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# RHEOLOGY MODIFYING ADMIXTURES FOR CONCRETE TAKEN FROM NATURE

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<sup>3</sup> Tshwane University of Technology

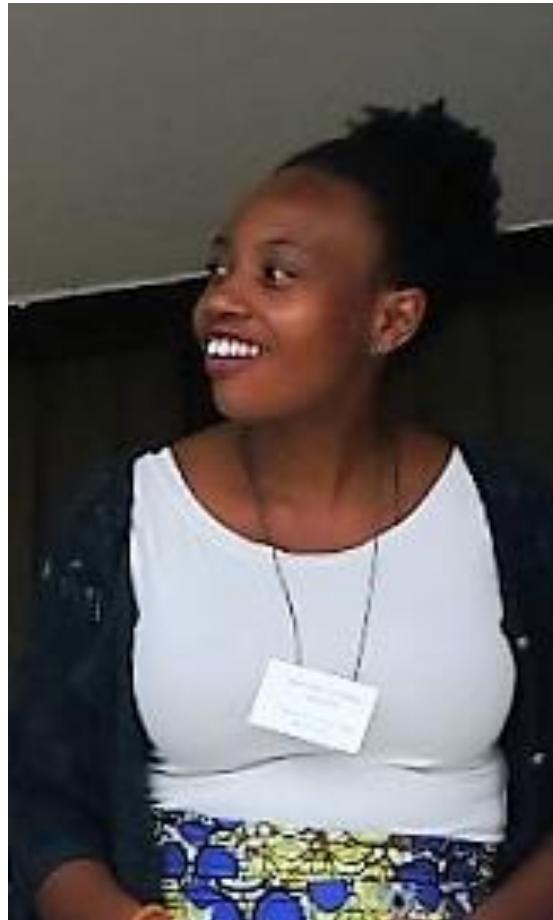
<sup>4</sup> Obafemi Awolowo University

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Tshwane University of  
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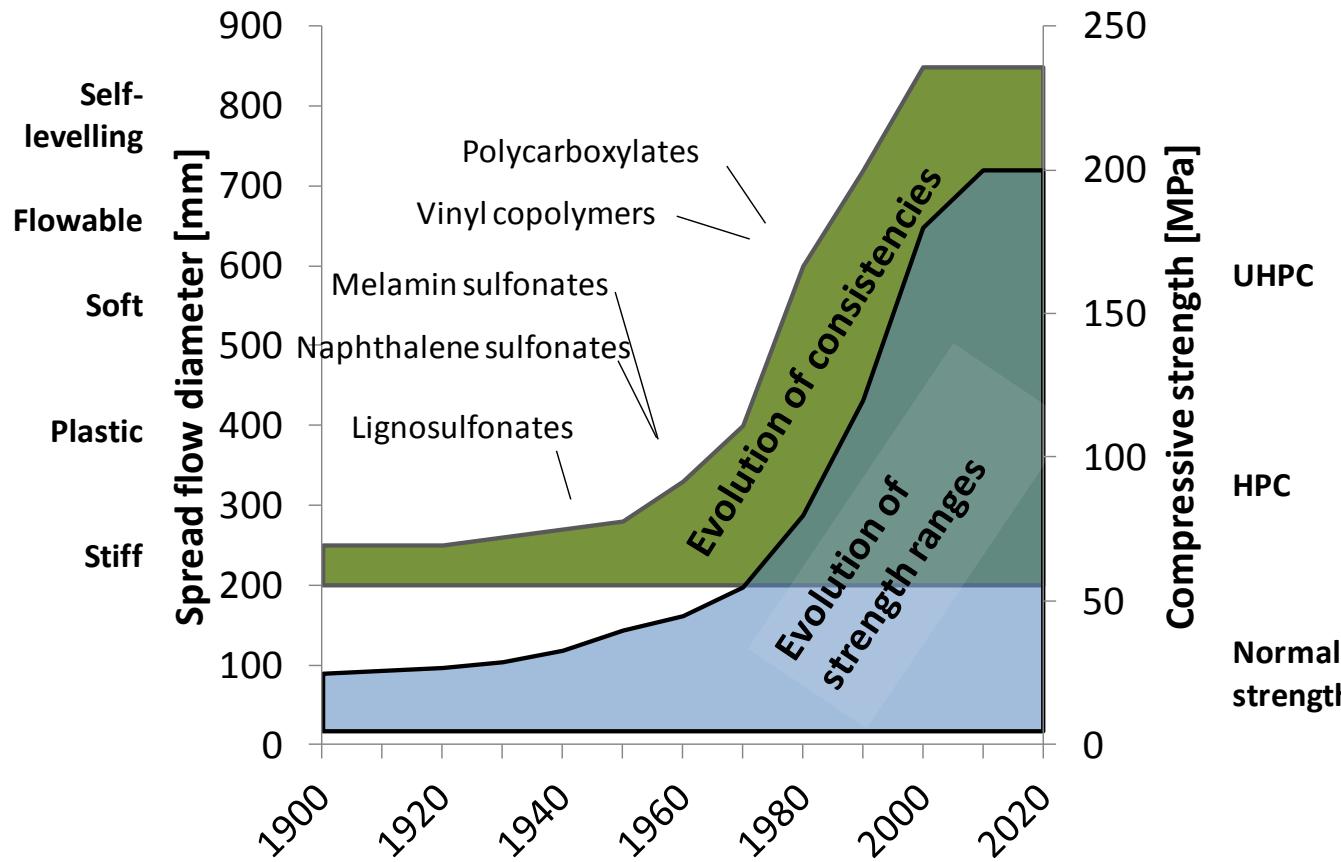
**Kolawole A. Olonade**  
Obafemi Awolowo  
University, NG

# Introduction

# Introduction

## Relevance of rheology modifying admixtures

### – Strength evolution



# Introduction

## Relevance of rheology modifying admixtures

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- **Strength evolution**
  - **New casting technologies**



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- **Strength evolution**
  - **New casting technologies**
  - **New architecture**



[www.bewegteflaeche.de](http://www.bewegteflaeche.de)



phæno  
by Zaha Hadid, Source: Wikipedia

# Introduction

## Relevance of rheology modifying admixtures

- 
- **Strength evolution**
  - **New casting technologies**
  - **New architecture**
  - **Special applications**

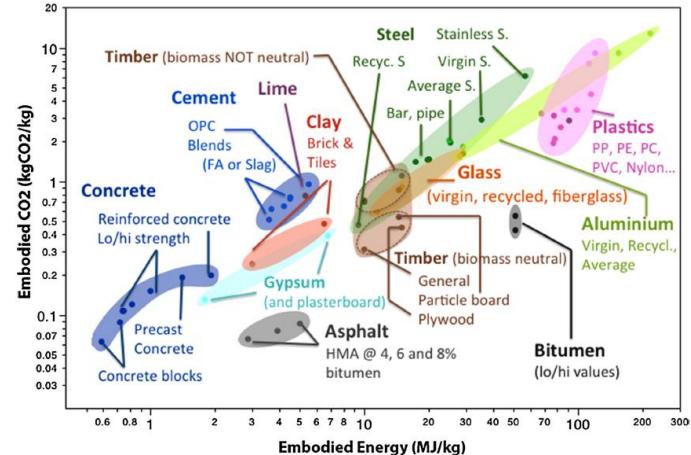


Source: BAM

# Introduction

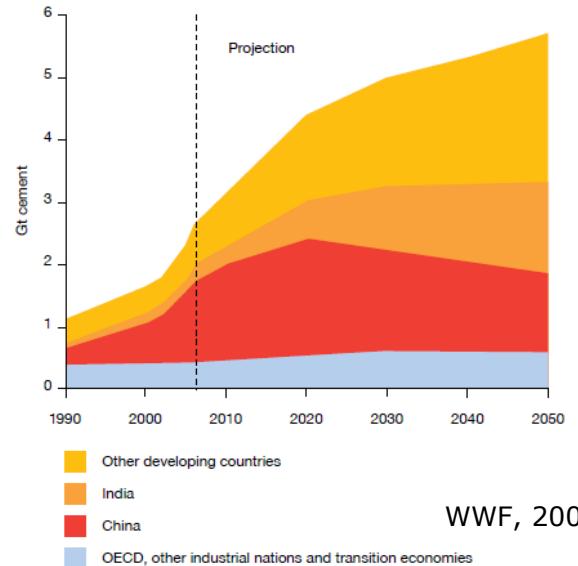
## Relevance of rheology modifying admixtures

- Strength evolution
- New casting technologies
- New architecture
- Special applications
- Sustainability and environmental friendliness



Barcelo et al., 2014

Rheology modifying admixtures are the key to sustainable, and innovative construction.



