

*Dieter Deublein and
Angelika Steinhäuser*

**Biogas from Waste and
Renewable Resources**

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Dieter Deublein and Angelika Steinhauser

Biogas from Waste and Renewable Resources

An Introduction

Second, Revised and Expanded Edition



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Contents

Preface	XVII
Preface to the Second Edition	XVIII
Symbols and Abbreviations	XIX
Acknowledgments	XXVII

Part One	Potential and History	1
	General Thoughts about Energy Supply	3
1	Energy Supply—Today and in the Future	5
1.1	Primary Energy Sources	5
1.2	Secondary Energy Sources	7
1.3	End-Point Energy Sources	7
1.4	Effective Energy	7
2	Energy Supply in the Future—Scenarios	9
3	Potential for Transforming Biomass into End-Point Energy Sources	11
3.1	Amount of Available Area	14
3.2	Theoretical Potential	15
3.2.1	C3 Plants (Energy Plants)	17
3.2.2	C4 Plants and CAM Plants	19
3.2.3	Micro-algae	22
3.3	Technical Potential	23
3.4	Economic Potential	25
3.5	Realizable Potential	25
4	History and Status to Date in Europe	31
4.1	First Attempts at Using Biogas	31
4.2	Second Attempts at Using Biogas	34

4.3	Third Attempts at Applying Biogas	35
4.4	Status to Date and Perspective in Europe	36
5	History and Status to Date Worldwide	39
5.1	History and Status to Date in China	40
5.1.1	Period from 1970 to 1983	40
5.1.2	Period from 1984 to 1991	41
5.1.3	Period from 1992 to 1998	41
5.1.3.1	“A Pit with Three Rebuildings”	43
5.1.3.2	“Four in One”	43
5.1.3.3	“Pig–Biogas–Fruits”	43
5.1.4	Period from 1999 Onwards	43
5.2	History and Status to Date in India	44
5.3	Status to Date in America	46
5.4	Status to Date in the CIS States	47
6	General Aspects of the Recovery of Biomass in the Future	49
Part Two	Substrates and Biogas	51
	Introduction	53
7	Substrate	55
7.1	Agricultural Products	55
7.1.1	Liquid Manure and Co-substrates	62
7.1.2	Maize as the Only Main Crop	67
7.1.3	Bioenergy of Forage Beets	68
7.1.4	Grass	68
7.1.5	Sorghum	69
7.1.6	Crop Rotations	69
7.1.6.1	Forage Rye + Maize	71
7.1.6.2	Winter Barley + Maize	71
7.1.6.3	Hybrid Rye + Sorghum	71
7.1.6.4	Rye + Annual Ryegrass + Maize	71
7.1.6.5	Perennial Ryegrass + Sorghum	72
7.2	Biowaste from Collections of Residual Waste and Domestic Waste Like Commercial Waste	72
7.3	Landfill for Residual Waste	75
7.4	Sewage Sludge and Co-substrate	75
7.5	Industrial Waste Water	79
7.6	Waste Grease or Fat	80
7.7	Cultivation of Algae	81
7.8	Plankton	82
7.9	Sediments in the Sea	82
7.10	Wood, Straw	83

8	Biogas	85
8.1	Biogas Compared with Other Methane-Containing Gases	85
8.2	Detailed Overview of Biogas Components	89
8.2.1	Methane and Carbon Dioxide	90
8.2.2	Nitrogen and Oxygen	92
8.2.3	Carbon Monoxide	92
8.2.4	Ammonia	93
8.2.5	Hydrogen Sulfide	93
8.2.6	Water Vapor	94
8.2.7	Chlorine, Fluorine, Mercaptans	95
8.2.8	BTX, PAHs, etc.	95
8.2.9	Siloxanes	95

Part Three Formation of Biogas 97

9	Biochemistry	99
10	Bioreactions	101
10.1	Hydrolysis	103
10.2	Acidogenic Phase	103
10.3	Acetogenic Phase	105
10.4	Methanogenic Phase	108
11	Process Parameters	111
11.1	Parameter: Hydrogen Partial Pressure	112
11.2	Parameter: Concentration of the Microorganisms (Ensilage, Recirculation of Biomass)	112
11.3	Parameter: Type of Substrate	114
11.4	Parameter: Specific Surface Area of Material	115
11.5	Parameter: Disintegration	116
11.6	Parameter: Cultivation, Mixing, and Volume Load	121
11.7	Parameter: Light	123
11.8	Parameter: Temperature	124
11.9	Parameter: pH	125
11.10	Parameter: Redox Potential	127
11.11	Parameter: Nutrients (C:N:P Ratio)	127
11.12	Parameter: Precipitants (Calcium Carbonate, Magnesium Ammonium Phosphate, Apatite)	129
11.13	Parameter: Biogas Removal	129
11.14	Parameter: Inhibitors	130
11.14.1	Oxygen	131
11.14.2	Sulfur Compounds	131
11.14.3	Organic Acids (Fatty Acids and Amino Acids)	133
11.14.4	Nitrate (NO_3^-)	135
11.14.5	Ammonium (NH_4^+) and Ammonia (NH_3)	135

- 11.14.6 Heavy Metals 137
- 11.14.7 Tannins, Saponins, Mimosine 137
- 11.14.8 Other Inhibiting Thresholds 140
- 11.15 Parameter: Degree of Decomposition 142
- 11.16 Parameter: Foaming and Scum Formation 142

