

# **Project "Dioxins : contamination and biodegradation"**

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## **Introduction**

### ✓ **Aims**

- Deepen the knowledge on dioxins degradation in grounds
- Find a "soft" cleanup technique for dioxins contaminated grounds

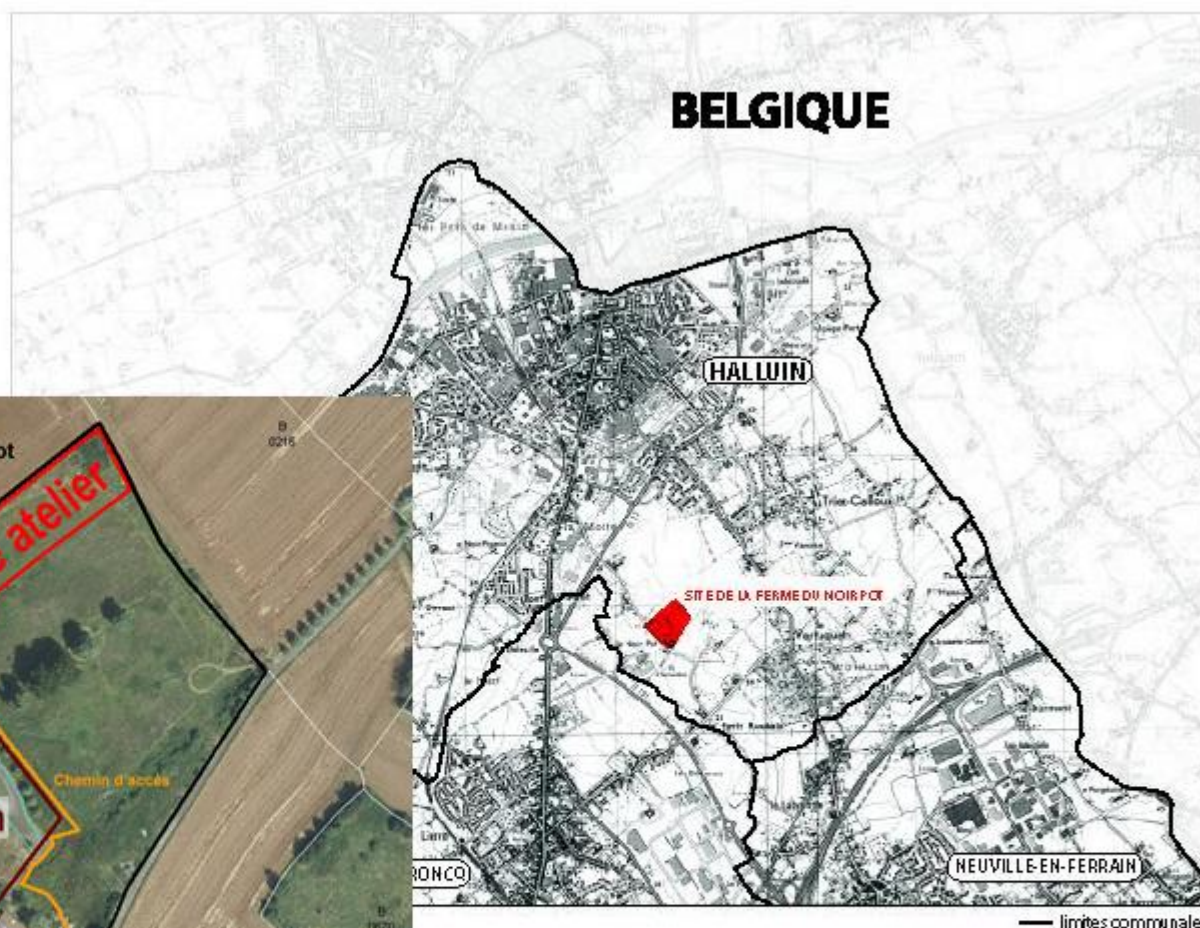
### ✓ **Stakes**

- Find natural spaces and/or quality agriculture
- Intend to produce in short circuit (truck farming, breeding) on Halluin
- Be able to "transpose" the cleanup technique into other contaminated zones





### ✓ **Approach**

- Use the degradation potential of the indigenous fungal biodiversity
- Experiments in laboratory and *in situ* – access to an experiment ground (3500 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Three parts :
  - Evaluation of the dioxins contamination of vegetables
  - Development of biocompatible methods of remediation of dioxins polluted soils coupling an advanced chemical oxidation process to biodegradation by soil saprotrophic fungi
  - Role of arbuscular mycorrhizae in the phytoremediation of dioxins/furans soils





# Partners

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# Part 1. Development of biocompatible methods of remediation of dioxins polluted soils, coupling an advanced chemical oxidation process to biodegradation by soil saprotrophic fungi

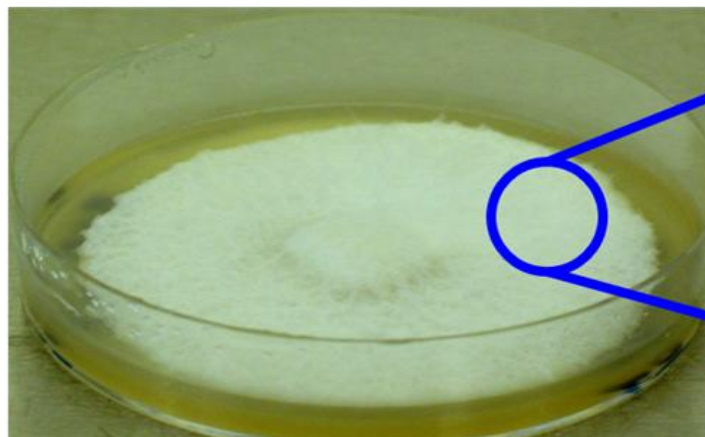
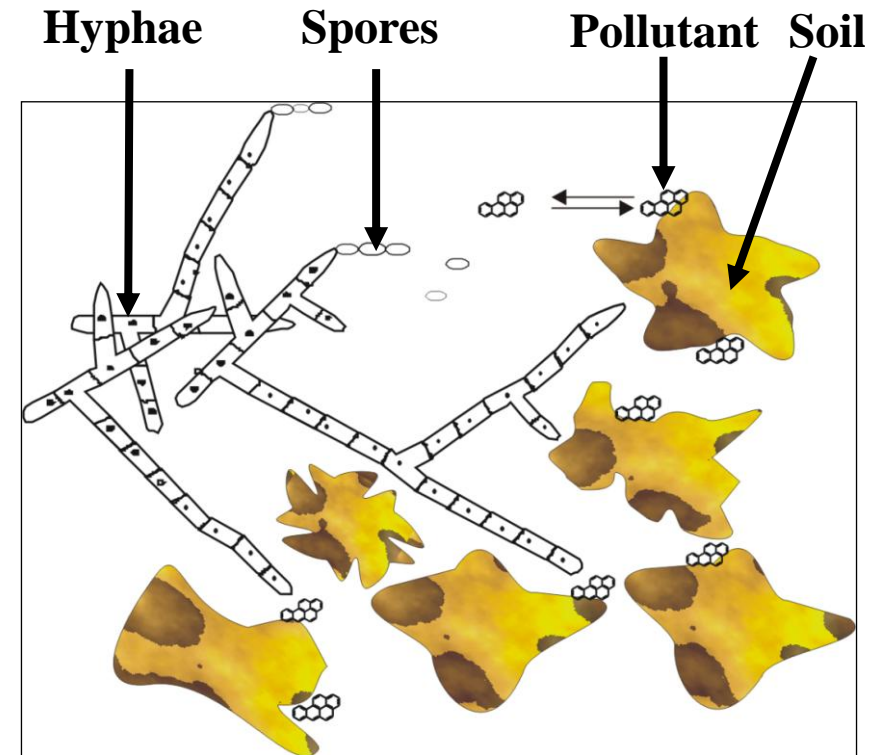
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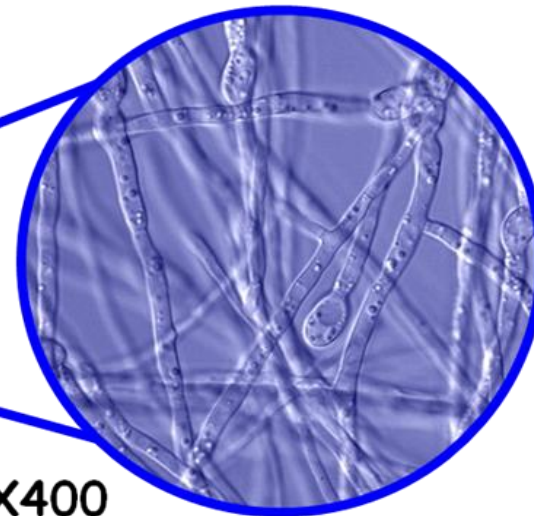
# Saprotrophic telluric fungi

