




**Simultaneous removal of COD, phenol  
and ammoniacal nitrogen from  
industrial wastewaters**

***Dr. A. Gangagni Rao***  
***Senior Principal Scientist,***  
***BEES***  
***IICT, Hyderabad***



# Industrial sectors: Wastewater with Ammonical Nitrogen(AN), phenol & COD Effluent

- Bulk drug industry
- Petrochemical industry
- Petroleum Refinery
  - Steel plants
- Chemical industry

Wastewaters from these industries characterized by high concentration of COD, ammoniacal nitrogen and phenolic compounds

Ammoniacal nitrogen (AN) and phenols are the most hazardous water pollutants discharging into water receptors through industrial effluents along with COD

# NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF AN (Eutrophication)

- Eutrophication is a result of nutrient pollution
- Eutrophication generally promotes excessive plant growth
- In aquatic environments, enhanced growth of choking aquatic vegetation or algal blooms disrupt normal functioning of the ecosystem, causing problems such as a lack of oxygen in the water, needed for fish and other aquatic life to survive. The water then becomes cloudy, colored a shade of green, yellow, brown, or red.



# NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF AN (Soil Acidification)

- When ammonia reaches the soil surface, it usually reacts with water in the soil and is converted into its ionic form, ammonium ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ) and absorbs to the soil
- The ammonium in the soil eventually disassociates or is nitrified into nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ) or nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) by nitrifying bacteria, releasing  $\text{H}^+$  ions into the soil (3, 4)
- The surplus  $\text{H}^+$  ions eventually lead to the formation of an acidic soil environment.



# INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT

## CHEMICAL

Chemical Oxidation  
Chemical Precipitation  
Coagulation  
Dissolved air flotation  
Electrochemical oxidation  
Flocculation  
Hydrolysis  
Neutralization  
Solvent Extraction  
Ion Exchange

## PHYSICAL

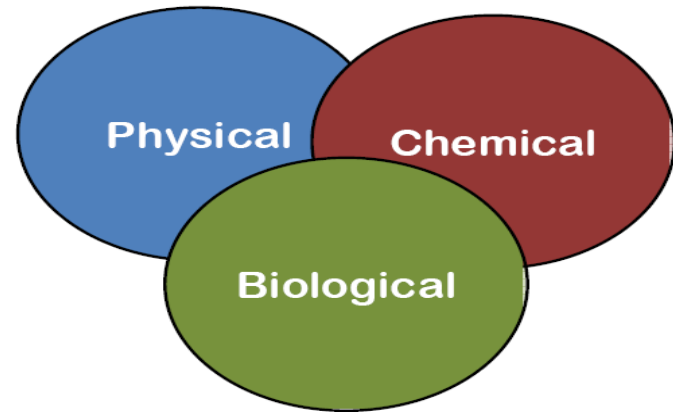
Carbon adsorption  
Distillation  
Filtration  
Steam Stripping  
Oil and grease skimming  
Oil/water separation  
Sedimentation  
Membrane technologies

## BIOLOGICAL

Biological nitrogen removal  
Bioaugmentation  
Activated sludge  
Extended aeration  
Anaerobic processes  
Rotating biological contactors  
Sequencing batch reactors and trickling filters