Part Four Microorganisms in Methanogenic Ecosystems 145

- 12 Methanogenic Ecosystems 147**
 - 12.1 Ecosystems in the Gastrointestinal Tract of Ruminants 147
 - 12.1.1 The Gastrointestinal Tract 148
 - 12.1.2 Microorganisms in the Rumen 148
 - 12.1.2.1 Environmentally Sensitive Conditions in the Rumen 149
 - 12.1.2.2 Feedstuff-Associated Conditions in the Rumen 149
 - 12.2 Ecosystems in the Gastrointestinal System of Herbivores 151
 - 12.2.1 Gastrointestinal System of Herbivores 151
 - 12.2.2 Microorganisms in the Stomach of Herbivores 151
 - 12.3 Ecosystems in the Intestine of Termites 153
 - 12.3.1 The Intestinal Tract in Termites 154
 - 12.3.2 Microorganisms in the Intestinal Tract of Termites 154
 - 12.4 Ecosystem in the Soil of a Paddy Field 155
 - 12.5 Ecosystems in a Biogas Reactor 156
- 13 Microorganisms in Methanation 159**
 - 13.1 Protists 159
 - 13.2 Fungi 162
 - 13.3 Bacteriophages 163
 - 13.4 Bacteria and Archaea 163
 - 13.4.1 Hydrolyzing Genera 168
 - 13.4.2 Acidogenic Genera 171
 - 13.4.3 Acetogenic Bacteria 171
 - 13.4.4 Methanogens 174
 - 13.4.5 Methanotrophic Microorganisms 184

Part Five Dangers with Biogas Plants and Laboratory Equipment 185

- 14 Guidelines and Regulations 187**
 - 14.1 Regulations Relating to the Construction of Plants 188
 - 14.2 Biomass and Residue 189

14.3	Feeding Biogas to the Gas Network	189
14.4	Risk of Explosion	190
14.5	Risk of Fire	198
14.6	Harmful Exhaust Gases	201
14.6.1	Germs	201
14.6.2	Emissions of Smells	202
14.7	Noise Protection	210
14.8	Prevention of Injuries	212
14.9	Protection from Water	213
15	The Biogas Laboratory	217
15.1	Laboratory Digesters with Eudiometers	217
15.2	Pilot Fermenter	217
15.3	Larger Pilot Plants for Batchwise or Continuous Fermentation Tests	219
15.4	Analyses	219
15.4.1	Sampling	220
15.4.2	Preparation of Samples	220
15.4.3	Analytics	221
15.4.3.1	Gas Yield of Substrates	221
15.4.3.2	Dry Matter and Organic Dry Matter (TOC), Loss on Ignition	221
15.4.3.3	Degree of Decomposition	222
15.4.3.4	Elution with Water (ISO 11465)	226
15.4.3.5	Quantity of Gas	226
15.4.3.6	Gas Composition	227
15.4.3.7	Acid Value	229
15.4.3.8	FOS/TAC Value	230
15.4.3.9	Determination of Nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphorus Compounds)	230
15.4.3.10	Sludge Volume Index	230
Part Six	Equipment of a Biogas Plant	231
16	Tanks and Bioreactors	233
16.1	Brick Tanks	235
16.1.1	Brickwork and Mortar	238
16.2	Reinforced Concrete Tanks	239
16.2.1	Surface Protection by Painting	241
16.2.2	Surface Protection by Tanks with Double Walls	242
16.3	Tanks of Normal Steel Sheet Metals with an Enamel Layer or Plastic Coating	242
16.4	Tanks of Stainless Steel	243
16.5	Ground Basin with Plastic Foil Lining	243

17	Equipment for Tempering the Substrate	245
18	Thermal Insulation	249
19	Agitators	251
19.1	Mechanical Agitation	251
19.1.1	Submersible Motor-Propeller Agitators	252
19.1.2	Axial Agitators, Hand-Held Blenders	252
19.1.3	Reel Agitators or Paddle Agitators	254
19.1.4	Grindel Agitators	254
19.1.5	Agitating Chain (Figure 19.4)	254
19.1.6	Screw Conveyor Mixer	255
19.2	Circulation Pumps	256
19.3	Gas Injection into the Digestion Tower	256
19.4	Stirring Effect by Gas Formation	257
20	Mixing of Biomass and Water	259
21	Machines to Separate the Liquid from the Biomass	261
21.1	Belt-type Press	261
21.2	Filter Press	261
21.3	Decanters	262
22	Pipes	265
22.1	Substrate Pipework	265
22.2	Gas Pipes	266
23	Pumps	269
23.1	Submerged Centrifugal Pump, Submerged Motor Centrifugal Pump	269
23.2	Eccentric Screw Pump, Eccentric Rotor Pump	270
24	Measurement, Control, and Automation Technology	271
24.1	Mechanisms for Monitoring and Regulation	271
24.1.1	Quantity of Gas and Gas Composition	272
24.1.2	Temperature	273
24.1.3	pH Value and Redox Potential	273
24.1.4	Organic Dry Matter–Volumetric Loading	273
24.1.5	Biology	274
24.2	Equipment to Guarantee Operating Safety	274
24.2.1	Safety Device in Front of the Gas Flare	274
24.2.2	Safety Devices to Counteract Overpressure and Negative Pressure	275

