

# Mikro- ja nanokuituja ruoantuotannon sivuvirroista

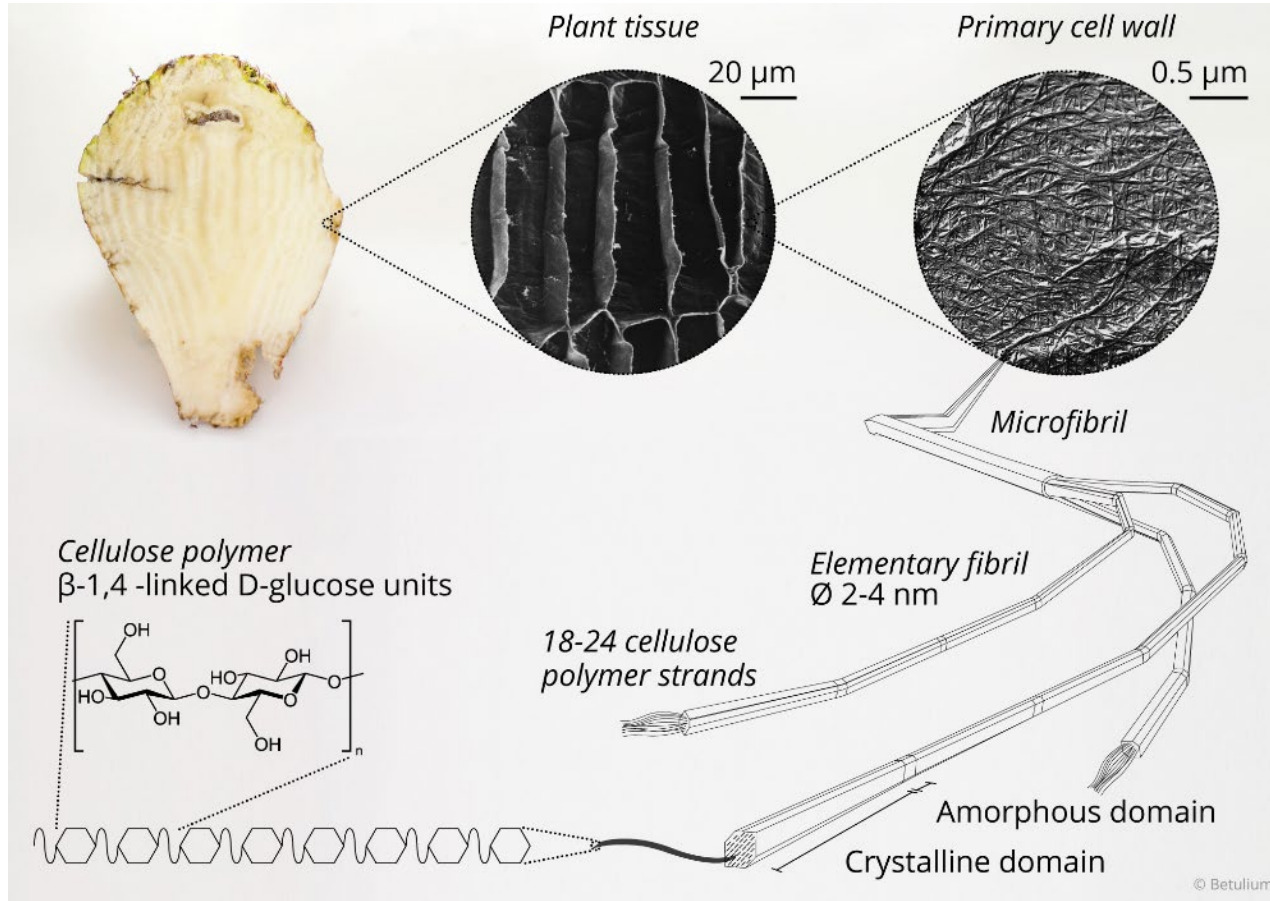
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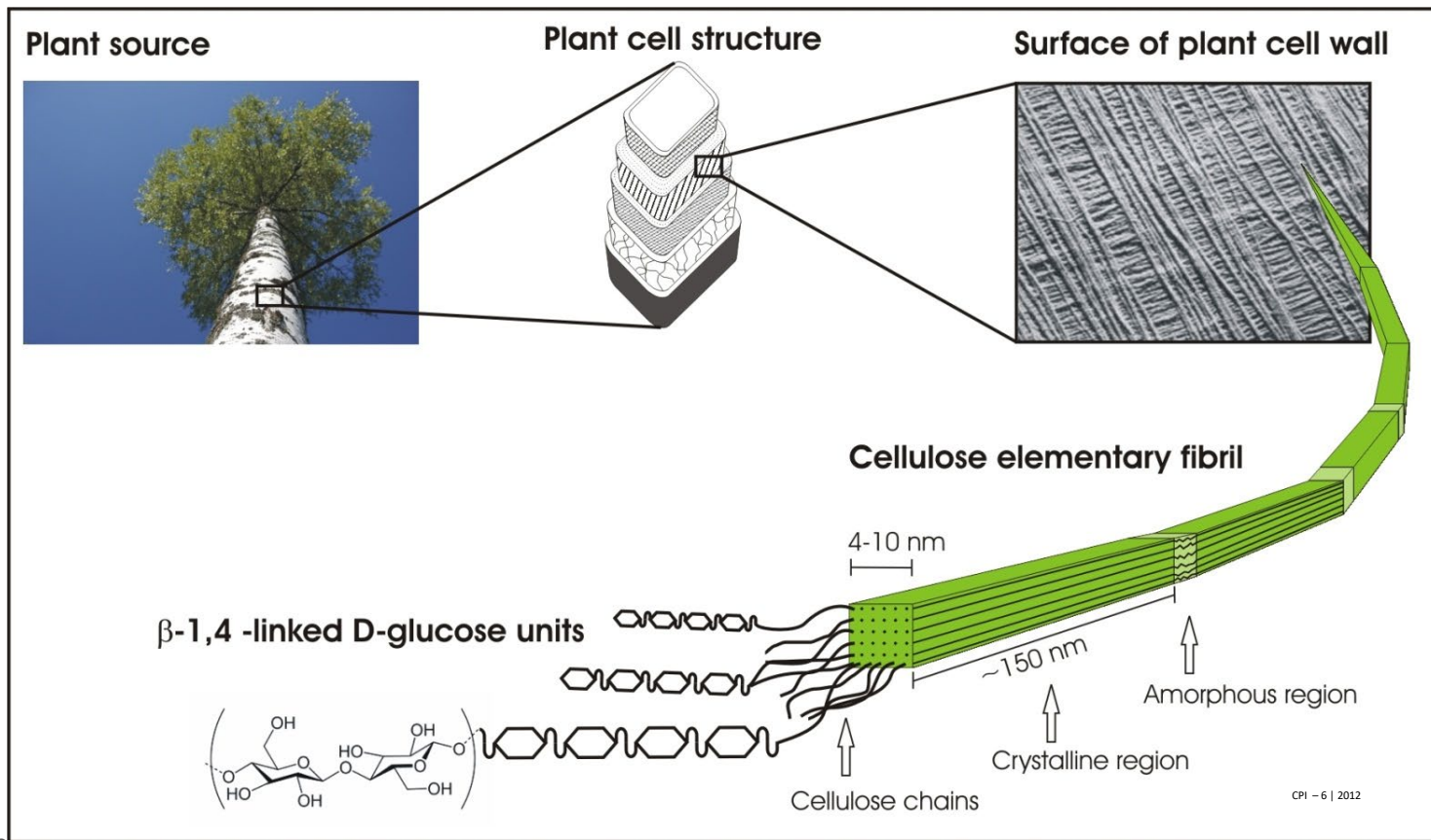
12.2.2025

