

**EFFECTS OF CROPING SYSTEM AND FERTILIZER ON
SWEET CORN AND VEGETABLE SOYBEAN INTERCROP**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
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**DEDICATION
TO MY BELOVED PARENTS AND FAMILY**

Abstract of thesis presented to Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Faculty : Agriculture

Corn (*Zea mays* L.) and soybean are two important crops world wide, due to their diversified use. The Malaysian climate is suitable for the production of these two crops but the country imports large quantity of corn and soybean grains per annum to satisfy the country's demand. These two crops are grown in association in other parts of the world for the sake of yield advantage or risk minimization. However, the available literatures indicate that increased corn yield and declined soybean yield, as well as reduced yield of both corn and soybean under intercropping systems, or no change on yield. Shading, higher nutrient and water uptake by corn was attributed as the major factor causing yield decline of soybean in intercrop. Shading, higher nutrient and water uptake by corn was attributed as the major factor causing yield decline of soybean in intercrop. However, insufficient efforts have been made to study the compatibility of these two crops and effect of fertilizers on soybean and corn intercrop under Malaysian conditions

Hence, this research has been carried out in 2004/2005 to determine the effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on growth, yield, root morphology, light

interception, nutrient uptake and utilization efficiency of sweet corn and vegetable soybean as well as their effect on soil fertility, and protein content of soybean grain. Sweet corn and vegetable soybean were grown in rhizoboxes. Treatments were five cropping systems and three fertilizer levels in factorial combinations. Intercropped vegetable soybean without root separation (Cs3) and with geotextile root separation (Cs5) resulted in 11.2% higher harvest index (HI) than mono-crop vegetable soybean (Cs2). Cs3 had 16.1% higher grain yield and 20.7% more Mg accumulation in the grain than mono-crop vegetable soybean. Intercropped vegetable soybean without root separation and with geotextile root separation enhanced N, K and Ca utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean compared to mono-crop vegetable soybean. Absence of root separation (Cs3) and geotextile root separation (Cs5) did not have significant influence on yield of sweet corn. Mono-crop sweet corn and intercropped sweet corn with plastic sheet root separation had higher total root length compared to intercropped sweet corn without root separation and with geotextile root separation. Intercropped sweet corn with plastic sheet root separation at the highest fertilizer level (Cs4F3) had higher N, K, Ca and Mg utilization efficiency than mono-crop sweet corn. Increasing fertilizer levels enhanced growth and yield of both crops; although increasing fertilizer level more than the recommended rate reduced the total root length and root surface area of vegetable soybean. Increasing fertilizer level from 50% recommended rate (F1) to 100% recommended rate (F2) improved stem (24%), pod (35%), seed (44%) and total dry weight (27%) per plant of vegetable soybean. When the fertilizer level was increased further from 100% (F2) to 150% (F3), stem (17%), pod (19%), seed (17%) and total dry weight (18%) per plant was also enhanced. Similarly, increasing fertilizer level from F1 to F2 enhanced cob fresh weigh (76%) as well as shelled cobs (90%) and total dry weight (95.5%) per

plant of sweet corn. Further increase of fertilizer levels from F2 to F3, enhanced cob fresh weight (63%), total dry matter (59%), and seed dry weight (143%) and shelled cob dry weight (57%). There was a positive correlation between growth and yield; yield and nutrient uptake of sweet corn and vegetable soybean, and this indicates better crop response to fertilizer applications. Plastic sheet and geotextile root separation significantly enhanced available soil P after harvest of the crops. In vegetable soybean grown soils, increasing fertilizer level from the lowest level to the medium (F2) improved soil P by 29.1%, further increase of fertilizer level from F2 to F3 (highest level) enhanced soil P by 23.2 %; the exchangeable soil K was enhanced from the medium to highest fertilizer level by 30%. In sweet corn grown soil, available P and exchangeable soil K increased from the lowest to the medium fertilizer level by 96% and 19% respectively, and no further increase was recorded. Hence, intercropped vegetable soybean is a better option than mono-crop vegetable soybean, and better nutrient use is main factor for improved soybean yield in Cs3. The current recommended fertilizer rate is not enough and 150% of the recommended rate seems to be the best choice in this work.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**KESAN SISTEM PENANAMAN DAN PEMBAJAAN KE ATAS TANAMAN
JAGUNG MANIS DAN KACANG SOYA YANG DI TANAM SECARA
BERSELANG**

Oleh

ABDULKADIR IMAN SH. MOHAMOUD

September 2006

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Jagung (*Zea mays*) dan kacang soya merupakan tanaman yang ditanam secara meluas seluruh dunia, berdasarkan kepada kepelbagaian penggunaannya. Walaupun iklim di Malaysia sangat sesuai untuk kedua tanaman ini tetapi negara masih lagi mengimpot dengan kuantiti yang banyak bagi memenuhi keperluan negara. Tanaman ini ditanam diseluruh dunia memandangkan hasilnya yang tinggi serta mempunyai kurang risiko. Walaubagaimanapun, ada kajian serta literatur menunjukkan dengan menggunakan kaedah tanaman berselang diantara dua tanaman ini menyebabkan salah satu dari tiga perkara iaitu peningkatan hasil jagung akan mengurangkan hasil soya, pengurangan hasil keduanya atau tiada perubahan . Tanaman jagung akan menyebabkan naungan, pengambilan nutrient dan air yang tinggi adalah faktor utama yang menyebabkan hasil soya menjadi rendah melalui sistem tanaman berselang. Walaubagaimanapun kajian masih lagi diperlukan bagi membuktikan kesan keduanya terhadap tanah di Malaysia.

