

9/8/23

E. coli
V. cholerae
eukaryotes

Gen. time

~ 18-20 mins

~ 8 mins

very high → hours to days

more suitable for
bioprocess & reactors

1982 [*Pseudomonas putida* - aromatic hydrocarbons
E. coli - recombinant insulin

post-translational
modifications

→ not present in
E. coli cells. Only
small proteins such
as insulin could
be produced.

but yeast was
quarantining these
recombinant proteins
& were not secreting
these proteins

Yeast
(*S. cerevisiae*)

alternative
host
(eukaryotic)

Puccia pasteuris
(another yeast)

→ did not
quarantine
the proteins

Interleukines
Interferons
Cytokines

↓
Animal cell lines

CHO - Chinese Hamster
Ovary
BHK - Baby Hamster
Kidney

Amgen →

Erythropoietin

to solve cancer-
related anaemia

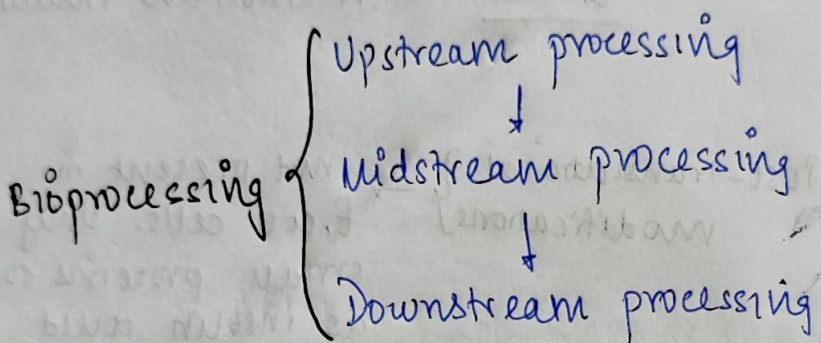
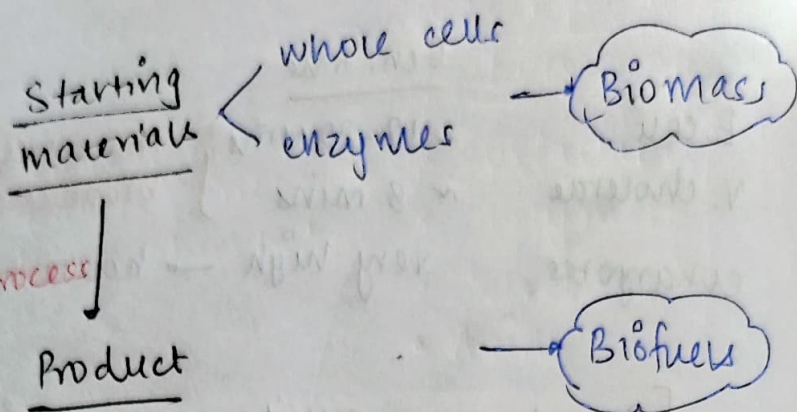
→ 1990s

Multiple gene
Multiple products

Metabolic
Engineering

Systems
Biology &
Synthetic Biology

16/5/23



Somatostatin

→ 1970s → not recombinant

used for lowering blood cholesterol

United Nations

- Framework Convention on Climate Change → Paris, 2015.
- Anthropogenic activities → CO_2 , CH_4
- By 2050: energy demand will double or even treble.
- 2008: thought to be the peak of global petroleum prodⁿ, but now it is believed that the peak is yet to come.