Farkos Seminar

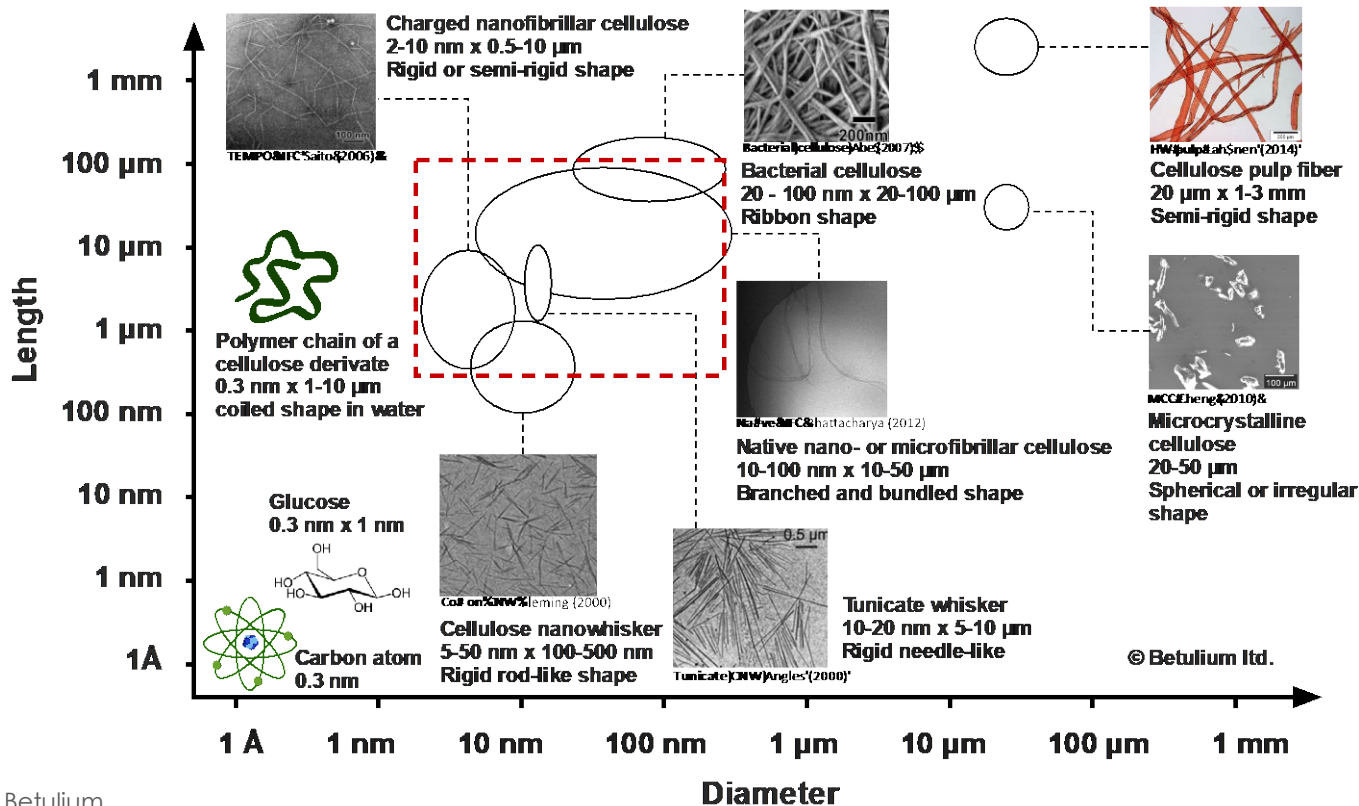
# Nanofibers from vegetables



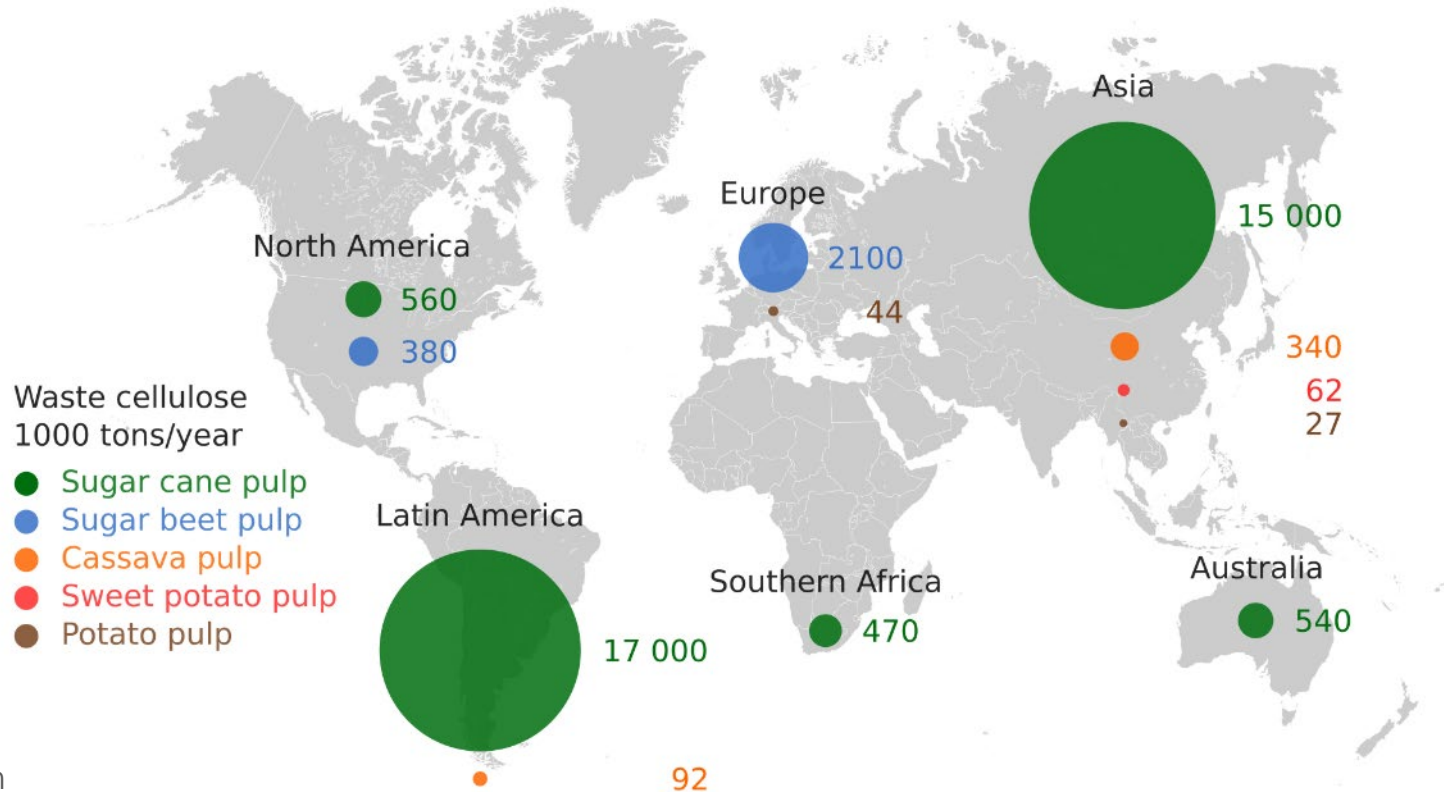
# Nanofibers from wood



# World of Cellulosics



# Non-wood cellulose



# Production of sugar beet based MFC

**Betulum built the first commercial production line in Säkyä, Finland 2019**

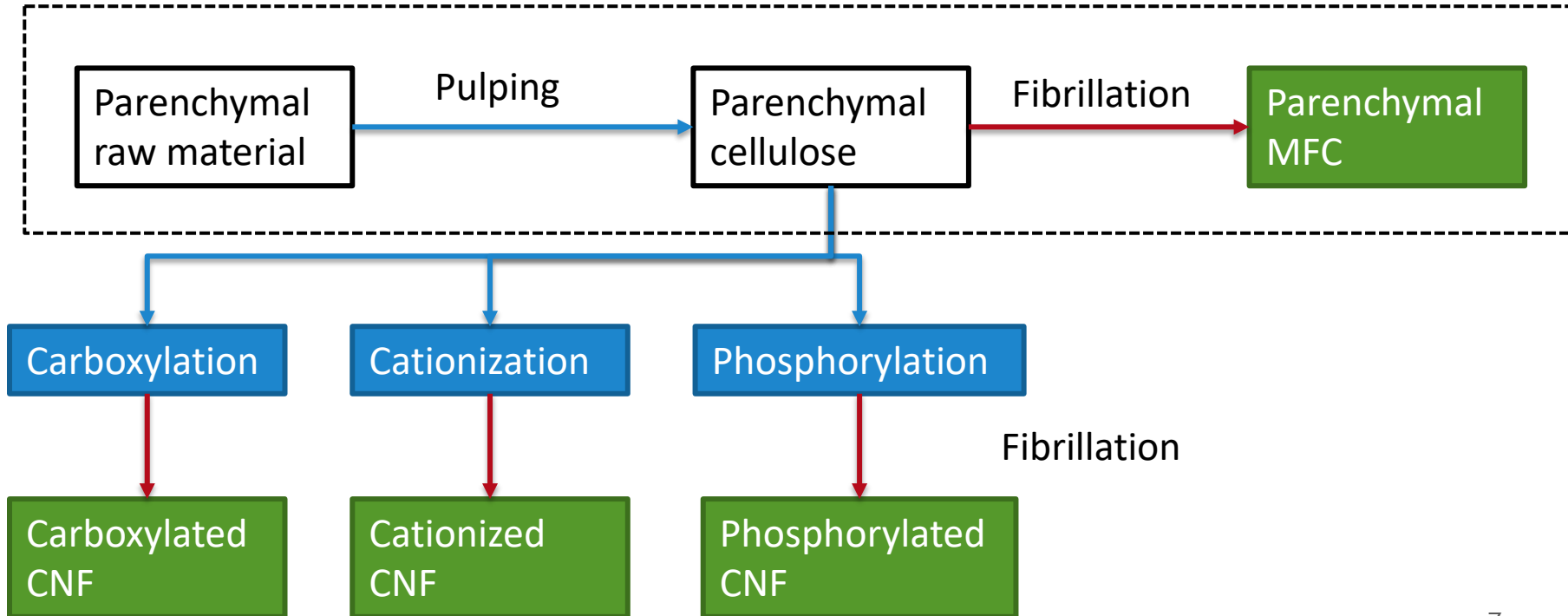
- Utilizes sugar beet pulp – located beside a sugar factory
- Produces several MFC product types
  - Liquid, wet granulate, or dry products
  - Can be packed in IBC's, bulk, or big bags

**Capacity is dependent on product type**

- Certain grades are being produced in commercial quantities and others are still in demonstration stage

