



# Integrated Water Cycle Demonstration Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Technology

Ernesto Lopez-Baeza\*, Alberto Bouzas Blanco et All

University of Valencia

(\* also @ Albavalor – University of Valencia Science Park  
Spain



VNIVERSITAT  
ID VALÈNCIA

Integrated Water Cycle Demonstration Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Technology





## Highly interdisciplinary team

### University of Valencia

- **Faculty of Physics**
  - Ernesto Lopez-Baeza
  - Erika Albero-Peralta, Domingo J. Catalán, Carlos Rivero-Moro (Doctorate Students)
- **Higher Technical School of Engineering**
  - Alberto Bouzas Blanco
- **IRTIC / LISITT - Institute of Robotics and Information Technology and Communications / Integrated Laboratory of Intelligent Systems and Technologies of Traffic Information**
  - Juan J. Martinez Dura, Antonio García-Celda, David Garcia-Rodríguez
- **Faculty of Biology**
  - Pedro Carrasco
  - Marta Perez-Rodrigo (Doctorate Students)
- **Faculty of Pharmacy**
  - Rafael Boluda
- **Albavalor – University of Valencia Science Park**
  - Ernesto Lopez-Baeza, Ana Perez-Hoyos, Rafael Catany
- **Valencian Institute of Agricultural Research**
  - Victor Asensi-Ortega (Doctorate Student)



# MELiSSA

## Working areas

- satellite remote sensing and drone operation
- ground-based: soil moisture, chlorophyll content, N<sub>2</sub> concentration
  - Earth Observation
  - Water Treatment
- biological processes
- microalgae
- optional for emergent removal and disinfection:
  - advanced oxidation processes + UV
  - ultrafiltration or nanofibers + UV
- Know discharge water at the Science Campus and the University Scientific Park, particularly Mathematics and Cafeteria
- Know estimated budget (summary) to adapt all downspouts (Mathematics & Cafeteria) to differentiate water types entering MELiSSA
  - Composting and Waste Management
- impact of different water treatments in ad hoc designed smallholdings
  - Environment and Sustainability
- complementary activities related to collecting and reusing rainfall water, SUDS, ...
  - Renewable Energy
  - Artificial Intelligence & Data Semantics

Integrated Water Cycle Demonstration Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Technology





## Objectives

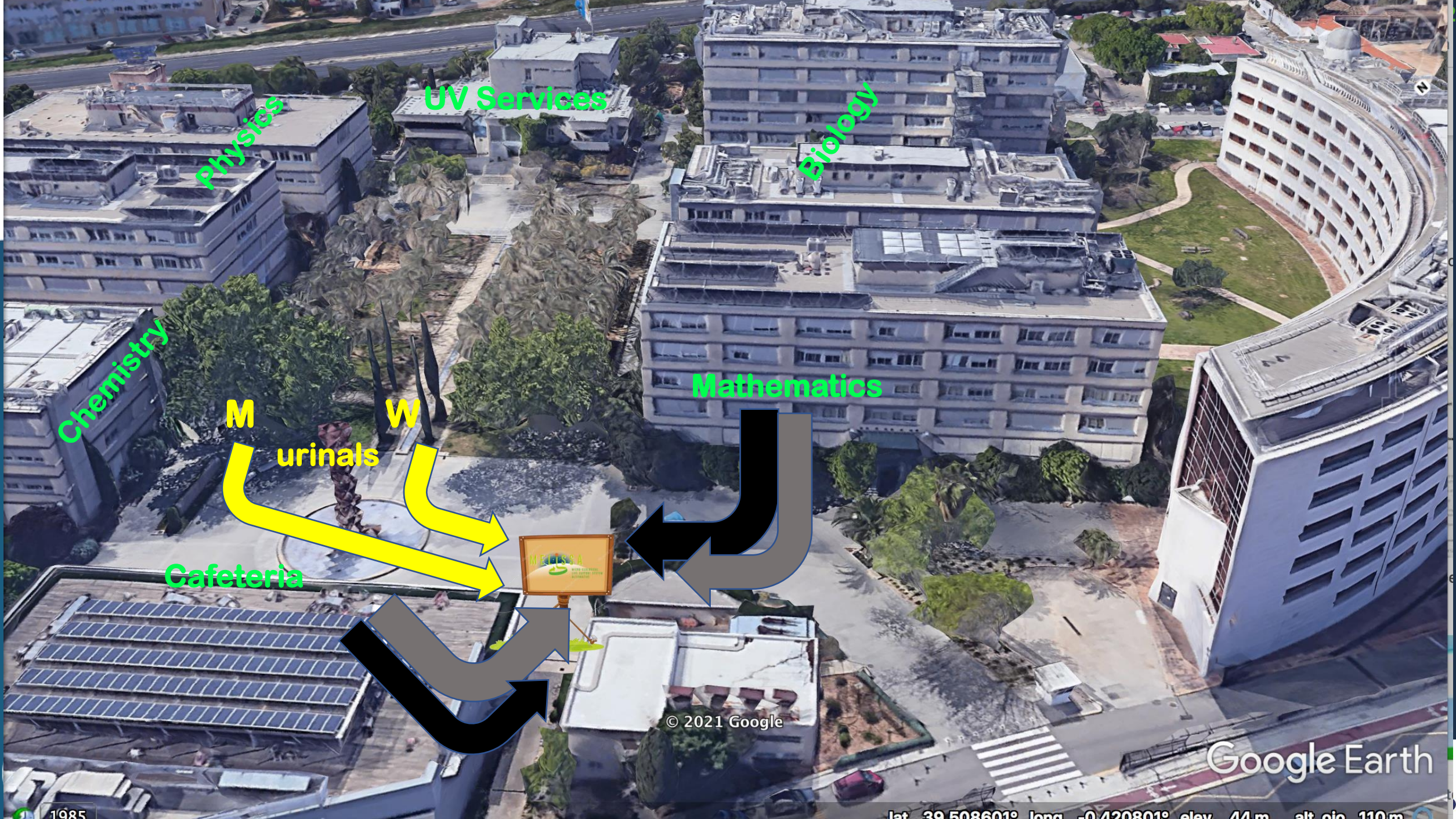
- To consider **MELiSSA** recycling technologies for a Demonstration Pilot Project at the Valencia University Science Campus
  - Possibility of future potential
    - of using **MELiSSA** at UVEG itself
    - or with other eventual third-party possibilities
- Focus on a sustainable integral water cycle
  - a “*cradle-to-grave*” showcase
- Scientific collaboration with **MELiSSA** partners
  - demonstration pilot project → UVEG
  - possibility of developing new research ideas → **MELiSSA**











