

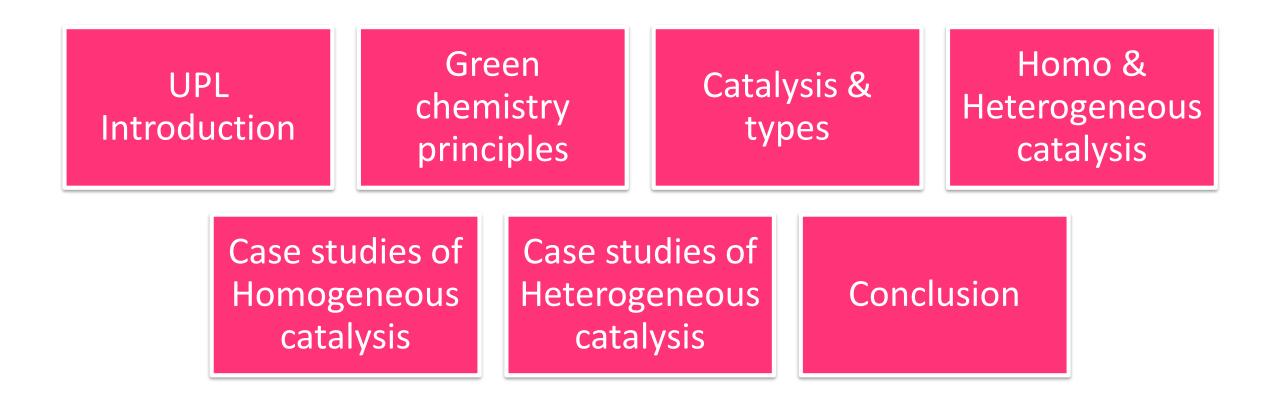


### "Catalysts & Catalytic Processes being explored by UPL for Economical & Environmental Competitiveness"

Dr. Vasudev Gandi R&D Chemistry and Tech transfer UPL Ltd., Thane, Mumbai

Classification: Internal (I)

# Outline





#### UPL Crop Protection Global Reach With a sales presence in 138 countries





43

8

#### **UPL** in numbers





UPL

Based on revenue

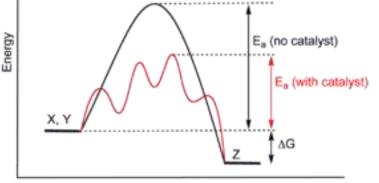
## **12 Principles of Green Chemistry**

- 1. Prevention. It is better to prevent waste than to treat or clean up waste after it is formed.
- Atom Economy. Synthetic methods should be designed to maximize the incorporation of all materials used in the process into the final product.
- 3. Less Hazardous Chemical Synthesis. Whenever practicable, synthetic methodologies should be designed to use and generate substances that possess little or no toxicity to human health and the environment.
- Designing Safer Chemicals. Chemical products should be designed to preserve efficacy of the function while reducing toxicity.
- Safer Solvents and Auxiliaries. The use of auxiliary substances (solvents, separation agents, etc.) should be made unnecessary whenever possible and, when used, innocuous.
- 6. Design for Energy Efficiency. Energy requirements should be recognized for their environmental and economic impacts and should be minimized. Synthetic methods should be conducted at ambient temperature and pressure.
- Use of Renewable Feedstocks. A raw material or feedstock should be renewable rather than depleting whenever technically and economically practical.
- 8. Reduce Derivatives. Unnecessary derivatization (blocking group, protection/deprotection, temporary modification of physical/chemical processes) should be avoided whenever possible .
- 9. Catalysis. Catalytic reagents (as selective as possible) are superior to stoichiometric reagents.
- 10. Design for Degradation. Chemical products should be designed so that at the end of their function they do not persist in the environment and instead break down into innocuous degradation products.
- Real-time Analysis for Pollution Prevention. Analytical methodologies need to be further developed to allow for realtime in-process monitoring and control prior to the formation of hazardous substances.
- 12. Inherently Safer Chemistry for Accident Prevention. Substance and the form of a substance used in a chemical process should be chosen so as to minimize the potential for chemical accidents, including releases, explosions, and fires.

### Anastas, P. T.; Warner, J.C. Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice, Oxford University Press, 1998.

# **CATALYSIS: INTRODUCTION**

- Catalysis is the increase in rate of a chemical reaction due to an added substance known as a catalyst.
- Catalysts are not consumed by the reaction and remain unchanged after it.



