



California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

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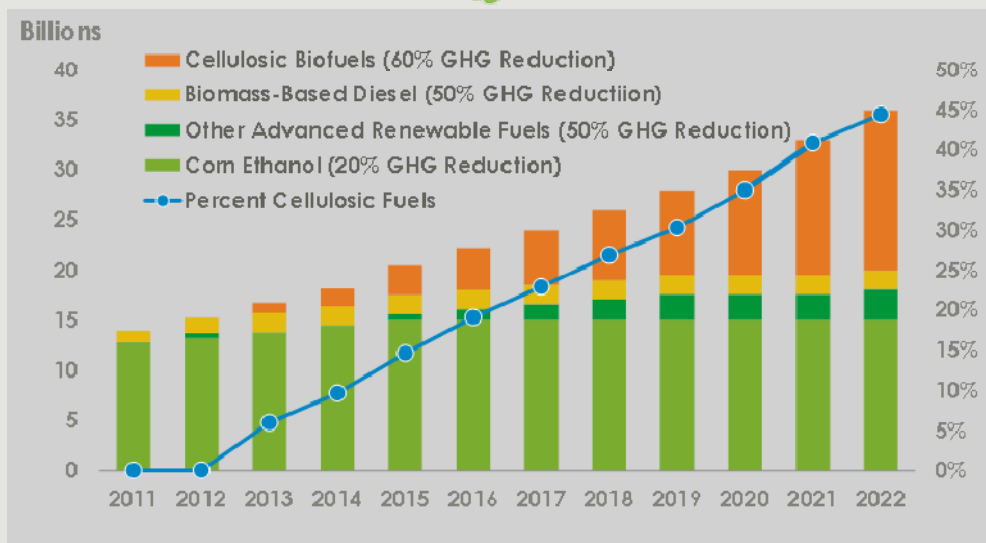
# **“State of the Technology”**

## **Cellulosic Biofuels**

**Tom Griffin, CTO, Edeniq, Inc.**  
**April 10, 2014**

# Cellulosic Opportunity

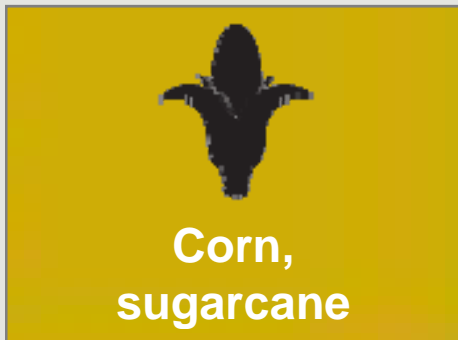
- Over 200 ethanol plants; current US demand of 14B gal/yr
- US Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) requires additional sources of 16B gal/yr of cellulosic ethanol by 2022
  - **Cellulosic ethanol breakthroughs needed** to meet RFS intent and requirements
  - *Imports as alternative*
- RFS provides premium for cellulosic ethanol, forecast at ~\$US 1.00/gal



# Cellulosic sugars are structural sugars found in fibrous biomass

Cellulosic sugars are widespread, but hard to extract

1<sup>st</sup> gen sugars



C6 sugars; easy to extract and ferment  
(corn – dextrose; cane - glucose)

Cellulosic sugars



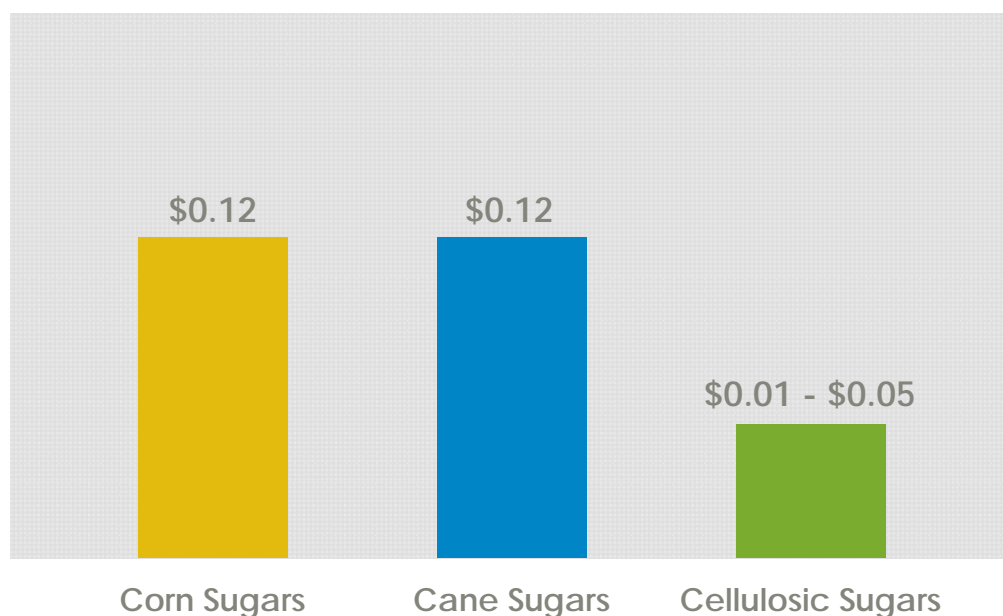
C6 sugars; harder to extract and less available

