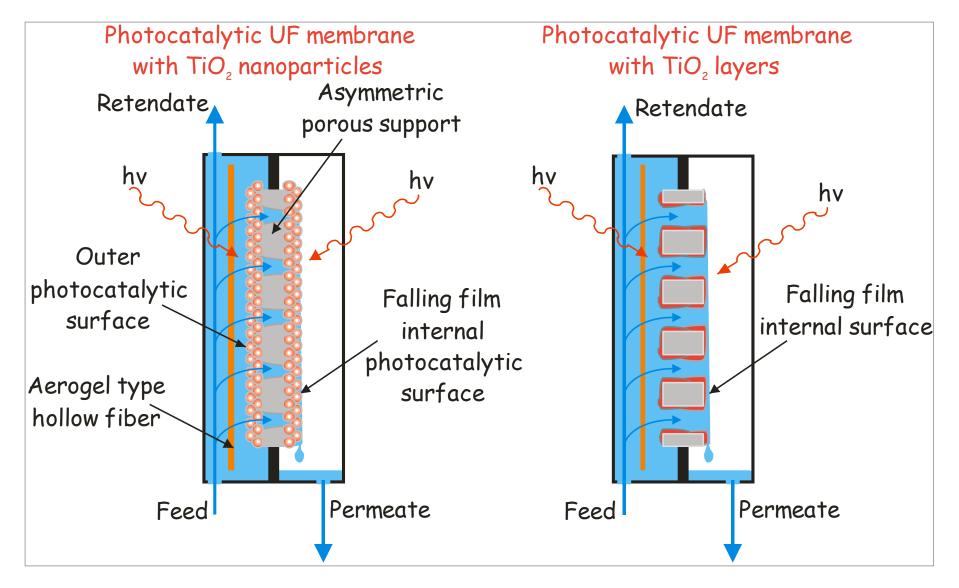
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# **CONCEPT of the PNFR PROCESS**

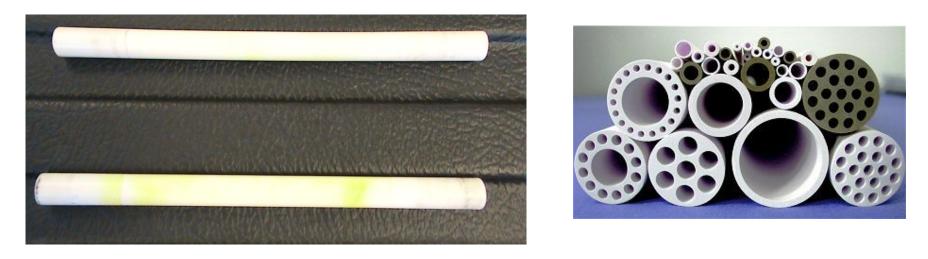




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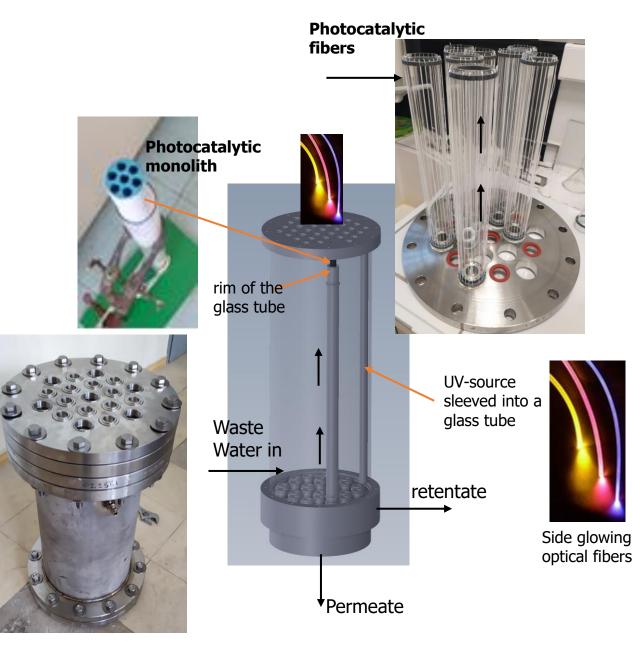
### **BENEFITS of the PNFR PROCESS**

- Does not generate concentrated effluents. Especially important in the case of very toxic pollutants.  $\geq$
- The membrane is resistant to fouling.  $\succ$
- The membrane exhibits very high permeability due to photo-induced hydrophillicity.  $\succ$
- The retentate can be recycled and retreated towards complete degradation with less energy  $\geq$ consumption.