Physics

UV Services

Biology

Mathematics

Chemistry

Cafeteria

M

W

urinals



© 2021 Google

Google Earth



1985

lat. 39.508601° long. -0.420801° elev. 44 m alt. ojo 110 m





© 2021 Google

Google Earth

1985

lat. 39.508601° long. -0.420801° elev. 44 m alt. ojo 110 m





# Valorisation of Fertilisation (in Campus smallholdings)



tap water & conventional fertilisation



reclaimed water & conventional fertilisation



tap water & MELISSA fertilisation

reclaimed water and MELISSA fertilisation

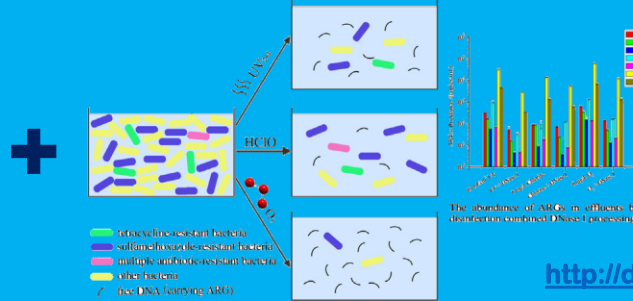
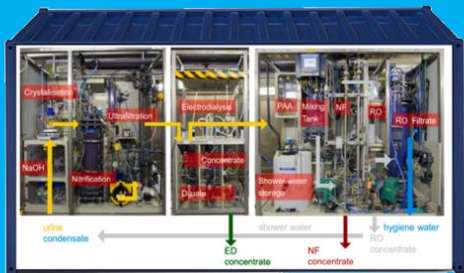
tap water & composting fertilisation





## Main requirements

- Start with **grey** and **yellow** water
- Adding value to reclaimed water irrigation and N<sub>2</sub> fertilisation



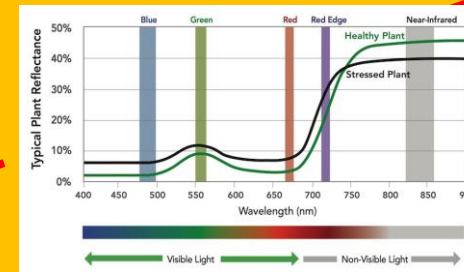
Optional emergent removal and disinfection:  
Ultrafiltration or Nanofibers + UV  
Advanced Ox. Processes + UV

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2017.02.076>



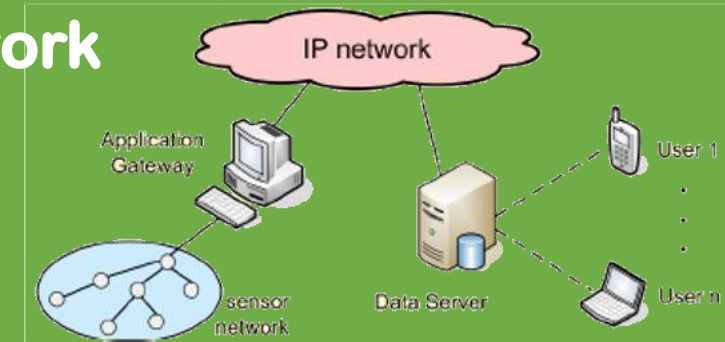
## Using drone technology

475nm      560nm      668nm      717nm      842nm



<https://qisnote.com/2019/04/15/l11-rededge/>

- Soil moisture monitoring LoRaWAN - Raspberry Pi network
- In situ chlorophyll and N<sub>2</sub> concentration content
- Composting and organic waste management
  - In-Campus smallholdings → with/without N<sub>2</sub> fertilisation
- Secondary aims
  - (Rainwater collecting and Sustainable Urban Draining System – SUDS)

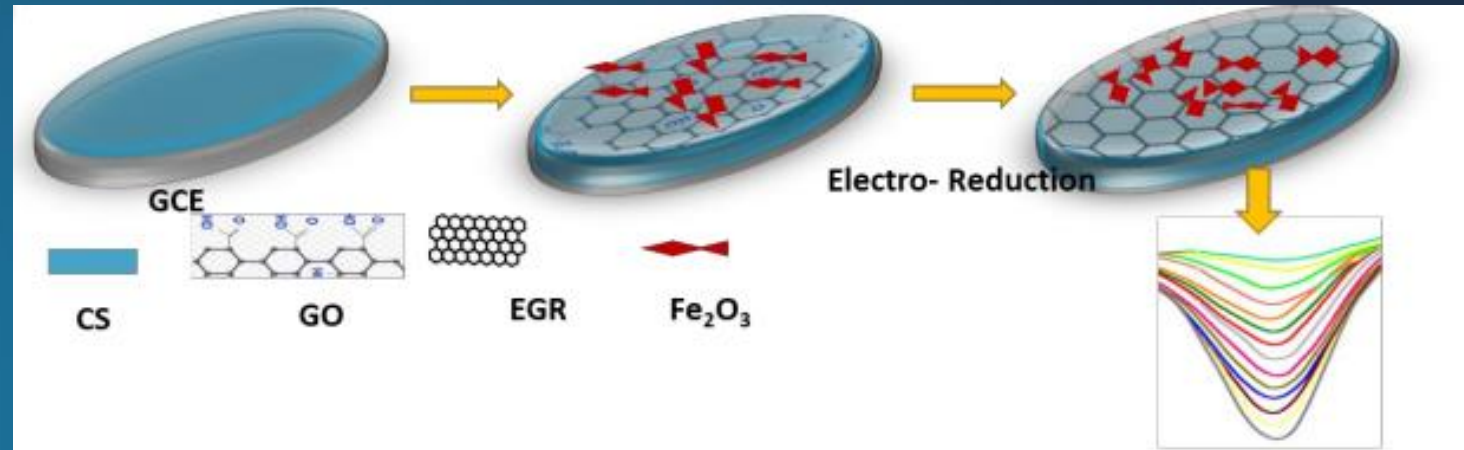






# Electrochemical Nanosensor

- **Emergent contaminants** are of increasing interest as they fit in the broad categories:
  - New industrial products (such as Bisphenol A)
  - Known chemicals being considered as contaminants now (such as pharmaceuticals)
  - Known contaminants whose prolonged toxicity is considered now (such as hormones)