# REMOVAL OF AMMONIACAL NITROGEN FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATERS

- PCB Norms for disposal :
- AN = 50 ppm
- Phenol = 0.5 ppm
- COD = 250 ppm



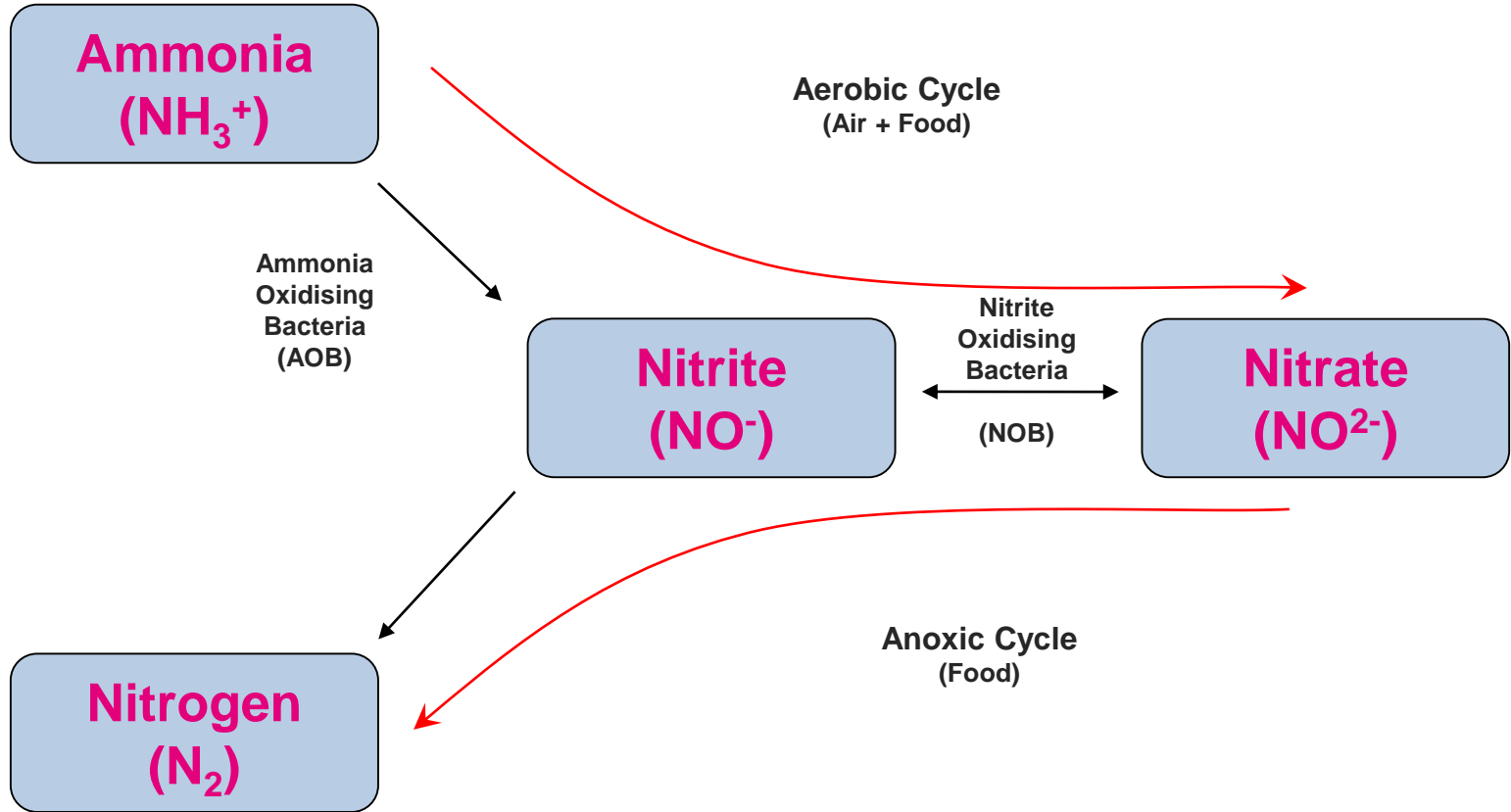
## Present practices

- Physico-chemical
- Chemical Precipitation
- Ion exchange
- Catalytic process
- Nitrification & De-nitrification

## Concerns

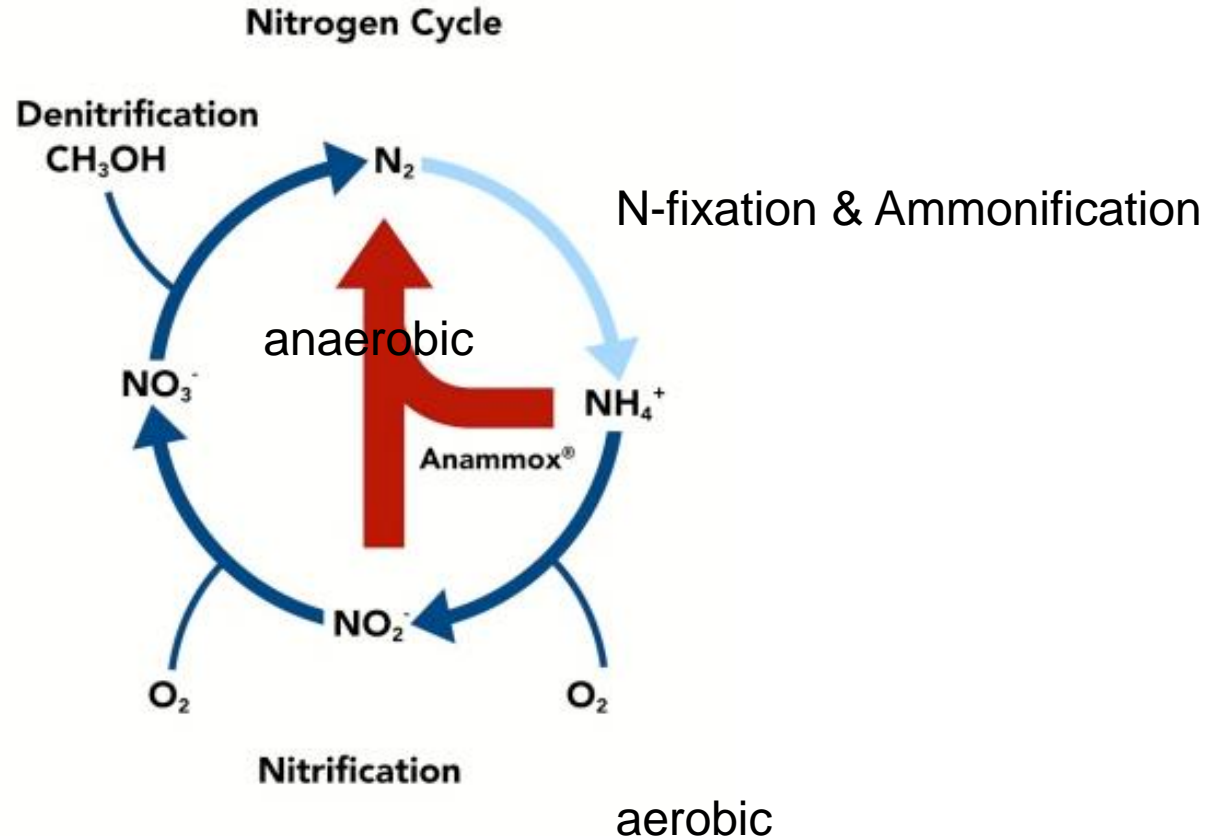
- Cost prohibitive
- Energy intensive
- Generation of secondary pollutants
- Could not PCB Norms