C5 sugars; hardest to extract and ferment

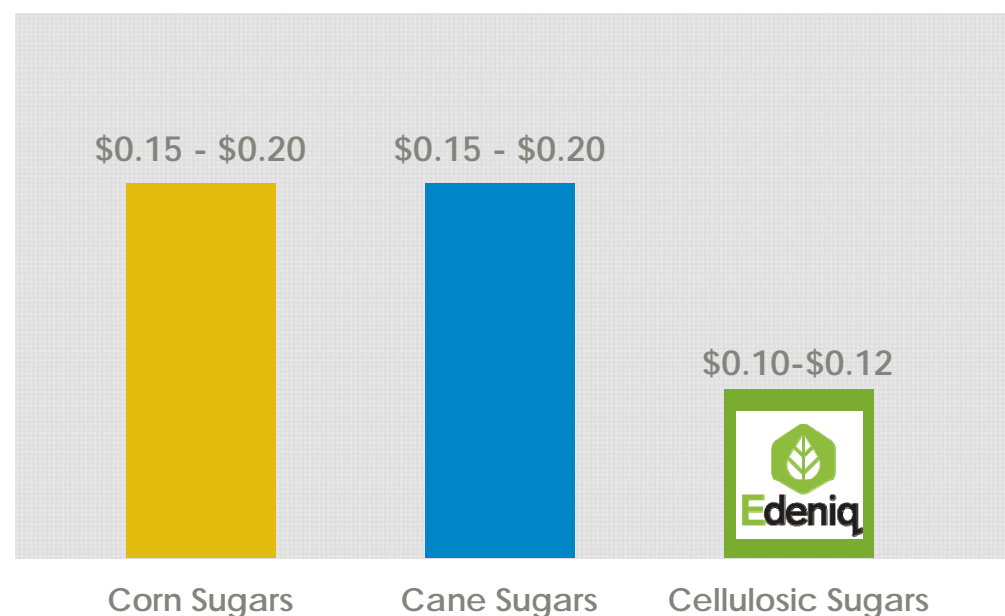
# Cellulosic Sugars Have Attractive Economics



## Feedstock Costs Per Lb.



## Sugar Costs After Extraction Per Lb.



**Edeniq's Cellulosic Sugars will be cheaper  
than Corn and Cane Sugars**

# Challenge Areas

**Focus must remain on key profitability barriers**

## **Costs**

- Capital
- Feedstock
- Enzymes/ Catalysts

## **Process Technology Limitations**

- Conversion: process robustness, but..
- Purity: minimally invasive/ destructive (for downstream utility)

## **Feedstock Controversies**

- Competition with food uses; alternative land uses

## **Investment Readiness Cycles**

# Status; Forward Priorities

## Challenge Area: high capital costs

### Current Approaches

- maximizing intensity of reactions (reduced volumes, times)
- maximizing utility of existing hardware (e.g., “bolt-on”)

