

# **Society of Dairy Technology**

spring conference

**70th anniversary conference**  
**WHEY TECHNOLOGY & UTILISATION**

**Wednesday 12th June 2013**

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**Hans van Pijkeren, RELCO Europe**



# RELCO history

## RELCO LLC



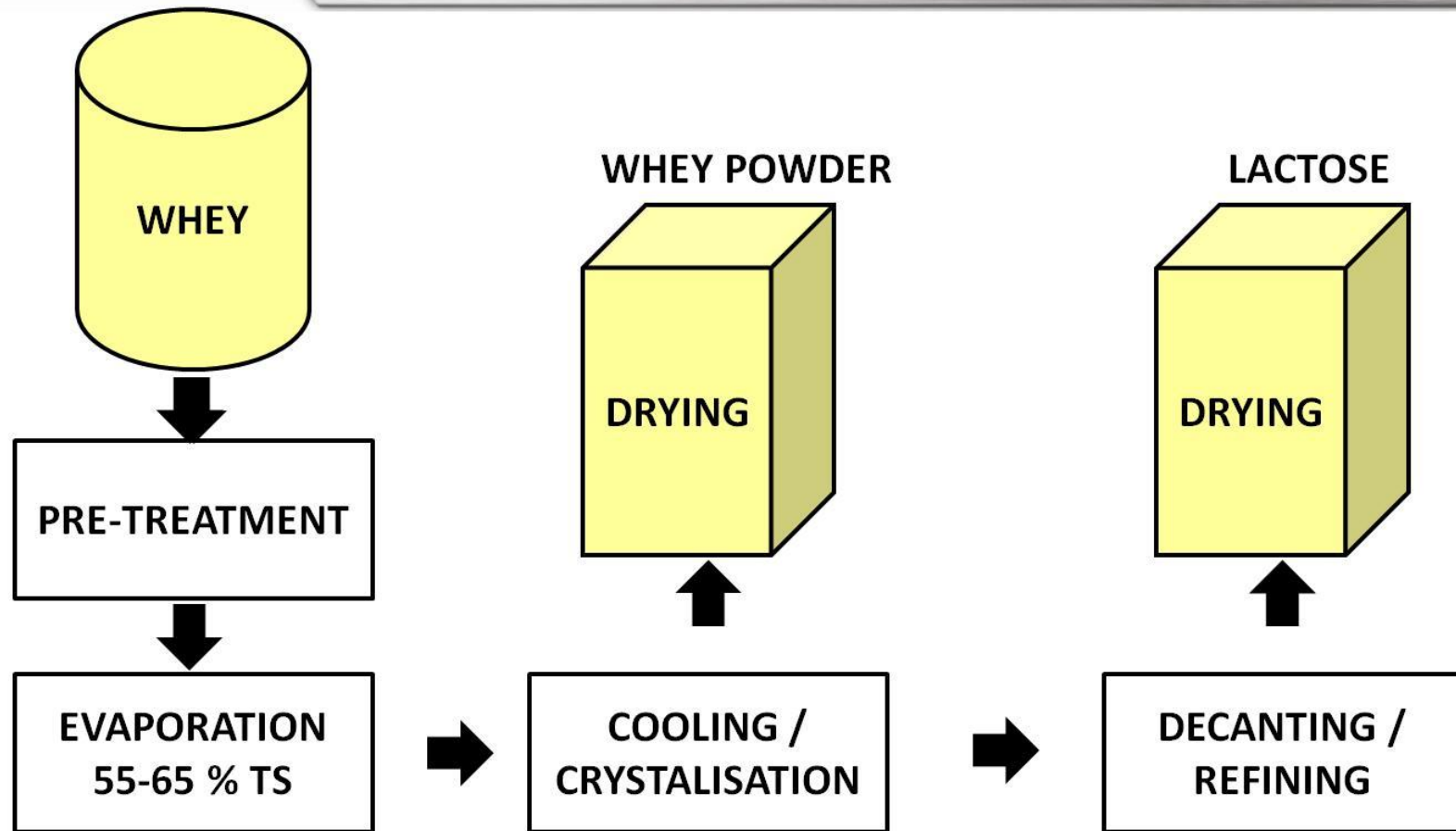
- 1982** The company was started with welding services only
- 1988** Added manufacturing shop
- 2000** Purchased whey processing equipment manufacturer
  - Whey Systems Inc.
- 2009** Purchased powder handling /
- 2012** cheese-equipment manufact.
  - Savel / Stoelting Technologies Inc.