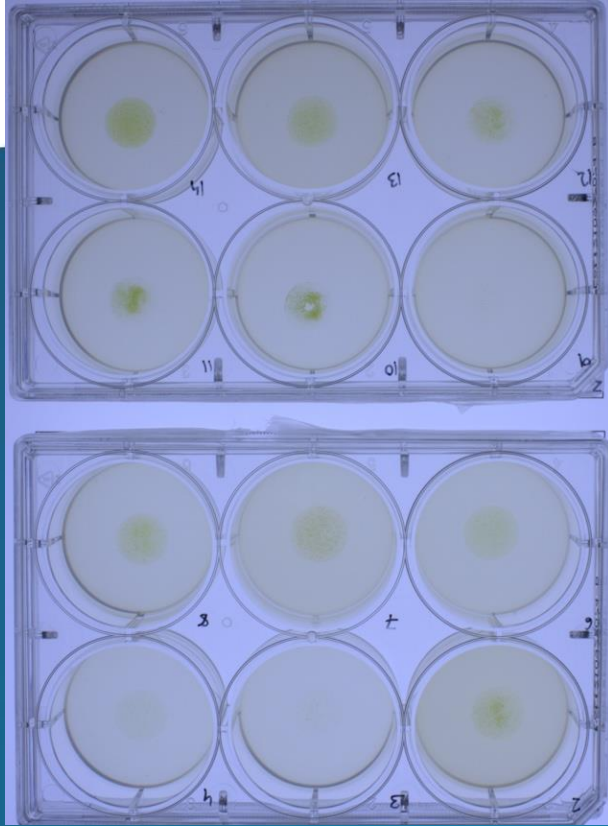
Both **emergent contaminants** and “**classical**” contaminants can be sensed through electrochemical nanosensors:

- Economic (money and time)
- Continuous monitoring
- Foreseeable tight regulations

Example of an electrochemical carbon-based nanosensor for detection of an EC (Kanoun 2021)

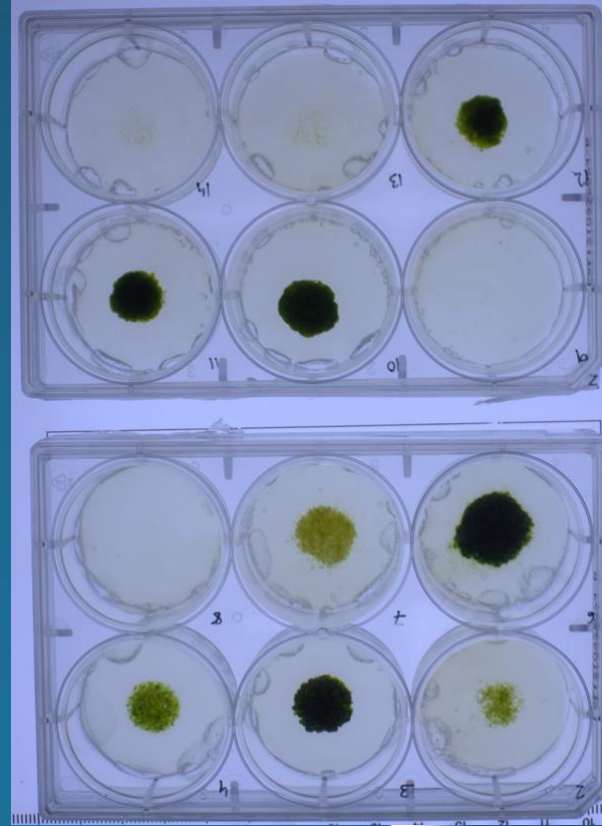


## Use of microalgae for wastewater treatment

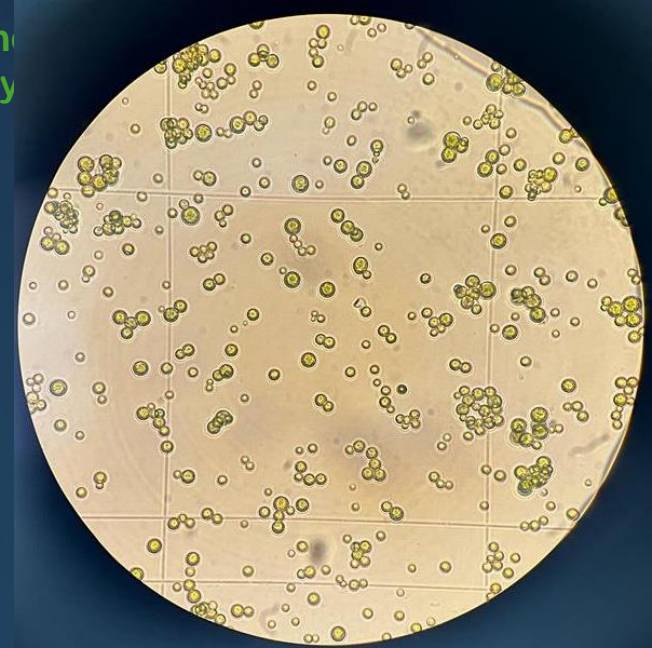


**DAY 1**

Screening of different species of microalgae of the Trebouxiaceae family (*Asterochloris*, *Myrmecia*, *Symbiochloris*, *Trebouxia*, *Vulcanochloris*, and *Watanabea*) integrated into The Collection of Symbiotic Algae of the University of Valencia (ASUV).