# Relevance of rheology modifying admixtures in Africa

# Relevance for Africa

## Economy and society

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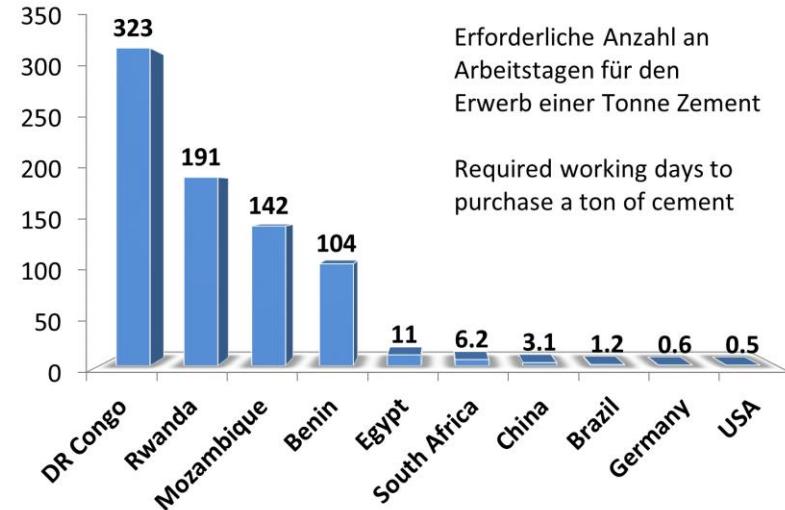
- Africa's economies grow at rapid pace.
- Investment in construction ensures ongoing growth and triggers new developments.
- The most crucial challenges are:
  - Infrastructure
  - Housing
- Construction business allows the population to participate in economic growth, and thus ensures social stability.
- Admixtures support efficient and sustainable construction.



# Relevance for Africa

## Affordable construction

- Cement is extremely expensive.
- Alternatives do exist, e.g.:
  - Rice husk ashes
  - Cassava peel ashes
  - Bagasse ashes
- But pozzolanic materials typically require admixtures to compensate for the higher water demand.



Msinjili, 2015



Olonade, 2015

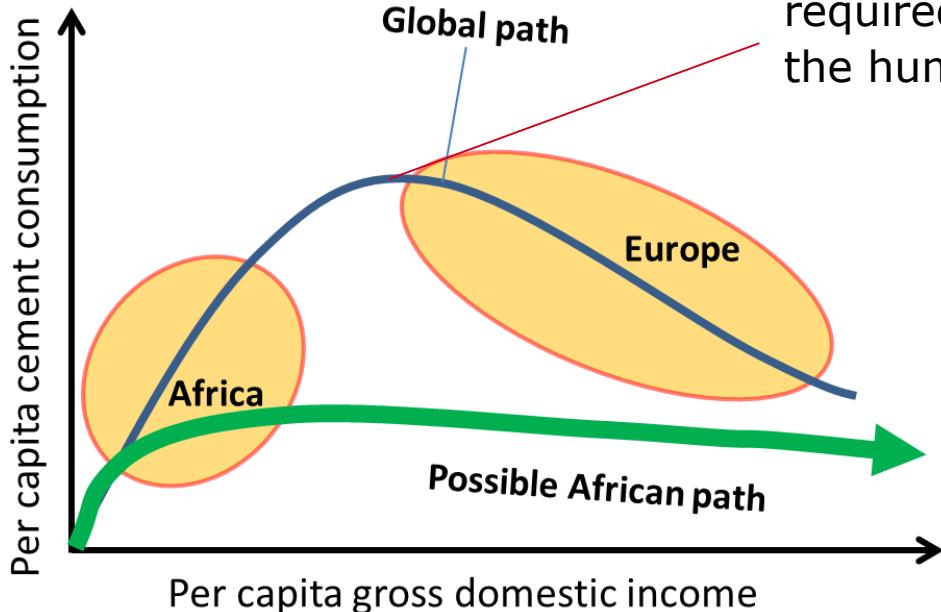


Wikipedia

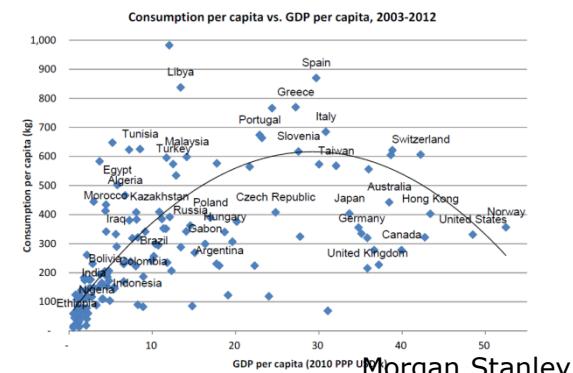
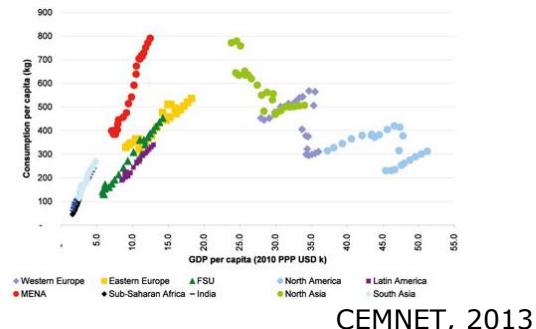
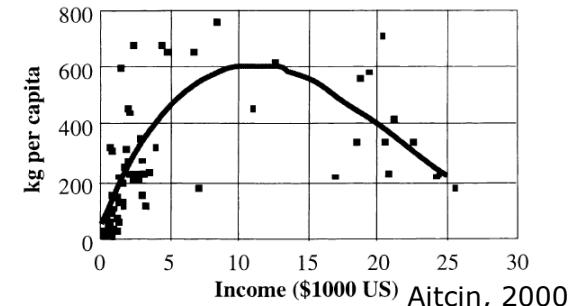
# Relevance for Africa

## Sustainability

- Admixtures help to minimise the cement content as well as the w/c.
- Therefore today, the correlation between high cement content and good concrete does not hold true anymore.