## RELCO Europe (wet & dry)



- 1984** The company started as an installation contractor
- 1995** Purchased Frimafa, tank fabrication shop
- 1997** Founded Wet & Dry Technologies B.V.
- 2007** Takeover by RELCO US

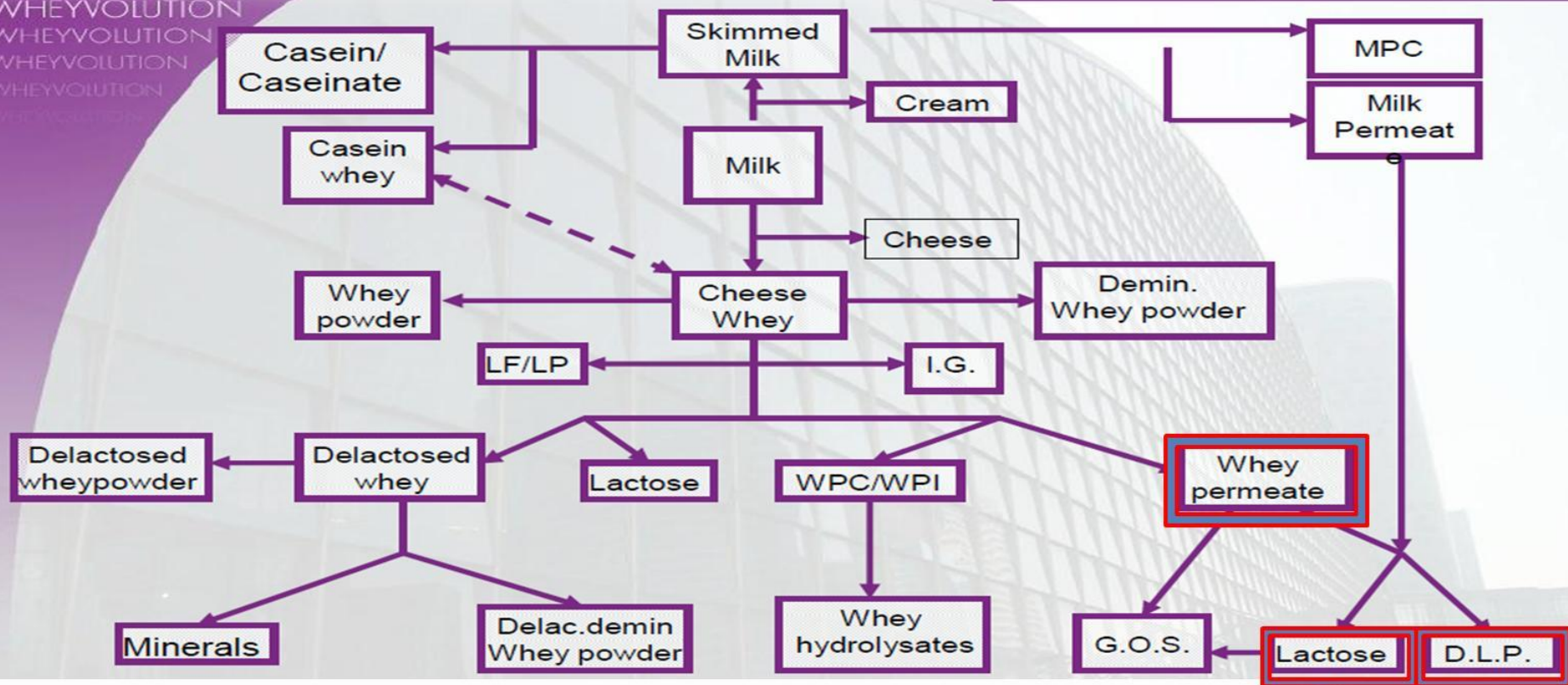
# TRADITIONAL WHEY PROCESSING



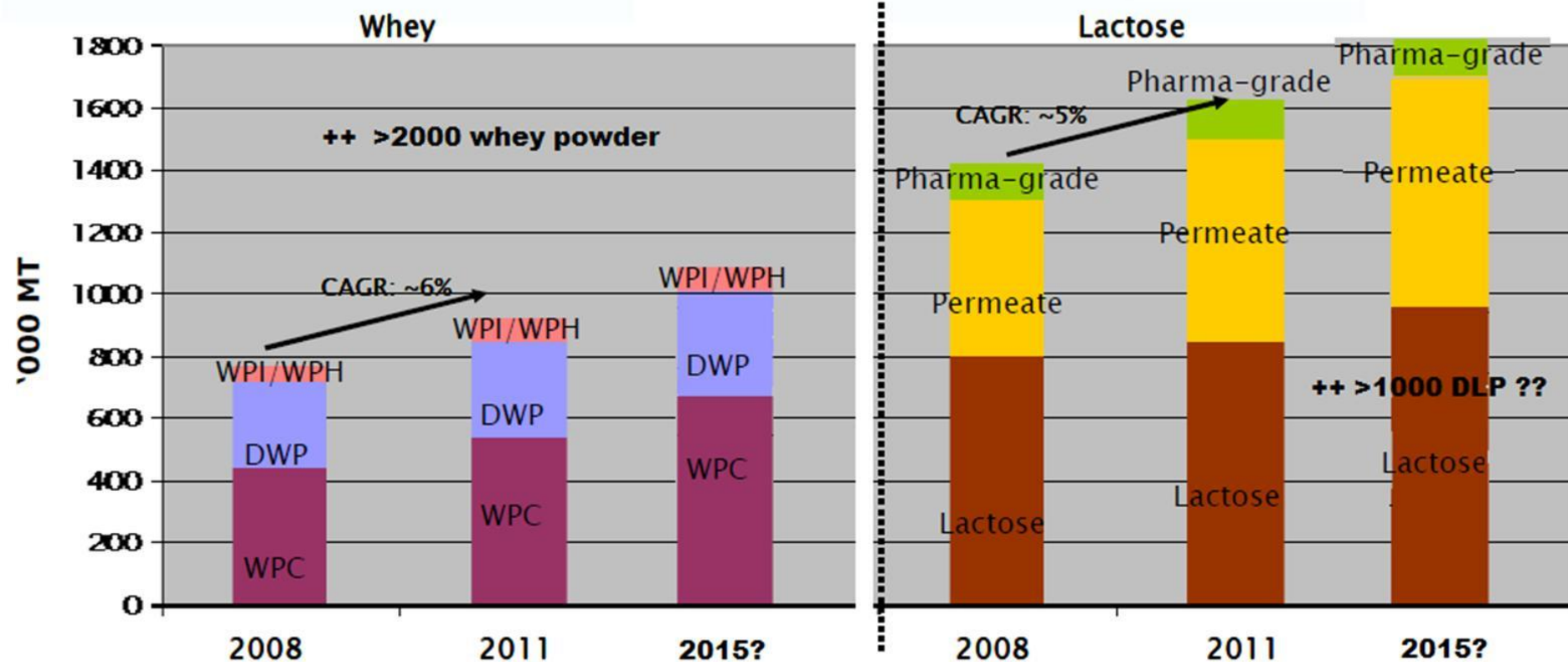