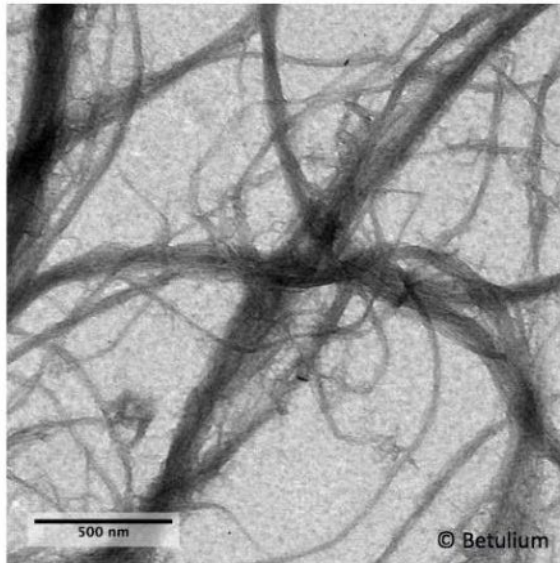


# Production schema



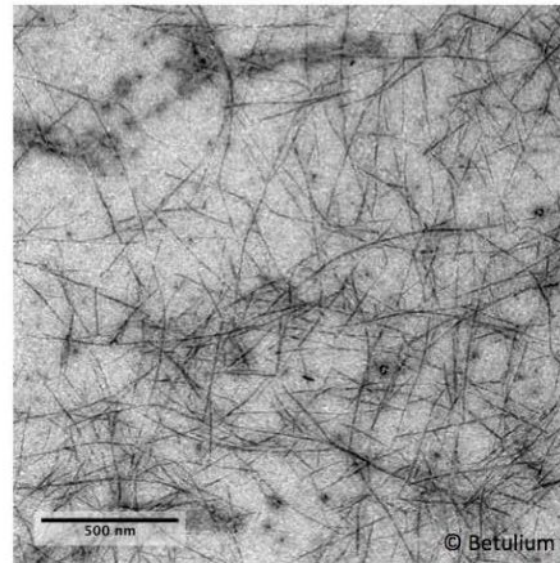
# Microfibrillated cellulose and cellulose nanofibers from sugar beet