Admixtures  
required to avoid  
the hump

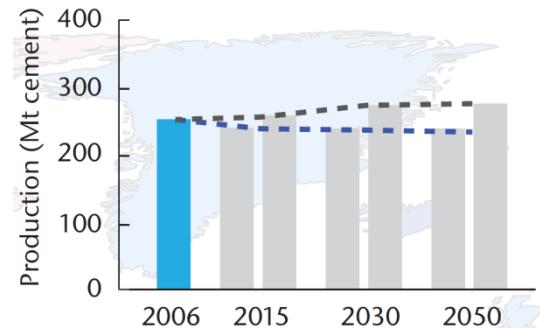


# Relevance for Africa

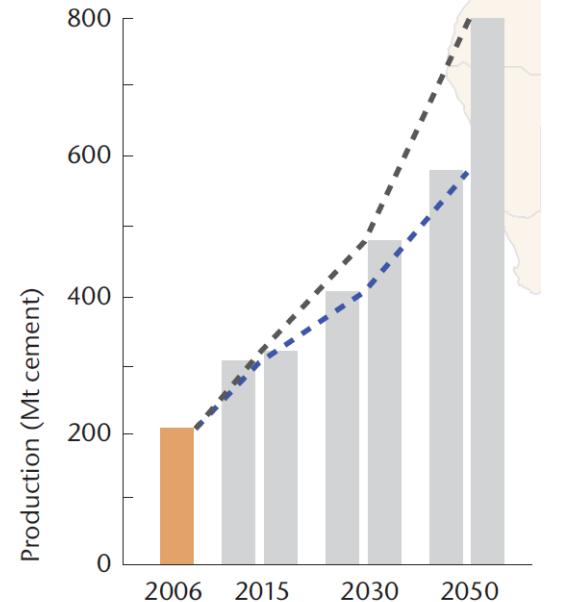
## Global effects

- Hence, admixtures are of enormous relevance for the African continent.
- However, they are also extremely important for the global environment, since reasonable concrete technology will achieve the greatest momentum today in Africa.
- Sustainable concrete technology pays back a multiple due to the rapid cement market growth, to the benefit of:
  - The environment
  - Local markets
  - Global markets

European Union 25



Africa and Middle East



# Relevance for Africa

## Admixture shipments to Africa

- Admixture supply from outside, and mainly coastal regions.



# Relevance for Africa

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- Admixture supply from outside, and mainly coastal regions.
- Alternatives are required.
- Africas strength is agriculture.
- 600 Million ha of unused agricultural areas (Perry 2016).



# Relevance for Africa

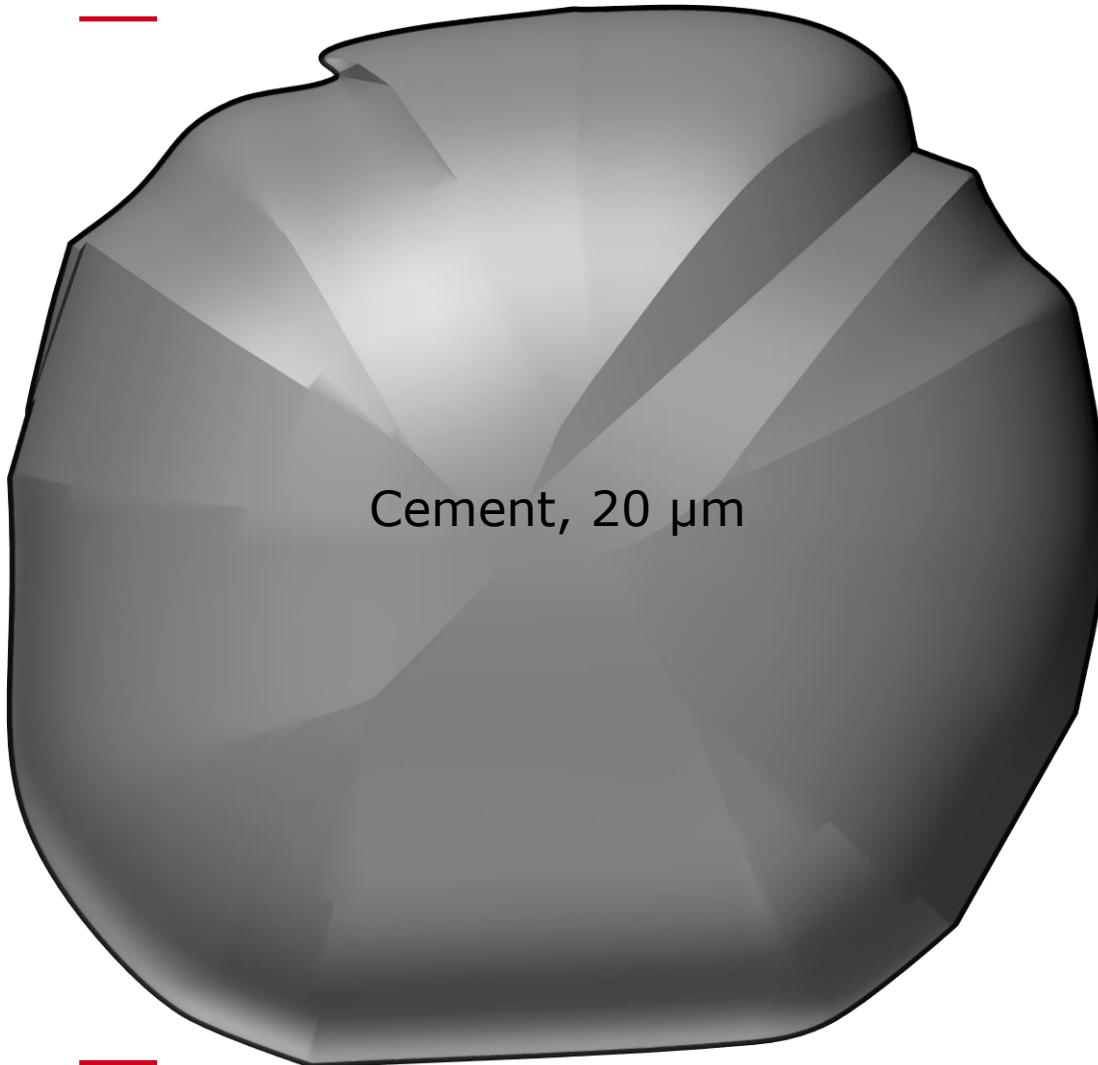
## Admixture shipments to Africa

- Admixture supply from outside, and mainly coastal regions.
- Alternatives are required.
- Africas strength is agriculture.
- 600 Million ha of unused agricultural areas (Perry 2016).
- Local plants and local agricultural wastes can be used, like
  - Acacia gum
  - Lignosulfonate
  - Starch
  - Nkui