### Immediate Development Priorities

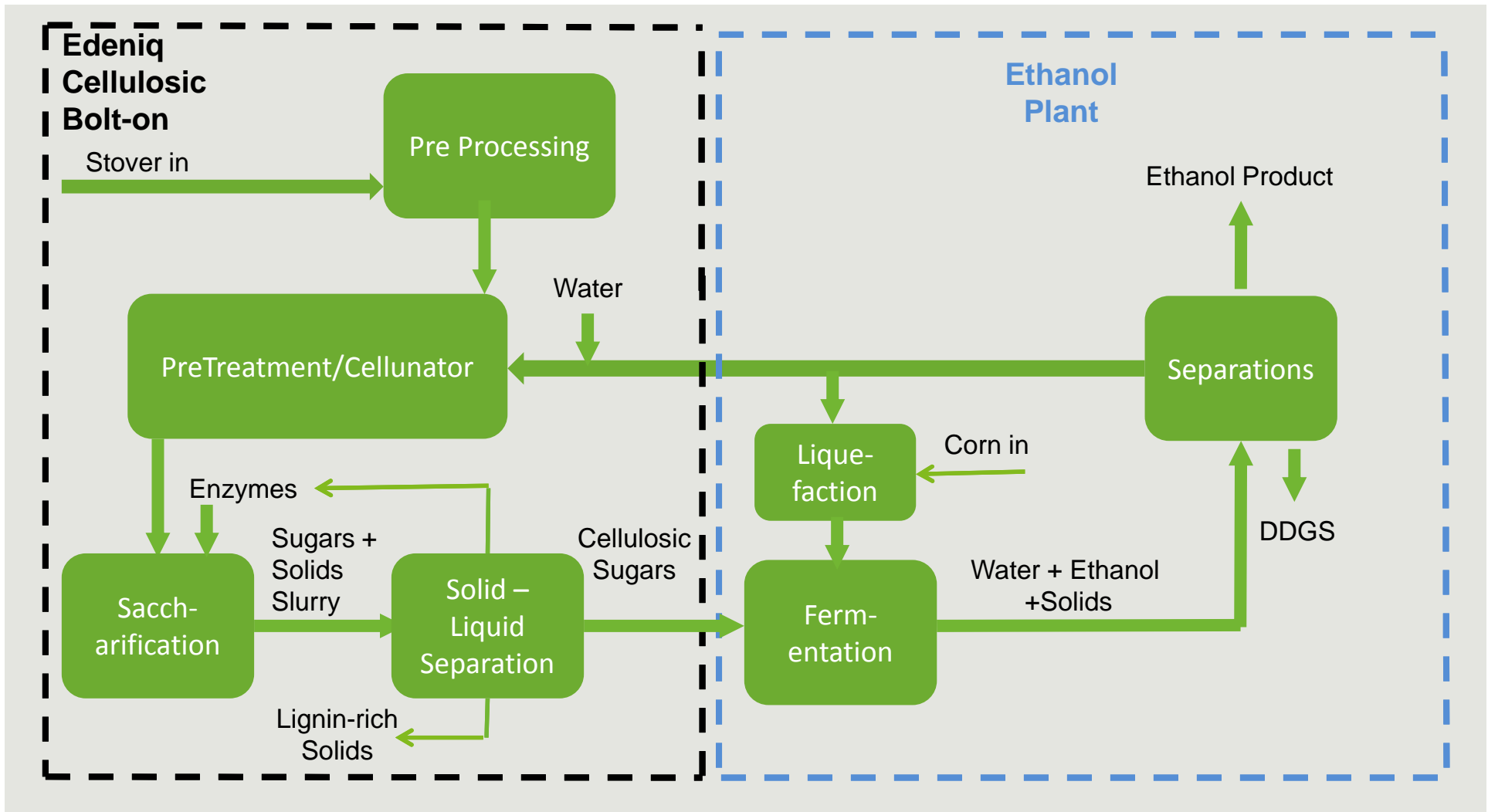
- increased solids loadings
- optimization of recycles

### Recommendation for CEC Involvement

- fostering partnerships to facilitate technology linkages;  
unit operations and process equipment integration

# Edeniq Bolt-On Design

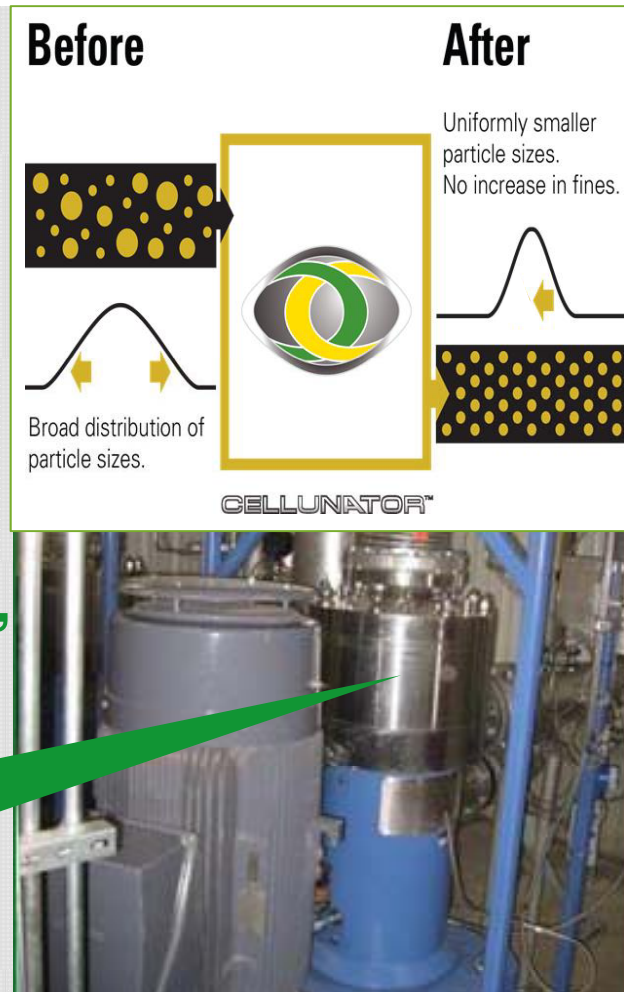
## Block Flow Diagram – Stover Integrated with Corn Ethanol Plant