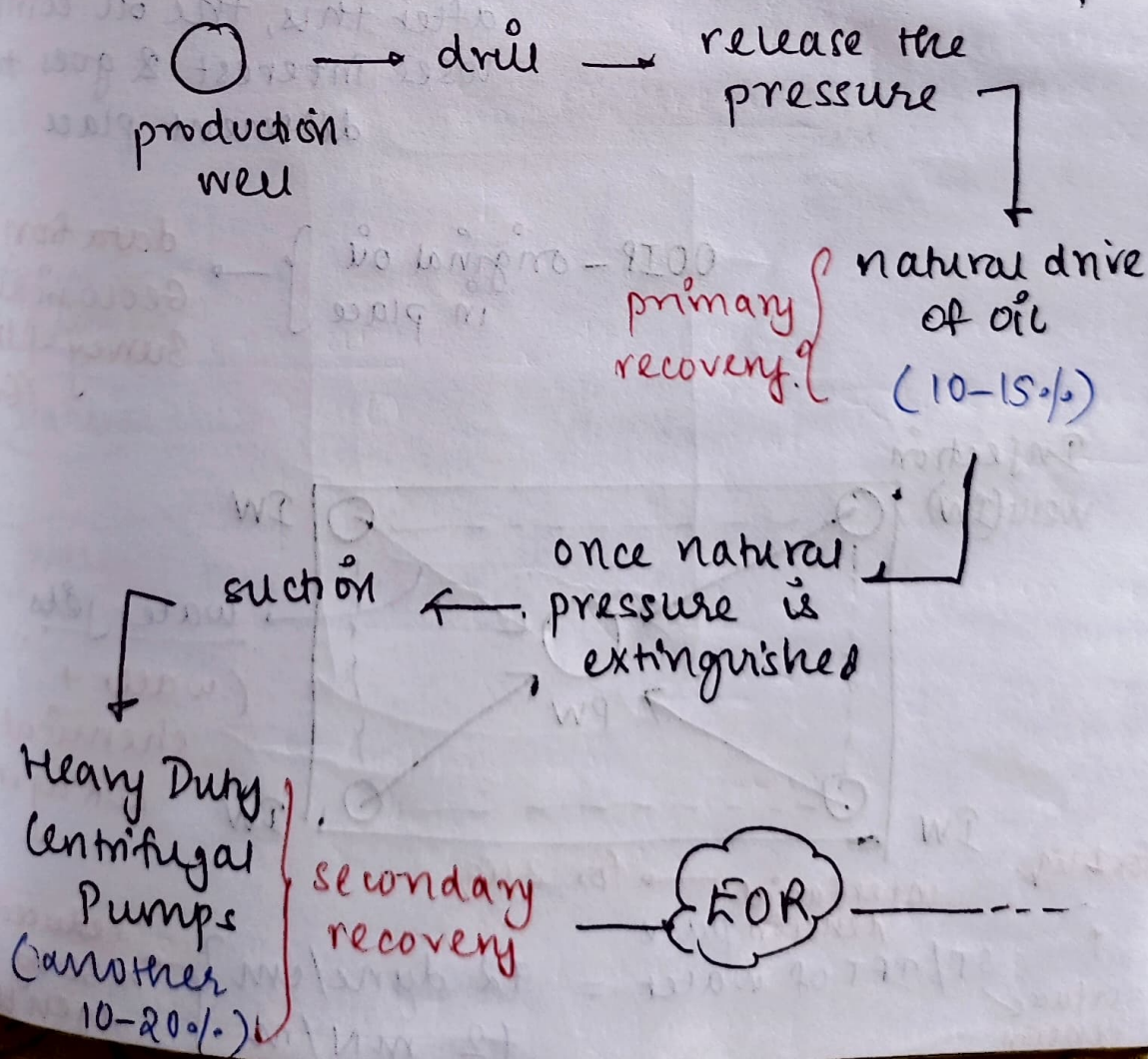
→ IPCC report on Climate Change, 2007

OPEC countries: Organization of Petroleum
Enhanced Countries.

MEOR: Microbially Enhanced Oil Recovery.

Need for EOR:

- ✓ oil reservoir → drilled
- ✓ oil recovered → 30-50%
- ✓ oil left → 50-70% } EOR target



water flooding

but oil is immiscible in water, so not much oil comes out

water jet + EOR agents

- surfactants
- Polymers
- solvents
- Acids

Tertiary recovery / EOR (another 10-15%)