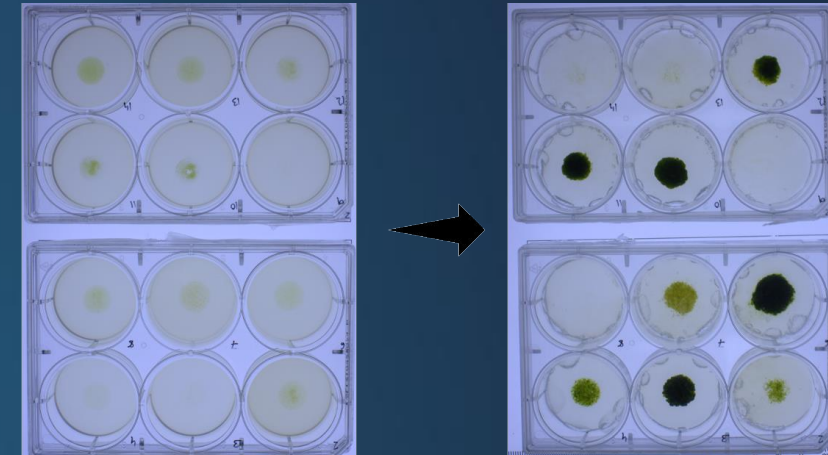
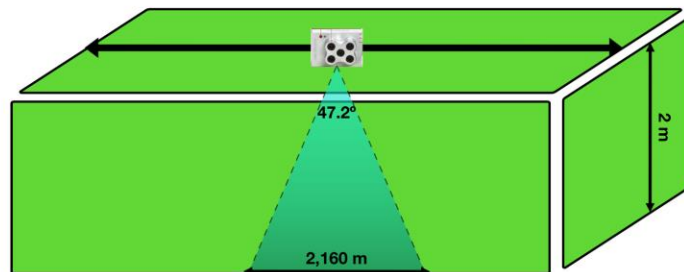
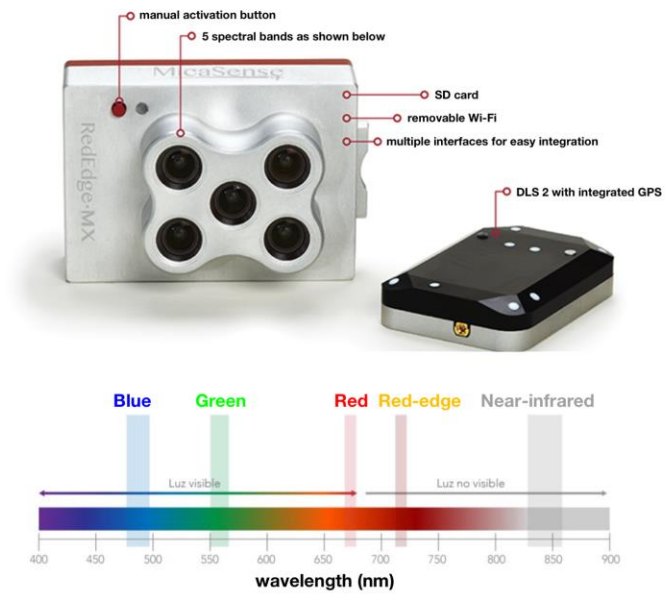
**DAY 21**



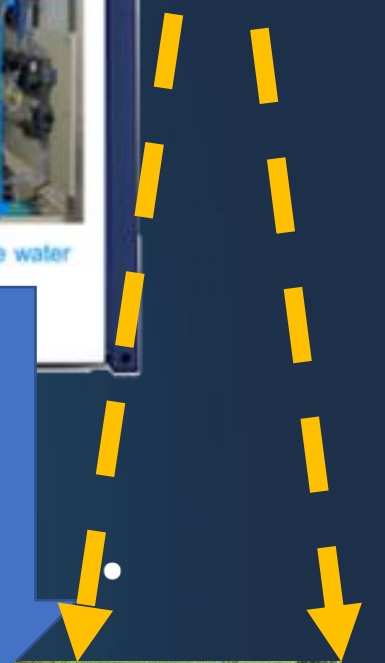
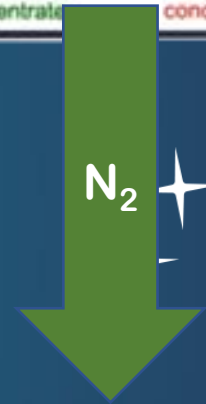
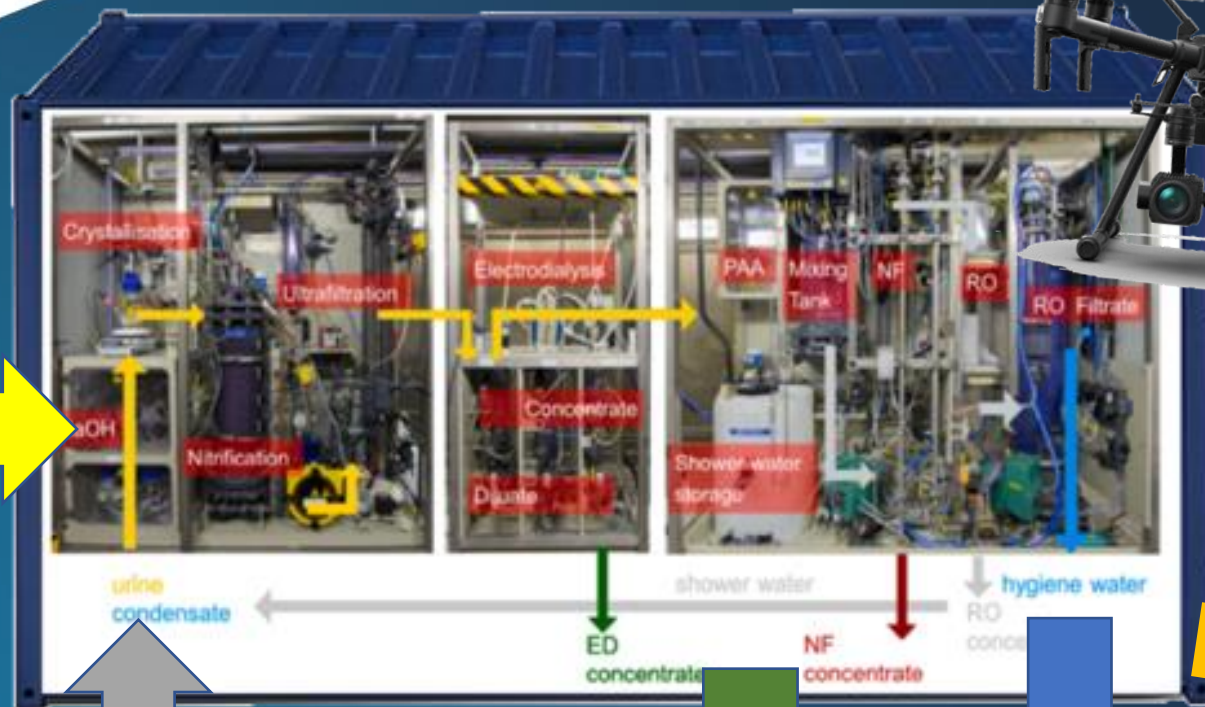
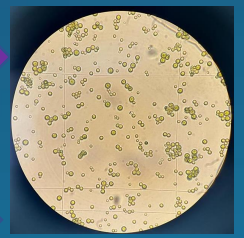




Lettuce culture in the higher plants chamber at the MELISSA Pilot Plant  
<<https://www.melissafoundation.org/page/melissa-pilot-plant>>