# WHEY DERIVATIVES AS PART OF THE MILK-TREE

**Filtration and cristallisation are main process techniques**



# FURTHER GROWTH IN WHEY-DERIVATIVES MARKET



extrapolation based on figures from: 3A Business Consulting

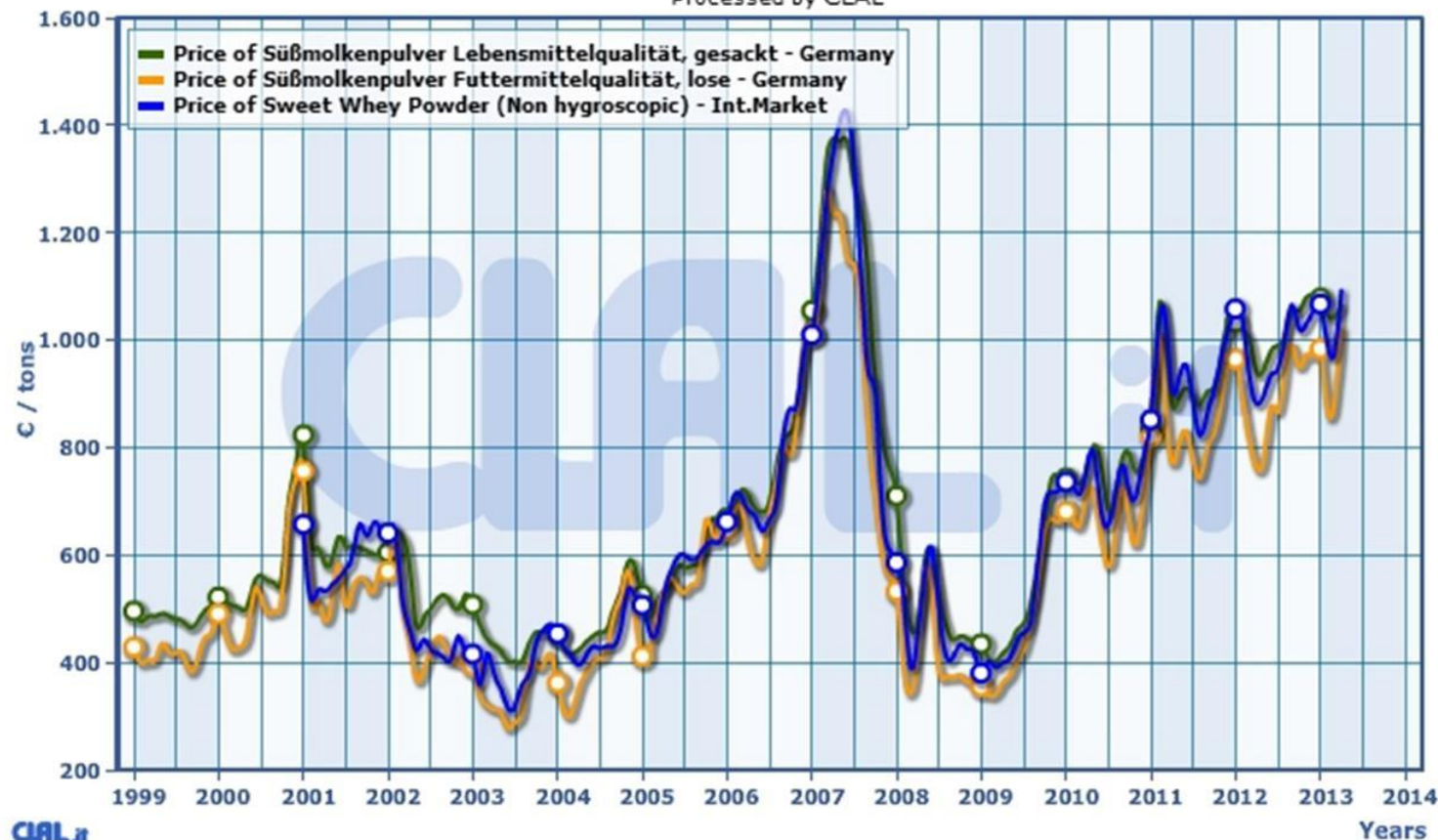




# WHEY MARKET PRICE DEVELOPMENT

World - Comparative historical overview of Whey Powder prices