reduce the surface tension of oil

viscosify / thicken water

push oil more effectively

After these 3 steps

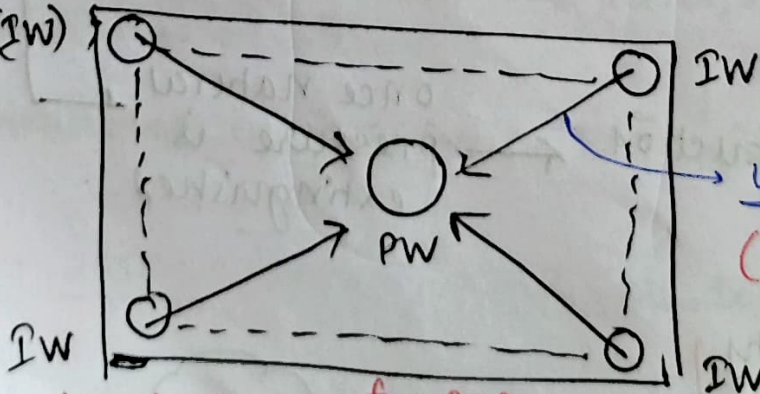
→ ~40% of oil is recovered

↓
after this, the oil company loses interest & goes to a different place

OOIP - original oil in place

data from the Geological Survey of India (GSI)

Injection wells (IW)



water jets
(water + chemical EOR agents)

for 1 liq.
↑
surface tension

interfacial tension pure → for 2 liq.

ST / IFT of water = 72 dyne/cm
72 mN/m

reduced to ~30 by EOR agents.

• But EOR agents → are themselves produced from petroleum
 ↓
alternative?

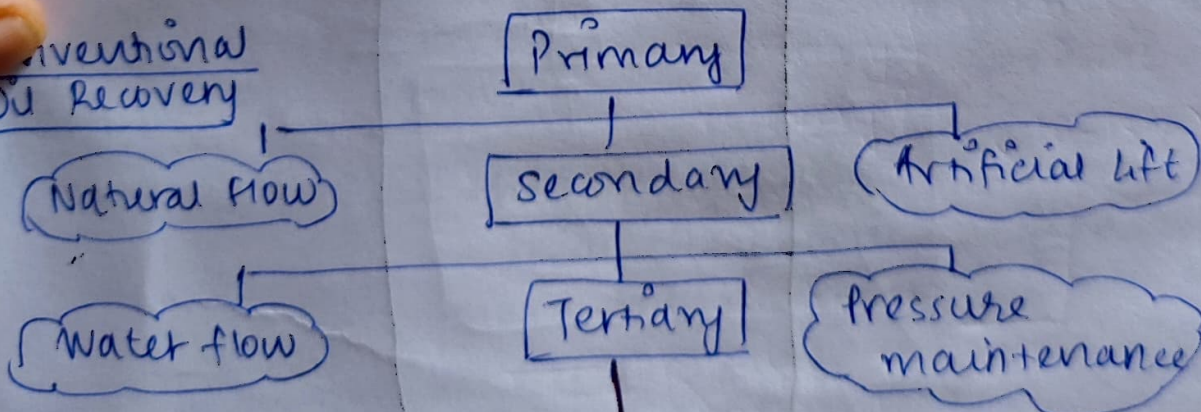
↓
MEOR!

23/8/23

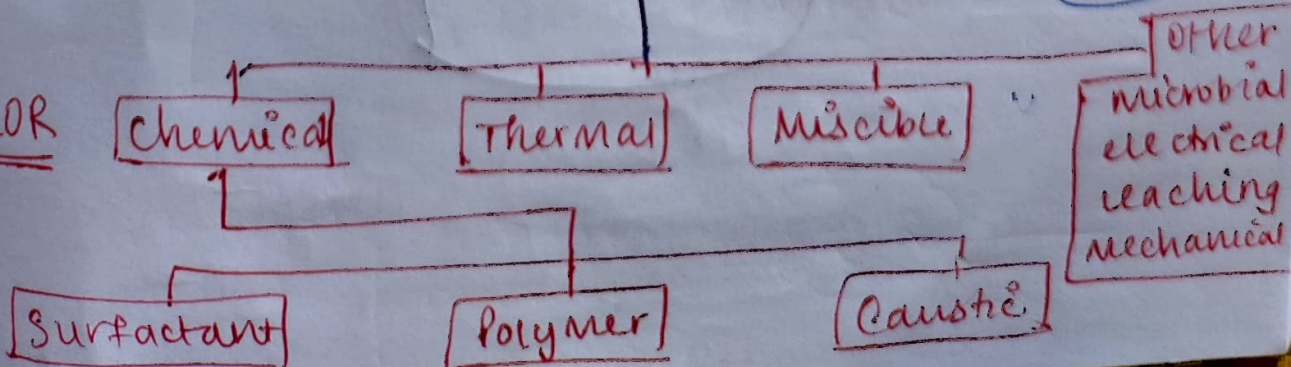
> 90% of water jet comes out w/o oil → Water cut
 targets of MEOR ← microorganisms
 enzymes
 GMO (but risky)