25	Exhaust Air Cleaning	277
Part Seven	Upstream and Downstream Processing	279
26	Transportation and Storage of the Biomass	281
26.1	Transport and Means of Transport	281
26.2	Storage Silos	281
26.2.1	Transport Within the Plant	284
27	Process Technology for Upstream Processing	285
27.1	Adjustment of the Water Content	285
27.2	Removal of Impurities/Harmful Substances (Figure 27.3)	289
27.3	Comminution	290
27.4	Hygienization	291
27.4.1	Direct Inspection	292
27.4.1.1	Salmonella	293
27.4.1.2	Plasmodiophora Brassicae	293
27.4.1.3	Tobacco Mosaic Virus	294
27.4.1.4	Tomato Seeds	294
27.4.2	Indirect Process Inspection	294
27.4.3	Control of the Finished Goods	295
27.5	Disintegration	295
27.5.1	Mechanical Processes (Figure 27.8)	301
27.5.2	Ultrasonic Process	303
27.5.3	Chemical Processes	304
27.5.3.1	Hydrochloric Acid	304
27.5.3.2	APTMP- and CTMP-processes	305
27.5.3.3	Chemical Oxidation	305
27.5.4	Thermal Processes	306
28	Feeding	311
28.1	Feeding with Substrate	311
28.2	Feeding with Additives	312
28.2.1	Prebiotics	313
28.2.2	Enzymes	314
28.2.3	Probiotics	315
28.2.4	Chemicals	316
29	Digested Residue	321
29.1	Pressing of the Fermentation Residue	323
29.2	Drying	324
30	Wastewater	325

Part Eight	Fermentation—Agricultural Plant	327
31	Batchwise and Continuous Processes Without Separators	329
31.1	Floating Cup Reactor	330
31.2	Fixed-Dome Reactor	330
31.3	Deenbandhu Model	332
31.4	Plastic Bag Reactor and Plastic Silo Reactor	332
31.5	Cavern Plants	333
31.6	One-Stage Agricultural Biogas Plants	333
31.6.1	Reactor Technology	335
31.6.2	Reactor Size	337
31.6.3	Covering of the Bioreactor	338
31.6.4	Access Door and Inlet	339
31.6.5	Drainage Layer Below the Bioreactor	339
31.6.6	Heat Insulation and Heating	340
31.6.7	Final Depot and Spreading	341
32	Existing Installations from Different Suppliers	343
32.1	WABIO-Vaasa Process	343
32.2	DUT Process	343
32.3	Entec Process	344
32.4	Bigadan TM Process (Formerly Krüger Process)	345
32.5	Valorga TM Process	346
33	Operation of a Plant Without Separation Equipment	349
33.1	Start-up	349
33.2	Start-up of the Plant	350
33.3	Operation of the Plant	351
34	Benefits of a Biogas Plant	353
35	Typical Design Calculation for an Agricultural Biogas Plant	357
36	Economics Calculations for Biogas Plants	365
36.1	Capital-Bound Costs Per Year in US\$	365
36.2	Consumption-Bound Costs Per Year	366
36.3	Operation-Bound Costs Per Year	367
36.4	Other Costs Per Year	367
36.5	Total Costs	367
36.6	Income Per Year	368
36.7	Annual Revenue of the Biogas Plant	368
37	Efficiency	369

Part Nine Fermentation—Industrial Plants 373**Fermentation 375****38 Installation with Substrate Dilution and Subsequent Water Separation 377**

- 38.1 Process Engineering 377
- 38.2 Implemented Installations of Different Manufacturers 377

39 Installation with Biomass Accumulation 381

- 39.1 Sewage Sludge Digestion Tower Installation 381
 - 39.1.1 Size of the Digestion Tower 382
 - 39.1.2 Internal Phase Separation for Biomass Concentration 385
 - 39.1.3 External Phase Separation for Feedback of Biomass 386
 - 39.1.3.1 Sedimentation Tank 386
 - 39.1.3.2 Lamellar Settler 386
 - 39.1.3.3 Membrane Filter 387
 - 39.1.3.4 Flotation 387
 - 39.1.3.5 Centrifuge 387
 - 39.1.4 Facilities to Prevent Post-Gassing 387
 - 39.1.4.1 Ventilation 388
 - 39.1.4.2 Vacuum Degassing 388
 - 39.1.4.3 Cooling 388
 - 39.1.4.4 Agitators 388
 - 39.1.4.5 Addition of Flocculating Agents and Flocculation-Aiding Agents 389
 - 39.1.5 Operation of the Digestion Tower 389
 - 39.1.5.1 Energy Consumption 391
 - 39.1.6 Plant Installations 392
 - 39.1.6.1 Contact Process (Figure 39.6) 392
 - 39.1.6.2 Uhde–Schwartz Process 392
 - 39.1.6.3 Continuously Stirred Tank Reactor (Figure 39.8) 393
- 39.2 Sludge-Bed Reactor 394
 - 39.2.1 Reactor Design and Ratings 396
 - 39.2.2 Assumptions for the Operation of a Sludge-Bed Reactor 399
 - 39.2.3 Operation of a Sludge-Bed Reactor 400
 - 39.2.4 Plant Installations 401
 - 39.2.4.1 Hybrid Reactor (UASB/Filters) 401
 - 39.2.4.2 Loop Reactor 401
- 39.3 Reactors with Immobilized Microorganisms 402
 - 39.3.1 Biofilm 403
 - 39.3.2 Fixed-Bed Reactor, Filter Reactor, Fixed-Film Reactor 405
 - 39.3.3 Expanded-Bed Reactor, Fluidized-Bed Reactor 406