- ✓ Eukaryotes
- ✓ Ubiquitous in terrestrial ecosystems
- ✓ Filamentous branching growth habit
- ✓ Chemoheterotrophic metabolism
- ✓ Reproduction: sexual and/or asexual (spores)
- ✓ Diversity of fungal communities: free-living, symbiotic, pathogens
- ✓ Interactions with other partners (bacteria, plants, fauna...)

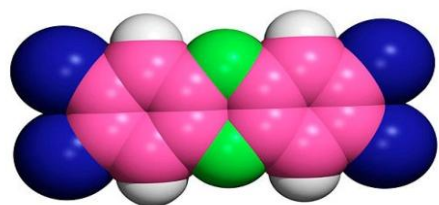


*Fusarium solani*

G X400



Transfert



Persistent Organic  
Pollutants POPs :  
Dioxins, PAHs

Modified  
Starch

- more soluble
- used as reactive matrix



Soil saprotrophic fungi

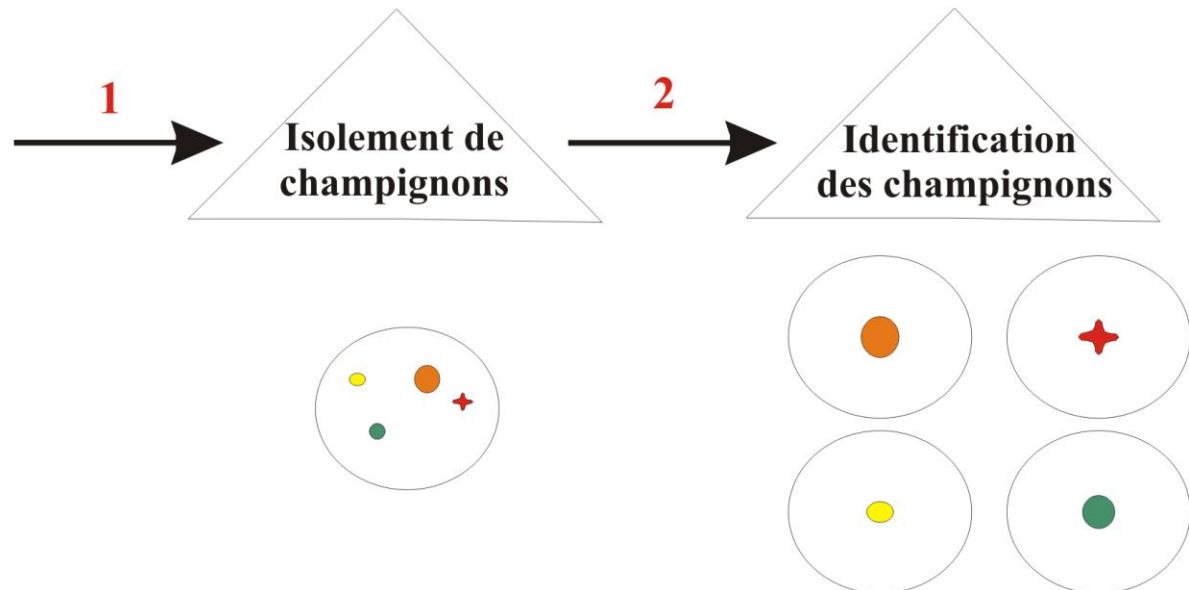
Chemical oxidation

Biological oxidation

# Isolation of saprotrophic fungi from polluted soil samples



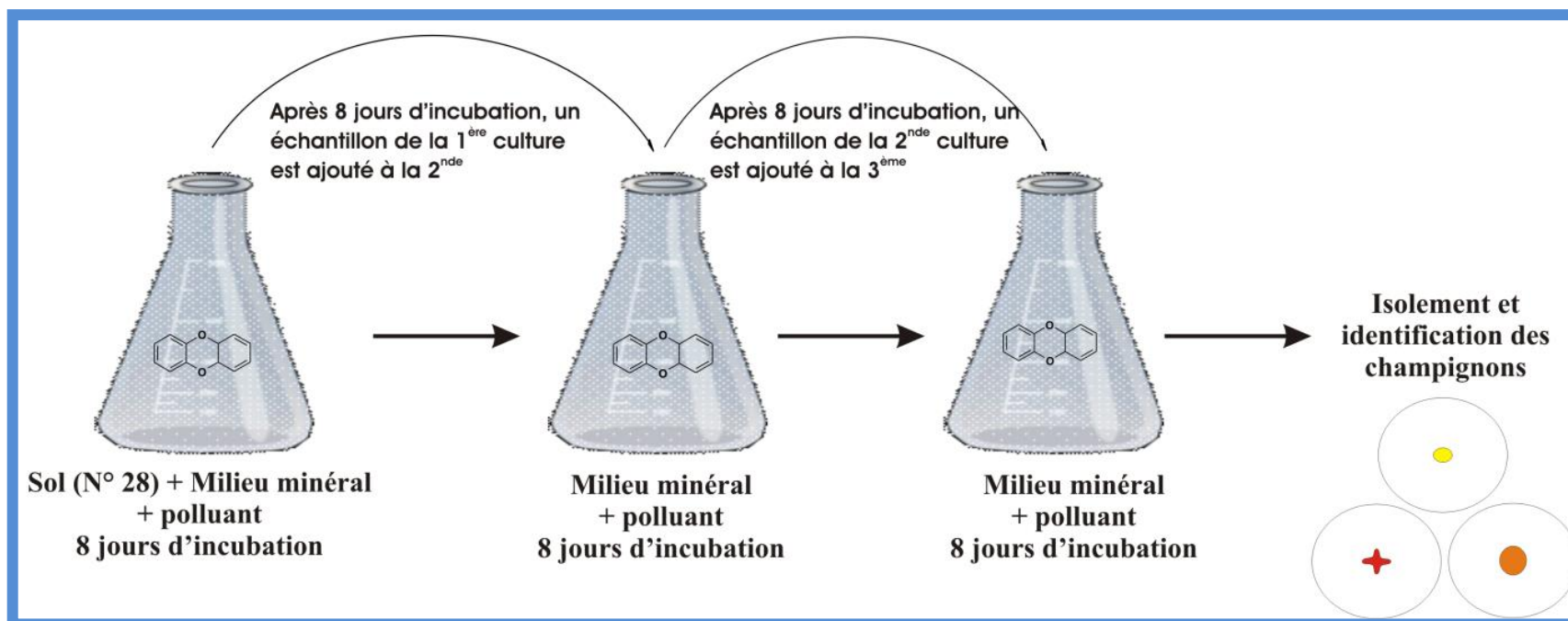
Echantillons de sols pollués

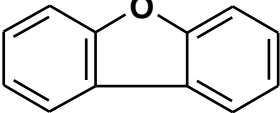
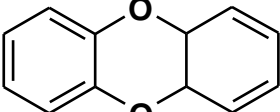