Oil Recovery Mechanism

Conventional Oil Recovery



EOR



2nd & 3rd gen. EOR methods

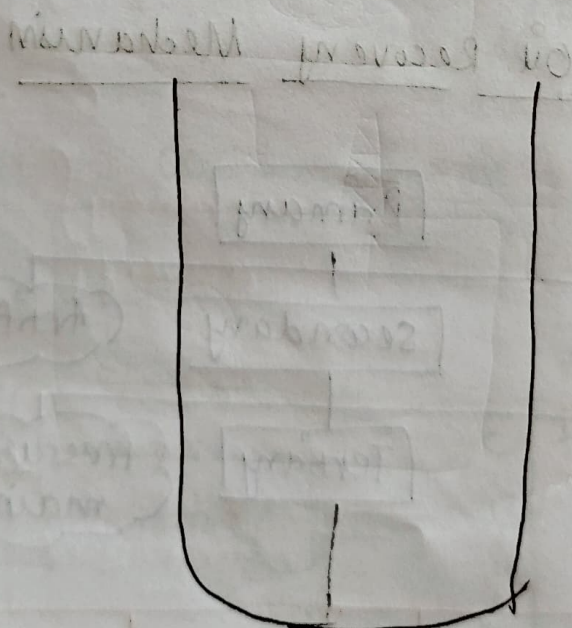
- Water flooding (water injection)
- Gas injection (no miscible)
- Carbon dioxide flooding (miscible)
- Steam injection & in-situ burning
- Surfactants or foams injection including Alkali-surfactant injection

LABS

linear alkene
benzene sulfonates

• Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery

↳ biosurfactants
emulsifiers
biopolymers



What is MEOR?

- use of microbes
- improve oil recovery
- Beckman - 1926
- 60% OOIP after i recovery

1

Ex-situ

produced outside,
in some factories

↓
brought to the
oil fields: the
microbial products

In-situ

consortium of bacteria
producing surfactant,
polymers, etc.

+
nutrients

↓
supplying the broth
to the reservoir by
via the IWs.

↓
close the oil wells &
allow the microbes
to grow

←
train them to
feed on oil &
grow

→ they should not
grow on the shorter-
chain hydrocarbons

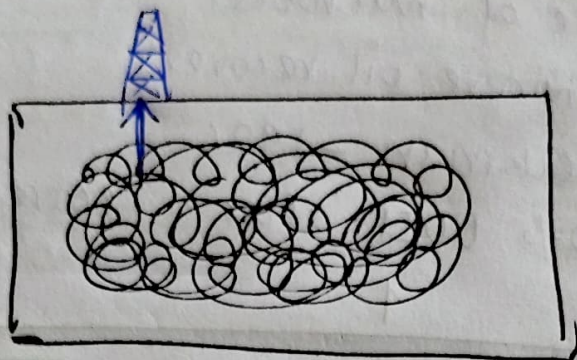
as these are our
useful products

→ feed on long
chain HCs
(C > 20).

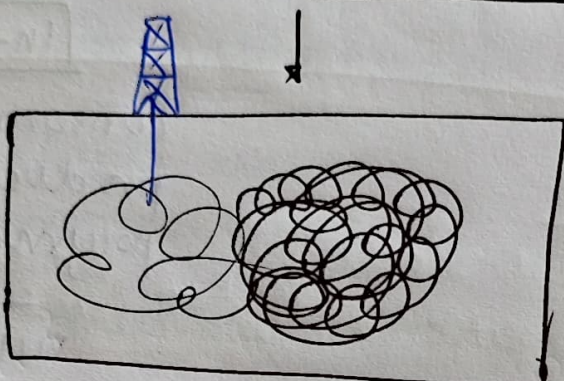
- thermophilic
- osmophilic
- barophilic
- alkaliphilic