# Mechanism



# ANAMMOX PROCESS PROCESS

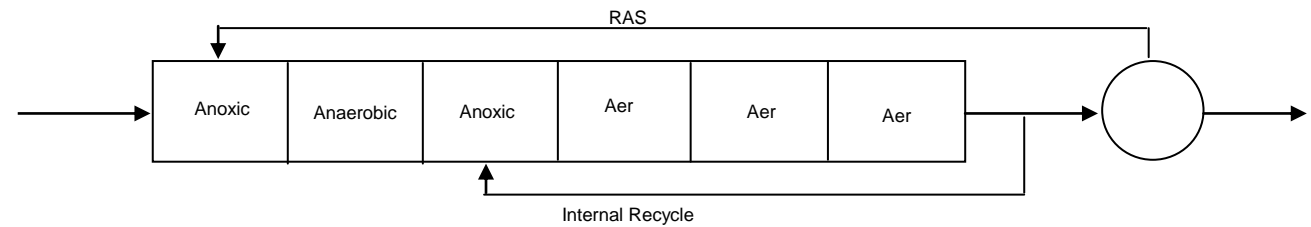
Anammox- anaerobic ammonia oxidation



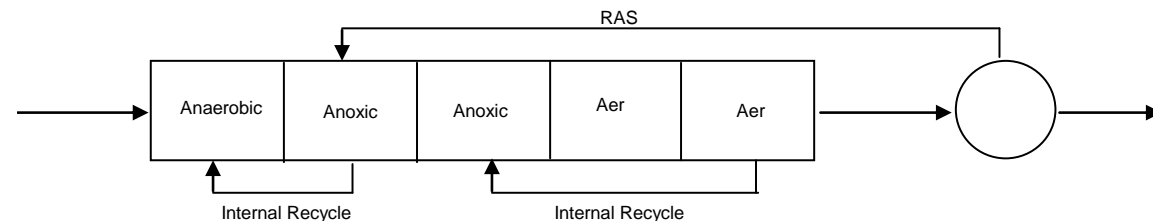
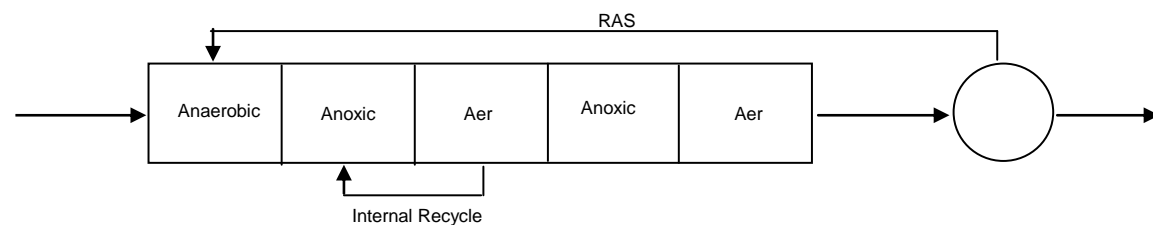


# Biological Nutrient Removal processes

- Anaerobic Ammonia Oxidation
- SHARON process
- SHARON-Anammox Combined
- CANON process
- Johannesburg Process
- 5 stage Bardenpho process
- Modified University of Cape Town (MUCT)