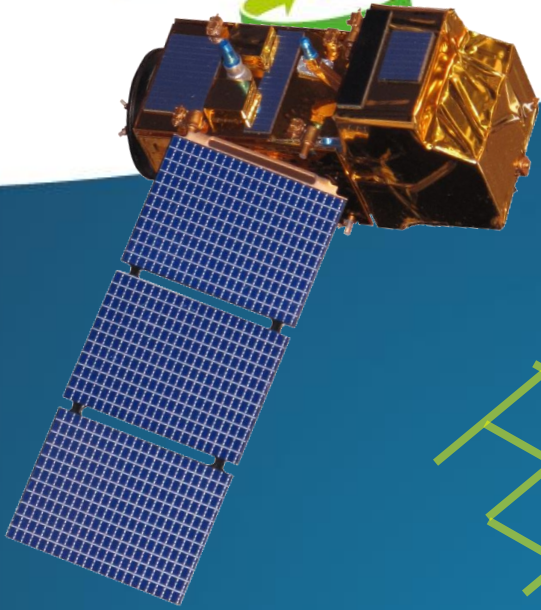
VNIVERSITAT  
D VALÈNCIA

later Cycle Demonstration Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Techn





# MELISSA



2022 MELISSA Conference,  
Current and Future Ways to

## Water reuse at the Burjassot Science Campus



Smart agriculture

- smallholdings
- irrigation optimisation

•  $N_2$  fertilisation



UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Integrated



## Ground Instrumentation

**Delta-T  
Theta Probe Soil  
Moisture Sensor  
ML2x**



**Apogee MC-100  
Chlorophyll Concentration  
Meter**



**Dualex Sensor  
NBI®  
Nitrogen Balanced  
Index**





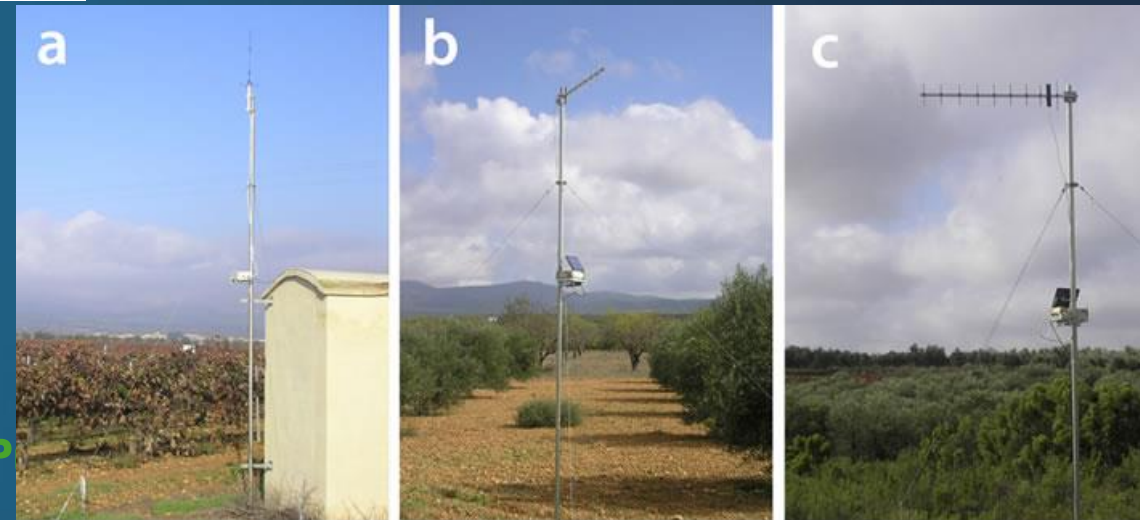
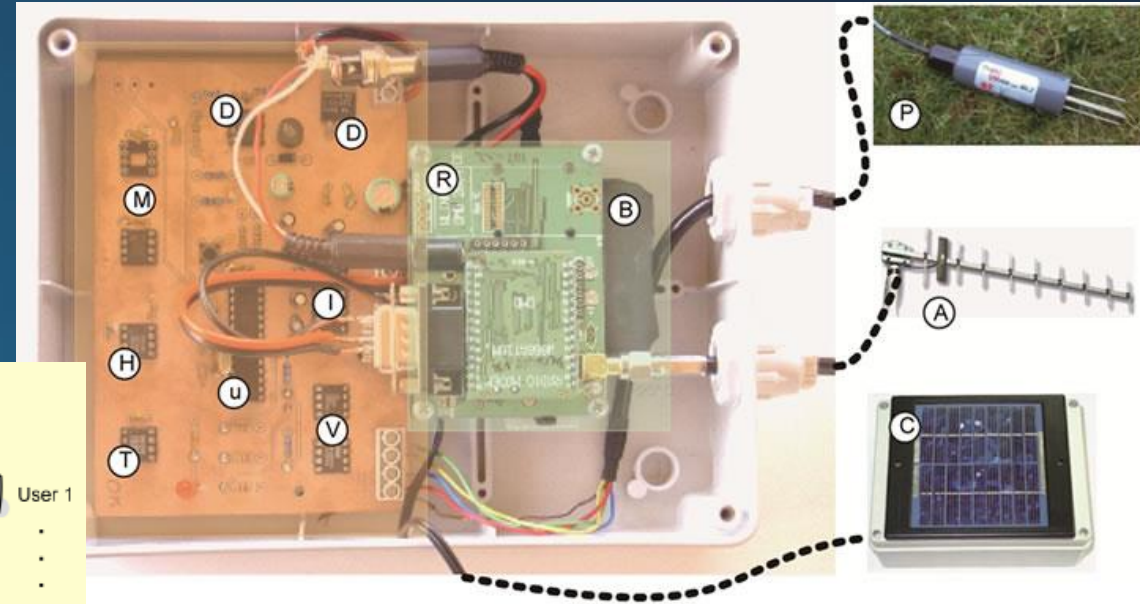
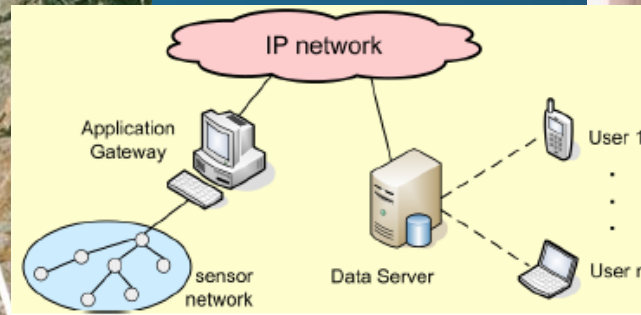
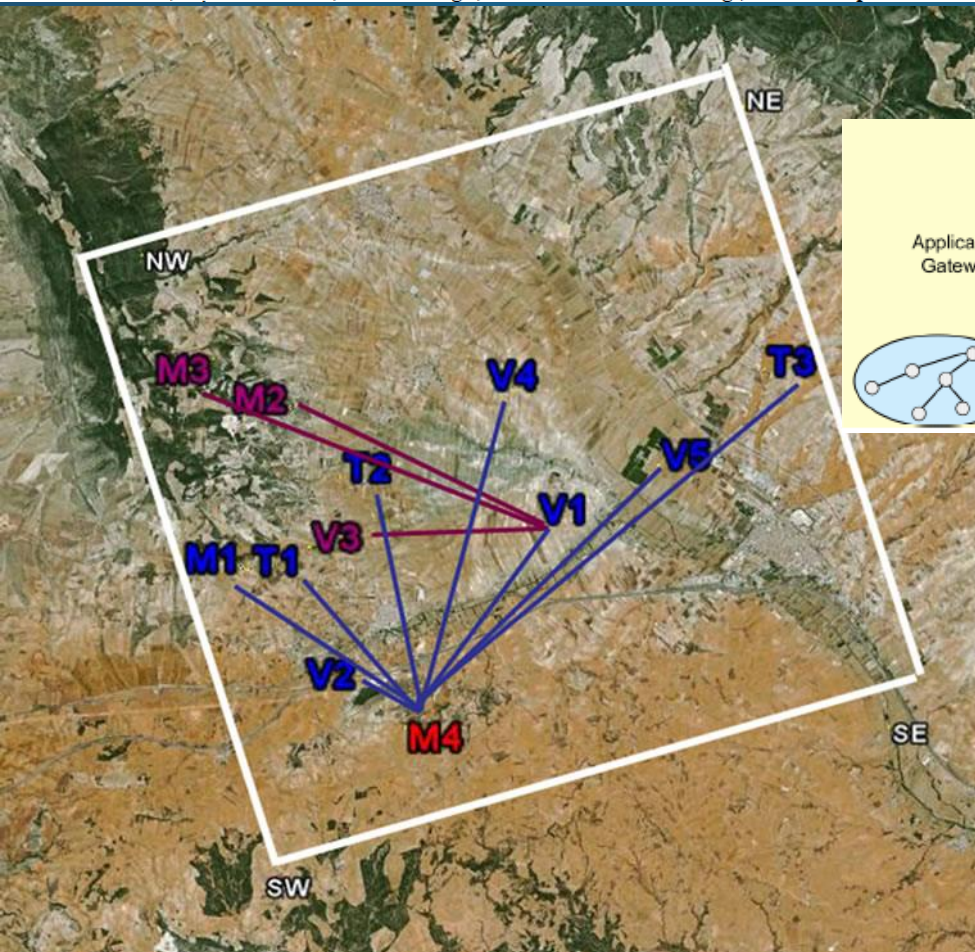
## Ground Instrumentation (SM Network)