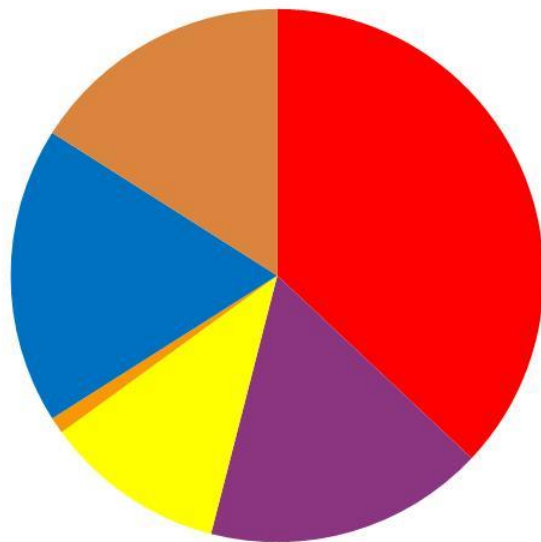
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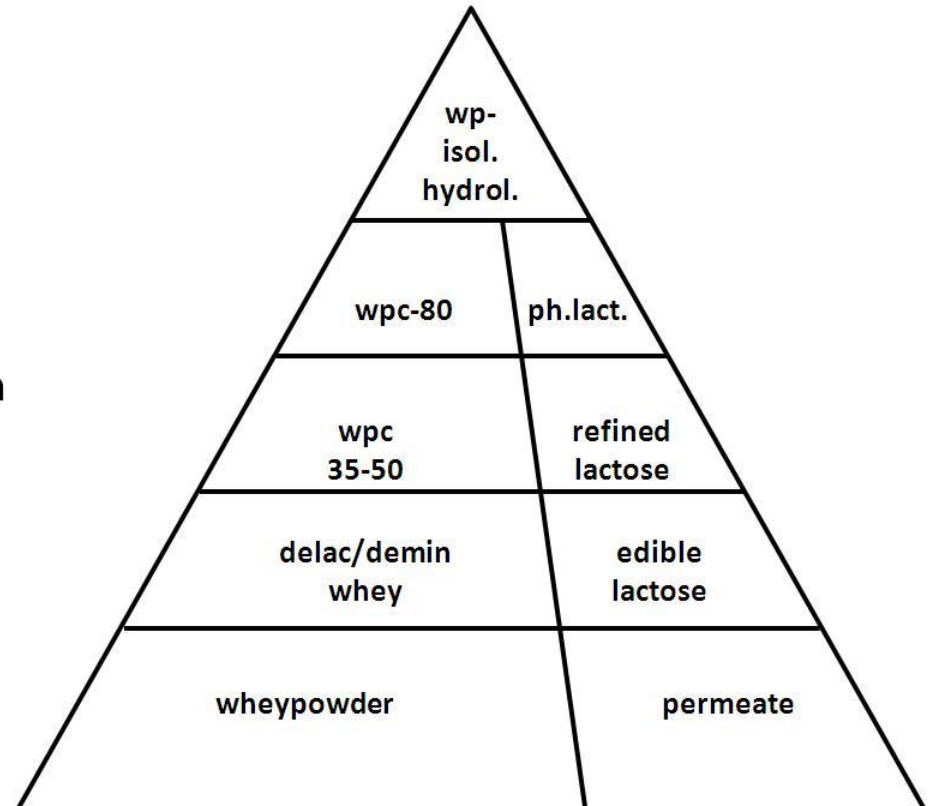
CLAL.it

# relative importance whey products (market/returns)

## dry whey products



- whey pdr
- delac/demin
- wpc
- wpi/wph
- lactose
- permeate



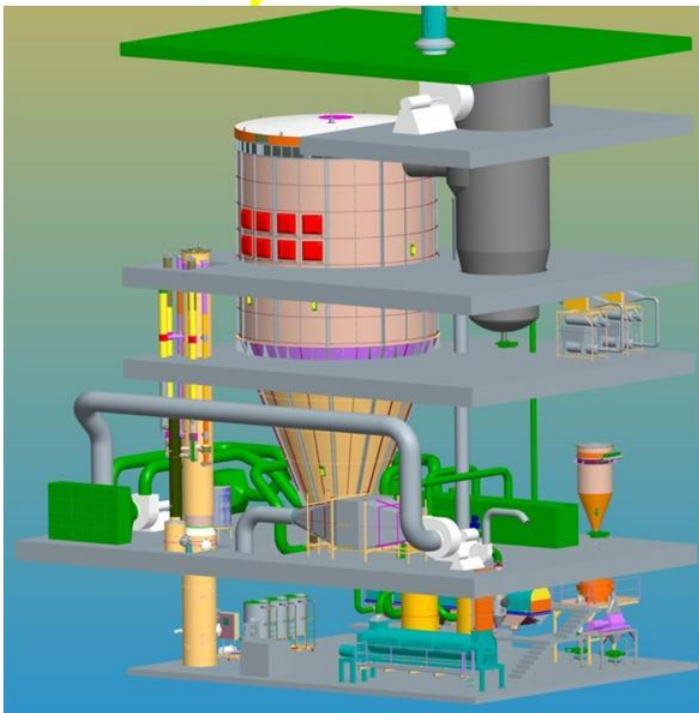
WHEY-ECONOMICS:

- specialties >> low volume, higher margin ??
- rest >> biggest volume, lower cost ??

# CRITICAL STEPS IN THE RELCO PERMEATE DRYING PROCESS

Permeate from  
Evaporator / Finisher

55-60% TS Solution



Hi-Con

78-80% TS Solution

Triple-C

80-83% TS Paste

Dryer

Permeate Powder



# RELCO Hi-Con Evaporator



- Inlet 60% Total Solids
- Outlet 78+% Total Solids
- Multi-pass
- (partial) Recirculation
- Low Fouling
- Compact
- Very Stable Operation
- Heat is Recoverable

# RELCO Triple-C

Cooler  
Concentrator  
Crystallizer



Feeding permeate 78+% solids

- Cooling through evaporation, by drawing air through the center
- Rapid crystallization
- Increased concentration with heat from crystallization

Result is heavy paste.....

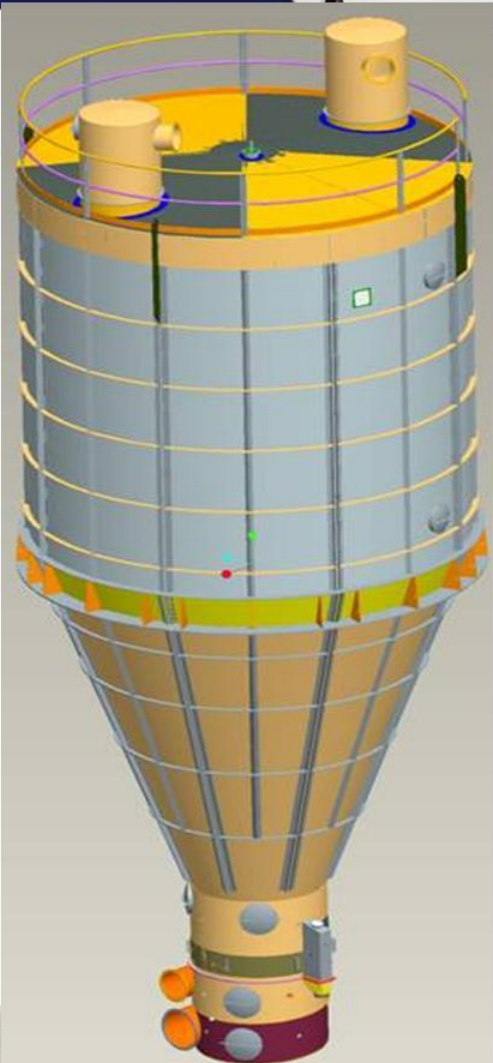
# High Solids Permeate from the Triple-C



- Crystals too small to feel
- Creating huge crystal surface
- Pumps relatively easily
- Does not coat lines
- Permits atomization