Saprotrophic fungi isolated from dioxins polluted soil (300 ng/kg soil)	Quantitative	Qualitative
	9 10 <sup>3</sup> CFU per gram of soil	9 isolates



# Soil enrichment method with dibenzodioxin



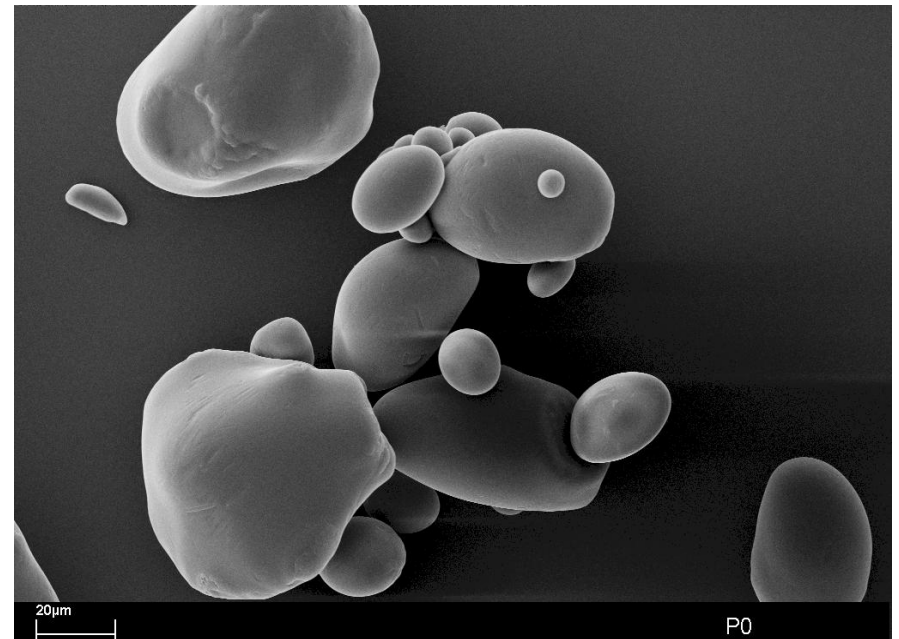
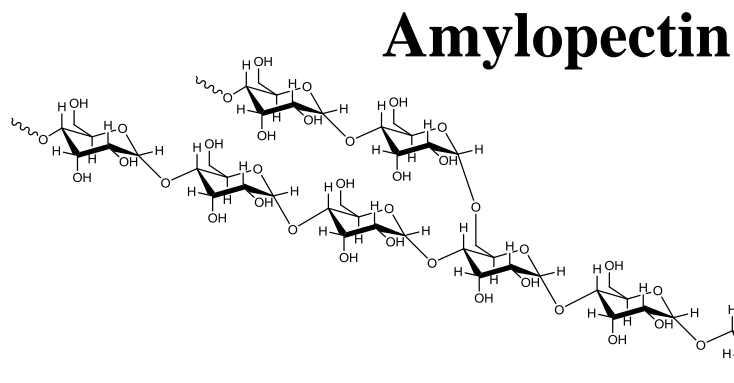
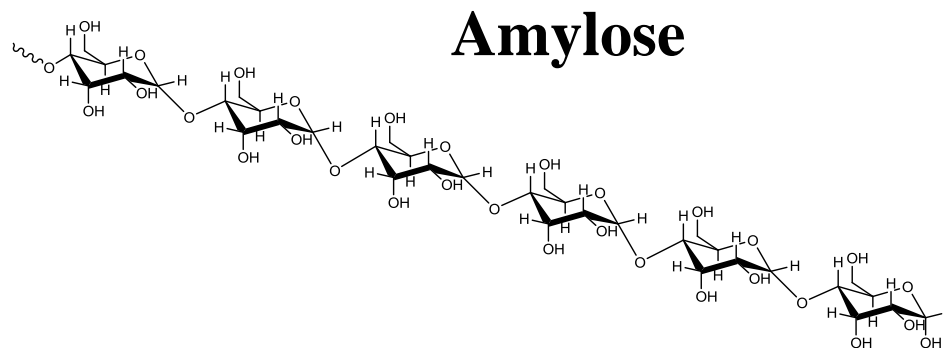
Dioxins polluted soil (300 ng/kg soil) enriched with	Fungal growth in presence of	Fungal diversity
	Dibenzofuran (4,6 g/l) 	1 isolate
	Dibenzodioxin (5,1 g/l) 	3 isolates

# Starch structure

Carbohydrate consisting of a large number of D-glucose units joined by glycosidic bonds.

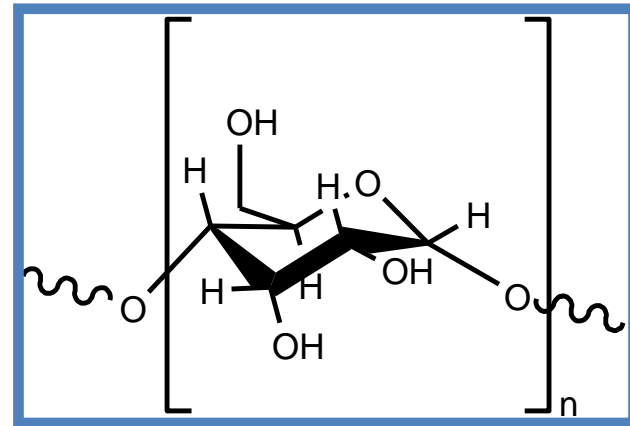
Two types of molecules:

- ✓ the linear and helical amylose
- ✓ the branched amylopectin



## Starch advantages

- ✓ **Abundant**
- ✓ **Renewable**
- ✓ **Costless**
- ✓ **Biodegradable**
- ✓ **High chemical reactivity**