# Edeniq's bolt-on technology: Mechanical Pretreatment with Cellunator



- Wet state
- Right sizes particles
- Reduces viscosity
- Shears fiber
- Accessible enzymes to increased yield
- Homogeneous, stable, high-solids slurry



- Six Commercial Installations
  - ✓ Ethanol Facilities
  - ✓ 7+ years
  - ✓ 99.5% uptime
- Worldwide rights for biofuels and biomass markets
  - ✓ IKA Manufacture
- Patent No. 8,563,282
  - ✓ Granted Oct '13



# Status; Forward Priorities

## Challenge Area: high feedstock costs

### Current Approaches

- looking for highest value compositions and consistency
- taking advantage of high-volume aggregation availability
- developing partnerships with expertise in both areas

### Immediate Development Priorities

- deep understanding of physical and compositional variances
- process adaptability

### Recommendation for CEC Involvement

- facilitating process integration partnerships  
(harvest protocols; pre-processing operations)

# Edeniq-CEC

## Feedstock Assessment Summary

### Yields and Implications for California Feedstock Potential

<u>Feedstock Class</u>	<u>Sugar Yield</u> (kg/ton equiv)	<u>Ethanol Potential</u> (1) (gal/ ton)	<u>Comments/ Other Factors</u>
Nut Crop Residues	139	19	almond, peanut, walnut husks
Wood - Citrus	272	41	extensive work earlier in R&D pilot
Wood - Pine	133	19	useful cellulosic content low
Other Grain Crops (rice, milo) (2)	182 - 220	25 - 31	projections based on composition
Corn Stover	260 - 315	36 - 45	extensive CCM work with CA stover
Energy Cane (3)	460 - 518	66 - 75	cane bagasse

#### notes

- 1- assumes 92% efficiency of C6 fermentation; 75% for C5
- 2- high inorganic feedstocks; appear detrimental to Celluntor wear (separate tests)
- 3- surrogate for energy cane (CA programs in development)

- CA stover has high potential and is already available
- Energy crop projects appear to have the highest process potential; uncertain practicality due to land use issues
- Citrus wood is a possible target, but aggregation logistics uncertain
- Other feedstocks studied are disadvantaged

# Status; Forward Priorities

**Challenge Area: high enzymes/ catalysts costs**

## **Current Approaches**

- engineering of process recycles; increased turnover numbers
- additives that enhance productivity and partitioning
- analytics to enable enzyme-specific improvement targets