"Biotechnology in Petroleum Recovery: The microbial EOR"

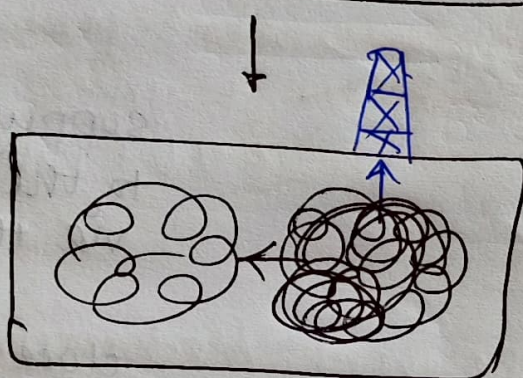
oil rig is
set up at
an oil-rich
place



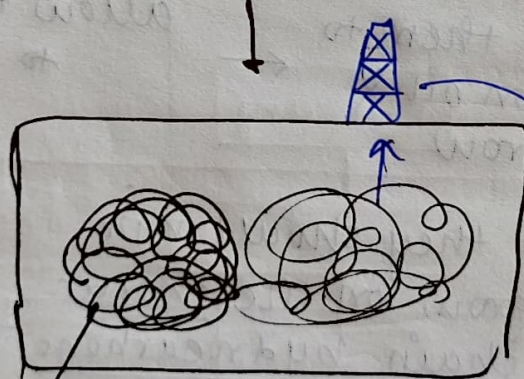
eventually
this place
becomes
oil-less



by simple
diffusion the
oil from the
oil-rich zone
comes ~~to~~
to the oil-
less zone



the companies try
to shift to the oil-
rich zone adjacent
but the previously
oil-less zone is
"thieving" on new
zones



not much
production

Thief zones

Thief zones
need to be
blocked

Thermosetting
Polymers

Biomass (MEOR)

30/8/23

Biosurfactants

derived from plants & microbes

reduces surface tension (ST) / interfacial tension (IFT)
(mN/m) or (dynes/cm)

b/w liquid & air

b/w two liquids

in MEOR, this is reduced between ~~petro~~ water & crude oil

causes emulsification

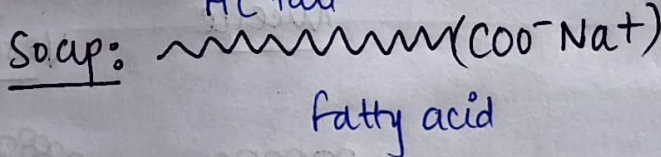
(Lipophilic)
Hydrophobic & Hydrophilic moieties/ domains in the same molecular structure

(Lipophobic)

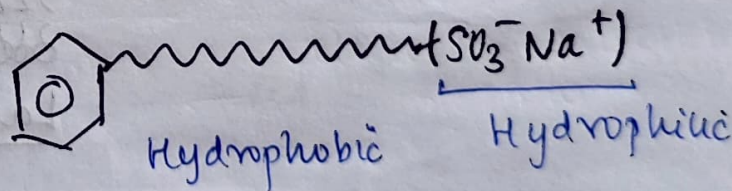
commercial detergents

LAB'S

Linear alkyl benzene sulphonates



Detergents:



Amphipathic / Amphiphilic
Hydrophilic + Hydrophobic

Saponin: plant-based surfactant (powerful)

Biosurfactants;