# RELCO Permeate Air-Lift Dryer



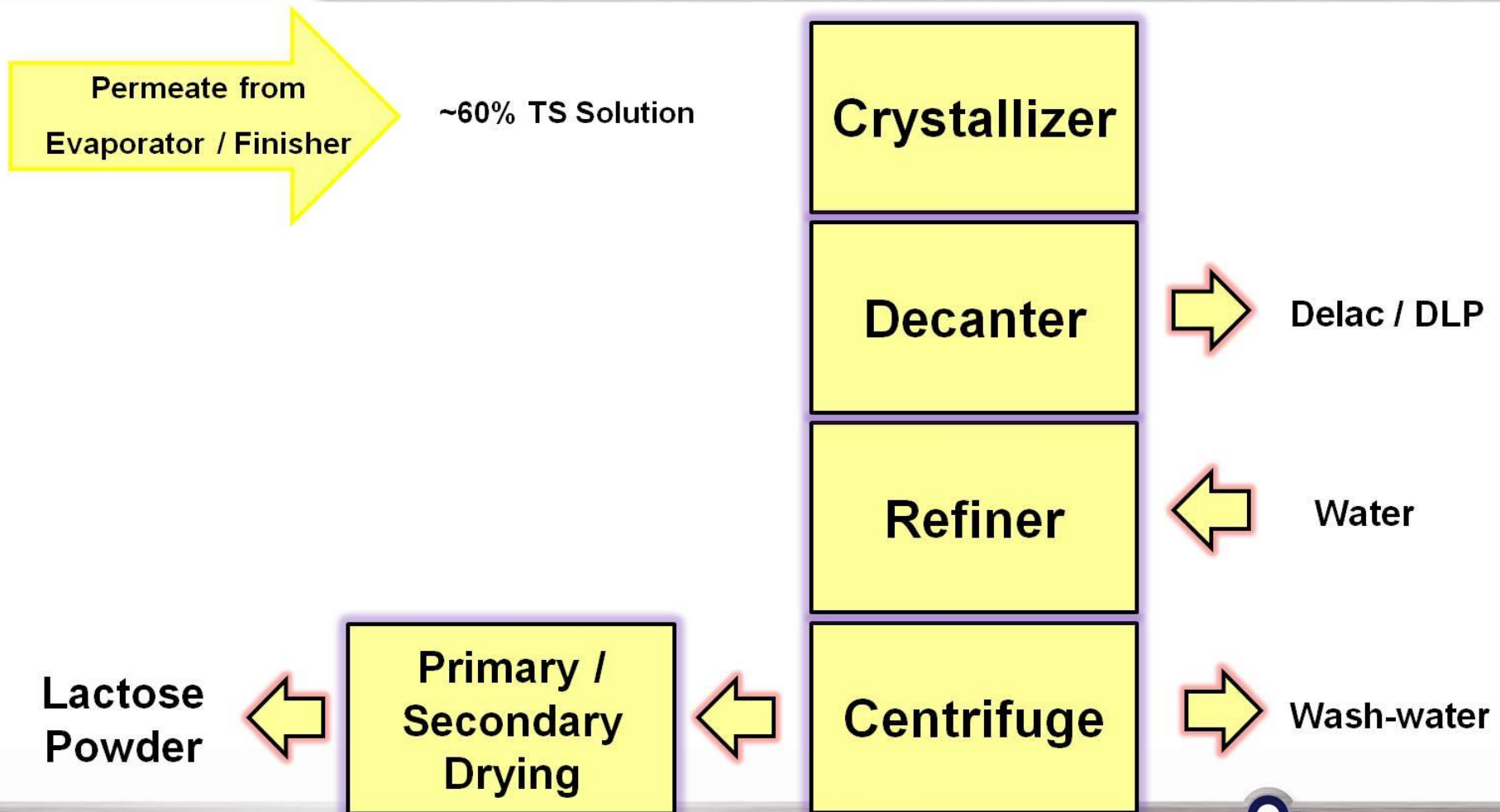
- Two-Stage Drying
  - Integrated Fluid Bed
  - Fines Agglomeration / Less Dust
  - Compact Footprint
  - Low Inlet/Outlet Temperature
  - Final Drying External Fluid Bed
  - Bag Filter for Exhaust Air
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- Indirect air-heating (steam/gas)
  - Dehumidifying secondary air

# RELCO Permeate Powder



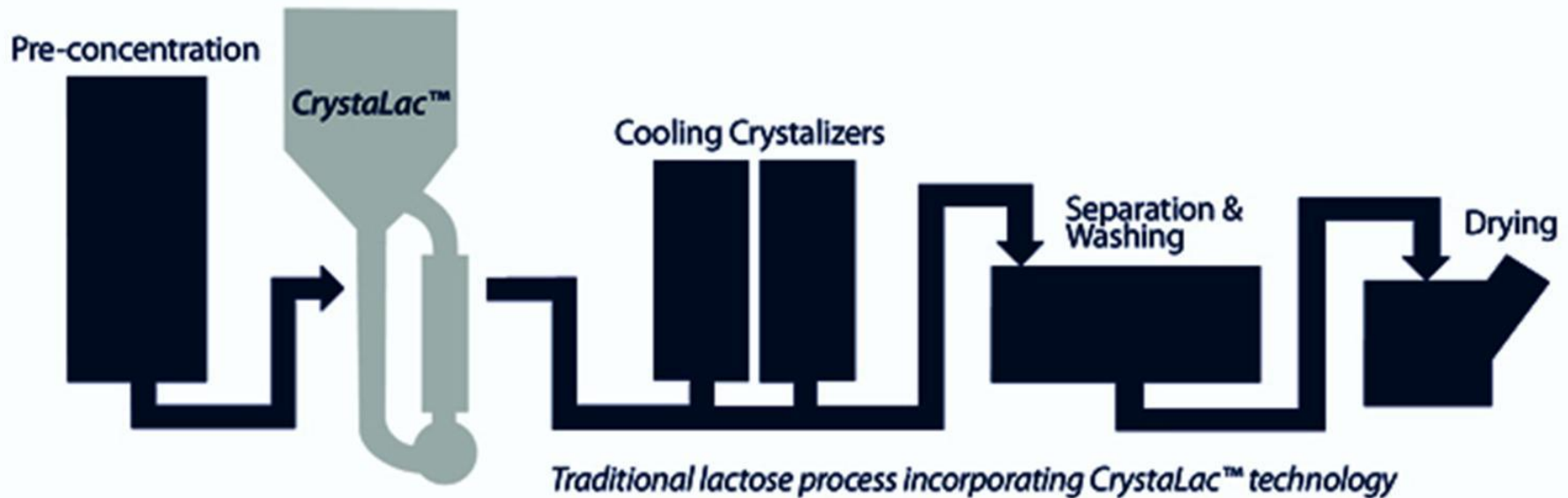
- Free-flowing powder
- Non-hygroscopic
- Moisture < 5 %
- Low energy cost