**Anhydroglucose unit  
of starch**

## Synthesis of modified starches

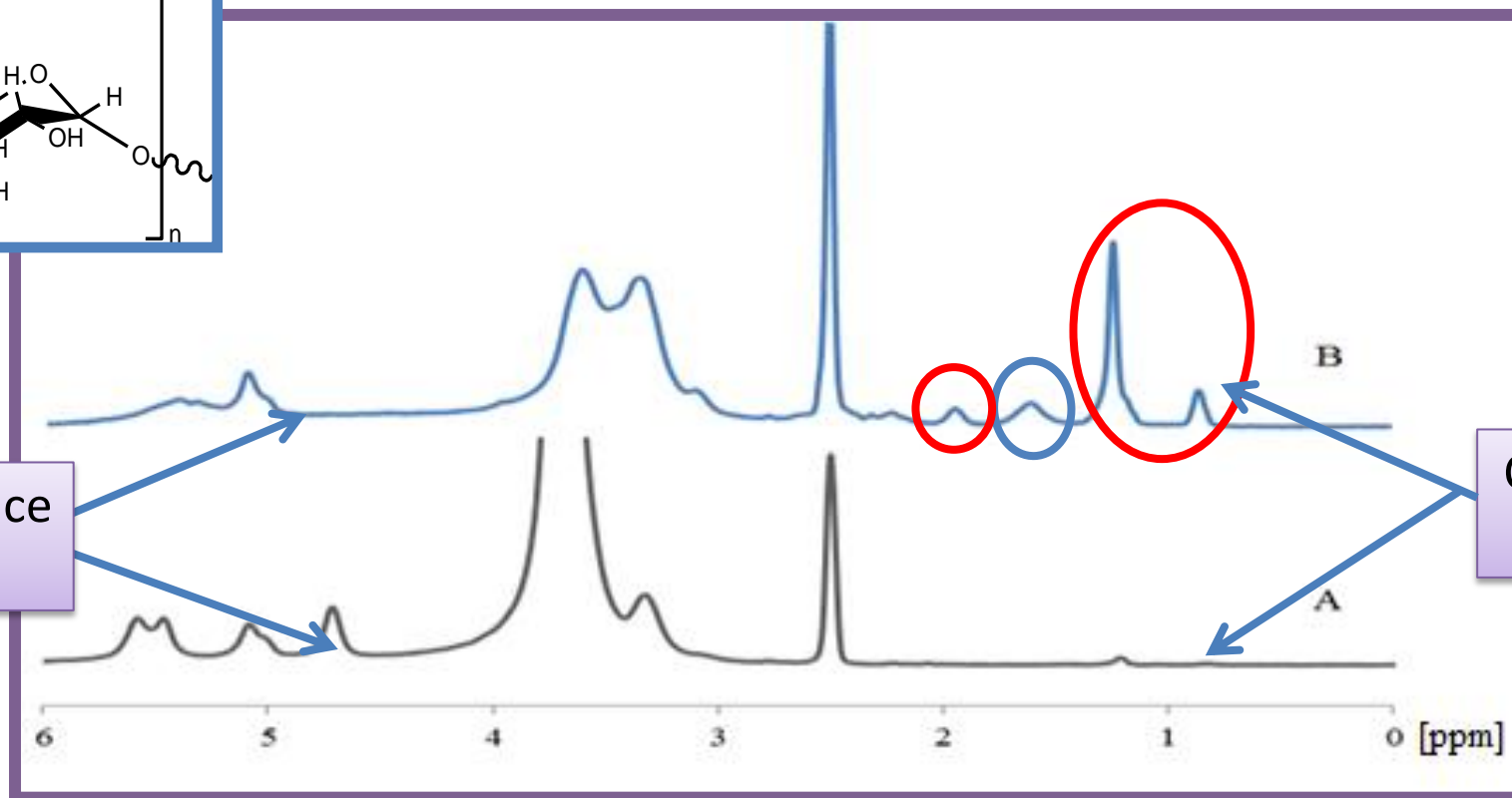
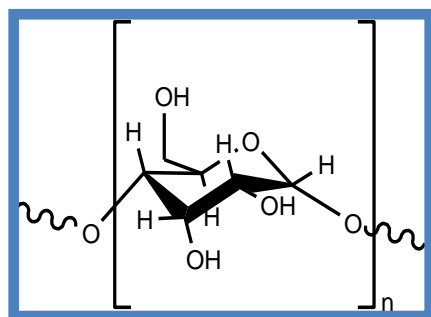
**Modification of native starches by adding alkyl groups**

- **Chemical structures characterization of the obtained products by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and infrared spectroscopy**
- **To enhance POPs solubility**
- **To enhance water solubility of starch (0,35 g/L)**



# Results

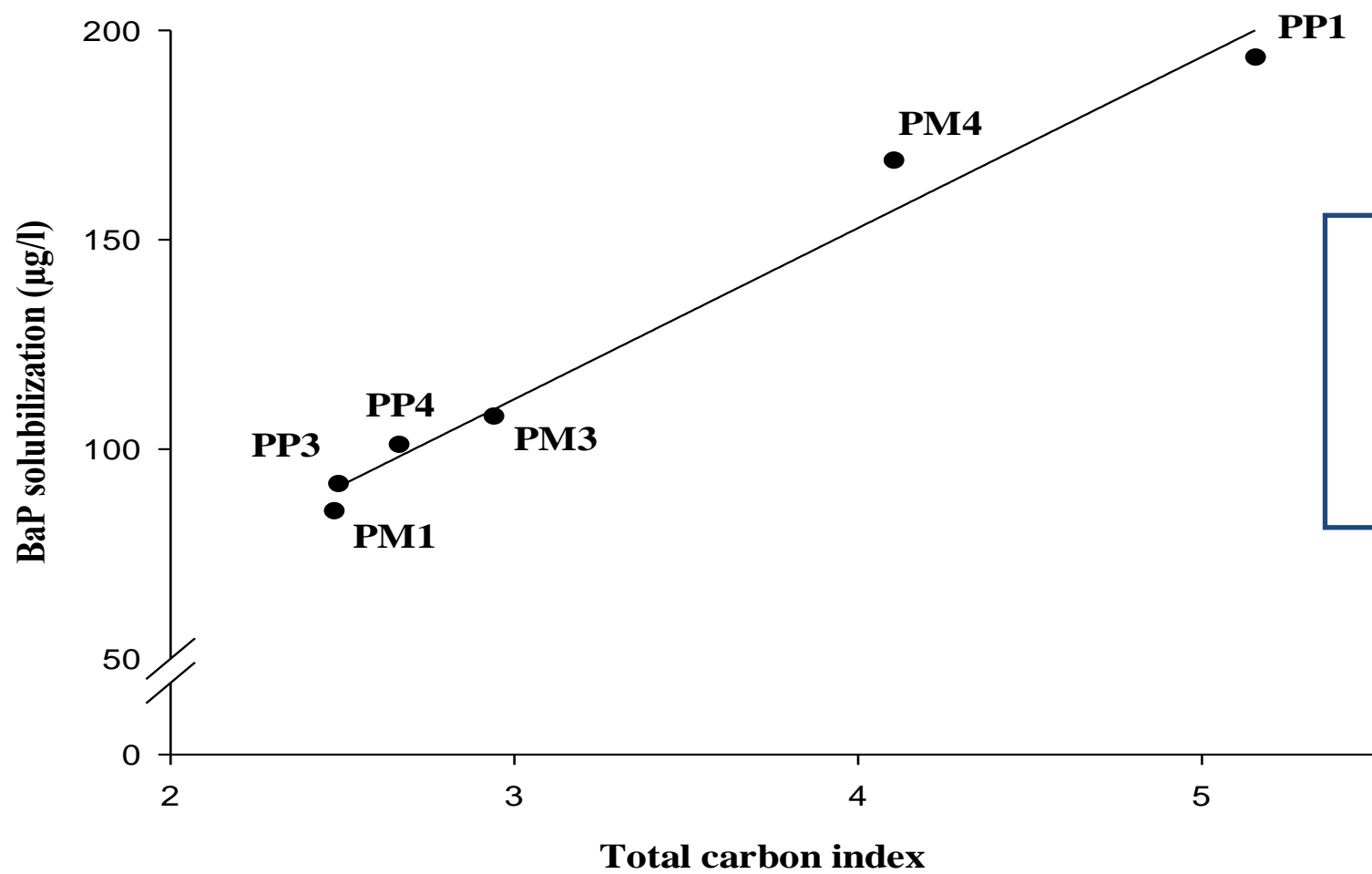
$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of native gelatinized maize starch (A) and of bialkylated maize starch (B)



Characteristic peaks

MS (the average number of substituents per mole of OH-AGU) and carbon index calculation