40	Plants with Separation of Non-Hydrolyzable Biomass	409
40.1	Process Engineering and Equipment Construction	410
40.2	Efficiency	411
40.3	Plant Installations	412
40.3.1	Anaerobic Baffled Reactors	412
40.3.2	BTA Process	412
41	Percolation Process	415
41.1	Dry Fermentation Process in a Stack	415
41.2	AN/Biothane™ Process	416
41.3	Prethane™/Rudad™–Biopaq™ Process or ANM Process	417
41.4	Foil Hose Process	418
41.5	IMK Process	418
41.6	Dry Anaerobic Composting	419
41.7	Aerobic–Anaerobic–Aerobic Process (3A Process)	420
41.8	Fermentation Channel Process	421
42	Special Plant Installations	423
42.1	Combined Fermentation of Sewage Sludge and Biowaste	423
42.2	Biowaste Plants	425
42.3	Purification of Industrial Wastewater	430

Part Ten **Biogas Storage and Preparation** 431

43	Biogasholder	433
43.1	Biogasholder Types	433
43.1.1	Low-Pressure Biogasholder	435
43.1.1.1	Double-Membrane Biogasholders	435
43.1.1.2	Biogas Bags	435
43.1.1.3	Other Low-Pressure Biogasholders	436
43.1.2	Medium- and High-Pressure Biogasholders	436
43.2	Gas Flares	437
44	Gas Preparation	439
44.1	Removal of Hydrogen Sulfide	442
44.1.1	Biological Desulfurization	442
44.1.1.1	Immobilization in the Bioreactor	445
44.1.2	Sulfide Precipitation	447
44.1.3	Absorption in a Ferric Chelate Solution	447
44.1.4	Adsorption at Iron-Containing Masses	448
44.1.5	Adsorption on Activated Charcoal	449
44.1.6	Chemical Binding to Zinc	450
44.1.7	Surfactants	450
44.1.8	Passing the Biogas Through an Algae Reactor or Addition of Sodium Alginate	450

44.1.9	Direct Oxidation	451
44.1.10	Compressed Gas Scrubbing	451
44.1.11	Molecular Sieves	451
44.2	Removal of the Carbon Dioxide	451
44.2.1	Gas Converter	454
44.2.2	Absorption	455
44.2.3	Absorbents Based on Glycol and Ethanolamines	457
44.2.4	Adsorption with Pressure Swing Technology	458
44.2.5	Adsorption with Pressure Swing Technology Under Vacuum	459
44.2.6	Diaphragm Technology	460
44.2.7	Mineralization and Biomineralization	461
44.2.8	Cryogenic Biogas Purification	461
44.3	Removal of Oxygen	462
44.4	Removal of Water	462
44.5	Removal of Ammonia	463
44.6	Removal of Siloxanes	464
45	Quantities of Gas and Measurement of Gas Quality	465
46	Liquefaction or Compression of the Biogas	467
46.1	Liquefaction	467
46.2	Compression	469

Part Eleven Biogas Utilization 471

Utilization of Biogas to Generate Electric Power and Heat 473

47	Utilization of Gas Exclusively to Generate Heat	475
48	Utilization of Gas to Generate Current and Heat	477
48.1	Supply of Current to the Public Power Network	477
48.1.1	Generators	479
48.1.2	Current-Measuring Instruments	479
48.1.3	Control of the Synchronization	480
48.1.4	Switching Devices	480
48.1.5	Network Failure Registration	480
48.1.6	Short-Circuit Protection	481
48.1.7	Wattless Current Compensation	481
48.2	Heat	482
48.3	Combined Heat and Power Generator (CHP)	483
48.3.1	Engines	483
48.3.1.1	Generation of Electricity in a Four-Stroke Gas Engine and a Diesel Engine	485
48.3.1.2	Generation of Electricity in a Stirling Engine	489
48.3.1.3	Generation of Electricity in a Fuel Cell	491

48.3.1.4	Generation of Electricity in a Gas Turbine	494
48.3.1.5	Generation of Electricity in a Micro Gas Turbine	497
48.3.2	Controlling the CHP	500
48.3.3	Emission Control	501
48.3.3.1	Regulations	502
48.3.3.2	Measures for the Reduction of Emissions	502
48.4	Lessons Learnt from Experience	504
48.5	Economy	507
49	Biogas for Feeding into the Natural Gas Network	509
49.1	Biogas for Feeding into the Natural Gas Network in Switzerland	512
49.2	Biogas for Feeding into the Natural Gas Network in Sweden	513
49.3	Biogas for Feeding into the Natural Gas Network in Germany	514
50	Biogas as Fuel for Vehicles	517
50.1	Requirements on Gas When Used as Fuel	517
50.2	Vehicles	517
50.3	Gasoline Station	518
	Literature	521
	Index	539

Preface

Rising crude oil prices force us to think more about alternative energies. Among different technologies, solar energy is considered most effective even with regard to the environmental protection of plants. Visionaries think that biomass will probably convert solar energy best and will substitute all fossil energy resources in future.

In recent decades, many companies have rigged many biogas plants worldwide. A lot of experience was gained, leading to continuous process optimization of anaerobic fermentation and the development of new and more efficient applications. Overall, the basic knowledge of biogas production, the microorganisms involved, and the biochemical processes was widely extended.

This knowledge and the new ideas have now been put together as a basis to lead and initiate discussions. Since the technological solutions of technical problems in the field of anaerobic digestion of waste water, sewage sludge, and agricultural products are starting slowly to drift apart, without any valid reason, this book is meant to present a consolidation of knowledge in the different fields, so that learning can be leveraged more easily and applications can be harmonized.