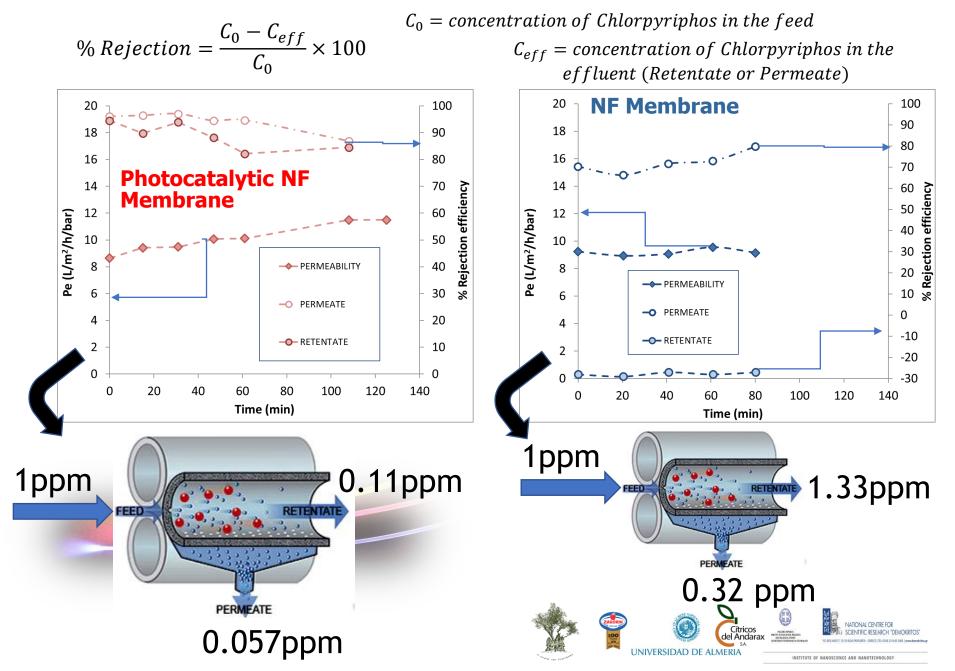
## **Description of the reactor**



- Wastewater inlet on the reactor cell (bottom side).
- Flows upwards in the space between the reactor cell and the glass tube (contact with photocatalytic fibers).
- Overflows at the rim of the glass tube and flows downwards in the space between the glass tube and the monolith cell.
- Back Pressure Regulator increases the pressure to 10 bar. Fraction of the water crosses the membrane and flows down on the lumen photocatalytic surface (permeate)

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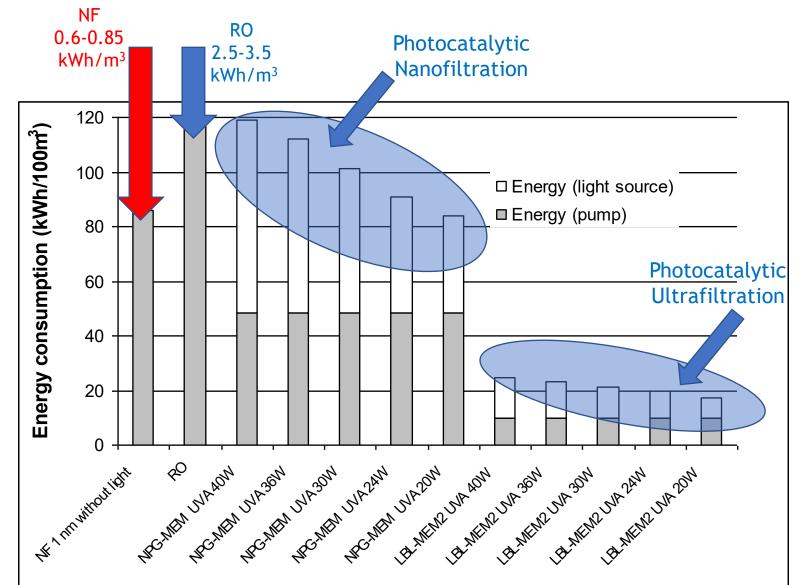
### **Performance- Rejection efficiency-Feed 1ppm Chlorpyriphos**



### **Performance- Energy Efficiency**

Less Energy Consumption for the pump compared to conventional NF and RO.

Visible light active photocatalytic membranes. – Further reduction of the energy demand for artificial light sources.



# Synergy between NF and Photocatalysis- Problems that can be solved

- Competitive action of the organic loading. Consumes sorption sites and oxidising radicals.
- Pre-treatment stages (CFS and adsorption on PAC) reduces COD to 100 ppm.

• NF further rejects large molecules of NOM. Solely the smaller micropollutants pass through the membranes and are degraded in the lumen side of the monolith with the action of photocatalysis.

- Dependence on the physicochemical, electrical properties of the micropollutants in combination with the multitude of different molecules that can exist in the waste
- At pH (6-8) TiO<sub>2</sub> is negatively charged.
- NOM is negatively charged.
- Only very small and positively charged micropollutants pass through the pores and reach on the lumen photocatalytic surface.
- Ozonation produces side products due to partial oxidation and reaction with other compounds, halogenated.
- Large chlorinated compounds can be removed by NF.
- The high surface area of the photocatalysts ensures more efficient and successive oxidation steps towards mineralization
- Demand for very frequent regeneration/replacement of the membranes.
- The molecules attached on the membrane surface are photodegraded

### Pollutant Photo-NF remediation of Agro-Water « LIFE PURE AGROH20 »

# Thank you for your attention