# Results



## Conclusion et perspectives

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- ✓ Exploration of the **saprotrophic telluric fungi biodiversity**
- ✓ Obtention of a right balance between hydrophobic character of starch derivatives and starch aqueous solubility for **enhancing dioxins solubility and bioavailability**
- ✓ **Developing an innovative method of dioxins degradation** by coupling, simultaneously or sequentially, chemical oxidation (i.e. Fenton reaction) to biological oxidation process by fungi



**Such a method could accelerate degradation processes while preserving as much as possible the integrity of the structure and functions of the soil**



## Part 2. Role of arbuscular mycorrhizae in the phytoremediation of dioxins/furans soils

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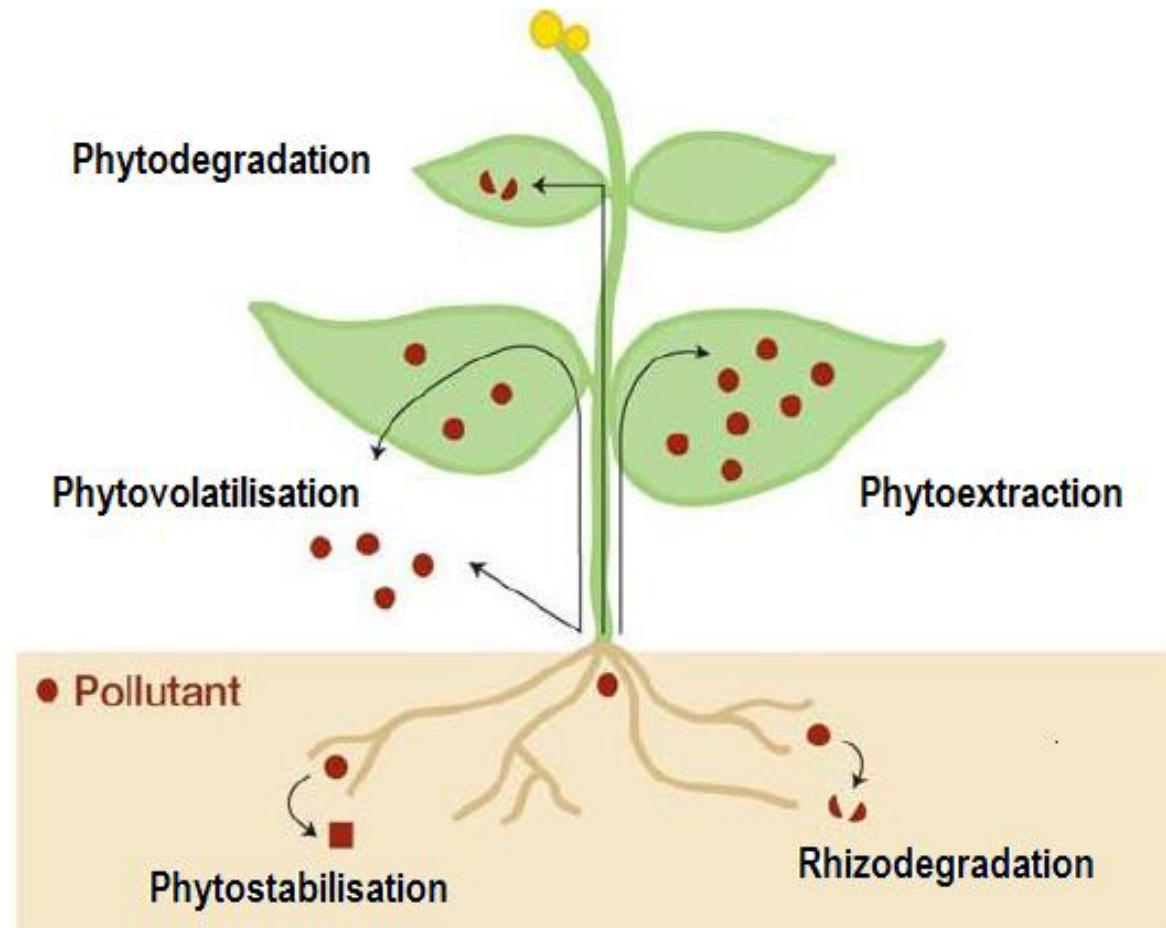
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**The phytoremediation : Use of the natural abilities of plants and their associated microbiota to eliminate, contain or render less toxic environmental contaminants.**

Degradation or transformation of organic pollutants by plants.

## Advantages :

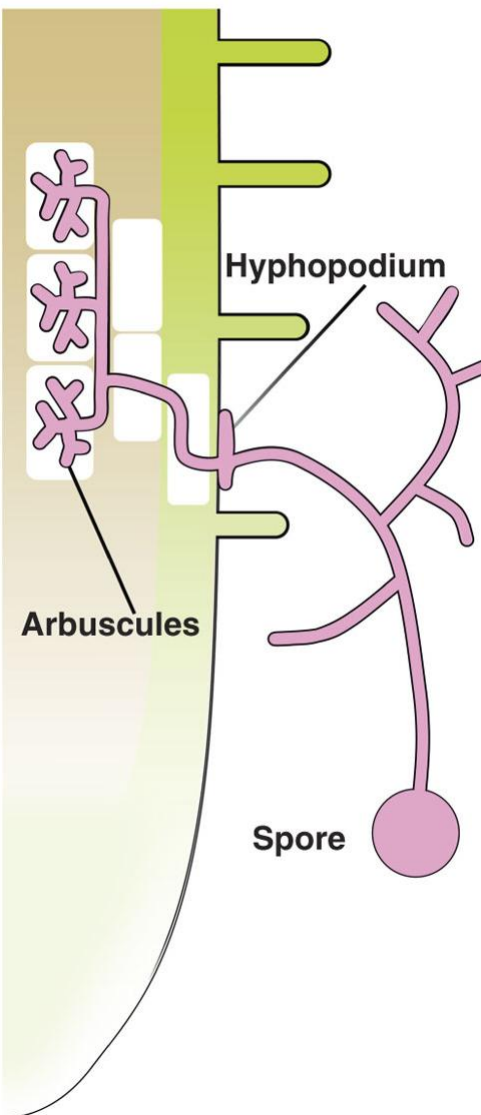
- Low cost when compared to other more conventional methods
  - Ecological
- Suitable for large surfaces
- Well adapted to soils with low pollutant levels
  - Easy to implement
  - High public acceptance



Degradation or transformation of organic pollutants by microorganisms.

# AMF assisted phytoremediation :

## Arbuscular mycorrhiza



## Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) benefits:

- Improve plant growth
  - Increase the plant tolerance to environmental stresses
  - Enhance pollutant dissipation
- (Affect physico-chemical proprieties of the rhizosphere and stimulate telluric microbial degrading activities)



## Mycorrhizal plants enhance dissipation of organic pollutants

Organic pollutants	Mycorrhizal plants	Degradation rates	Experiment duration	References
PAH	Clover, Ryegrass	42-66 %	16 weeks	Joner et al., 2001
	Alfalfa	57-86 %	13 weeks	Liu et al., 2004
	Leek	43-88 %	12 weeks	Liu and Dalpé, 2004
	Clover, Ryegrass	33-65 %	4 weeks	Chiapusio et al., 2007
	Alfalfa	88-98 %	10 weeks	Gao et al., 2011
PCB	Alfalfa	12 %	16 weeks	Teng et al., 2010
Dioxins/Furans	No studies available			

## AIMS OF OUR PROJECT :

To Study the arbuscular mycorrhizae role in the phytoremediation of dioxins/furans polluted soils

I

To establish an inventory of the mycorrhization on the experimental plot

*in situ* experiment

II

To study the impact of dioxins/furans on the development of both symbiotic partners