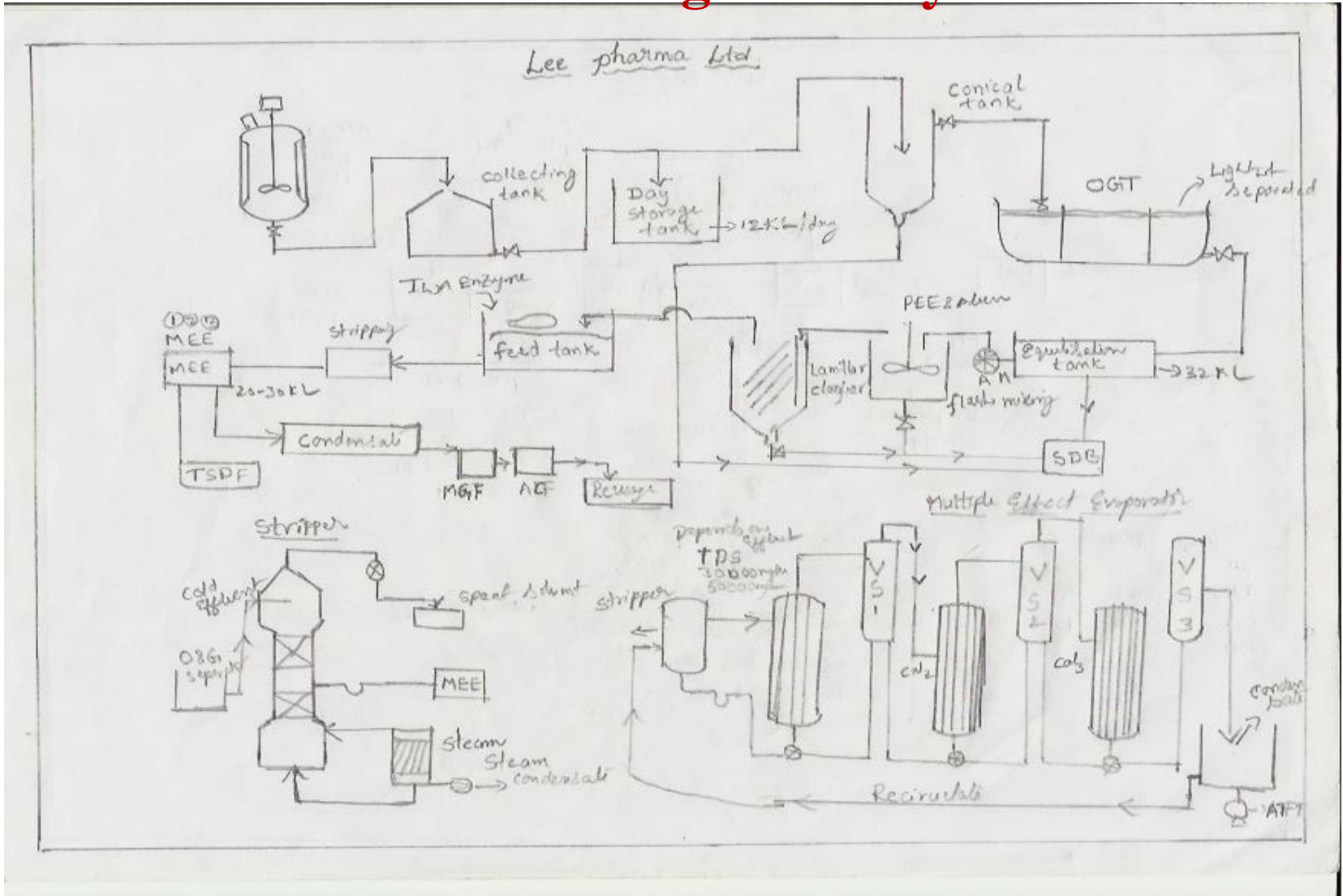


Underlying  
Process  
Configuration

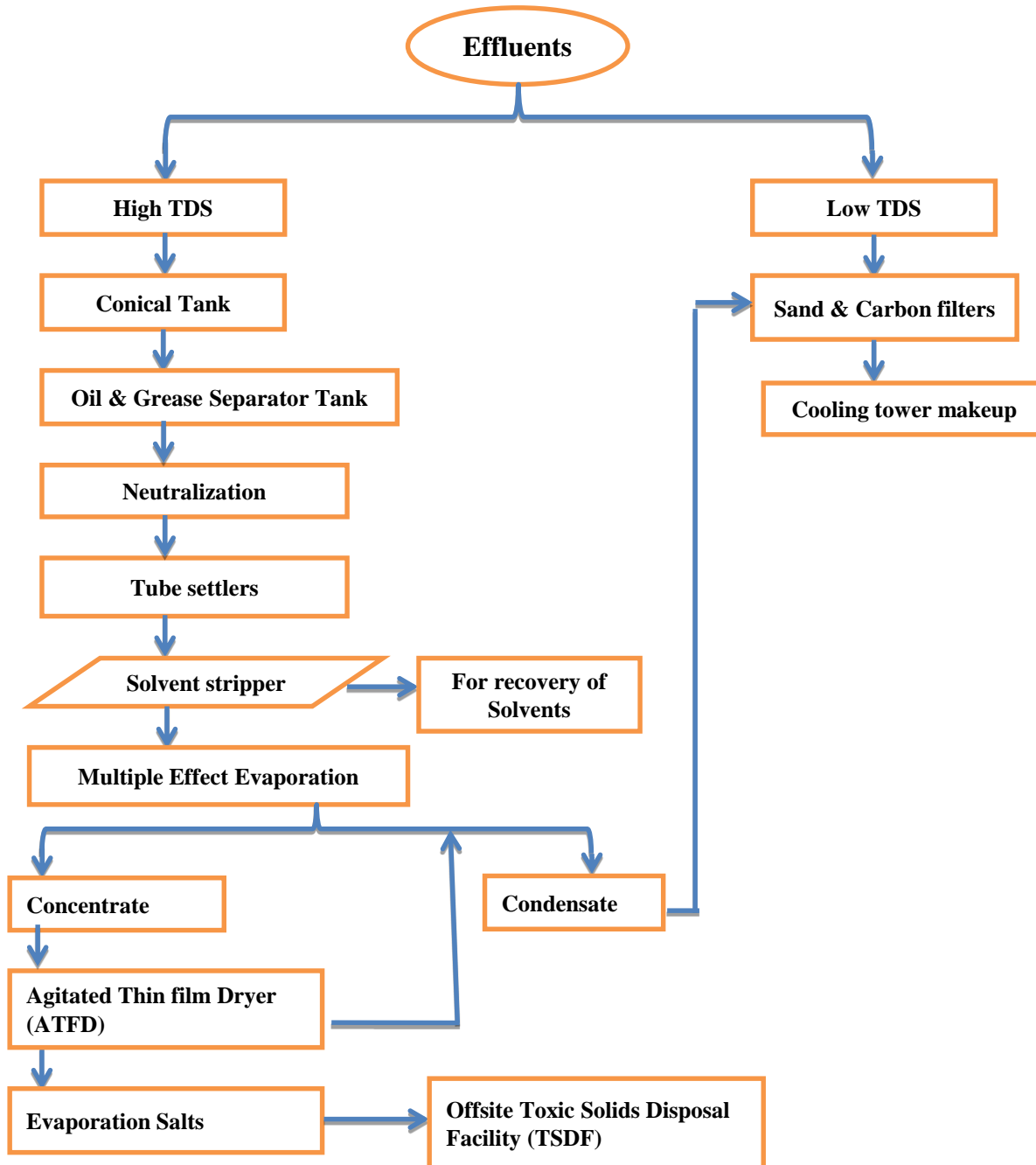


**Simultaneous removal of  
COD, phenol and ammoniacal nitrogen  
from industrial wastewaters  
-MICROBIAL PROCESS**

# Existing Effluent Treatment plant at Bulk drug Industry



# Existing schematic diagram for Effluent Treatment plant



# Development of Inoculum : Isolation, Enrichment, Characterization and Seeding



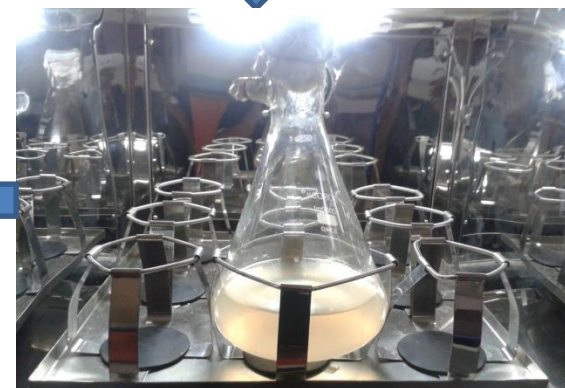
Culture isolation by specific media



Culture enrichment



Shake flask culture



Seed culture



Reactor

# Pilot Scale Studies

## PROCESS CONFIGURATION

Air stripping followed by  
sequential  
aerobic , anoxic & anaerobic cyclic  
process  
with industrial effluent

## Critical aspects

Feed to recycle ratio  
pH management  
F/M Ratio  
Adaptation of microbial consortia  
HRT in each phase