The book comprises detailed descriptions of all the process steps to be followed during biogas production, from the preparation of a suitable substrate to the use of biogas, the end product. Each individual stage is assessed and discussed in detail, taking the different aspects such as application and potential into account. Biological, chemical, and engineering processes are detailed in the same way as apparatus, automatic control, energy, and safety engineering. With the help of this book, both tyros and experts should be able to learn or refresh their knowledge, due to its concentrated form with a simple and clear structure and many illustrations. The book can also be used as a reference book, given its many tables and large index. It is strongly recommended for planners and operators of biogas plants as it gives good advice to maximize the potential of the plant.

Originally I collected data and information about biogas plants just out of curiosity. I wanted to know all the details in order to teach my students at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich comprehensively. For about 5 years I surfed the Internet, screened and read many books, patents, and magazines and also approached many companies and manufacturers of plant components who kindly shared their knowledge with me. Mrs. Dipl.-Ing. Angelika Steinhauser assisted

me in writing this book. The first impulse to publish all the knowledge in this book was been clearly given by Mr. Dipl.-Ing. Steffen Steinhauser. We, the authors, thank him cordially for this. We also thank Dr. F. Weinreich of Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co KGaA for supporting this idea. Last, but not least, I would like to thank my wife and my son. Without their continuous motivation and very active support, this book would never have been finished.

Preface to the Second Edition

Only a few years ago, energy made of biogas was still only an idea, which started slowly to be implemented in a few countries, mainly in Asia and Central Europe. In the past 2 years, however, it has become a topic which is talked about worldwide. All over the world small biogas plants are starting up and food producers and large agricultural companies have started to produce energy from waste.

Research has shifted and is now largely focusing on the biology. New microorganisms have been identified which are effective in methanogenic ecosystems. Extensive analyses were carried out particularly to understand specific methanogenic ecosystems such as those found in the intestinal tract of termites able to decompose cellulose. Further, it was questioned whether indeed the methanogenic microorganisms are solely critical. Instead, the protists on which the methanogens kind of ride may be critical. Given the complexity of this topic, a whole new chapter, "Methanogenic Ecosystems," was added which presents the current knowledge in that area.

Within the last few years, many process technologies mentioned in the first edition have been approved. Not all were pursued and these are not included in this second edition.

Further, this second edition is enhanced by the results of new studies which were conducted at the biogas institute of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Deublein.

It now also provides an overview of laboratory analyses conducted in the laboratories of the plant owners to optimize the biogas yield and of additives preferred in industry. This knowledge is of great importance as biogas plants today are often large plants providing megawatts of power which are fed into the existing natural gas networks. For those plants it is critical that the biology always works at its optimum and that the biogas yield is as high as possible, which can be influenced by various additives such as enzymes and trace minerals.

One of the chapters, originally covering the relevant laws and regulations in Germany, was shortened without cutting any of the questionnaires, which should be followed to provide sufficient safety of biogas plants.

The authors

Symbols and Abbreviations

α	Plate inclination	
$(\alpha_{BR})_a$	Heat transfer coefficient at the wall outside the bioreactor	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$
$(\alpha_{BR})_i$	Heat transfer coefficient at the wall inside the bioreactor	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$
$(\alpha_H)_a$	Heat transfer coefficient at the wall outside the heating pipe	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$
$(\alpha_H)_i$	Heat transfer coefficient at the wall inside the heating pipe	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-1}$
$\Delta\vartheta_{BH}$	Average temperature difference between heating medium and substrate	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$\Delta\vartheta_{BR}$	Maximum temperature difference between substrate and the outside of the reactor	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$\Delta\vartheta_H$	Temperature difference between inlet and outlet of the heating medium to the bioreactor	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$\Delta\vartheta_{SU}$	Maximum temperature difference between substrate inside and outside of the reactor	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
ΔP_{VP}	Pressure head of the preparation tank pump	bar
$\Delta T_E, \Delta T_A$	Differences in absolute temperatures	K
$\Delta G'_f$	Gibbs free energy	kJ mol^{-1}
ε	Porosity	%
ε_{FS}	Porosity of Siran	%
η_{el}	Efficiency to produce electrical energy	%
η_K	Efficiency of the compressor	%
η_{th}	Efficiency to produce heat	%

η_{VP}	Efficiency of the preparation tank pump	%
Θ	Sludge age	d
ϑ_{HA}	Temperature of the heating medium at the outlet	°C
ϑ_{HE}	Temperature of the heating medium at the inlet	°C
ϑ_S	Dewpoint temperature	°C
ϑ	Temperature	°C
ϑ_A	Lowest ambient temperature	°C
ϑ_{BR}	Temperature of the substrate in the bioreactor	°C
λ	Air: fuel ratio for stoichiometrically equivalent air: fuel ratio $\lambda = 1$	—
λ_{BR}	Heat transmission coefficient of the insulation of the bioreactor	$W m^{-1} K^{-1}$
ρ_{MK}	Grinding ball density	$kg m^{-3}$
ρ^*	Relative density	$kg Nm^{-3}$
ρ_{BG}^*	Normal biogas density	$kg Nm^{-3}$
ρ_{FS}	Density of Siran	$g cm^{-3}$
ρ_G	Density of substrate	$kg m^{-3}$
ρ_S	Density of co-ferment	$kg m^{-3}$
ρ_w	Density of heating medium	$kg m^{-3}$
$(P_{BRR})_{tot}$	Total power consumption of the agitators	kW
$(P_{SC})_{tot}$	Total power consumption of the co-ferment conveyors	kW
A	Area for cultivation of energy plants	m^2
A_{BR}	Surface of the bioreactor, where heat is lost	m^2
A_{COD}	Degree of decomposition determined by the COD value	—
A_D	Total available area	ha
A_{Dtechn}	Technically usable area	ha
A_M	Cultivation area for maize	ha
A_S	Degree of decomposition determined by oxygen demand value	—
AT_4	Breathing activity	$mg O_2 g_{DM}^{-1}$
B	Disintegration intensity	$kJ kg^{-1}$
B_A	Bioreactor area load	$kg_{DM} m^{-2} d^{-1}$
B_{BR}	Average bioreactor volume load	$kg_{DM} m^{-3} d^{-1}$