## **Immediate Development Priority**

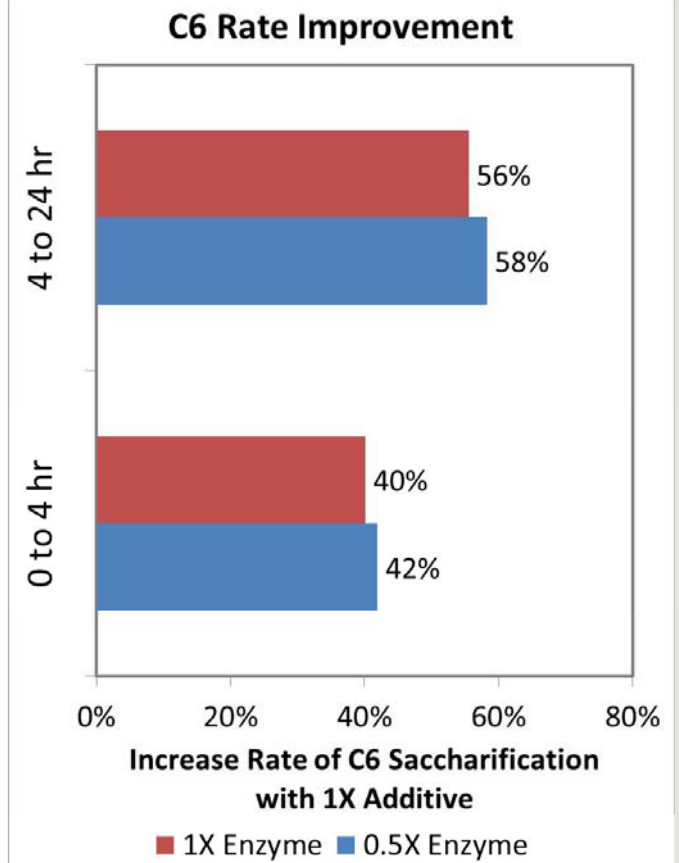
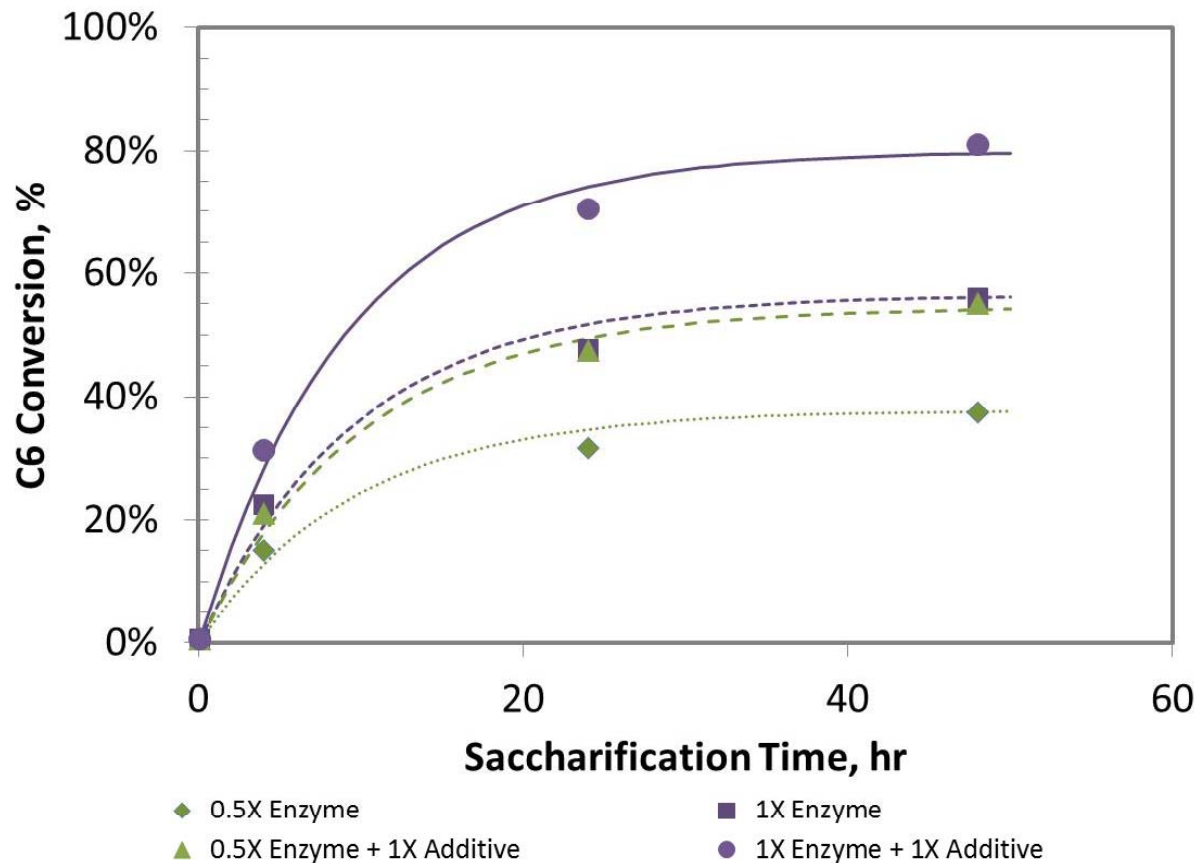
- demonstration of optimized enzyme deployment via advanced recycle strategies

## **Recommendation for CEC Involvement**

- support for analytical expertise development; fostering world-class, broadly available, enzymatic fundamentals resources

# Proprietary Additives

- Proprietary additives increase C6 conversion
- Additives recovered and recycled in Edeniq process



# Status; Forward Priorities

## Challenge Area: Conversion; process robustness

### Current Approaches

- intimate integration of pretreatment and hydrolysis; continuous processing
- advanced reactive separation engineering – capturing valuable intermediates while continuing to drive conversions