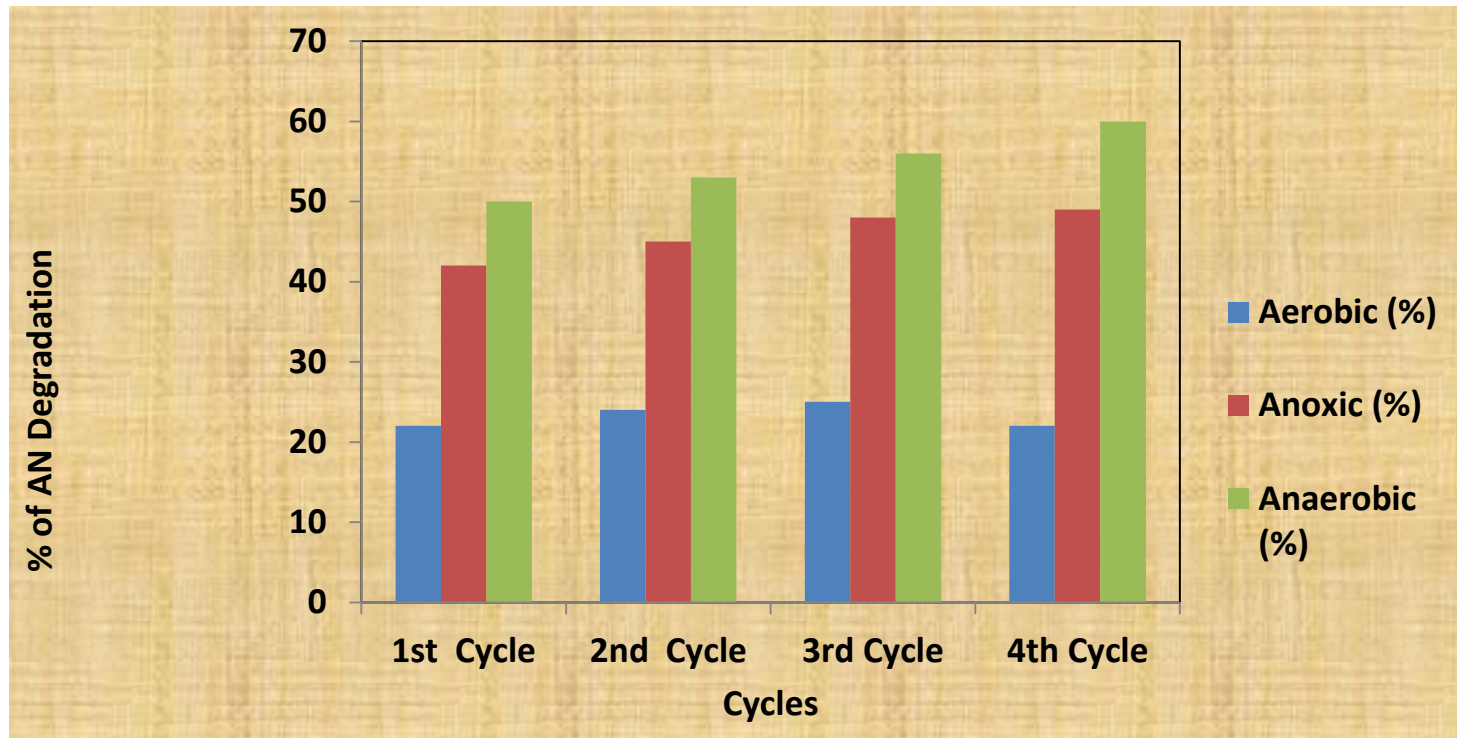


# Initial characteristics of industrial waste water

## Case-I

Parameter	Sample
pH	7.8
TS (%)	1.7
VS (%)	0.77
COD (mg/l )	3,900
Ammoniacal nitrogen (mg/l )	150
Phenol (mg/l )	145
VFA (mg/l )	3,607
Alkalinity (mg/l )	1,000
Sulfide (mg/l )	-
sulfate (mg/l )	1.67

## Results: Case-I



Cycles	1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cycle	4 <sup>th</sup> Cycle
<b>Aerobic (%)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Anoxic (%)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Anaerobic (%)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>



## Results summary: Case-I

Parameters	Initial (mg/lit)	Final (mg/lit)	variation
pH	7.5	7.2	-
COD	3900	<b>585</b>	<b>85 % Reduction</b>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	150	<b>60</b>	<b>60 % Reduction</b>
Phenol	145	<b>36</b>	<b>75 % Reduction</b>