bn	billion	
BOD_5	Difference in oxygen concentration (day 1 vs. day 5)	$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ l}^{-1}$
B_R	Bioreactor volume load	$\text{kg}_{\text{DM}} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$ or $\text{kg}_{\text{COD}} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ d}^{-1}$
B_{RoDMSB}	Organic sludge load	$\text{kg kg}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$
B_{RS}	Total sludge load	$\text{kg}_{\text{COD}} \text{ kg}_{\text{DM}}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$
B_S	Breadth	m
c_0	Concentration of organics in the substrate	$\text{kg}_{\text{COD}} \text{ m}^{-3}$
C_1, C_2	Constants	
COD	Chemical oxygen demand	
COD	COD value	$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ l}^{-1}$
COD_0	COD value of untreated sample	$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ l}^{-1}$
COD_{max}	Maximum COD value	$\text{mg O}_2 \text{ l}^{-1}$
C_S	Biomass concentration in excess sludge	$\text{kg}_{\text{COD}} \text{ m}^{-3}$
c_{SU}	Specific heat capacity of the substrate	$\text{kJ kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$
c_w	Specific heat capacity of the heating medium	$\text{kJ kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$
D	Net income from fertilizer	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
D_{BR}	Diameter of bioreactor	m
D_{BRI}	Diameter of discharge pipe	m
D_{BRR}	Outer diameter of agitator	m
D_D	Decanter diameter	m
D_E	Diameter of residue storage tank	m
d_{FS}	Pore diameter of Siran	m
D_{HR}	Diameter of heating pipe	m
D_{IN}	German industrial norm	–
D_L	Diameter of aeration pipe	m
DM	Dry matter	% or g l^{-1}
DM_{BR}	Flow rate of dry matter into the bioreactor	$\text{kg}_{\text{DM}} \text{ d}^{-1}$
d_{MK}	Grinding ball diameter	m
$DM_{\text{R,e}}$	Dry matter in outflow of sludge bed reactor	g l^{-1}
D_{PT}	Diameter of preparation tank	m
D_W	Diameter of windings of heating pipe	m
E	Nominal capacity of electrical power of the CHP	kW
E_{Eel}	Electrical power consumption of the plant	kW
E_{el}	Capacity of the plant to deliver electrical energy	kW

E_M	Yield of CH ₄ per biomass	kmol CH ₄ kg ⁻¹
$E_{OILspec}$	Specific energy per volume of ignition oil	kWh l ⁻¹
E_R	Theoretical yield	Mg _{DM} ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
E_{Rmax}	Maximum theoretical yield	Mg _{DM} ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
E_S	Solar energy	kW
E_{spec}	Specific biogas energy	kW m ⁻³
E_{th}	Capacity of the plant to deliver heat	kW
E_{tot}	Total energy	kW
f_{VBR}	Factor to increase the bioreactor volume	–
f_{VE}	Factor to increase the residue storage tank	–
f_{VPT}	Factor to increase the preparation tank	–
G	Net income from current	US\$ a ⁻¹
GB_{21}	Gas formation within 21 days	nl kg _{DM} ⁻¹
GVE	Animal unit	–
h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4, h_5	Specific enthalpies at different stages of the process	kJ kg ⁻¹
H_{BP}	Filling height for pellet sludge	m
H_{BR}	Bioreactor height	m
H_{BS}	Height of the gas/solid separator	m
H_E	Height of the residue storage tank	m
$H_{O,N}, H_{U,N}$	Calorific value	kWh m ⁻³
H_{PT}	Height of the preparation tank	m
H_S	Height of silo	m
IN	Inhabitant	
I_{SV}	Sludge volume index	Mg l ⁻¹
K, K_1, K_2	Total investment costs	US\$
KA	Plant investment costs without CHP	US\$
KA_{spec}	Specific investment costs for the biogas plant per unit volume of the bioreactor	US\$ m ⁻³
KB	Investment costs for concrete works	US\$
k_{BR}	k-Factor of the bioreactor wall with insulation	W m ⁻² K ⁻¹
KB_{spec}	Specific price for sold current	US\$ kWh ⁻¹
K_{CHP}	Investment costs for the CHP	US\$
k_H	k-Factor of the heating pipes	W m ⁻² K ⁻¹
KK	Amortization per year for the CHP	US\$ a ⁻¹