# Traditional Lactose Manufacturing Stages



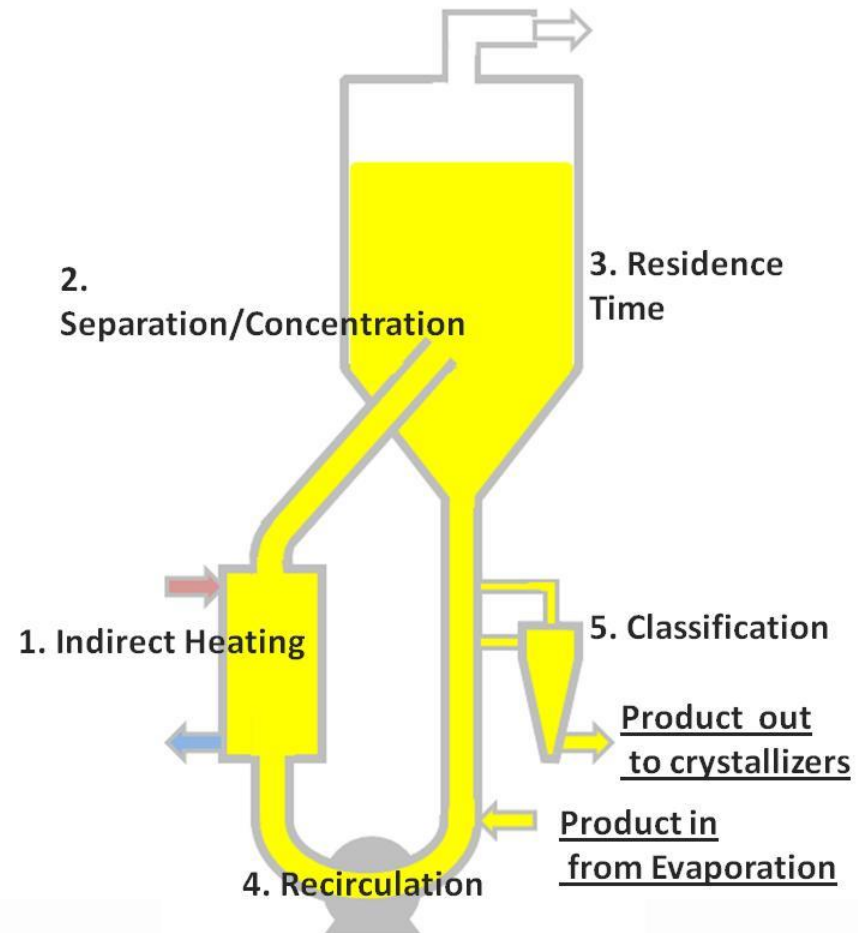


# Adding RELCO CRYSTALAC™ technology

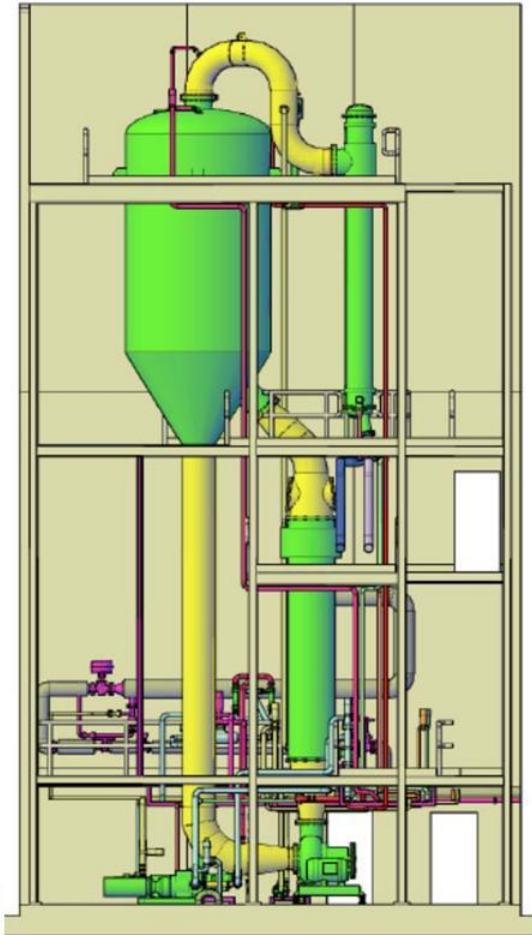


- Higher yield
- Less Delac / DLP
- Larger Crystals

# RELCO CRYSTALAC™ Lactose Crystallizing Evaporator



# RELCO CRYSTALAC™ Process Features / Benefits



- Rising-film evaporator  
(circulating)
- Vapor separator  
(holding)
- Classification  
(separation)

higher solids  
start nucleation  
residence time  
crystal growth  
hydrocyclone  
larger / smaller  
crystals

