

INTRODUCTION

Population growth leads to increased resource (water, food, chemicals and energy) demand. Concomitantly, increasing volumes of ‘used resources’, commonly considered waste, are produced. There is an rising awareness that the resources that could be potentially recovered in these used streams or wastes, represent economic value and thus should not be lost. One of the greatest challenges of present time is pursuing sustainable and economically responsible management of all resources, i.e. primary as well as used ones.

Driven by environmental, economic, and ecological benefits, resource recovery from waste draws worldwide attention. Various types of commodities (conventional but also new forms) are now abstracted from water based waste streams. Conventional capture of value, such as **methane and used water**, are gaining more momentum. Simultaneously, major research efforts are focused on new forms of recovery such as for instance, **nutrients (ammonia and phosphate), cellulose, bio-plastics, medium-chain carboxylic acids, and metals**.

A range of new initiatives are underway to promote and accelerate the development of science and techniques related to resource recovery. Within the plethora of initiatives, there is a need to bring together a broad set of actors. Particularly **the demand side** for the recovered commodities must be activated.

With a vast network of expertise across the water sector, the International Water Association (IWA) today plays the leading role on water and wastewater. IWA is a global network of water professionals, spanning the continuum between research and practice and covering all facets of the water cycle. IWA supplies platforms to bring forward **the paradigm shift from waste to resource**. To involve both the experts within the IWA network and external partners on resource recovery, an IWA Specialist Group (SG) **Cluster on Resource Recovery** is formed.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

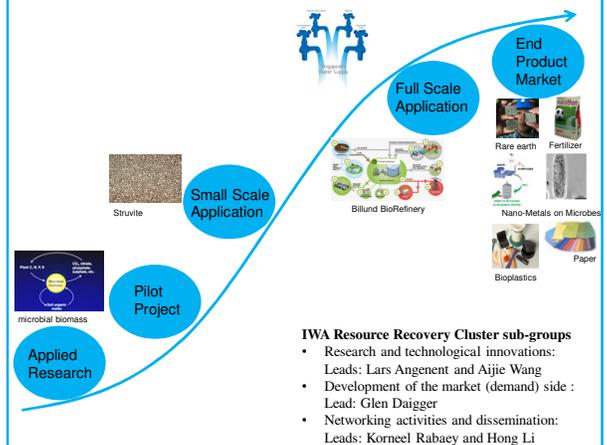
- **To promote** resource recovery from water and wastewater by, e.g. identifying existing examples and exploring their potentials on extending to other places, outlining possible routes for resource recovery, assessing constraints and ensuring successful marketing strategies, etc.
- **To network** on innovations of resource recovery through conferences, meetings, working groups, publications, etc.
- **To build** value chains where waste is converted to resources in a well-managed and beneficial way

Result 1: IWA resource recovery cluster established and functional; **feel free to join**

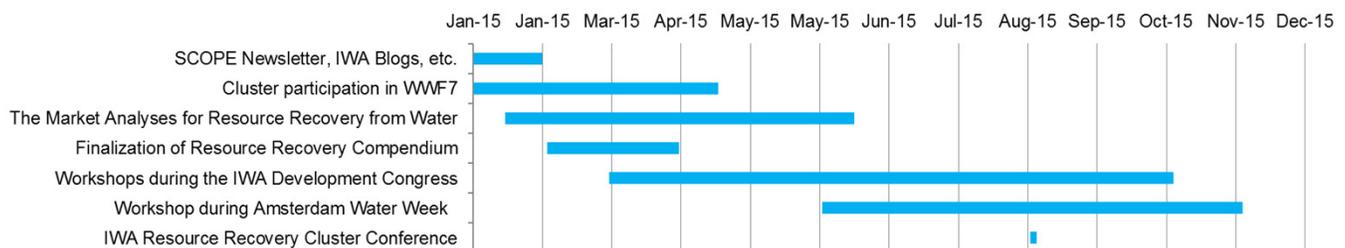
Result 2: Development of the pull side; **the acceptability issue** of marketing resources from wastes is addressed

Result 3: **Networking activities** organized to showcase and to report on results of working groups and publications from the cluster, such as the 1st IWA Resource Recovery Conference, to be held 30 Aug – 2 Sep, 2015 in Gent, Belgium. More info: www.iwarr2015.org

INNOVATION SCOPE



2015 PLANNED ACTIVITIES



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