KK_{spec}	Specific investment costs for CHP per unit capacity of electrical energy	US\$ kW ⁻¹
K_{OIL}	Cost for ignition oil	US\$ a ⁻¹
K_{OILspec}	Specific cost for ignition oil	US\$ l ⁻¹
KP	Local overhead costs	US\$ a ⁻¹
KP_{spec}	Specific local overhead costs	US\$ h ⁻¹
KR	Costs for cultivation of renewable resources	US\$ a ⁻¹
KR_{spec}	Specific costs for cultivation of renewable resources	US\$ ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
KS	Costs for power consumption	US\$ a ⁻¹
KS_{spec}	Specific costs for power consumption	US\$ kWh ⁻¹
KT	Investment costs for technical equipment	US\$
KV	Insurance costs	US\$ a ⁻¹
KW	Costs for heat losses	US\$
KW_{spec}	Specific price for sold heat	US\$ kWh ⁻¹
KX	Maintenance costs for the concrete work	US\$ a ⁻¹
KY	Maintenance costs of technical equipment	US\$ a ⁻¹
KZ	Maintenance costs of the CHP	US\$ a ⁻¹
L_D	Decanter length	m
L_{HR}	Length of the heating pipe	m
L_S	Length of the silo	m
m^*	Flow of gas to the compressor	m ³ h ⁻¹
\dot{M}_{BR}	Produced flow of biogas	Mg d ⁻¹
M_E	Molecular weight	kg kmol ⁻¹
$\dot{M}_G, \dot{M}_{G1}, \dot{M}_{G2}$	Flow rate of substrate	Mg d ⁻¹
\dot{M}_{oil}	Flow rate of ignition oil	Mg d ⁻¹
\dot{M}_S	Flow rate of co-ferments	Mg a ⁻¹
Mio	Million	
N	Normal	
n_{BRR}	Revolutions of an agitator	rpm
Ne_{BRR}	Newton number of an agitator	
n.s.	Not specified	
oDM	Organic dry matter	kg _{COD} or kg _{DM}
$\text{oDM}_{\text{R,e}}$	oDM in the outflow of a sludge bed reactor	gl ⁻¹
O_{FSpec}	Specific surface area of Siran	m ² m ⁻³
O_{spec}	Specific surface area	m ² m ⁻³
OUR	Oxygen uptake rate	mg l ⁻¹ min ⁻¹
OUR_0	Oxygen uptake rate of untreated substrate	mg l ⁻¹ min ⁻¹

p_1	Biogas pressure before compressing	bar
p_2	Biogas pressure after compressing	bar
P_A	Power consumption of compressor	kW
P_{BRR}	Power consumption of agitator	kW
PE	Population equivalent	
P_{econ}	Economic potential	kWh a ⁻¹
\bar{P}_{econ}	Specific economic potential	kWh ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
P_K	Power consumption of the air compressor	kW
p_{K1}	Pressure before compressor	bar
p_{K2}	Pressure after compressor	bar
P_{SC}	Power consumption of a co-ferment conveyor	kW
P_{techn}	Technical potential	kWh a ⁻¹
\bar{P}_{techn}	Specific technical potential	kWh ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
P_{theor}	Theoretical potential	kWh a ⁻¹
\bar{P}_{theor}	Specific theoretical potential	kWh ha ⁻¹ a ⁻¹
P_{VP}	Power consumption of the pumps	kW
Q_{BR}	Heat loss of the bioreactor	kW
Q_{SU}	Required energy to heat the substrate	kW
Q_V	Total heat loss	kW
R_{CH_4}	Special gas constant for CH ₄	kJ kg ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
S	Overlapping	mm
s_{BR}	Thickness of the insulation of the bioreactor	m
T	Absolute temperature of the gas to be compressed	K
t	Residence time	d
t_B	Annual amortization for concrete works	US\$ a ⁻¹
t_{BR}	Residence time in the bioreactor	d
t_{BRI}	Time for discharging the reactor content	h
t_{BRR}	Time of operation of an agitator	min h ⁻¹
t_E	Residence time in the residue storage tank	d
t_K	Time of amortization for the CHP	a
TLV	Threshold limit value = PEL, permissible exposure limit	

t_{\min}	Minimum tolerable theoretical residence time	h
TOC	Total organic carbon	
TOC	Total organic carbon in the substrate	mg l ⁻¹
TOC*	Total organic carbon in the residue	% DM
t_p	Time of local work	h
T_{PT}	Residence time in the preparation tank	d
t_s	Annual operation time	h a ⁻¹
t_{SC}	Running time of a co-ferment conveyor	h d ⁻¹
t_T	Annual amortization for technical equipment	US\$ a ⁻¹
t_{TS}	Residence time in the activated sludge tank	d
ν_A	Velocity of the upstream	m h ⁻¹
V_{BR}	Bioreactor volume	m ³
ν_{BRI}	Velocity in the discharge pipe	m s ⁻¹
V_E	Volume of residue storage tank	m ³
ν_F	Velocity of gas in gas pipes	m s ⁻¹
ν_G	Velocity of inflow	m h ⁻¹
V_G^*	Inflow rate	m ³ d ⁻¹
V_{GS}	Volume of the gas holder	m ³
ν_H	Velocity of the heating medium in the pipe	m s ⁻¹
V_K	Volume of compressor pressure vessel	m ³
ν_L	Velocity of air in aeration pipe	m s ⁻¹
V_{PT}	Volume of the preparation tank	m ³
V_S	Silo volume	m ³
ν_u	Rotational velocity of the agitator system	m s ⁻¹
ν_W	Velocity of the substrate in heat exchanger pipes	m s ⁻¹
\dot{V}_{BR}	Produced flow of biogas	m ³ d ⁻¹
\dot{V}_E	Feedback from the residue storage tank to the bioreactor	m ³ d ⁻¹
\dot{V}_K	Compressor throughput	Nm ³ h ⁻¹
\dot{V}_L	Volume rate of air in the aeration pipe	Nm ³ h ⁻¹
\dot{V}_S	Volumetric flow of excess sludge	m ³ d ⁻¹
\dot{V}_{SC}	Volume flow of co-ferment in the conveyor	m ³ h ⁻¹