# Relevance for Africa

## Comparison



Ettringite

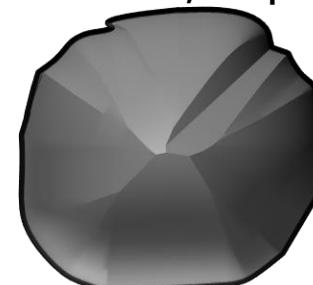
Ettringite

Nkui

Amylopectin

GAK, LS

Cement, 5 µm



PCE

# Acacia gum as superplasticizer

## Origin

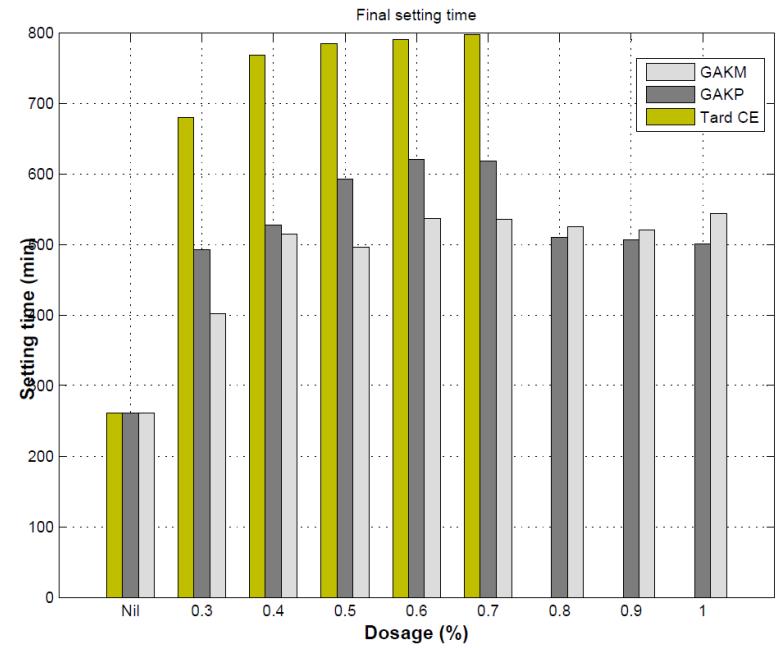
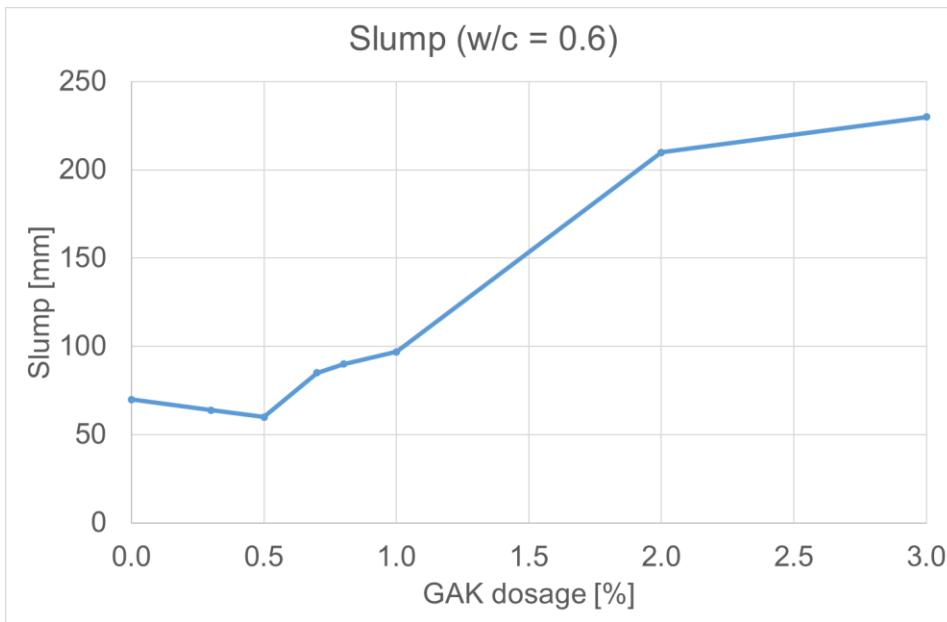
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- Acacia gum can be obtained from the stem,  
e.g. from Acacia Karoo Hynes
- One tree can be harvested for 15 years



## Influence on rheology

- An increasing dosage of GAK (Acacia gum from the Karoo) can significantly enhance the slump of concrete.
- Set retardation could be observed, but it was not dramatic and can even be positive high temperature conditions.



## Influence on rheology

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- An increasing dosage of GAK (Acacia gum from the Karoo) can significantly enhance the slump of concrete.
- Set retardation could be observed, but it was not dramatic and can even be positive high temperature conditions.
- In future research the use of GAK as admixture for SCC in East Africa is observed in cooperation between Tshwane University of Technology, the Pan-African University at Kenyatta University and BAM.

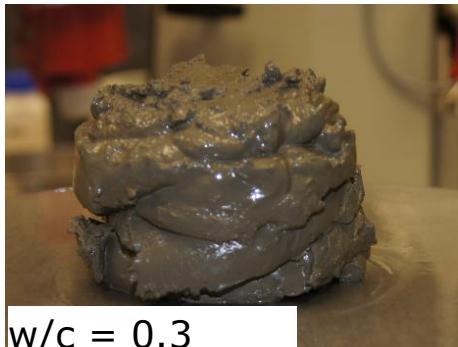


see MSc thesis  
Caroline Mwende

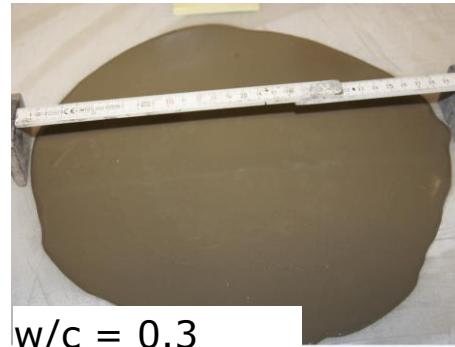


## Influence of solid volume fraction on GA

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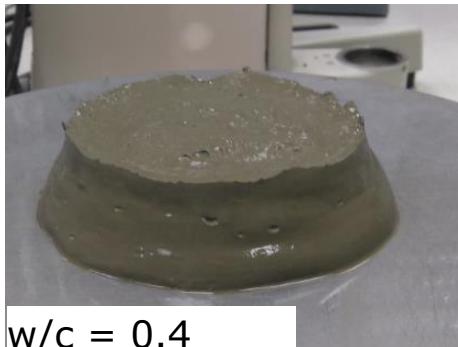
w/c = 0.3



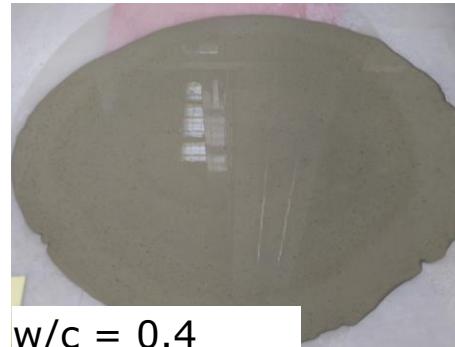
w/c = 0.3  
0.35% PCE



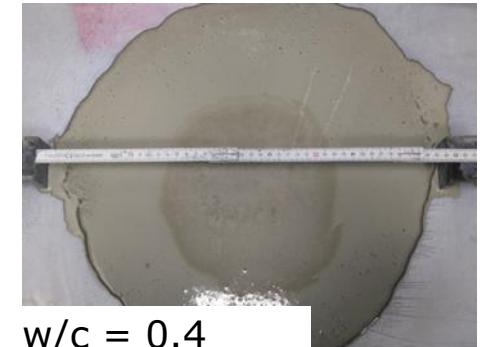
w/c = 0.3  
0.35% GA



w/c = 0.4



w/c = 0.4  
0.35% PCE



w/c = 0.4  
0.35% GA

# Lignosulfonate

# Lignosulfonate

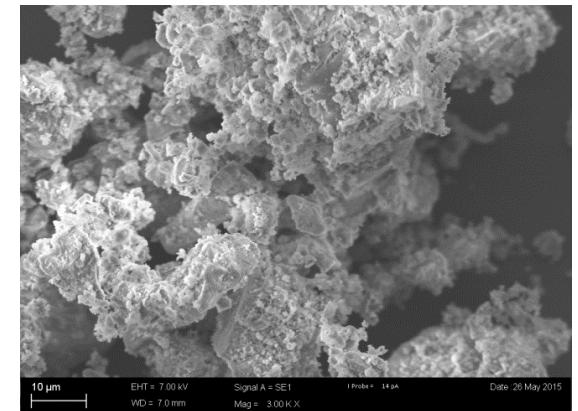
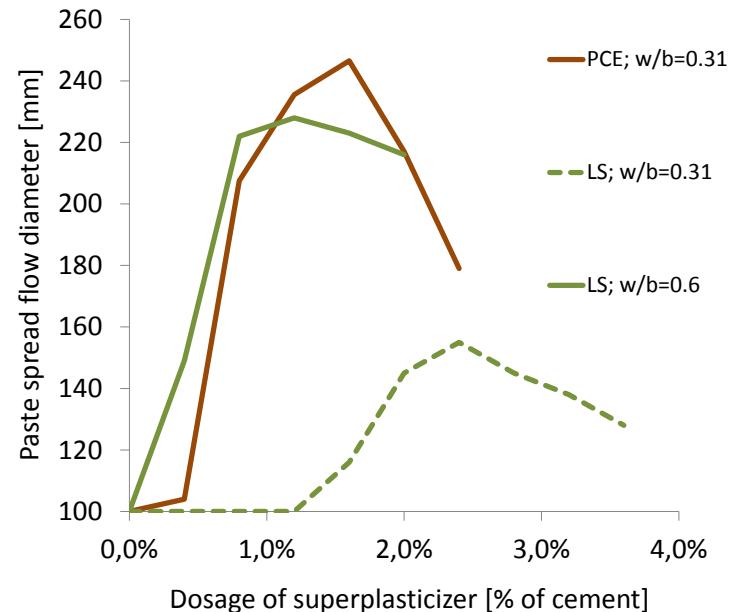
## Peculiarities of lignosulfonate

Lignosulphonates are typically considered as plasticizer.