### Immediate Development Priority

- optimization of operating space: conversion, purity, throughput – vs. capital requirements

### Recommendation for CEC Involvement

- support for chemical reaction engineering expertise; extending feedstock studies to rheology (in process) studies

# Hydrolysis Process Innovations

Proprietary continuous reactor

Cooperations with major suppliers to access latest enzymes

Edeniq has developed enzyme enhancers

- Increases activity of conventional enzymes
- Allows reduction in enzyme loadings
- R&D underway to improve performance

Enzymatic cocktails and process conditions optimized for each feedstock and process

Standard operating conditions

Saccharification yield targets

- C6: 80%
- C5: 70%

Optimizing enzyme recycle



# Status; Forward Priorities

## Challenge Area: Product quality; purity

### Current Approaches

- benign preprocessing and pretreatment operations that are minimally destructive
  - ... retaining highest intermediate values
- focus on purity indices most critical to downstream processes

### Immediate Development Priority

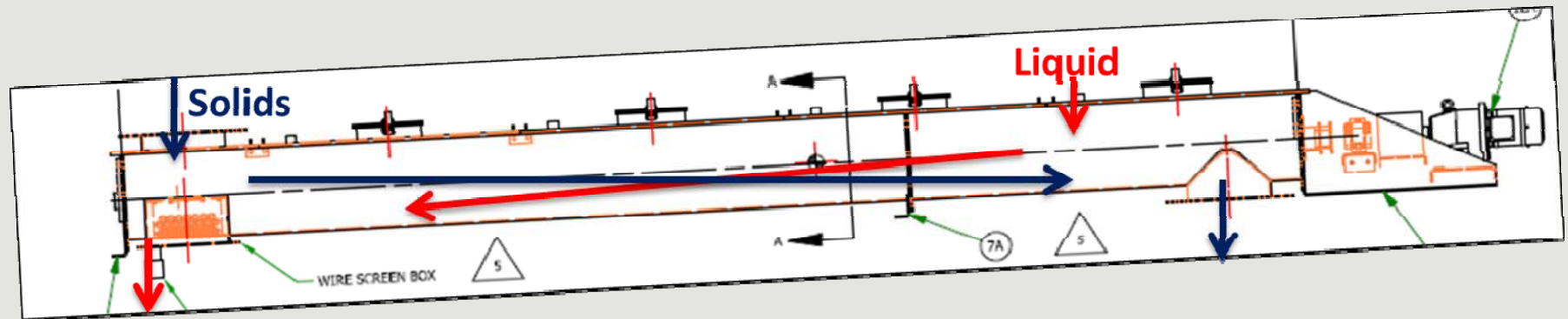
- optimized integration of all preprocessing and pretreatment unit operations
  - ... complete in-line processing

### Recommendation for CEC Involvement

- support for differentiating equipment development;  
fostering world-class process engineering expertise resources



# Hydrolysis Equipment Innovations



Tilted configuration of two-phase saccharification auger

SmartFlow TFF filter and housing assembly – in tandem with hydrolysis system operations





# Status; Forward Priorities

## Challenge Area: Feedstock controversies

### Current Approaches

- aggressive assessment of a wide range of non-food resources
- attention to holistic LCA assessments and C.I. rankings