- Degradable
- less harmful than chemical surfactants
- Green surfactants

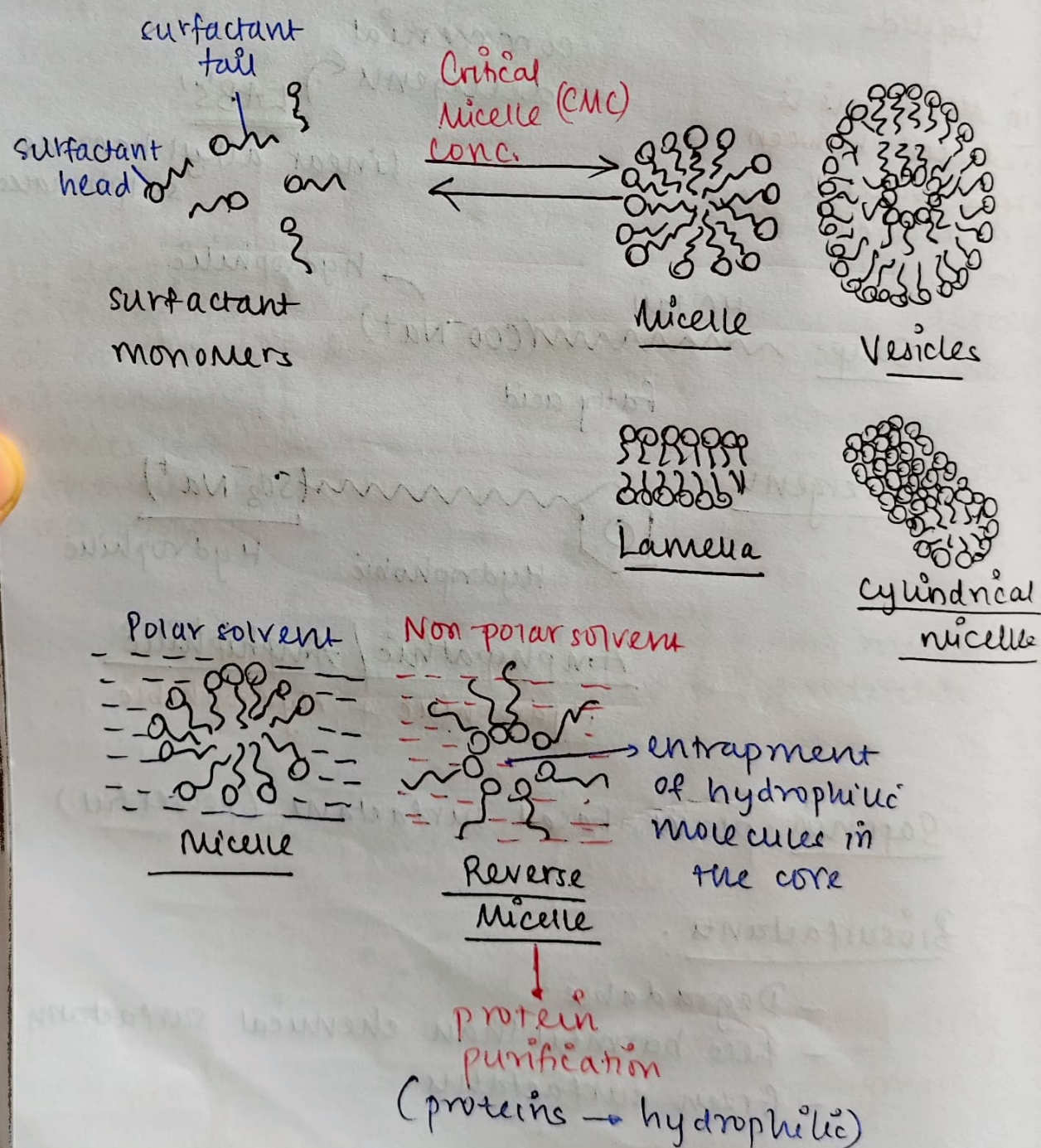
Biochemical surfactants

↳ derived from plant-based/
vegetable-derived oils.
(edible & non-edible oils).