\dot{V}_{Oil}	Volume rate of ignition oil	$\text{m}^3 \text{d}^{-1}$
\dot{V}_{VP}	Flow rate of the preparation tank pump	$\text{m}^3 \text{h}^{-1}$
\dot{V}_{w}	Flow rate of heating medium in the pipe	$\text{m}^3 \text{h}^{-1}$
W	Net income from heat	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
w_{G}	Gas velocity in empty reactor	$\text{Nm}^3 \text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$
$W_{\text{O}}, W_{\text{O,N}}, W_{\text{U,N}}$	Wobbe index, upper Wobbe index, lower Wobbe index	kWh m^{-3}
w_{s}	Area load	$\text{m}^3 \text{m}^{-2} \text{h}^{-1}$
w_{t}	Specific work of the compressor	kJ kg^{-1}
X	Biomass concentration in the reactor	$\text{kg}_{\text{DM}} \text{m}^{-3}$
x_{B}	Fraction of the investment costs without CHP for concrete works	—
x_{T}	Fraction of the investment costs without CHP for technical equipment	—
y_{B}	Specific maintenance costs of the concrete work	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
y_{CHP}	Specific maintenance costs for CHP	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
y_{T}	Specific maintenance costs of technical equipment	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
Z	Fraction of liquefied methane	—
Z	Insurance rate	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$
Z_{R}	Interest rate	$\text{US\$ a}^{-1}$

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Abschlussbericht Projekt 4: Verbesserter Abbau von Klärschlämmen durch Zellaufschluss der DFG-Forschergruppe “Biologische Prozesse mit dispersen Feststoffen” – DFG	Figure 27.7a and b
Abschlussbericht Projekt 4: Verbesserter Abbau von Klärschlämmen durch Zellaufschluss der DFG-Forschergruppe “Biologische Prozesse mit dispersen Feststoffen”, Germany	Figure 39.16
AgriKomp GmbH	Figure 19.1(e)
AgriKomp GmbH	Figure 27.2c
AgriKomp GmbH	Figure 29.2
AgriKomp GmbH	Figure 31.4
Awite Bioenergie GmbH	Figure 24.1
BAG-Budissa-Agroservice GmbH	Figure 26.1
Bekon-Energy GmbH	Figure 41.1
Bioferm GmbH	Figure 43.1f
Burkhard Meiners, AgroEnergien	Figure 29.3
Cenotec GmbH, Greven	Figure 16.6(c)
Cenotec GmbH, Greven	Figure 31.5a and b
Cenotec GmbH, Greven	Figure 43.1a, b, d
Coop, Switzerland (www.coop.ch)	Figure 16.6(a)
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Dr.-Ing. St. Battenberg, Dissertation, Carola-Wilhelmina University, Braunschweig, 2000	Figure 13.4d
Filox Filtertechnik GmbH	Figure 21.1(b)
Flottweg GmbH	Figure 21.1(c)
“Four-in-One” Biogas System in Northern China	Figure 5.3 a–d

Gerardo P. Baron	Figure 16.6(e)
Hexis AG, Winterthur, Switzerland	Figure 48.14
Holger Döbert, Radolfzell	Figure 8.3
home.landtag.nrw.de/mdl/reiner.priggen/Lathen-AbholungausgegorenesMaterial.jpg	Figure 29.1
ICA Japan (www.icajapan.org)	Figure 5.3g
ifm-geomar	Figure 7.7
Ishii iron works Ltd	Figure 43.1e
Klein Abwasser- und Schlammtechnik GmbH	Figure 21.1(a)
Kompogas AG	Figure 48.1b
Landratsamt Freising (www.kreis-fs.de)	Figure 43.2
Max-Planck-Institut für Züchtungsforschung	Figure 3.7b
MDE Dezentrale Energiesysteme GmbH	Figure 48.1e
MTU-CFC GmbH	Figure 48.1d
Pondus-Verfahren GmbH	Figure 11.22b
Protego Report No. 27/2003	Figure 24.4
RECK-Technik GmbH & Co. KG	Figure 11.22a
Ritter Apparatebau GmbH	Figure 15.5
Schmack Biogas AG	Figure 27.2e
Schmack Biogas AG, Schwandorf	Figure 16.6(b)
Scientific Engineering Centre “Biomass,” Kiev	Figure 5.3h
Sicherheitsregeln für landwirtschaftliche Biogasanlagen der landwirtschaftlichen Berufsgenossenschaften Ausgabe 2002	Figure 14.2
Siemens AG	Figure 48.1c
St. Battenberg, Dissertation, Carola-Wilhelmina University, Braunschweig, 2000; available at www-public.tu-bs.de	Figure 39.15
Stetter & R. Rachel, Universität Regensburg	Figure 13.4b, c
SUMA GmbH	Figure 19.1(d)
SunTechnics	Figure 5.3f
Thoeni Industriebetriebe GmbH, Austria	Figure 16.6(d)
Turbec SpA	Figure 48.1f
U.T.S. Umwelttechnik Süd GmbH	Figure 27.2d
Vorspann-Technik GmbH & Co. KG	Figure 16.3(d) and (e)
VTA Engineering und Umwelttechnik GmbH	Figure 48.1g
WELtec BioPower GmbH	Figure 19.1(a)
www.mvm.uni-karlsruhe.de	Figure 3.7c
www.solarenergie.co.za	Figure 5.3e