### Immediate Development Priority

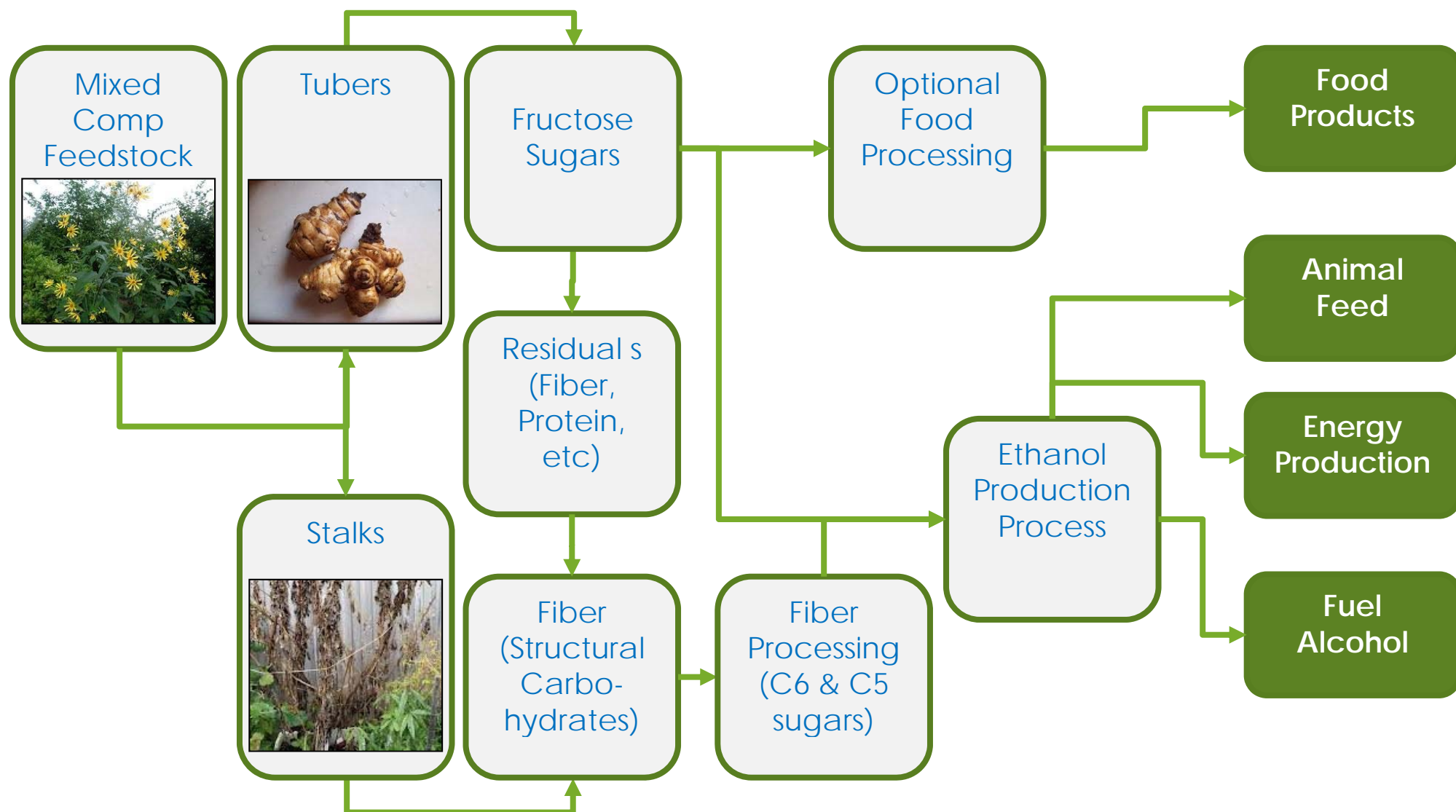
- extend “bolt-on” process configuration to a wide range of non-food, low C.I., economically-strategic feedstocks

**Recommendation for CEC Involvement** – support for step-wise technology roll-outs that will ultimately enable the most carbon-friendly scenarios; retention of expertise and focus on world-class LCA and C.I. assessment capabilities; enabling progressive feedstock acquisition partnerships that foster this expertise

# Feedstocks Tested

- **Sugar cane bagasse**
- **Corn Stover**
- **Wood chips (various types)**
- **Switchgrass**
- **Energy Cane**
- **High Biomass Sorghum**
- **With and without pelletization**