- Waste product of cellulose industry
- More water required than with PCE
- More complex adjustment.

Lignosulfonates pointed out to perform very well in conjunction with porous surfaces such as rice husk ashes.

- For further information, please see  
Nsesheye Susan Msinjili →

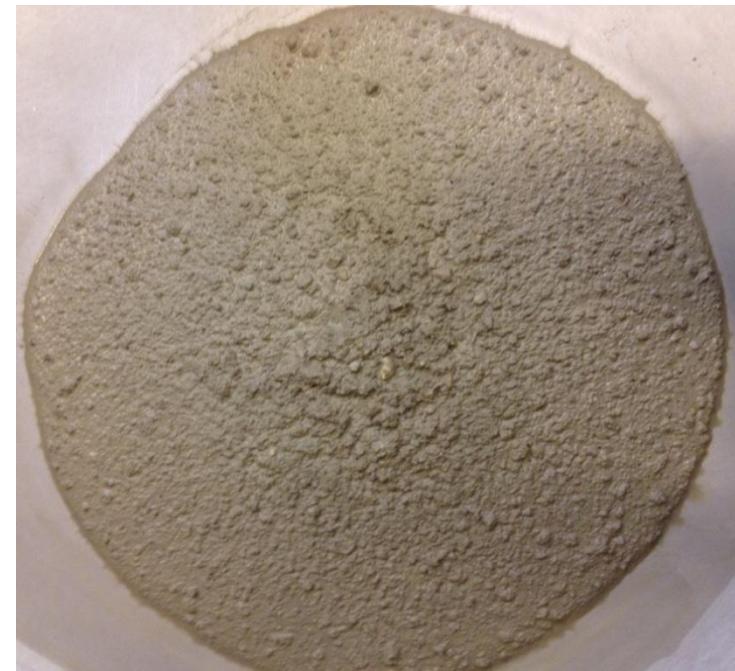


# Lignosulfonate

## Potentials

- SCC with lignosulfonate is possible.

| Compound: Mineral components     | [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ] |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| OPC                              | 399                  |
| Pozzolan (Uganda)                | 80                   |
| Fine sand [0 - 2 mm]             | 972                  |
| Compound: Admixtures             | [% of cem.]          |
| Lignosulfonate SP (Powder)       | 1.96%                |
| De-foaming agent (Powder)        | 0.75%                |
| Nigerian cassava starch (Powder) | 0.004%               |
| Components to be added           | [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ] |
| Water                            | 238                  |
| Aggregate [2 – 16 mm]            | 613                  |



Slump flow ~ 30 min: 635 mm

28d compr. strength: 56.2 MPa  
90d compr. strength: 68.4 MPa

# Cassava starch/starch

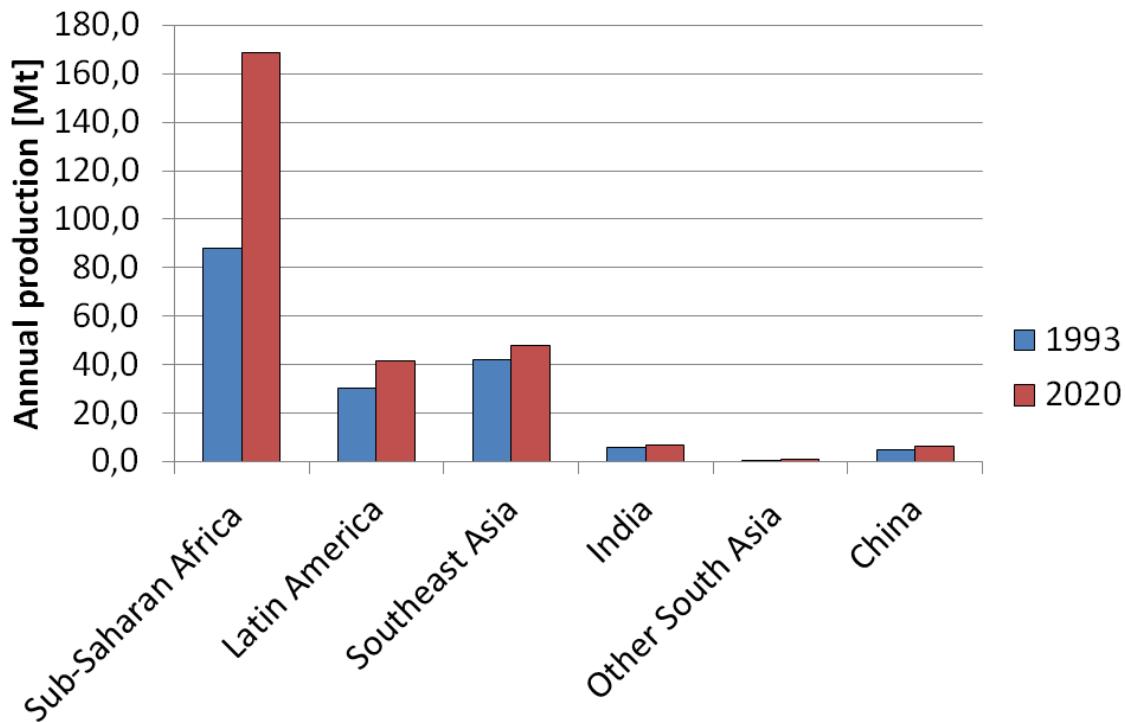
- Cassava, manioc, tapioca or yuca.
- Food: Staple crop of over 200 million people in Africa alone
- Animal Feed
- Industrial usage



# Cassava starch

## Projection

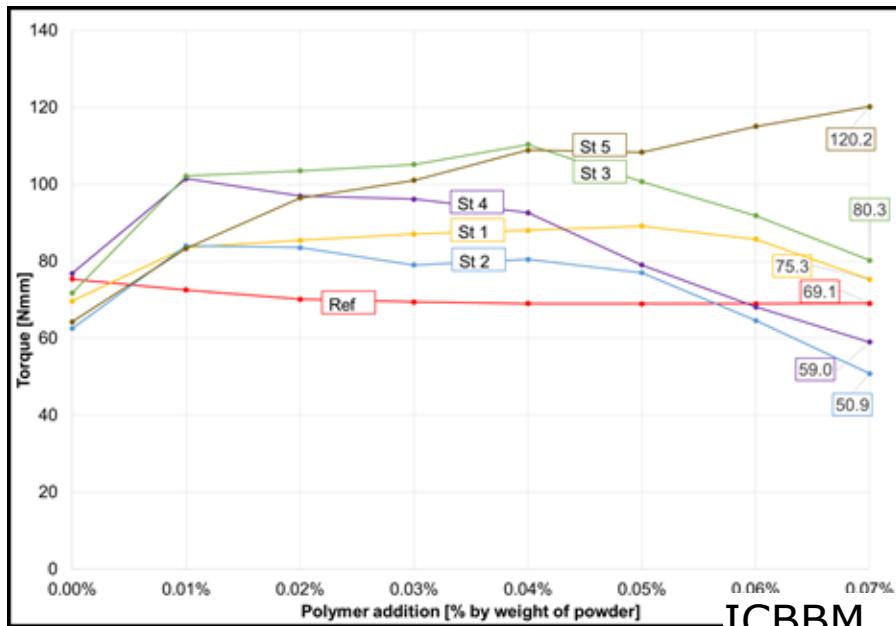
- Cassava is an important resource in Africa.



