

## Bart Peeters

Bart Peeters was born in Bonheiden, Belgium, in September 1974. He is married and father of three daughters. He is a Senior Expert at Bayer Agriculture, legacy Monsanto, where he has been working since 1998. He first served as a Process Improvement Engineer at Eastman's PVB polymer manufacturing plant on site, till 2004. Since then, he has been working at the environmental department of the company, with particular responsibilities in improving the wastewater treatment plant and the combined sludge centrifuge-dryer installation. He is a recognized expert in activated sludge wastewater treatment and has given series of peer training at the company's wastewater treatment plants in the US, Brazil and Argentina, and at Eastman's plant in Malaysia. Since recent years, Peeters is focusing on the purification of biologically treated wastewater with ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis membrane technology to reuse it.



Peeters obtained a Six Sigma Green Belt (2004) and Black Belt (2006) certificate from Stanwick (Merelbeke) and in 2006 he followed an additional training of Master Black Belt at SigmaPro (St-Louis). He has extensive experience in optimizing industrial processes and equipment – including decanter centrifuges used in the manufacturing of polymers and crystals and the dewatering of sludge. In April 2007, he was appointed the title of Technology Specialist by Monsanto's Manufacturing Director. One year later, in July 2008, he won exceptionally a Manufacturing Distinction Award, in recognition by Monsanto's Global Manufacturing Team for his optimization work on the wastewater treatment plant. While working at Monsanto, he obtained in 2011 his Ph.D. in Engineering from the KU Leuven (Belgium) on the research topic "*Effect of activated sludge composition on its dewaterability and sticky phase*". One year later, Peeters was promoted to Manufacturing Technologist in the Monsanto company.

Prior to that, Peeters received in 1998 his Master of Science in Chemical Engineering from the KU Leuven, plus his Master in Engineering Technology: Biochemistry in 1996 from the university college De Nayer. He is the author of 20 papers in scientific journals, technical magazines and international conferences. Over the last ten years he has given more than 30 lectures at universities (KU Leuven, VUB, UAntwerp, UGent, De Nayer) and knowledge centers (including The Filtration Society in Chester, UK, and the World Forum for Crystallization, Filtration & Drying in Mumbai, India).