Reaction Progress

### CATALYSIS: TYPES

- Homogeneous catalysis
- Heterogeneous catalysis
- Autocatalysis
- Enzyme catalysis
- Photo catalysis
- Positive catalysis
- Negative catalysis



# CATALYST: Global Industrial Market



#### **Market Dynamics**

#### Diverse

- Increase in consumption of industrial catalysts in fuel and other refineries
- Rise in demand for industrial catalysts in various end-use applications

#### Restraints

- Limited availability of raw materials and high production costs
- Technological advancements in chemical synthesis

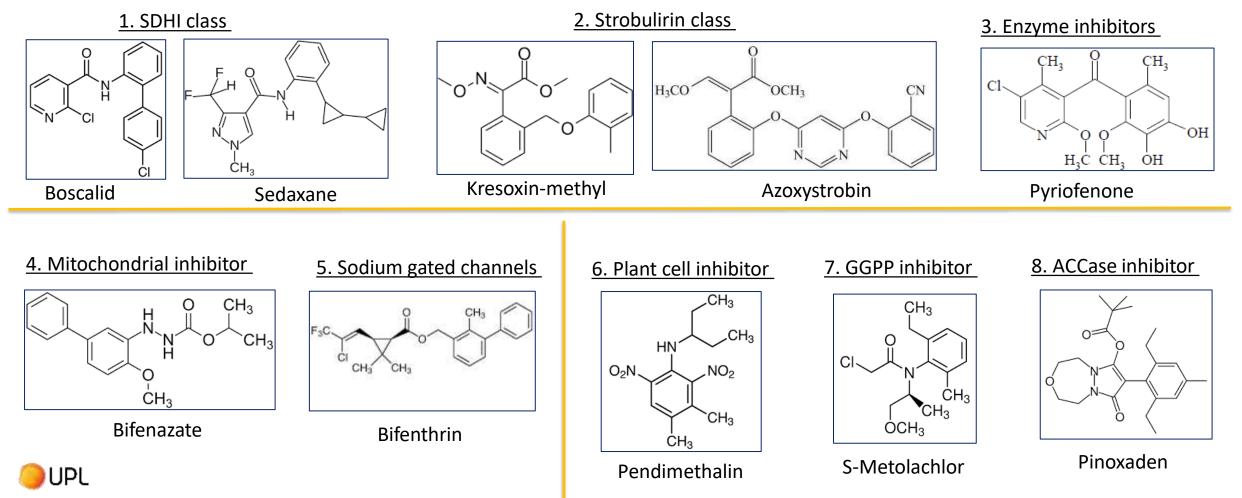
#### Opportunities

- Surge in R&D activities
- Major producers are BASF, DOW and JM etc.



# **CATALYSIS:** Applications in Agrochemicals

**Classified by MOA:** 



# **CATALYSIS: Heterogeneous Vs Homogeneous**

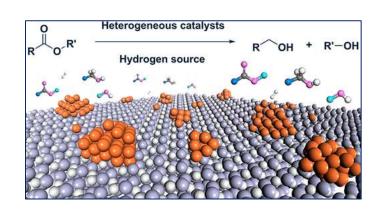
Vs

### **Heterogeneous catalysts**

- Solid phase
- Easily separable
- Recyclability and regeneration
- Low rate of reaction
- Diffusion control
- Poisoning, deactivation
- Low selectivity

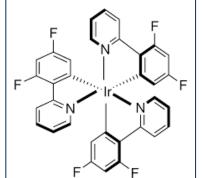
UPL

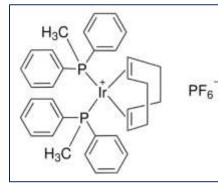
- Long catalytic life
- Energy- consuming process
- Poor mechanism understanding

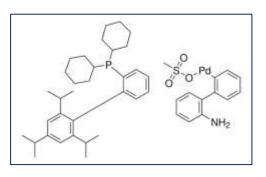


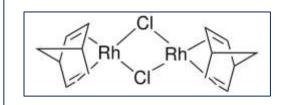
### Homogeneous catalysts

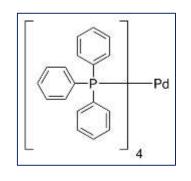
- Same phase as reaction medium
- Difficult separation
- No recyclability
- Often high rates of reaction
- No diffusion control
- Robust to poisoning
- High selectivity
- Short life
- Mild conditions
- Well understood mechanism