# Bolt-On Extension Example



# Cellulosic Technology Features

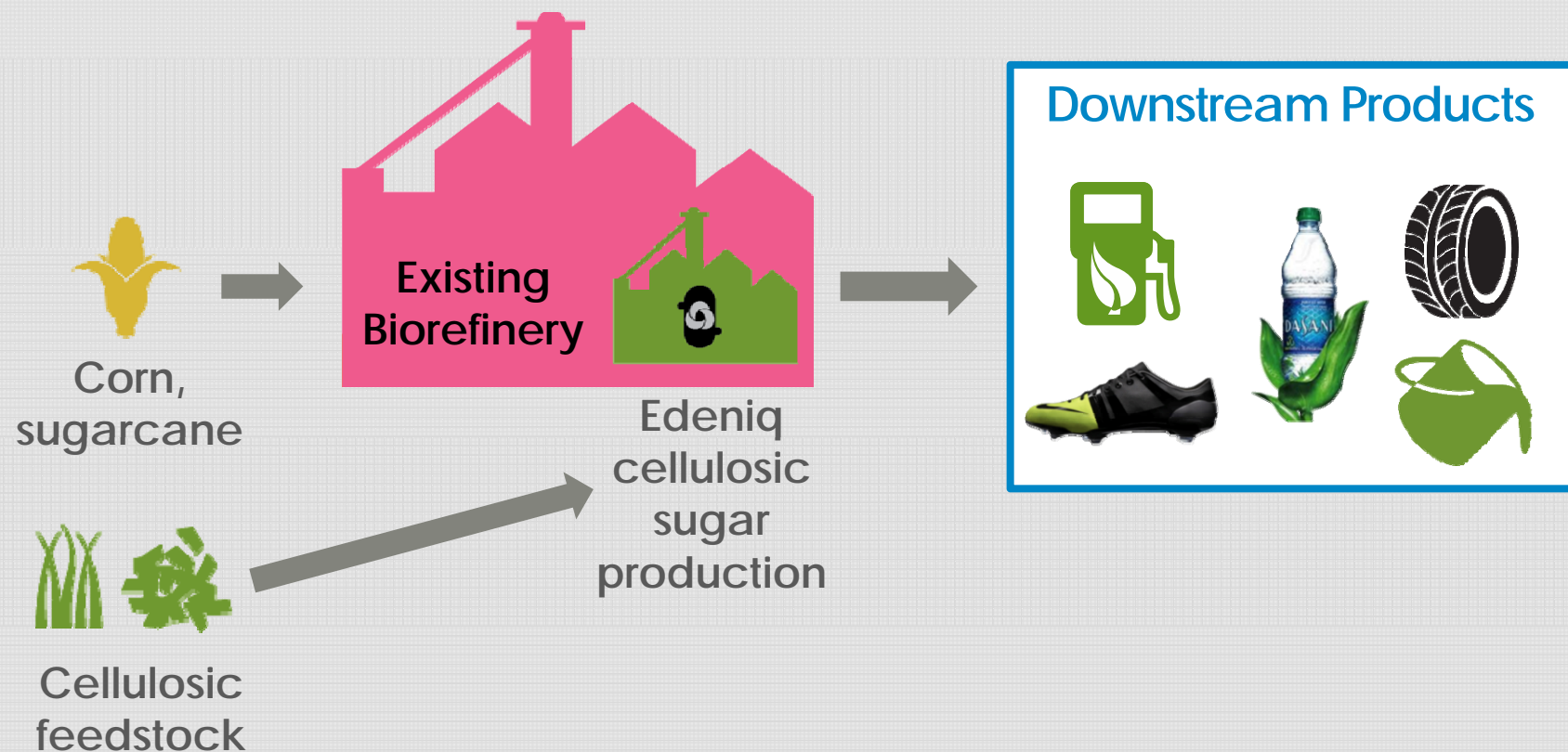
## Edeniq's Bolt-On Cellulosics Process Incorporates Innovative Technology

- **Fully continuous** pre-treatment and saccharification
- **Cellunator™** - and additional shear/ pretreatment elements
- Process to increase enzyme efficiency, **reduce enzyme costs**
- **SmartFlow** solid-liquid separation to produce solids-free sugars solution (exclusive license)
- **Leverage existing** fermentation, distillation capacities

# Visalia pilot plant **successes**

- DOE-funded CCM plant **operational since March 2012** – up to 2 tpd
  - Pretreatment **optimization to maximize conversions** in practical timescales
    - C<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>5</sub> saccharification ~75% maintained over extended periods
    - C<sub>6</sub> fermentation conversion >90% in <30 hrs
  - Integrated process **water recovery and recycle fully operational**
  - Simultaneous saccharification and fermentation feasibility proven
  - **1500-hour DOE Performance Test** successfully completed – corn stover
  - DOE targets of >1000 hrs; >90% up-time: **reached and exceeded**
- Operational parameters and baseline design kinetics established for scale-up to continuous processing and bagasse demonstrations
  - Facility transitioned for validation of bolt-on commercial applications

# Edeniq's bolt-on technology: Integrating cellulosic sugars into existing biorefineries



# Summary

## Key Challenges Identified; Ongoing Support is Critical

- ✓ **Costs: Capital; Feedstock; Enzymes/ Catalysts**
- ✓ **Process Technology Limitations**
- ✓ **Feedstock Controversies**
- ? **Investment Readiness Cycles**

**Support from the CEC – specifically via the ARFVTP – has been instrumental in forwarding these critical development programs.**

Ongoing support is requested and recommended:

- establishment of **sustained core competencies**
- facilitation of **critical partnerships in the value chain**
- attacking identified **toughest technical issues** head-on
- continued emphasis on **holistic LCA evaluations**

# Solution: Renewable fuel. Sugar is the new oil.

## Oil Reserves



## Biomass and Agriculture



Renewable and Secure





# Unlocking the Sugar Conversion Process

Mechanical  
Processes

Technologies for Producing  
Lower Cost, High Purity Sugar

Biological  
Processes



Enable Biorefineries to Become  
More Profitable and More Competitive