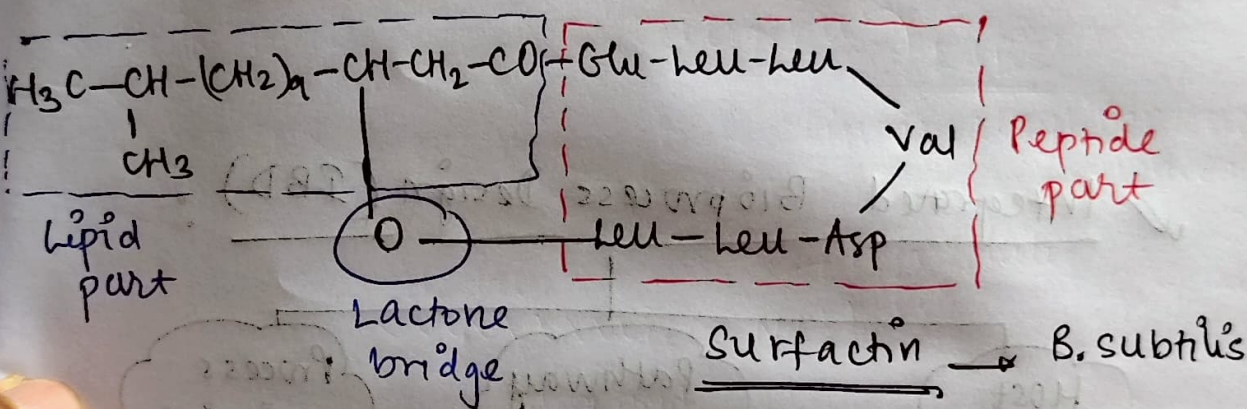
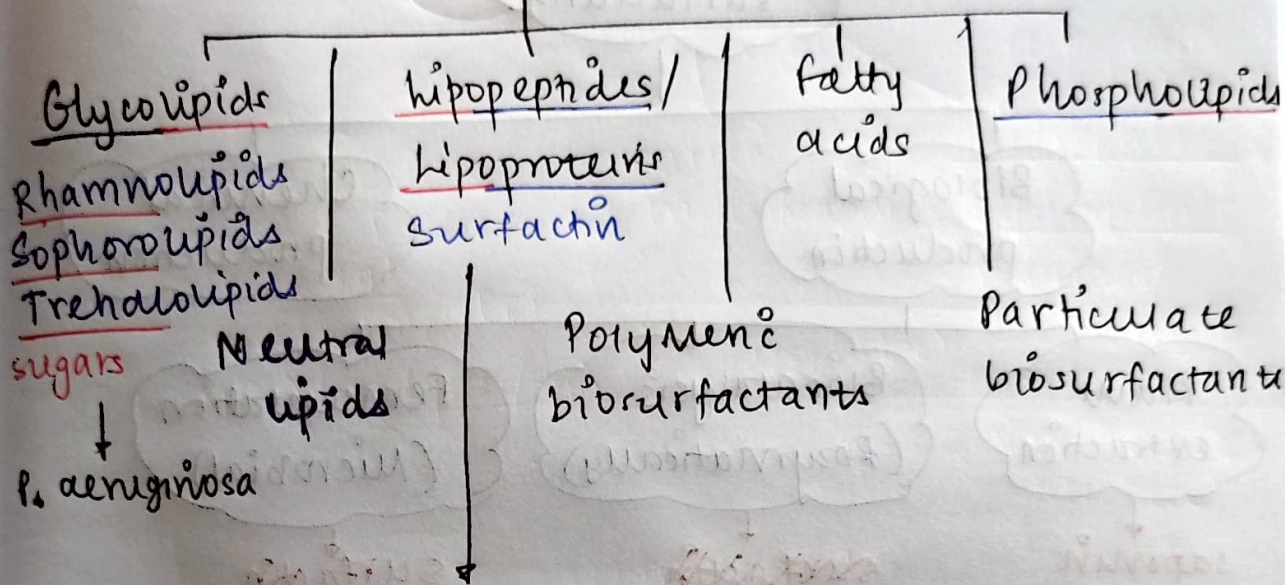
Biosurfactants :