# Cassava starch

## Versatility

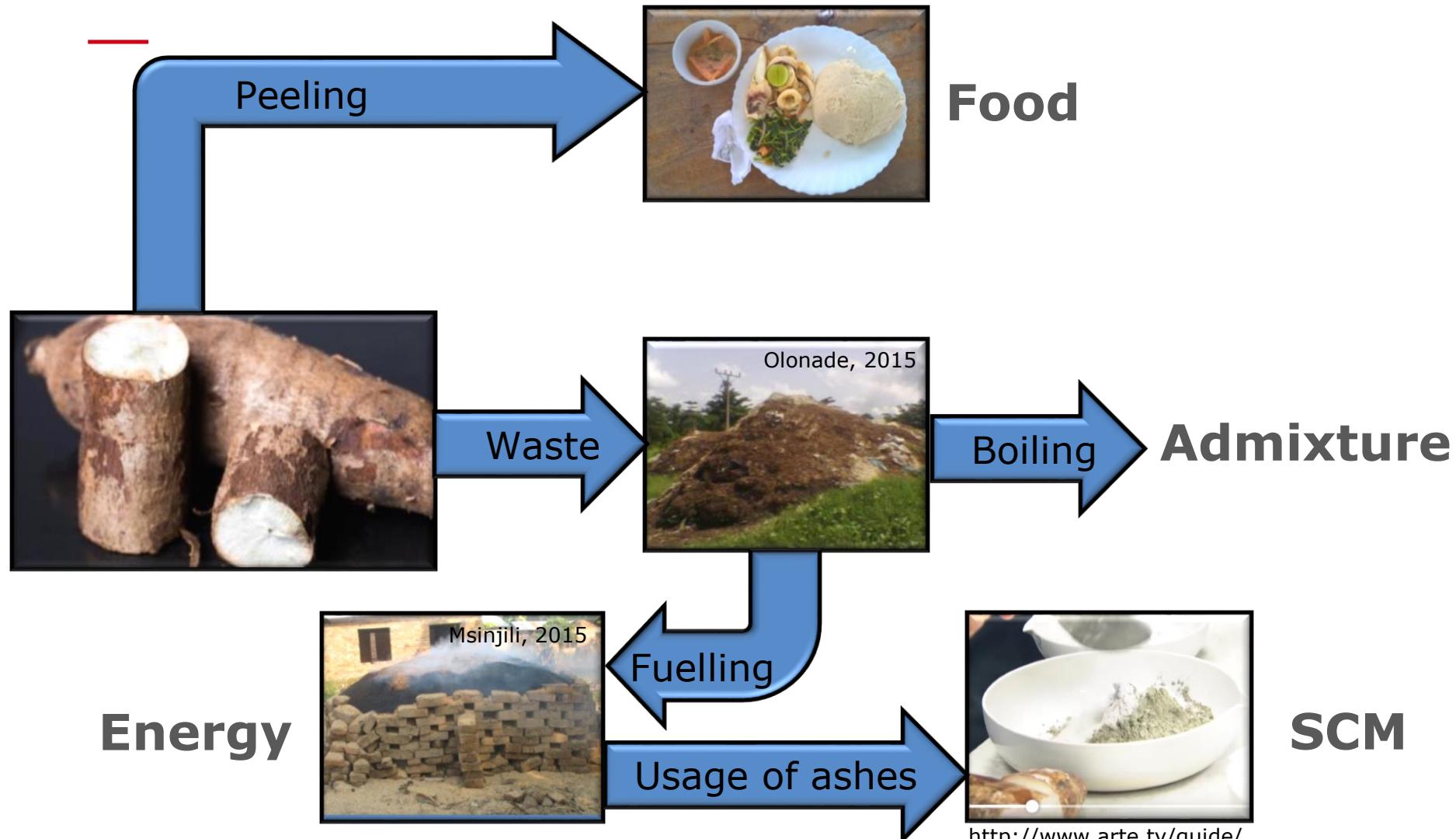
- Cassava is an important resource in Africa.
- Chemically it is similar to potato.
  - 80% by mass Amylopectin
  - 20% by mass Amylose
- After modification it can be extremely versatile.



ICBBM, Clermont Ferrand, 2017

For more information,  
see: Eleni Vasiliou →





## Potentials for sustainability

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- Cassava starch is also a waste from Gari production.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDkxk64dRHA>

# Nkui

# Nkui

## Origin

- Nkui is a traditional dish of the Bamileke in Cameroon.
- A gum inside the barks of *Triumfetta pendrata* A. Rich is responsible for the very peculiar consistency.

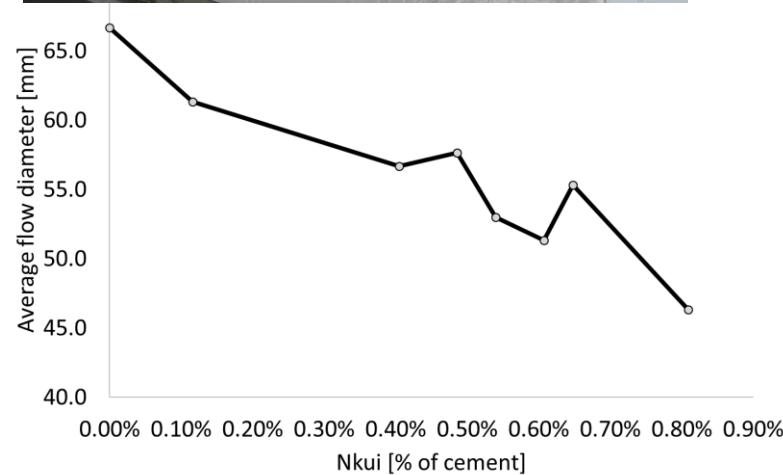
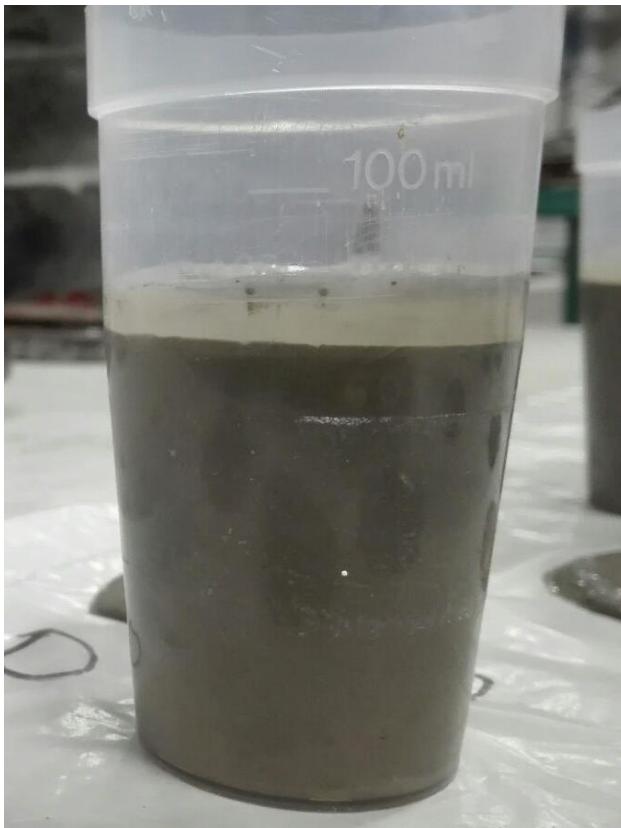


- The sticky consistency can possibly be used to stabilise cementitious systems effectively and provide for special consistency.