Wireless Sensor Network, 2012, 4, 202-209  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/wsn.2012.48030> Published Online August 2012 (<http://www.SciRP.org/journal/wsn>)



### Automated Soil Moisture Monitoring Wireless Sensor Network for Long-Term Cal/Val Applications

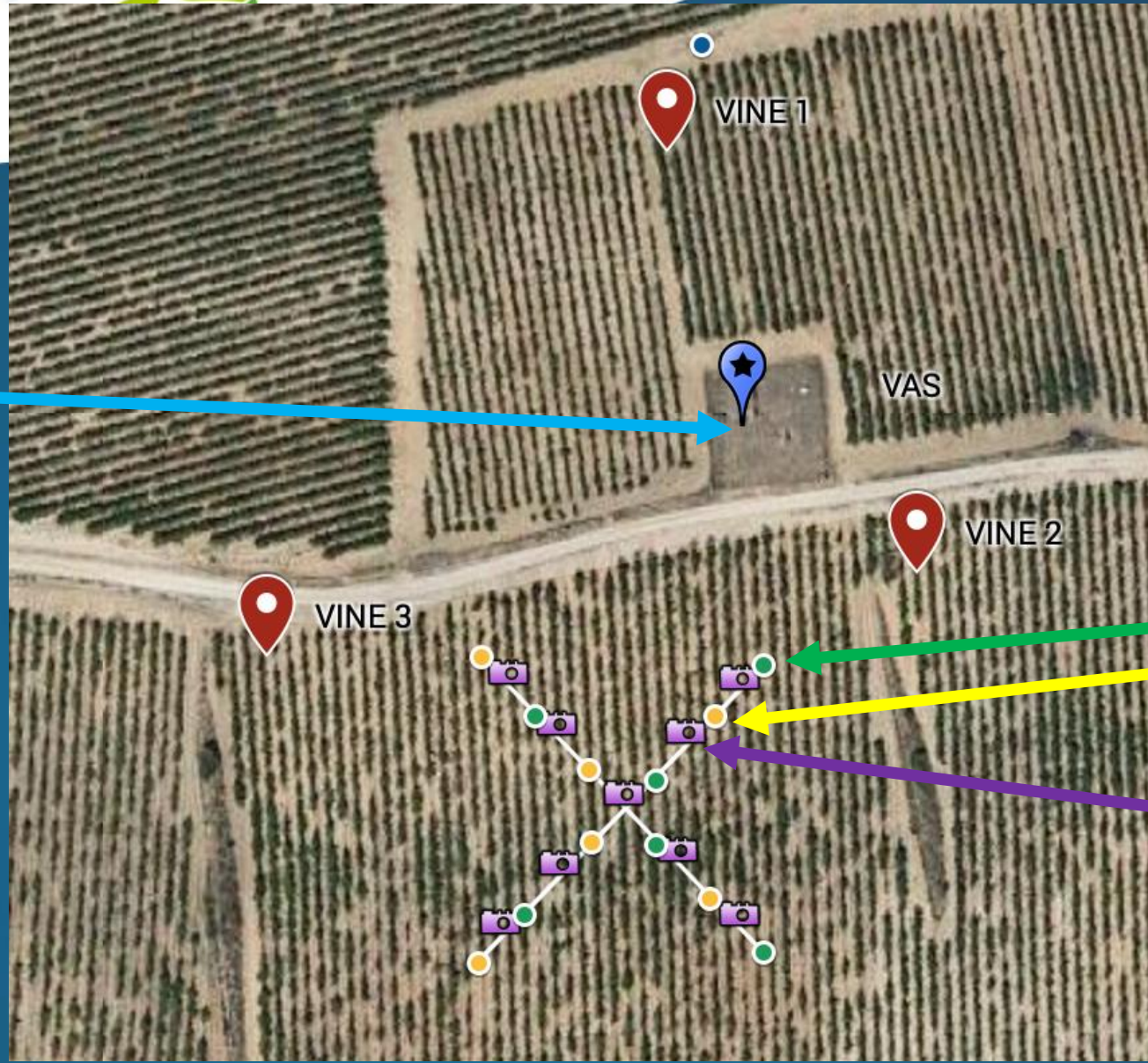
Aurelio Cano<sup>1,2</sup>, José Luis Añón<sup>1</sup>, Candido Reig<sup>1\*</sup>, Cristina Millán-Scheiding<sup>3</sup>, Ernesto López-Baeza<sup>2</sup>