Native types



Expanded network of cellulose microfibrils. Scale bar 500 nm

Derivatized types



Individually dispersed elementary fibrils. Scale bar 500 nm



# Examples of different product forms

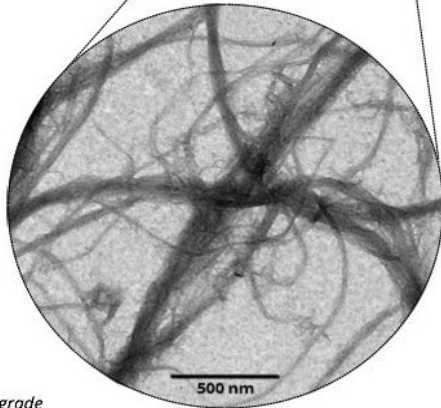


*Dry pellet (non-bleached)*

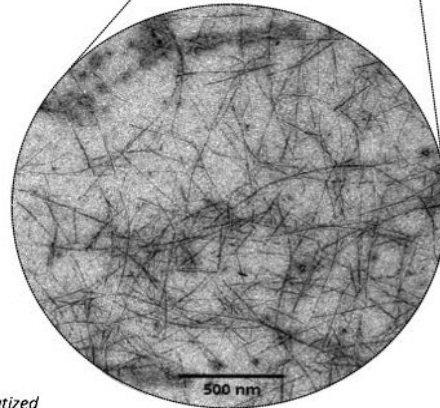
*Granular (non-bleached)*

*Paste (bleached)*

*Hydrogel (derivatized)*



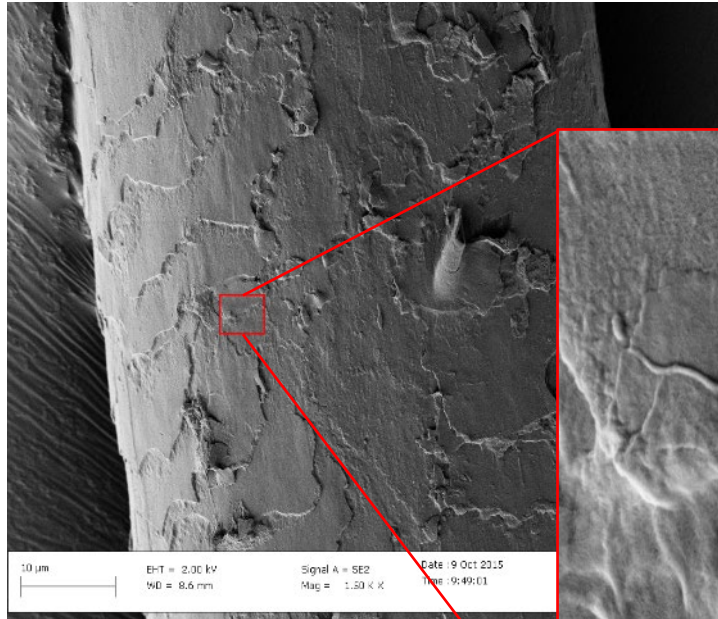
*Native grade*



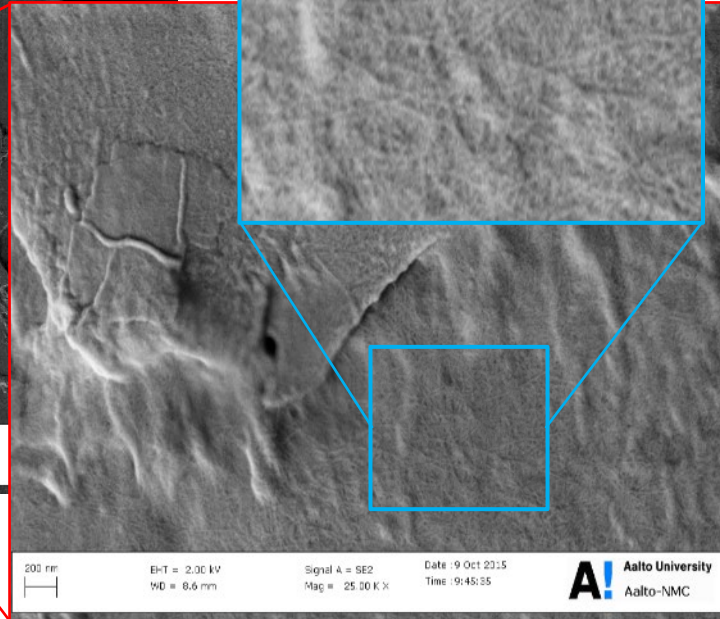