## Effect on instable cementitious systems

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## Effect on superplasticised systems

---

- The sticky consistency can possibly be used to stabilise cementitious systems effectively and provide for special consistency.
- In combination with PCE, the performance can be interesting.



w/c = 0.3



w/c = 0.3  
0.08% Nkui



w/c = 0.3  
0.35% PCE



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## Effect on superplasticised systems

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# Rheometric comparison

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## Experimental setup

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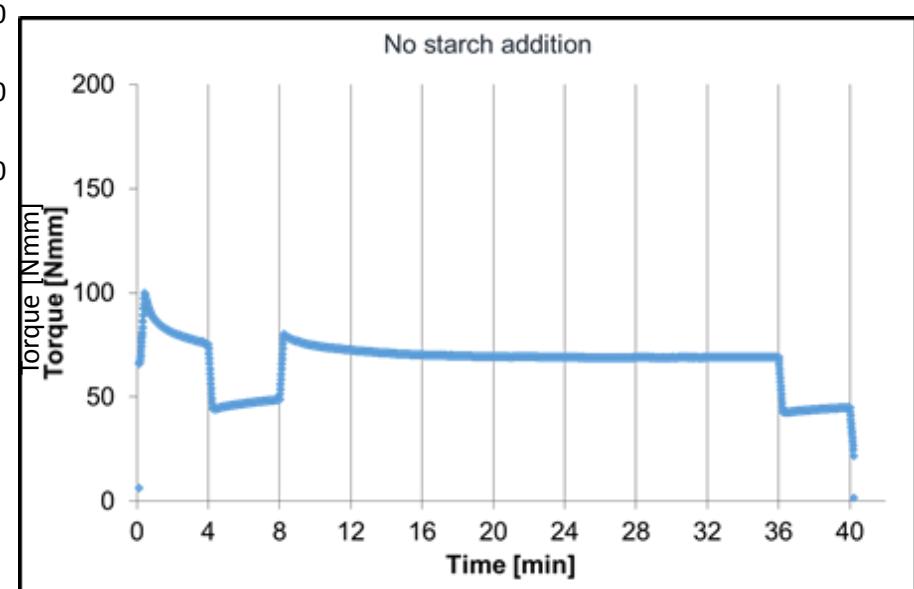
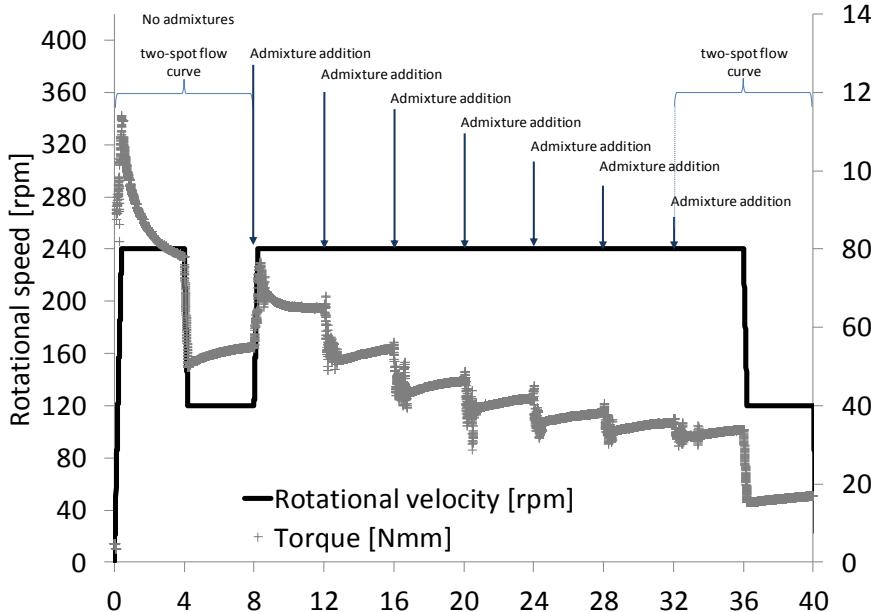
- Water cement system
- Solid volume fraction = 0.48
- Viskomat NT
- Cement paste stirrer



# Rheometric comparison

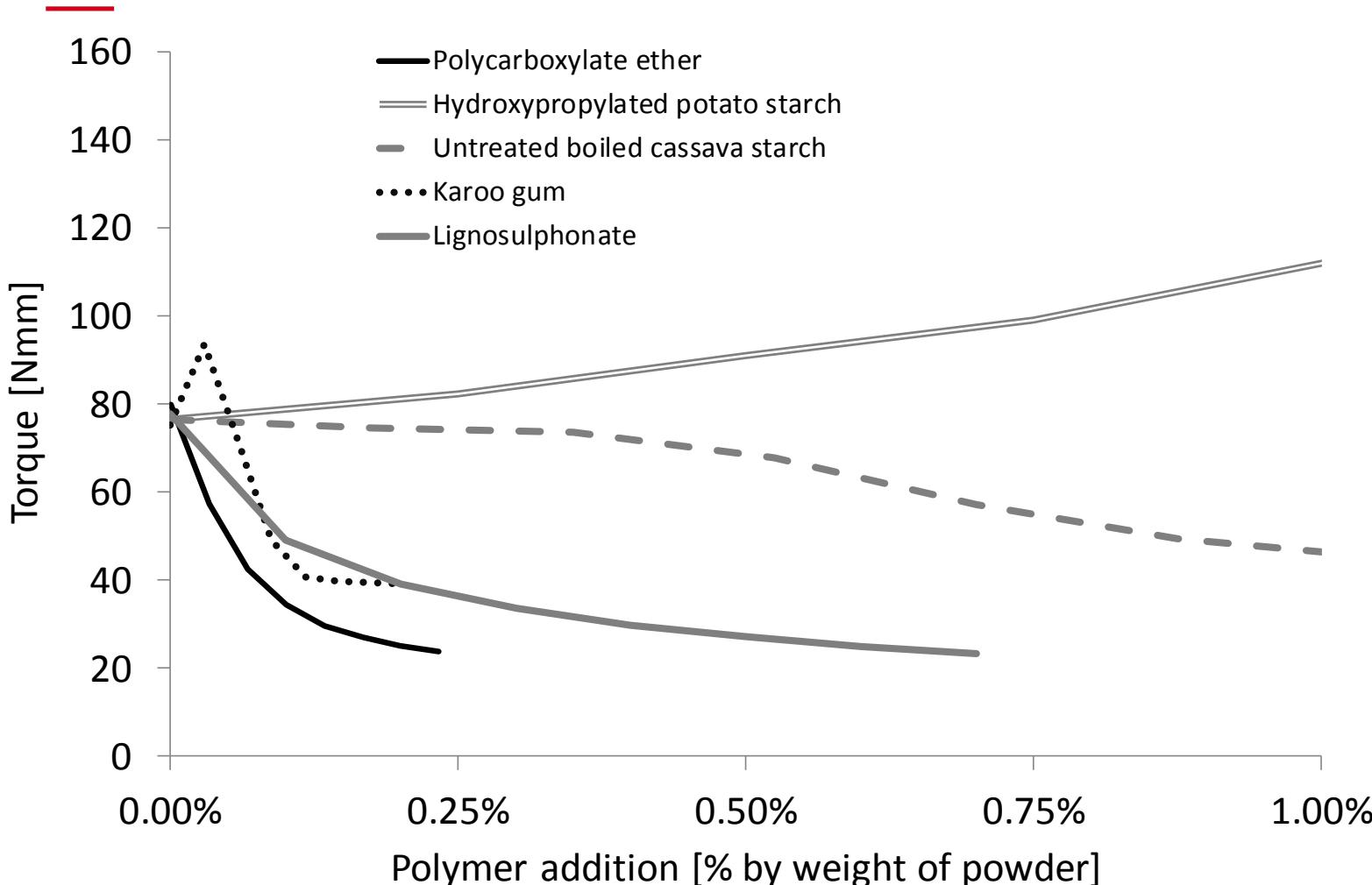
## Experimental setup

- Water cement system
- Solid volume fraction = 0.48
- Viskomat NT
- Cement paste stirrer
- Measurement regime allows saving materials