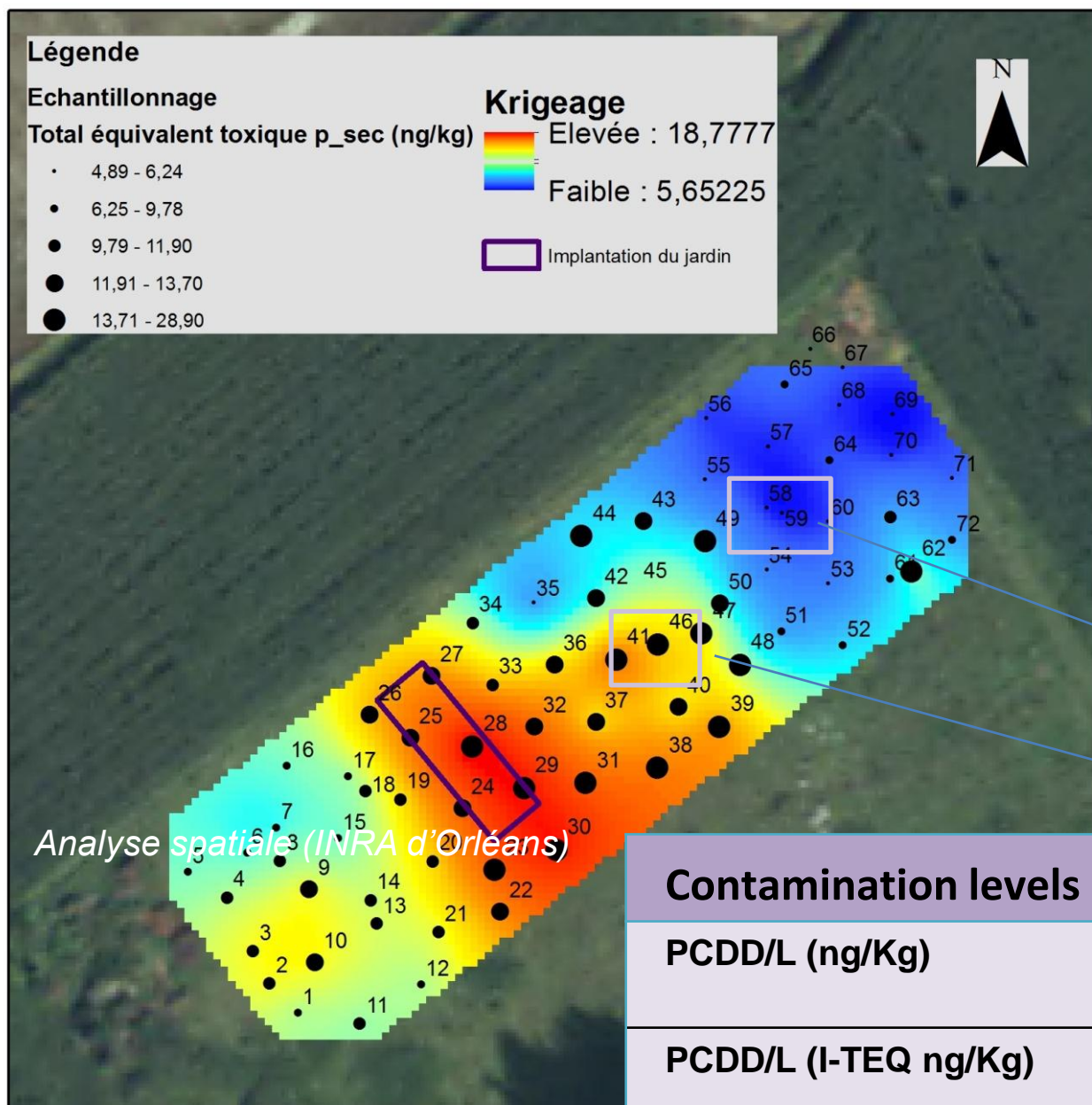
*in vitro* experiment

III

To study dioxins/furans dissipation potential of the mycorrhizal symbiosis

Pot experiment

## Experimental site: Two sampling areas

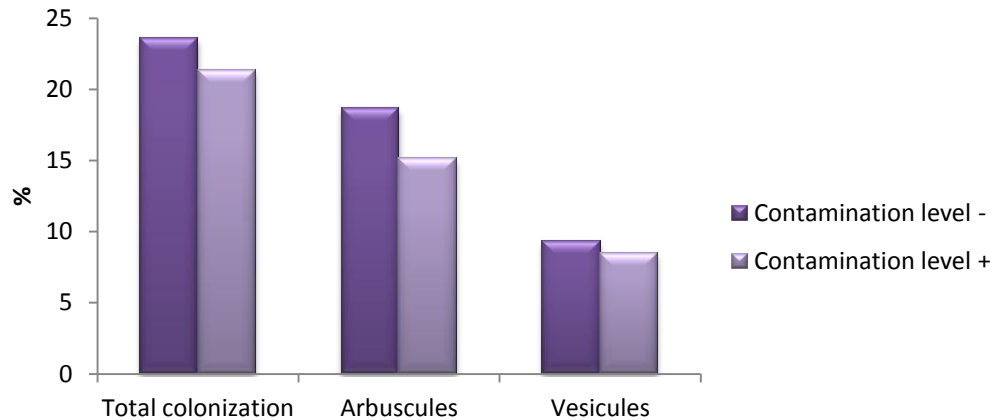


Contamination levels :	+	-
PCDD/L (ng/Kg)	<b>200</b>	<b>58</b>
PCDD/L (I-TEQ ng/Kg)	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>