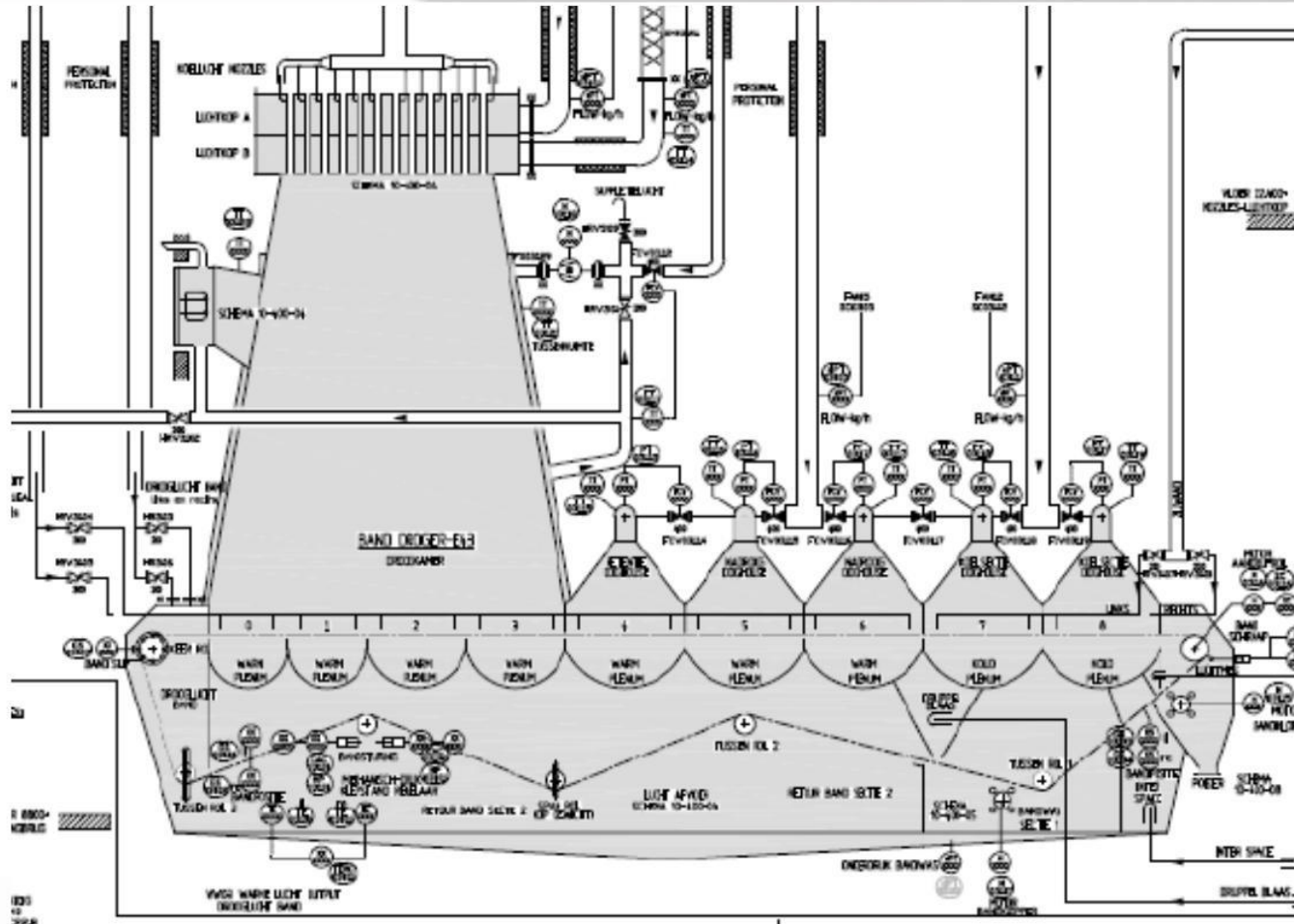
Higher yield  
Bigger crystals  
Less Delac/DLP with higher solids  
Fewer crystallizers  
More constant process/product



# COMPARISON YIELD FIGURES with CRYSTALAC™

<u>per hour</u>	<u>traditional</u>	<u>CRYSTALAC™</u>
FINAL LACTOSE	1.500 kg	1.500 kg
Start-off PERMEATE	35.700 kg	29.800 kg
YIELD		
Lactose.1aq / Solids in Feed	55 %	66 %
Lact.1aq / Lact.1aq in Feed	60 %	71 %
Resulting Delac / DLP solids	17.000 kg 17 %	8.700 kg 22 %

## FURTHER OPTIONS WITH DRYING OF DELAC/DLP



### BELT-DRYER:

- precrySTALLISED  
Delac/DLP 60%TS
- semi-wet on belt
- crystallizing/  
drying/ cooling  
in final stages
- free-flowing powder
- option for fat-filled

# DRYING DLP DEMANDS CRITICAL CONDITIONING





# DRY DELAC/DLP ON THE BELT: A LOOK INSIDE...



# DEALING WITH PERMEATE / LACTOSE: LET THOSE CRYSTALS GROW...