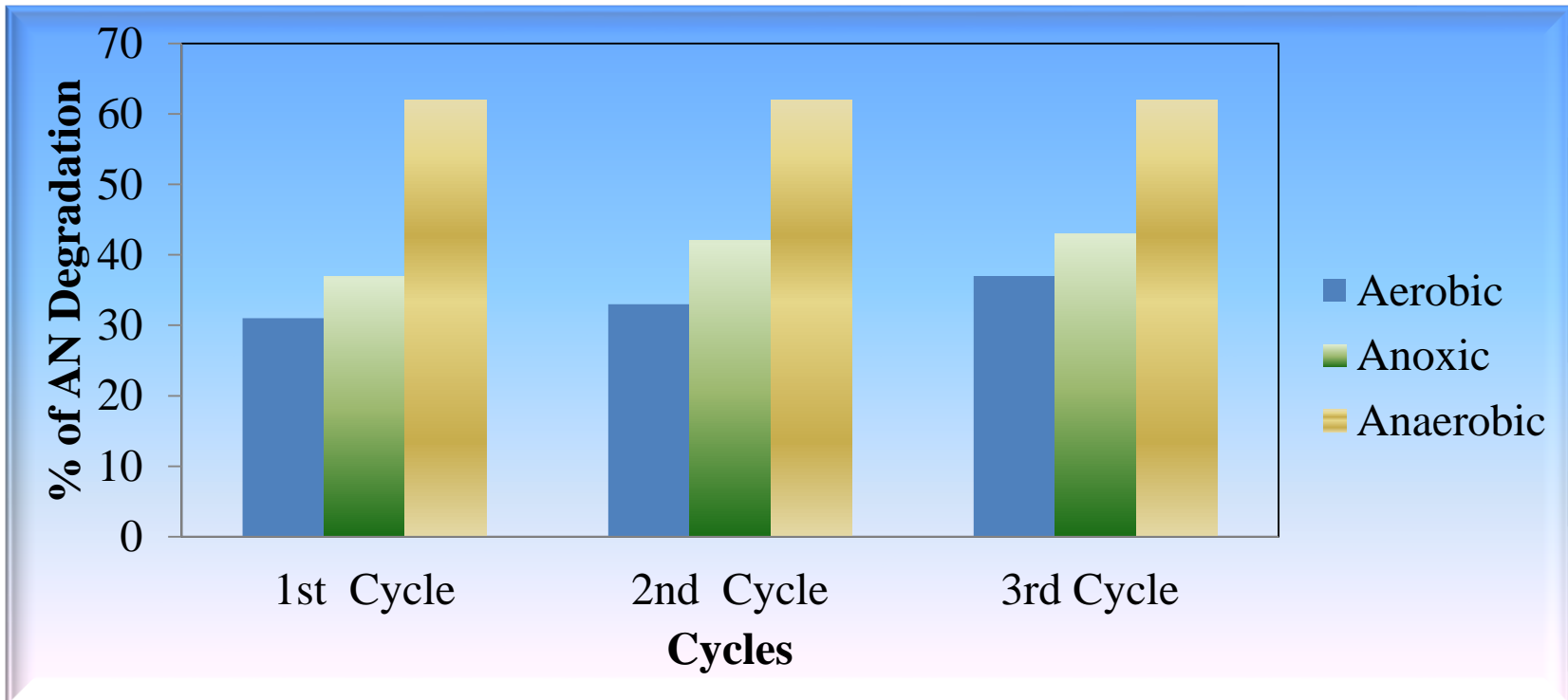
**HRT=1 Day**

# Initial characteristics of industrial waste water

## Case-II

Characteristics	
<b>pH</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>TS (%)</b>	<b>0.19</b>
<b>TS (mg/L)</b>	<b>1910</b>
<b>VS (%)</b>	<b>0.12</b>
<b>VS (mg/L)</b>	<b>1205</b>
<b>Ammonia (kjeldahl) (mg/L)</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Moisture (%)</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>COD (mg/L)</b>	<b>41,000</b>
<b>Alkalinity (mg/L)</b>	<b>1600</b>
<b>VFA (mg/L)</b>	<b>2069</b>
<b>Nitrate(mg/L)</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Nitrite</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Sulphite (SO<sub>3</sub>)(mg/L)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sulphate(SO<sub>4</sub>) (mg/L)</b>	<b>87</b>