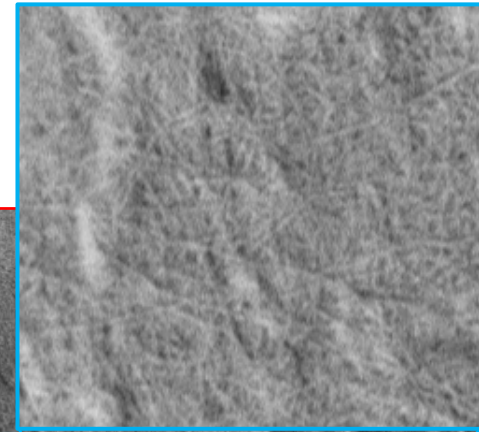
*Derivatized*

# How small is it?

Diameter of a single hair is 50–100  $\mu\text{m}$



Diameter of a single cellulose nanofibrils is 4 nm



# Main functions

**Two separate properties, and products, to be commercialized**

## **(1) MFC as a binder**

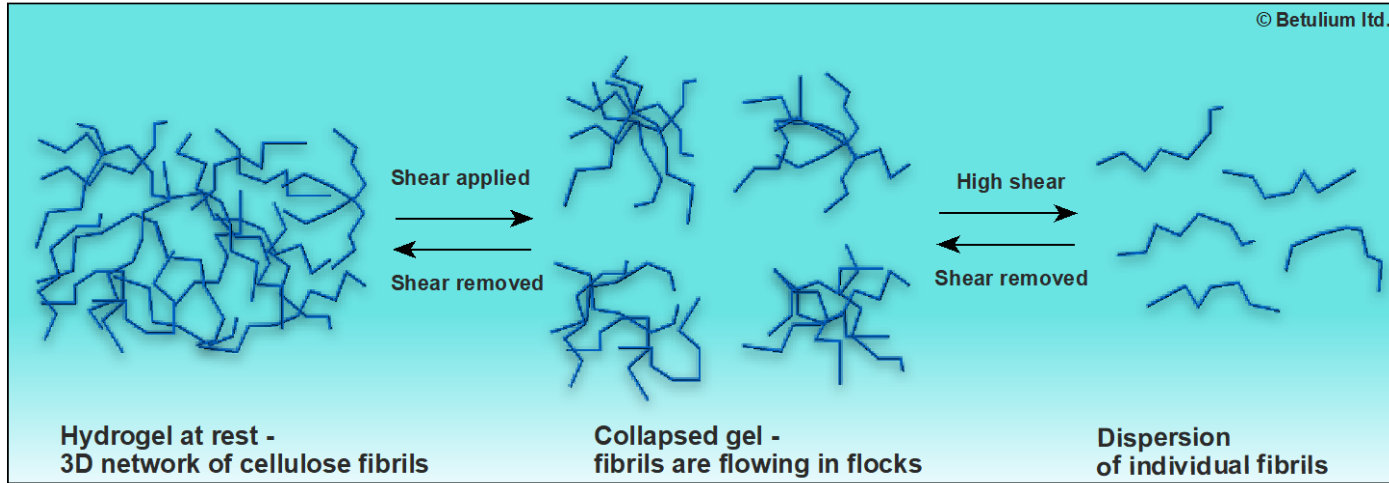
- High surface area, 100 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Strong, stiff, and impermeable material
- Very good binder