eg: SDS

↳ mostly enzymatically-synthesized
eg: AGPs, sphorolipids



Biosurfactants



Nanoparticle formation

we need reducing agent

eg: $\text{Ag}^+ \rightarrow \text{Ag}^0$

eg: sodium borohydrate biosurfactants

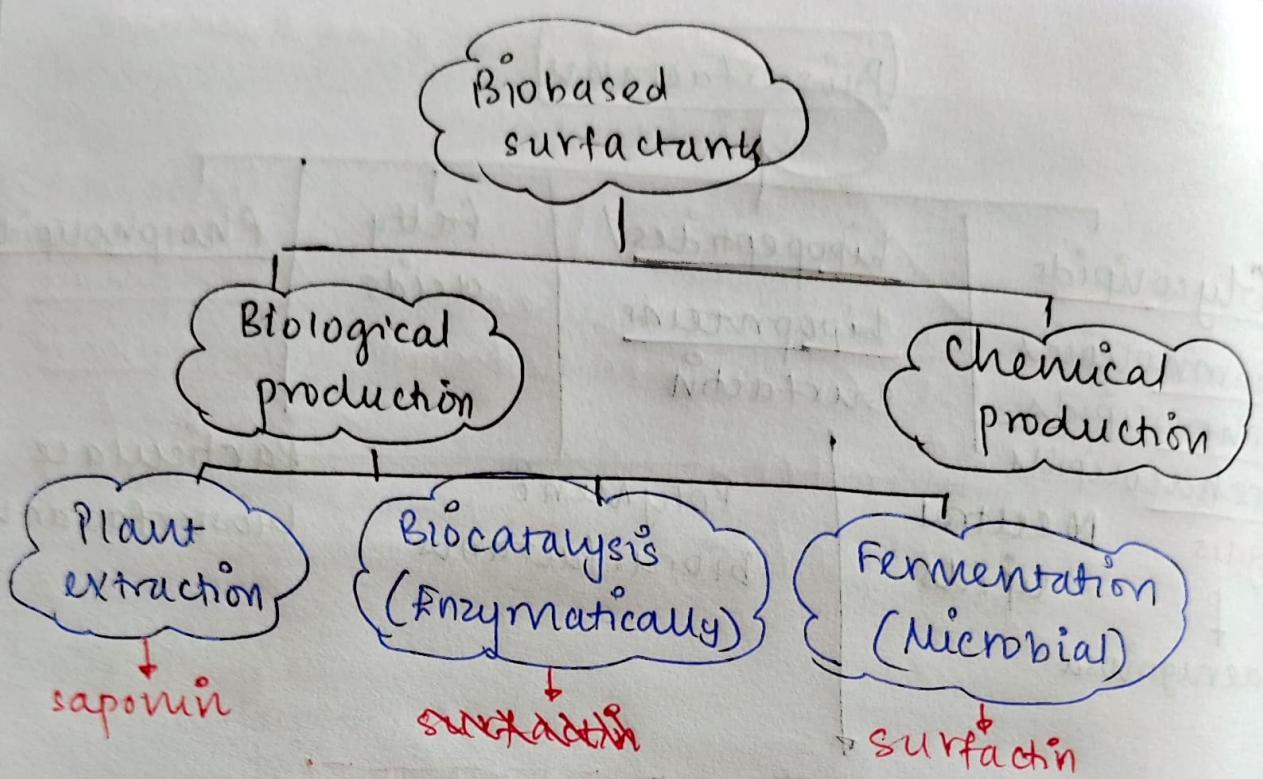
metallic silver nanoparticles

stabilize them as individual nanoparticles

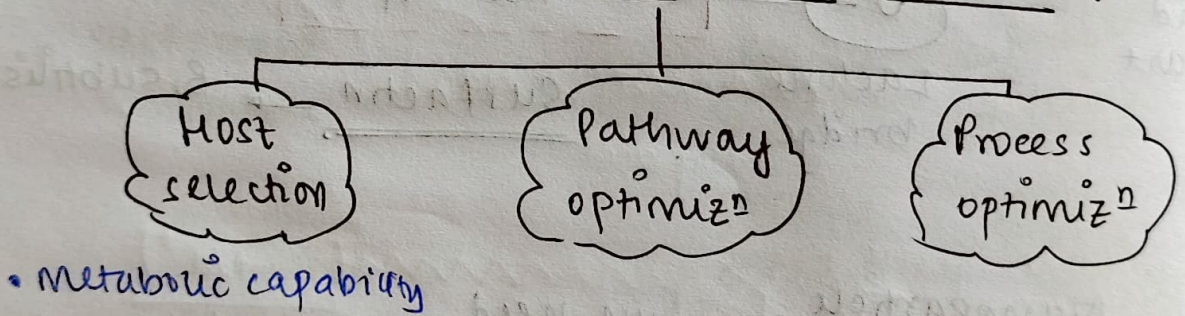
not only help in reducing, but also protect them

prevent them from forming aggregates

Capping agents



✓ Integrated Bioprocess Design (IBD) :



Every scale-up step :

- P/V constant
- impeller Re No. const
- mass transfer coeff.