Demonstration Pilot P

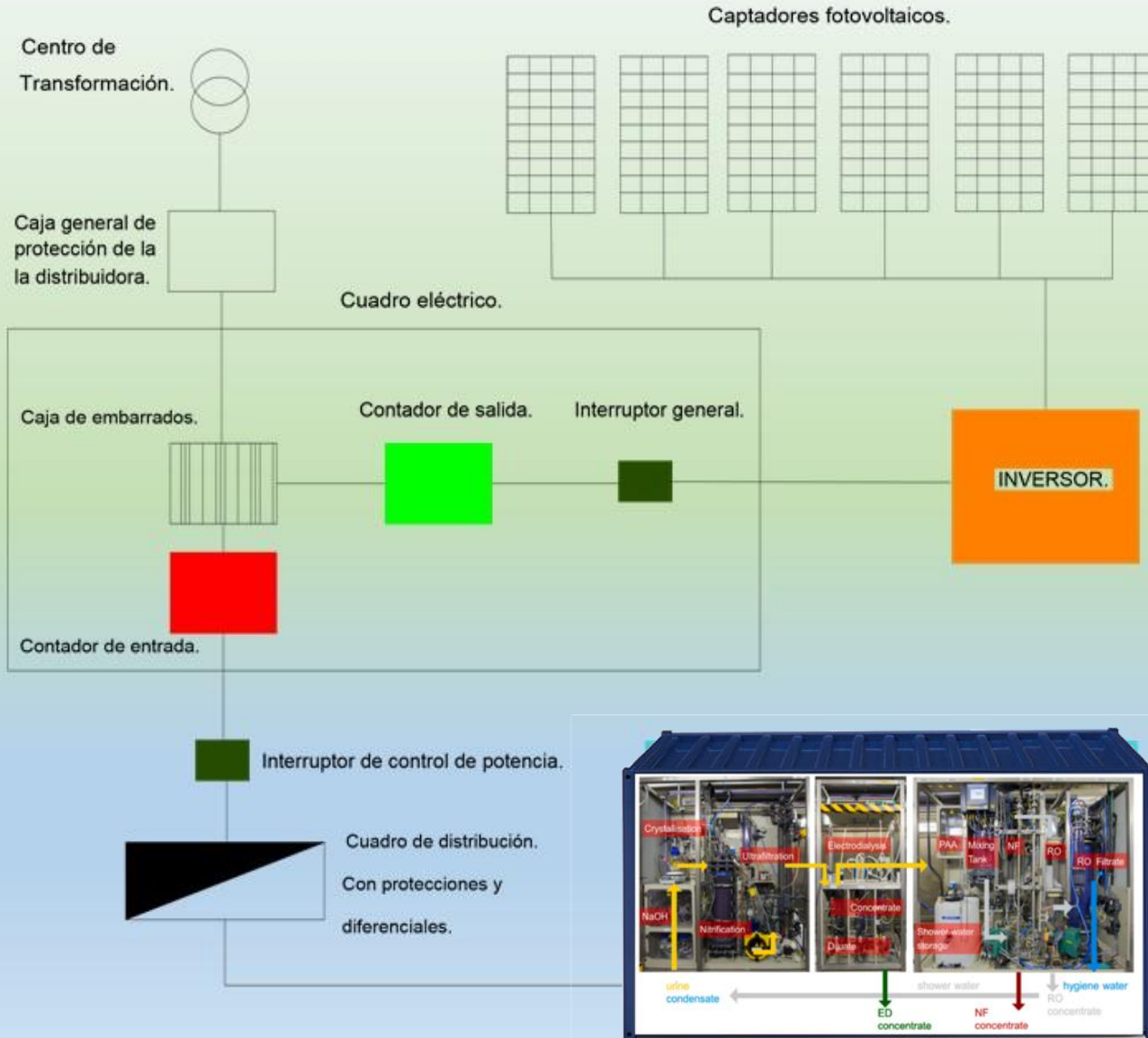


## Ground Instrumentation (Networks)





## ESQUEMA ELÉCTRICO GENÉRICO DE ABASTECIMIENTO ENERGÉTICO MEDIANTE GENERADORES FOTOVOLTAICOS A LA ESTACIÓN DEPURADORA MELISSA.



El esquema genérico presenta la composición y distribución eléctrica de los elementos básicos y equipos para abastecer energéticamente mediante paneles fotovoltaicos y apoyo de fluido eléctrico convencional, en el caso puntual de necesidad de tal forma que la planta sea el mayor tiempo energéticamente independiente de la distribuidora y a su vez vuelque el exceso de corriente eléctrica en los momentos de energía sobrante, obteniéndose un beneficio económico.

Se planteará la vertiente del apoyo mediante acumuladores tras estudio de amortización económico y rendimiento energético.

## Power supply

- scalable modular system
- renewable energy
- conventional electrical network support
- surplus returns (ex. holidays)







reclaimed  
water reuse

irrigation and  
fertilisation of  
the Campus  
green areas

detecting  
water needs  
and N<sub>2</sub> status

- digitisation of the application area
- automatic irrigation based on plant water needs and optimising times and periods
- monitoring water and plant parameters
- remote sensing (UAV + S2) (+ hyperspectral data -tbc)
- soil moisture wireless network
- ground chlorophyll and N<sub>2</sub> measurements
- mapping optimum N crop uptake <[doi:10.1017/S2040470017000231](https://doi.org/10.1017/S2040470017000231)>
- crop N monitoring: recent progress and principal developments in the context of imaging spectroscopy missions <<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2020.111758>>
- monitoring crop N status by using red edge-based indices <[doi:10.1017/S2040470017000243](https://doi.org/10.1017/S2040470017000243)>
- chlorophyll – N<sub>2</sub> content correlations

Introduction of a Smart Irrigation Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Technology





## Red edge-based N<sub>2</sub> indices

Table 1 Definitions of the Red-Edge vegetation indices applied. The table includes some indications about their use.