## **(2) MFC as a rheology modifier**

- Gel former, stabilizer, rheology modifier



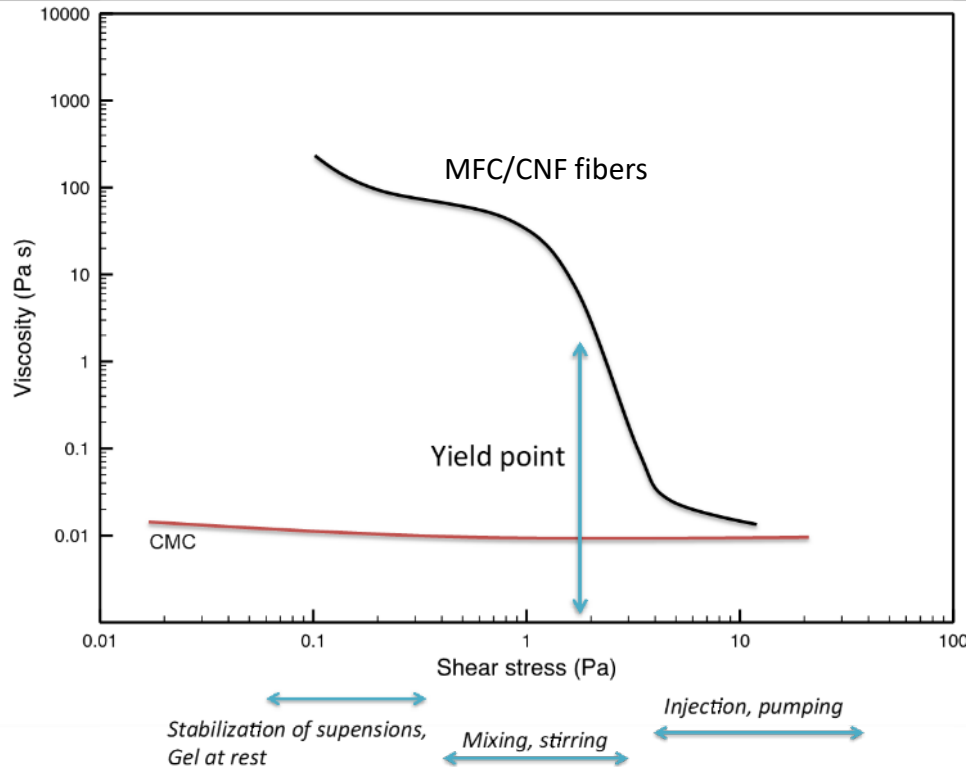
# Nanocellulose in water



Gel structure is formed by interlocked cellulose fibrils or fibril bundles

- No thermal melting, like in xanthan
- No changes in conformation at harsh conditions
- Decomposition rate is slow due to fibrillar structure, i.e. each structural element is made of several polymer chains

# Flow behavior of MFC/CNF



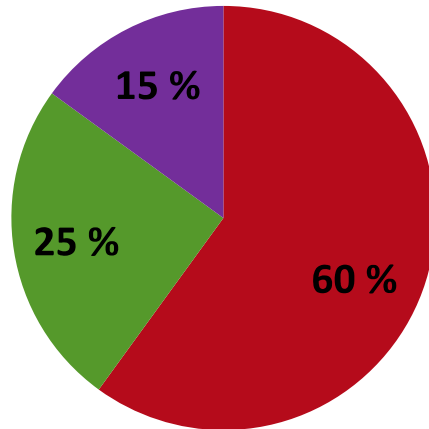
High yield stress is needed to stabilize suspensions...