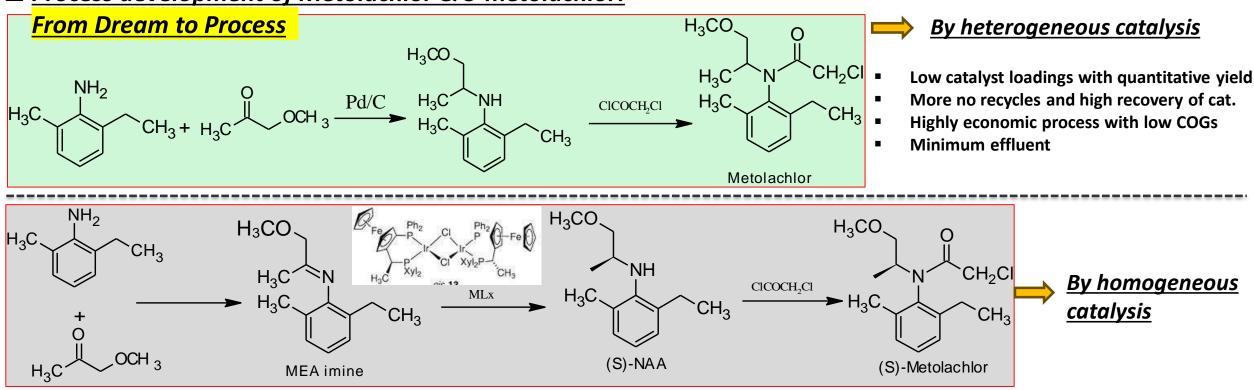












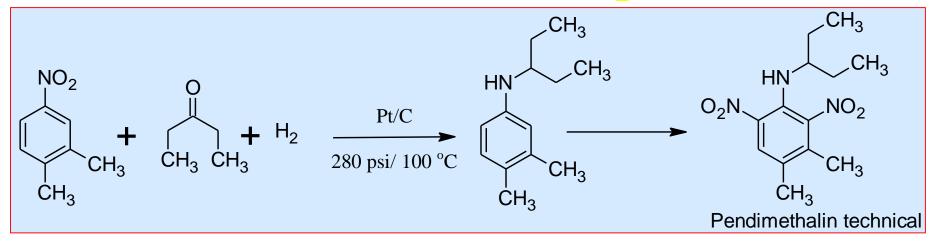
#### <u>Process development of Metolachlor & S-metolachlor:</u>

- UPL has developed a new catalyst for S-metolachlor
- High Turnover number (TON) and high TOF
- Recycle and recovery of the catalyst

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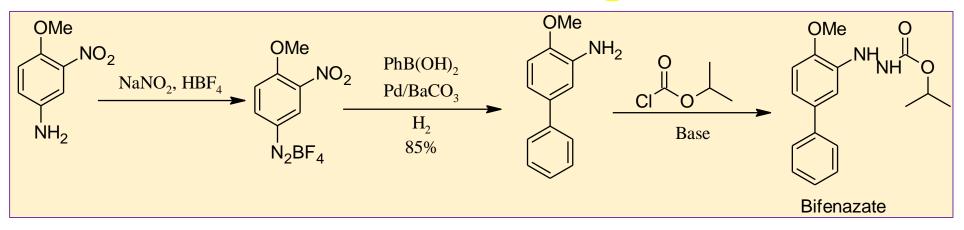
- Low catalyst loadings with high selective er= 90:10
- Low COGs with reduced dosage on fields
- Minimum effluent

### Process development of Pendimethalin: By heterogeneous catalysis



- Developed the process based on Pt/C catalyst
- Low catalyst ladings to yield >99% of the product
- Catalyst recycled more than 300 times with 90% recovery
- Low COGs
- High quality with 97% (900 g/Kg UFSA guidelines)
- Nitroso-Pendimethalin 0.1% (45 mg/Kg USFA guidelines)
- Environmentally benign as reduced toxic nitroso impurity

### Process development of Bifenazate: By heterogeneous catalysis

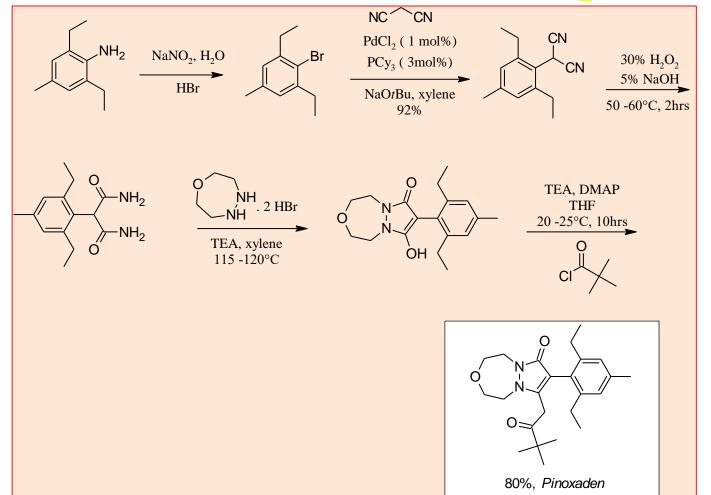


- Developed a heterogeneous catalyst for Suzuki coupling
- No phosphorous ligands required
- No halogen required as another partner
- No homocoupling formation unlike Homogeneous catalysis
- Low catalyst loadings and Low temperature reaction
- High recovery and recycle of the catalyst
- Cheap and commercial viability

UPL

- Bifenazate is an insecticide used for mite control
- It has a low water solubility, volatile
- Would not be expected to leach to groundwater
- It is also not expected to persist in soil or water systems.

### Process development of Pinoxaden: By homogeneous catalysis



Under development

# CONCLUSION

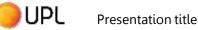
Demonstrated importance of catalysis in chemical industry

> Developed various homo & heterogeneous catalysts

Applied them to various processes in agrochemical applications

Catalysis makes processes is greener (green chemistry principles)

UPL having different capabilities in developing various catalysts



# Sustainalytics

Asian Sustainability Leadership Dow Jones

UPL ranked no.1 for Sustainability Performance amongst its peers of global crop protection companies for second year running Award to UPL in June 2021 for Excellent in Sustainability Performance UPL is the only crop protection company featuring in the Dow Jones Sustainability Yearbook



## What next?

Single atom catalysis describes a process in which a single atom on a catalyst surface drives a catalytic reaction. The catalyst with a single atom on its surface is called a single atom catalyst (SAC).