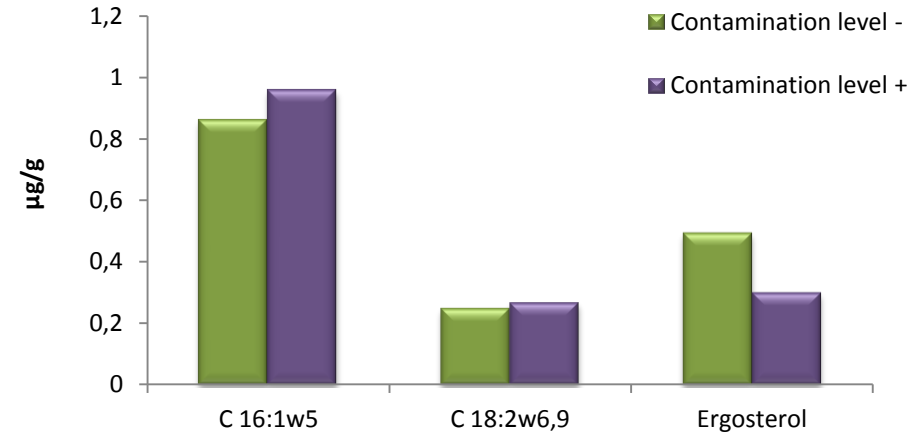


# I. inventory of the mycorrhization on the experimental plot

**Mycorrhizal colonization on the experimental plot**



**Fungal specific lipid markers**

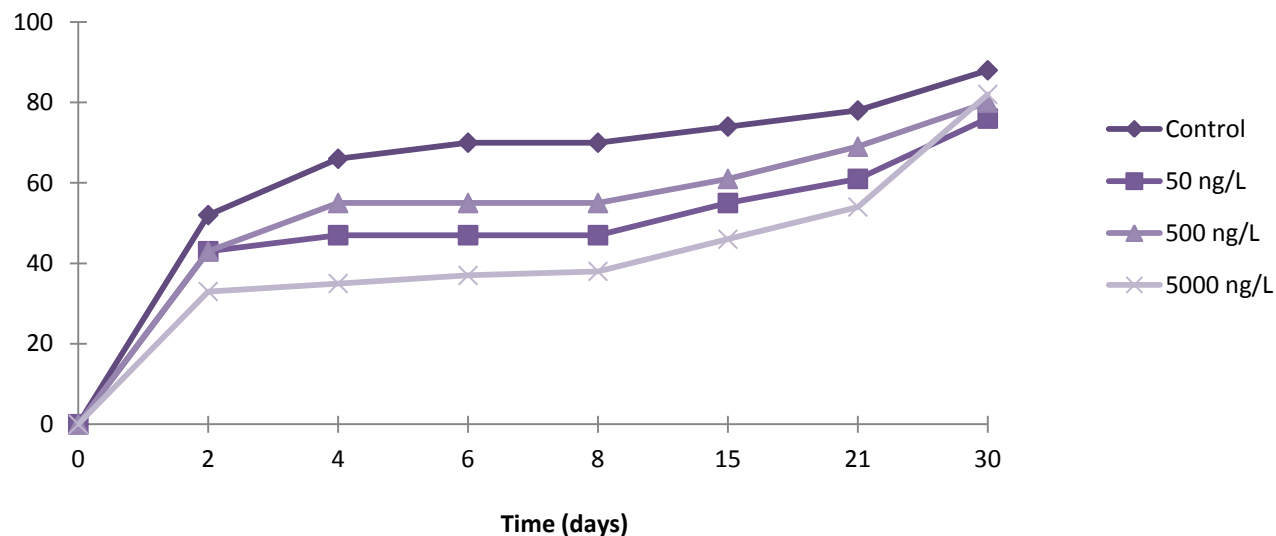


	<i>Glomus constrictum</i>	<i>Glomus geosporum</i>	<i>Glomus mosseae</i>	<i>Total</i>
Contamination level -	37	187	140	363
Contamination level +	0	230	70	300

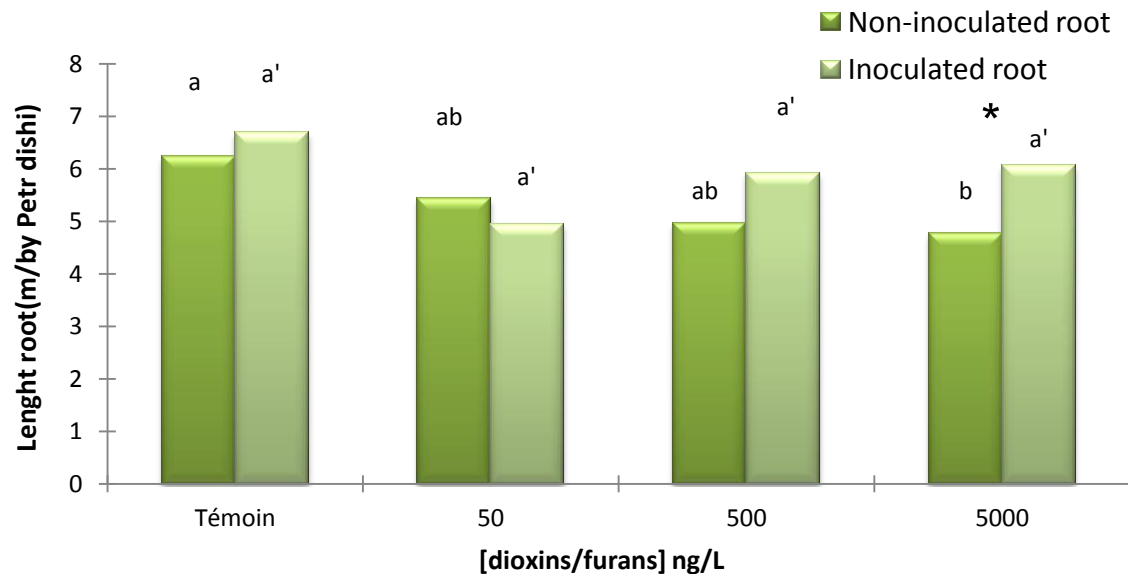
(collaboration with Dr Y. Dalpé, CRECO, Ottawa)