... and allow spreading or injection

# Global market for water soluble polymers

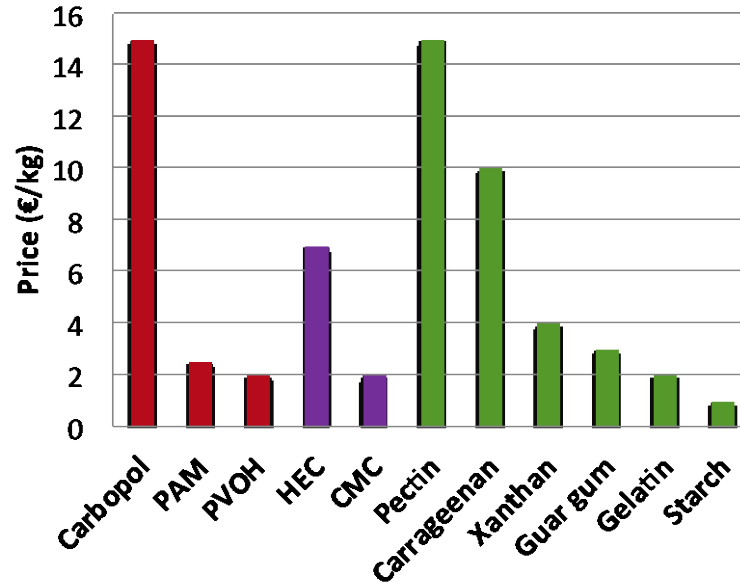
40 B\$ Market



■ Synthetic   ■ Natural   ■ semisynthetic

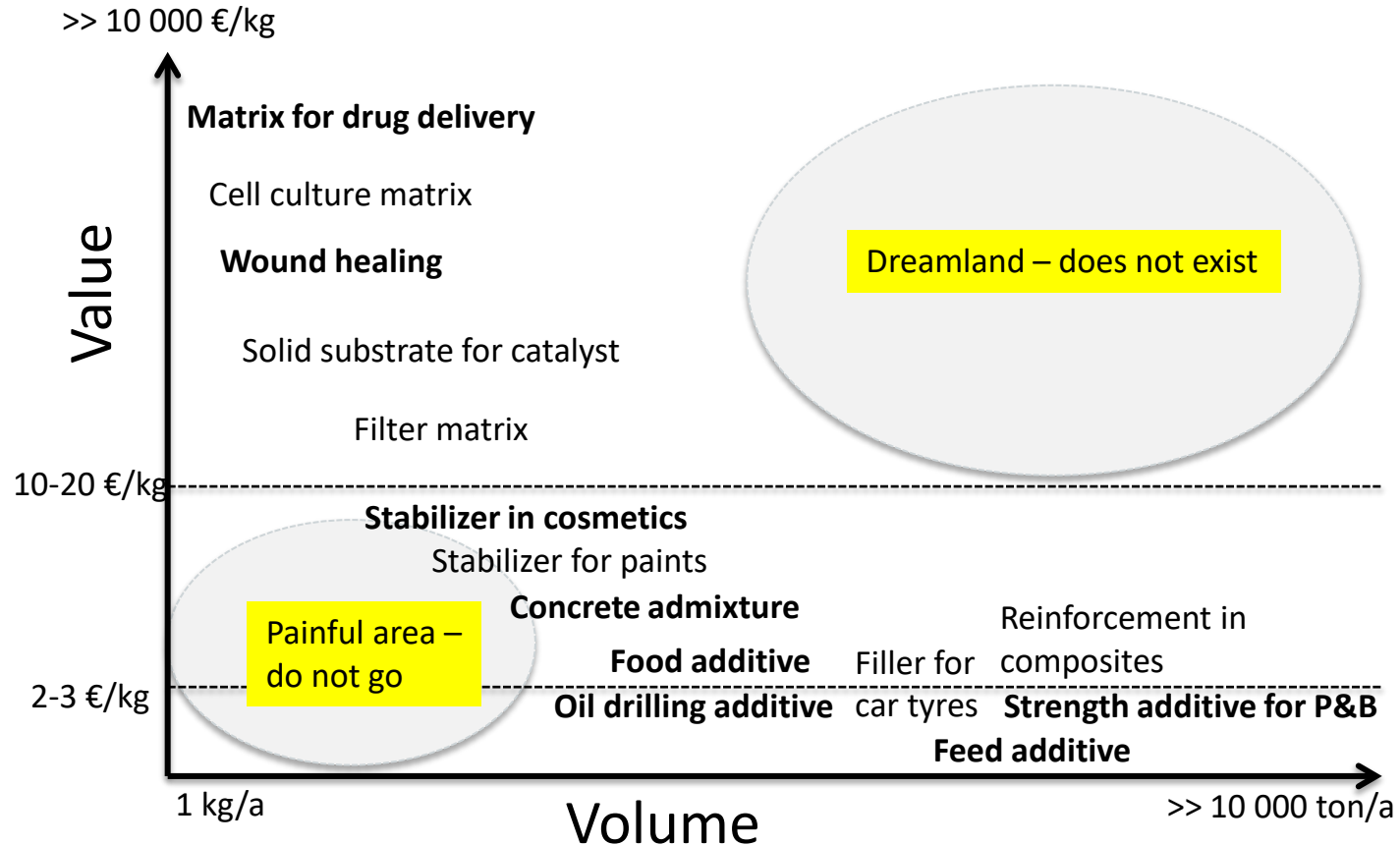
- Binders, flocculants, gelants, thickeners, stabilizers,...
- **9.0 million ton by 2019**
- **\$ 40 Billion by 2019**

# Global market for water soluble polymers



Depending on the cost, nanocellulose has a remarkable potential to replace existing products

# Applications for nanocellulosics



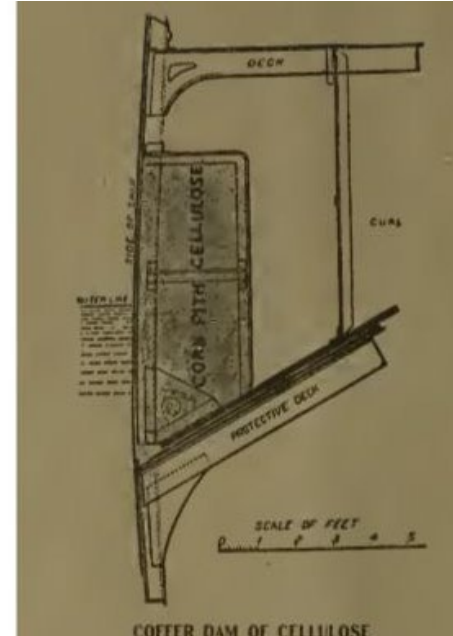


# Nanocellulose aerogels in battleships

– US Navy 1895



Herbert Myric, *A Revolution in Agriculture*,  
Library of Congress



...If a shell from enemy pierces the side of a ship  
below water line, the cellulose will swell up  
quickly that no water will get in to the ship... 17