## Results: Case-II



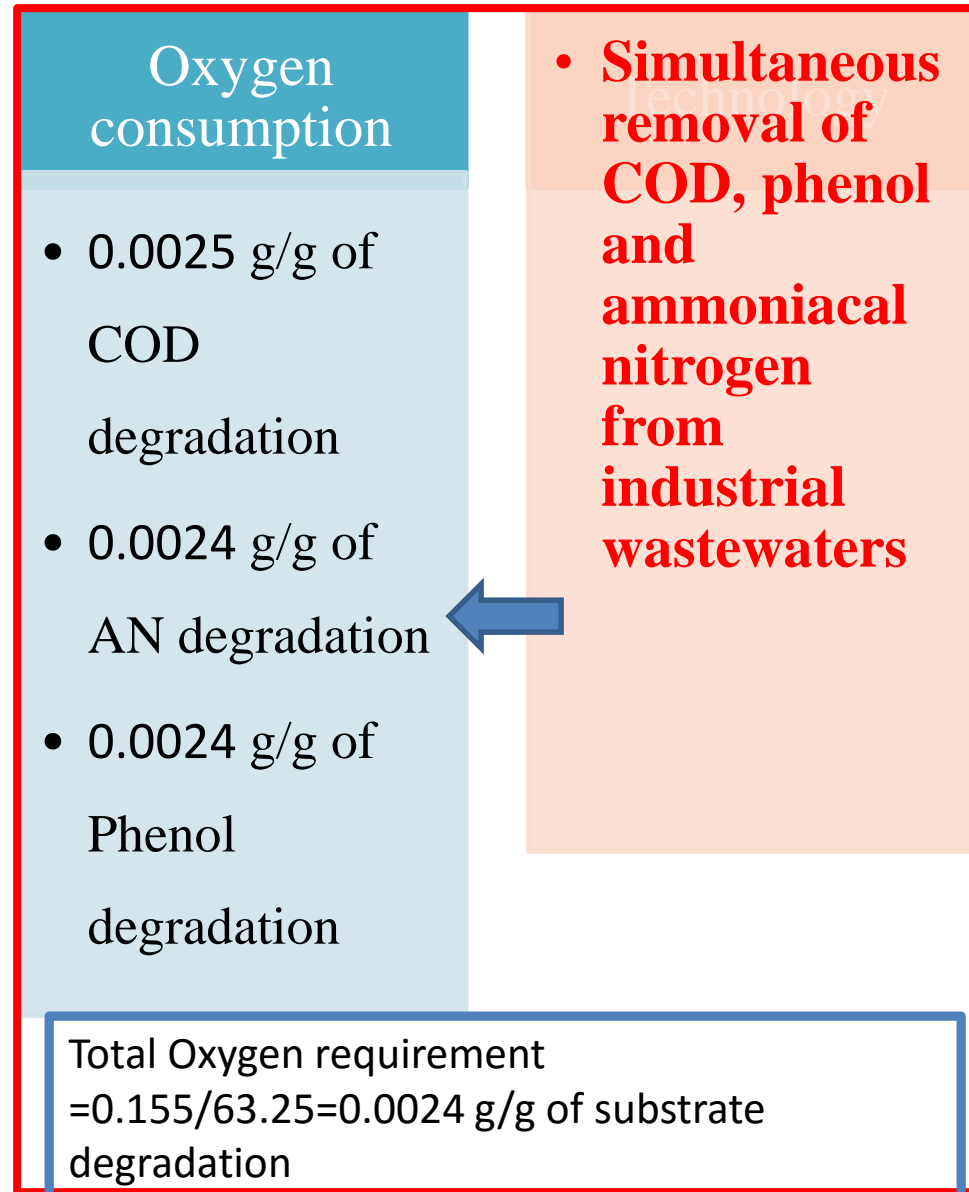
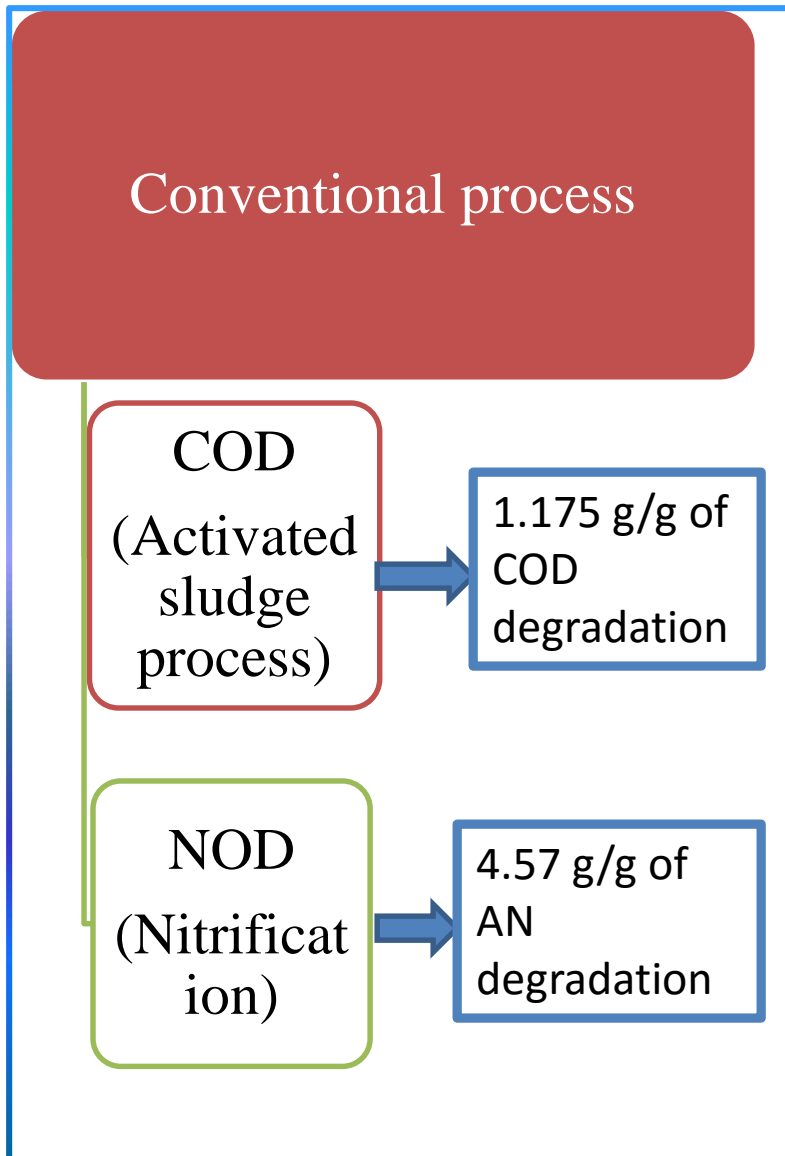
Cycles	1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cycle
<b>Aerobic (%)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Anoxic (%)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Anaerobic (%)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>

## Results summary: Case-II

Parameters	Initial (mg/lit)	Final (mg/lit)	variation
pH	4.3	7.1	-
COD	42,000	<b>3200</b>	<b>92 % Reduction</b>
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	224	<b>84</b>	<b>62 % Reduction</b>

**HRT=1 Day**

# Oxygen requirements





**THINK  
GLOBALLY....**

**T  
H  
A  
N  
K**

**Y  
O  
U**



**ACT  
LOCALLY !!**