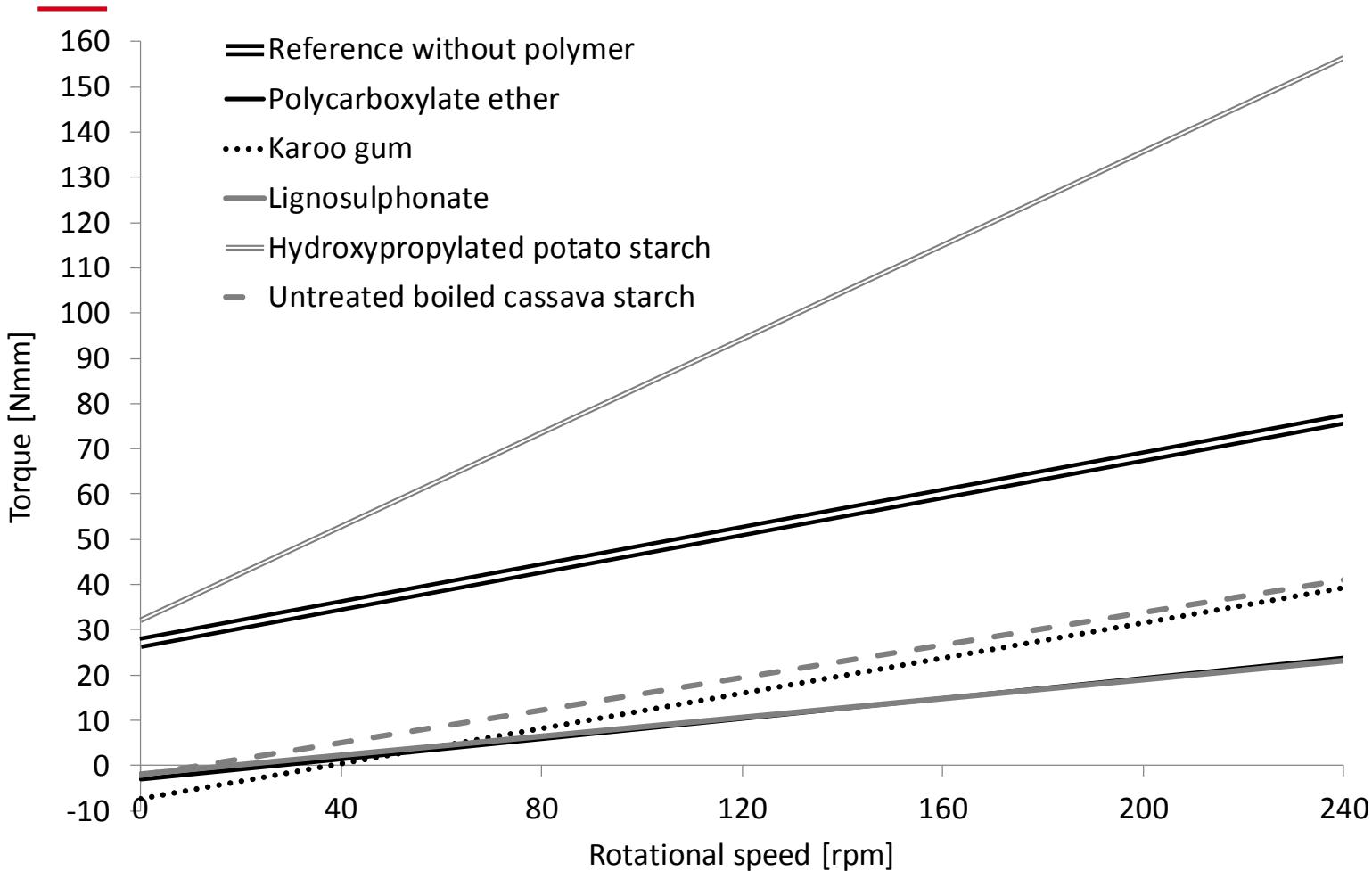
# Rheometric comparison

## Results at constant rotational speed 240 rpm



# Rheometric comparison

## Results at 240 rpm and 120 rpm



# Summary

# Summary

Nkui

- Cement and concrete construction are of enormous importance for SSA.
- All over the world we need more sustainable concrete technologies.
- Admixtures are the key.
- In Africa the supply chains for chemical admixtures are not well developed.
- Nature based chemical components can be used effectively to fill the gap.
- Some potentially promising materials were presented, but further research is required.

**If natural polymers point out to be promising, this can trigger more sustainable admixtures all over the world.**



# Announcement



## KEYS – Knowledge exchange for young scientists



**Next symposium: Johannesburg, SA**

**Deadline for abstract: 28. Feb. 2017**

**Selected authors attend for free**

### **Speakers:**

- **Prof. Billy Boshoff**  
University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
- **Prof. Elsabe Kearsley**  
University of Pretoria, South Africa
- **Prof. Ephraim Senbetta**  
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- **Dr. Soumen Maity**  
Development Alternatives, New Delhi, India
- **Prof. Marco Menegotto**  
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
- **Dr. Mike Otieno**  
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- **Prof. Mitchell Gohnert**  
University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- **Prof. Viktor Mechtcherine**  
Technical University of Dresden, Germany
- **Prof. Violeta Bokan Bosiljkov**  
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Dr. Dipl.-Ing. Wolfram Schmidt**  
BAM, Germany

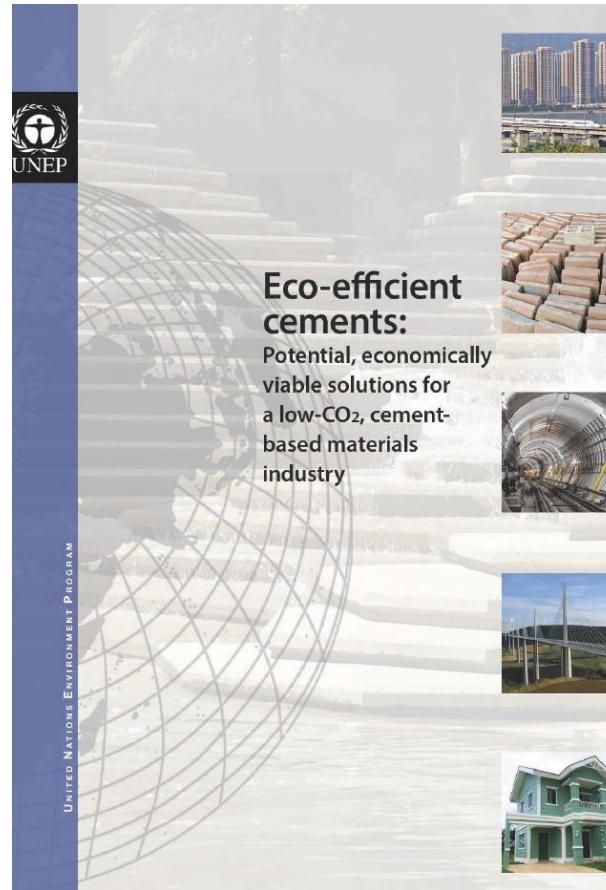
# Announcement

## UNEP report – Eco-efficient cements



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<http://lmc.epfl.ch/files/content/users/184559/files/2016-UNEPReport-Complete4.pdf>

# Thank you very much for your kind attention!

Meu lap'teu!

Niwega!

E sé ún púpò!

Siyabonga!

Asante sana!

Danke!