Vegetation Index	Formula	Use	Reference
Red Edge Position	$R_{700} + 40 \times \frac{R_{670} + R_{780} - R_{700}}{R_{740} - R_{700}}$	Sensitive in variations of Chlorophyll and N.	Guyot <i>et al.</i> (1988)
Normalized difference red edge index (NDRE)	$(R_{790} - R_{720}) / (R_{790} + R_{720})$	Sensitive in variations of Chlorophyll and N.	Fitzgerald <i>et al.</i> (2010)
Red edge chlorophyll index (CI <sub>red edge</sub> )	$\frac{R_{750}}{R_{720}} - 1$	Estimation of N plant uptake at different bandwidths.	Gitelson <i>et al.</i> (2005)
MERIS terrestrial chlorophyll index (MTCI)	$(R_{750} - R_{710}) / (R_{710} - R_{680})$	N plant concentration after heading. N uptake before heading.	Dash and Curran (2004)
Canopy chlorophyll content index (CCCI)	$(NDRE - NDRE_{MIN}) / (NDRE_{MAX} - NDRE_{MIN})$	N plant concentration after heading. N uptake across growth stages.	Fitzgerald <i>et al.</i> (2010)
Angular Insensitivity Vegetation Index (AIVI)	$\frac{R_{445} \cdot (R_{720} + R_{735}) - R_{573} \cdot (R_{720} - R_{735})}{R_{720} \cdot (R_{573} + R_{445})}$	Stability estimating N at different view zenith angles.	He <i>et al.</i> (2016)

Gonzalez-Piqueras *et al.* (2017) <doi:10.1017/S2040470017000243>



Rainwater reuse

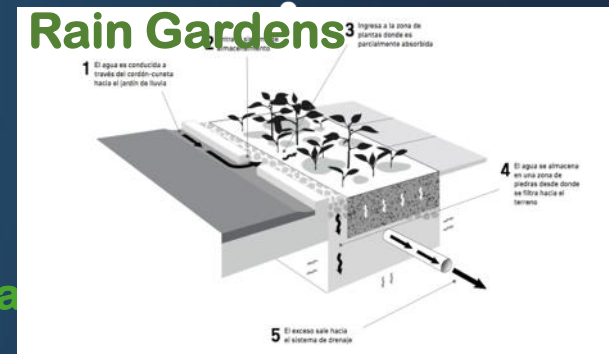
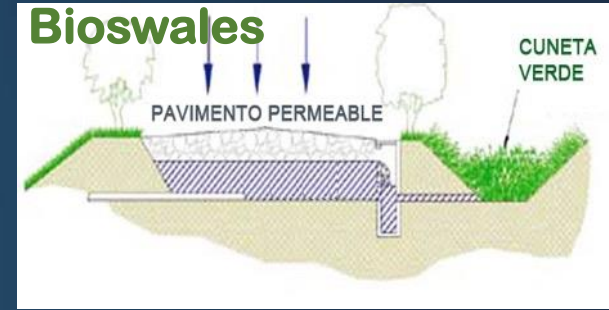
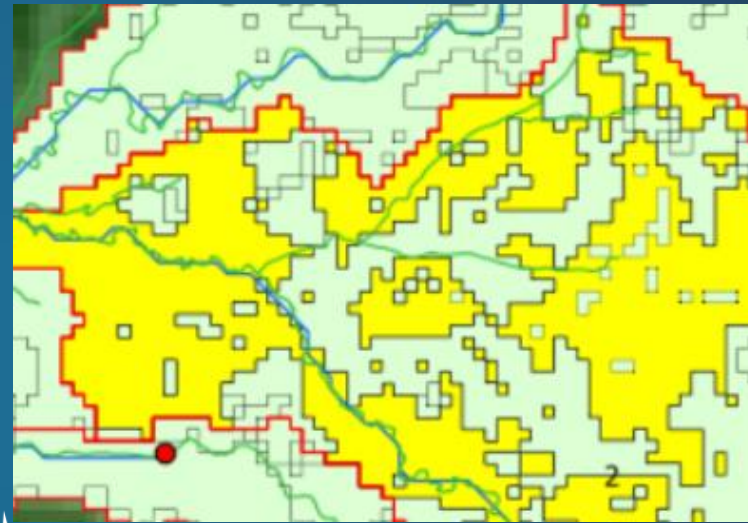
SA

# Secondary objective: Capturing Rainwater and Sustainable Drainage Urban Systems (SDUS)

Imperviousness and slope analysis

Urban rainoff model

Sustainable Drainage Urban System (SDUS)





# Interdisciplinarity Academic Faculty Implication

# MELiSSA

At local –University of Valencia- level

Faculty of Physics + IRTIC/LISITT + ALBAVALOR

Environmental Remote Sensing Group (Climatology from Satellites)

- MELiSSA
- Remote Sensing
- Artificial Intelligence + Data Semantics
- Smart Agriculture
  - Drone
  - Automatic Irrigation System
- Rainfall Water and SUDS

Higher Technical School of Engineering

Chemical Engineering

- Water Treatment, water quality, ...

Faculty of Biological Sciences & Faculty of Pharmacy

Environmental Sciences

- Agriculture and Smallholdings

ESA

UAB/MELiSSA Pilot Plant

Aeroespacial SENER

SEMILLA  
UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA  
UGent

at European level

Marie Skłodowska Curie  
Actions under Horizon  
Europe

Doctoral Networks

European Industrial  
Doctorate

UVEG – MELiSSA Consortium

Integrated Water Cycle Demonstration Pilot Project Using MELiSSA Space Technology



## Acknowledgment

### ESA

- Christophe Lasseur & Sandra Ortega Ujalde
- MELiSSA Foundation

### UVEG

- **Maria Victoria Mestre** – University of Valencia's Chancellor
- **Governing Board**
- **University's Technical Service & Technical Unit**
- **Science Campus Technical Unit**
- **M. Amparo Gilabert** – N<sub>2</sub> estimation assessment
- **Guido Schmidt -Fresh Thoughts Consulting GmbH** <https://www.fresh-thoughts.eu/>
- **BIOAZUL – Water. Energy. Environment** <https://www.bioazul.com/en/> (TBC)
- **IVACE - Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness - Regional Government**  
<https://www.ivace.es/index.php/es>