## II. Impact of dioxins/furans mixture on the development of both symbiotic partners

### Spore germination of *Rhizophagus irregularis*



### Root elongation



### III. Dioxins/furans dissipation potential of the mycorrhizal symbiosis

**Alfalfa**



**White clover**



**Ryegrass**



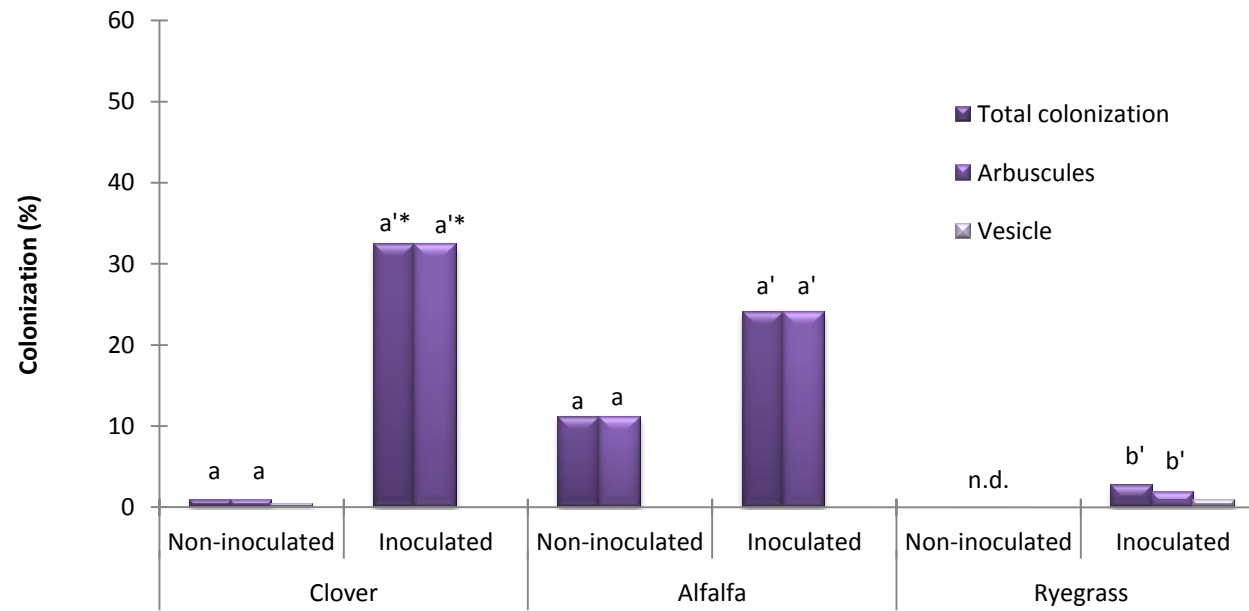
**Control without plants**



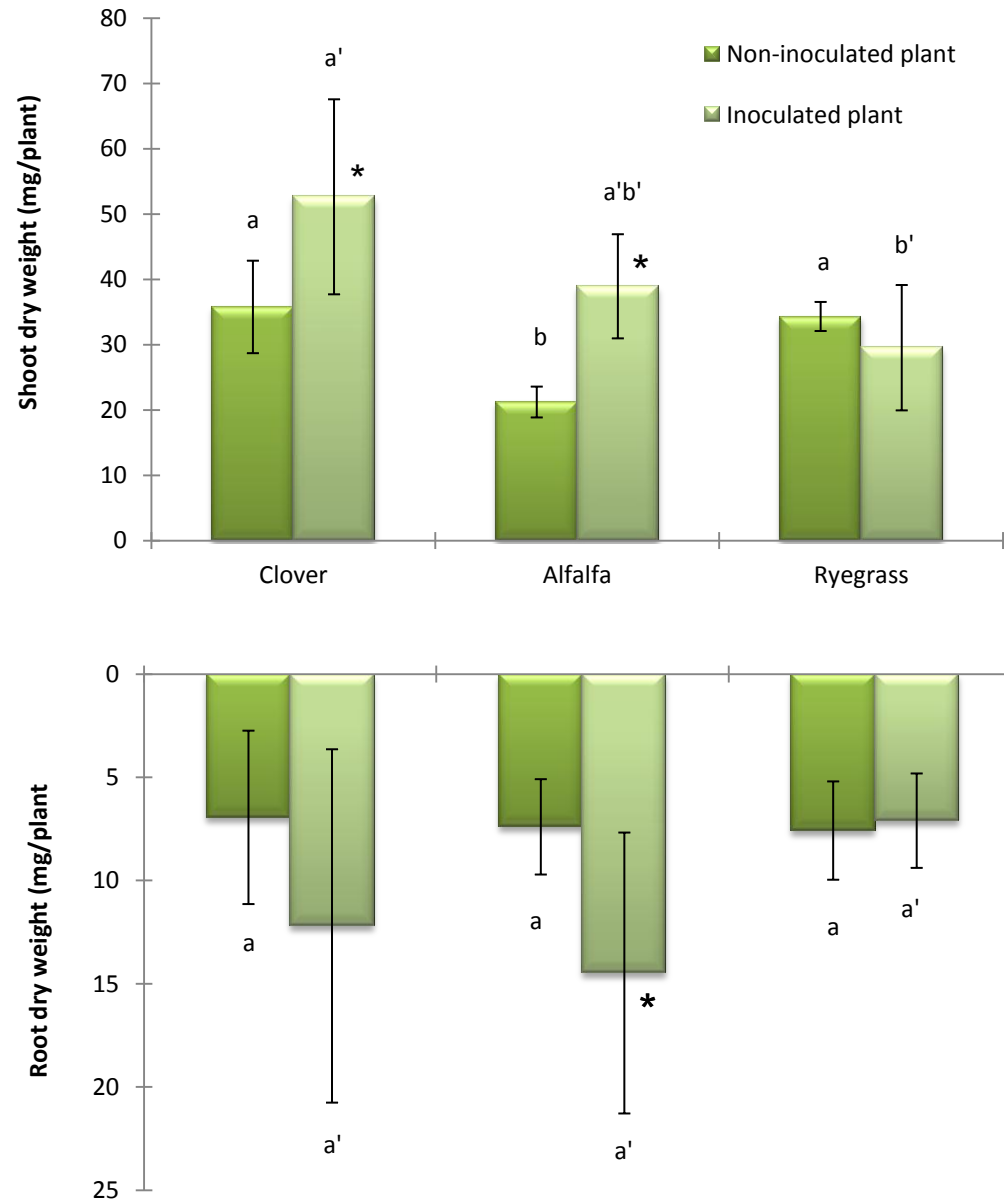
Inoculated or not by AMF (Solrize ®)

Experiment duration: 6 weeks

## Mycorrhizal colonization

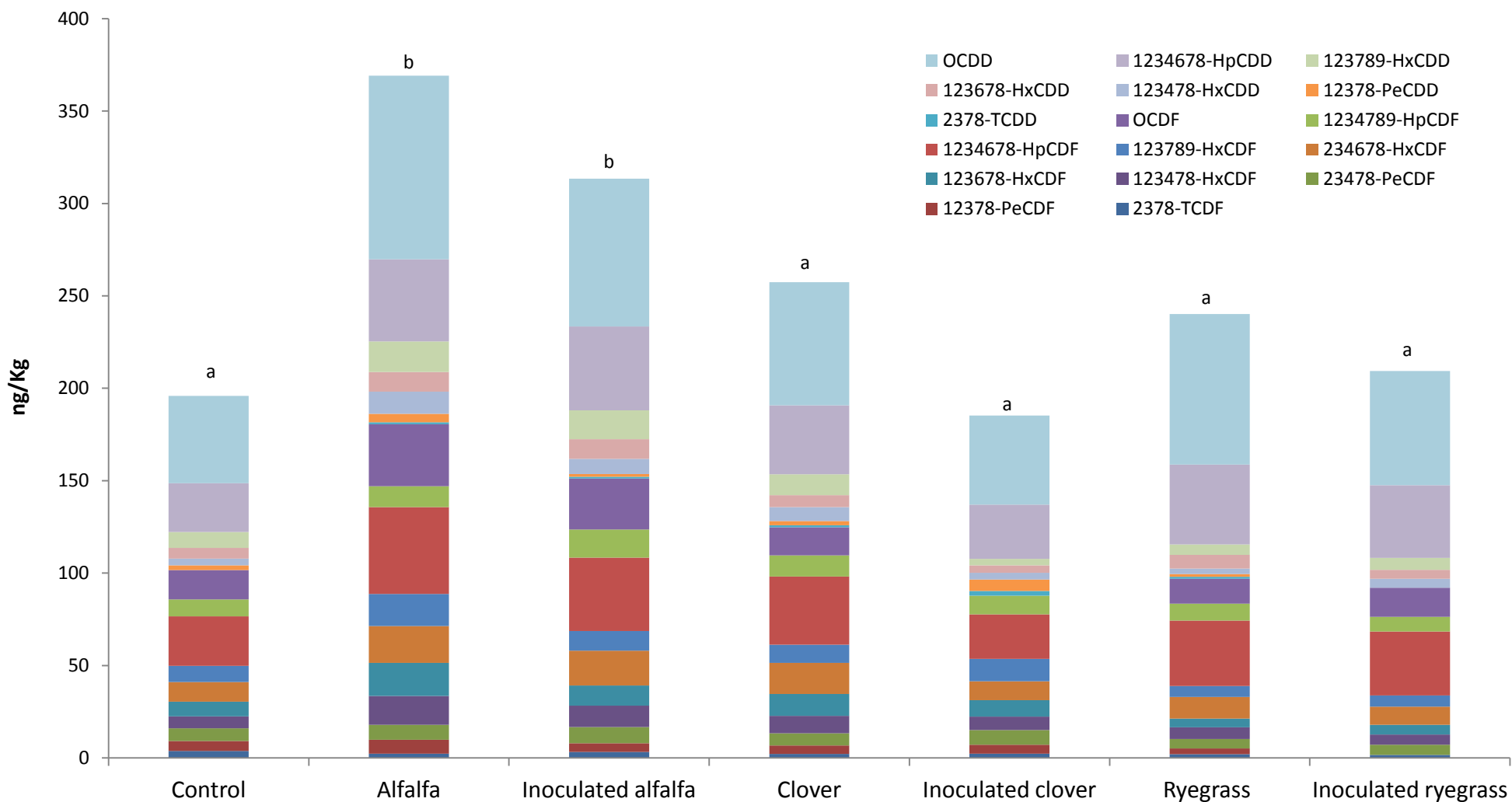


## Effect of mycorrhizal inoculation on the plant growth



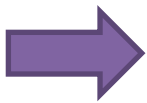


# Residual dioxins/furans after 6 weeks of culture



## Conclusion and perspectives

- Presence, survival and development of AMF in dioxins/furans polluted soil
- The mycorrhizal inoculation is, not only possible in dioxins/furans polluted soils but it improves plant growth
- The experimental duration (ie 6 weeks) was too short to observe the dioxins/furans dissipation



**Extend the culture duration**

**Test another plant species**

**Use surfactant in order to increase the dioxins/furans bioavailability**