Oleh itu, kajian ini telah dijalankan pada tahun 2004/2005 menggunakan tanaman jagung dan kacang soya untuk melihat kesannya menggunakan sistem tanaman berselang dan penggunaan baja yang di berikan pada paras berbeza ke atas paras pertumbuhan, hasil, bentuk akar, penembusan cahaya dan pengambilan nutrien . Ianya juga bagi melihat kesan ke dua tanaman ini terhadap kesuburan tanah, dan kandungan protin yang terdapat di dalam biji kacang soya.

Jagung manis dan soya ditanam dalam kotak “rhizo”. Rawatan adalah terdiri dari 5 sistem tanaman dan 3 paras baja dalam kombinasi faktorial. Soya yang ditanam berselang tanpa pengasingan akar (Cs3) dan dengan geotekstil pengasingan akar (Cs5) menghasilkan indek tuaian 11.2% lebih tinggi berbanding soya yang ditanam secara tanaman tunggal (Cs2). Cs3 menghasilkan hasil bijirin 16.1% lebih tinggi dan 20.7% Mg lebih dalam bijirin berbanding dengan yang ditanam secara tunggal. Tanaman berselang tanpa pengasingan akar dan dengan pengasingan geotekstil akar meningkatkan penggunaan N, K dan Kalsium secara berkesan berbanding tanaman tunggal. Tanpa pengasingan akar (Cs3) dan pengasingan akar geotekstil tidak mempengaruhi secara signifikan terhadap hasil jagung. Jagung yang ditanam secara tunggal dan berselang dengan plastik pengasingan akar menghasilkan akar yang lebih panjang secara keseluruhannya berbanding Jagung yang ditanam secara tanaman berselang tanpa pengasingan akar dan dengan pengasingan akar geotekstil. Tanaman Jagung menggunakan pengasingan akar berplastik dengan paras baja yang paling tinggi (Cs4F3) menunjukkan paras N, K, Kalsium dan Mg yang lebih tinggi berbanding jika ditanam secara tunggal. Peningkatan paras baja akan meningkatkan pertumbuhan dan hasil kedua tanaman; walaupun peningkatan paras baja lebih dari yang disyorkan mengurangkan panjang

akar keseluruhannya dan permukaan akar bagi kacang soya. Peningkatan paras baja dari 50% kadar yang disyorkan (F1) kepada 100% kadar disyorkan (F2) memperbaiki batang (24%) , lengai(35%) , biji benih (44%) dan berat kering keseluruhannya (27%) bagi setiap pokok kacang soya. Bila paras baja ditingkatkan lebih dari 100% (F2) kepada 150% (F3) maka , batang (17%) , lengai(19%) , bijibenih (17%) dan jumlah berat kering (18%) setiap tanaman akan meningkat. Begitu juga, peningkatan paras baja dari F1 kepada F2 akan meningkatkan berat bersih tongkol jagung (76%) dan tongkol tanpa bijibenih((90%) dan jumlah berat kering (95.5%) setiap tanaman jagung. Peningkatan paras baja dari F2 kepada F3 , juga akan meningkatkan berat bersih tongkol jagung (63%), jumlah berat kering (59%), dan berat kering bijibenih (143%) dan berat kering shell tongkol . Terdapat perhubungan korelasi yang positif di antara pertumbuhan dan hasil; hasil dan pengambilan nutrien jagung dan kacang soya , dan ini menunjukkan respon tanaman yang lebih baik terhadap penggunaan baja. Plastik dan pengasingan akar geotekstil meningkatkan unsur P yang tersedia dalam tanah selepas penuaian. tanah yang ditanam dengan kacang soya , akan menyebabkan penggunaan paras baja dari paras yang paling rendah kepada paras sederhana (F2) akan dapat memperbaiki dan meningkatkan P dalam tanah sebanyak 29.1% . Begitu juga dengan menggunakan paras baja dari paras F2 kepada F3 (paras tertinggi) meningkatkan P dalam tanah sebanyak 23.2%; pertukaran K dalam tanah bertambah dari sederhana kepada paras baja tertinggi sebanyak 30% . Bagi tanah yang ditanam jagung pula , P yang tersedia dan pertukaran K dalam tanah akan meningkat secara kadar terus dengan meningkatkan penggunaan paras baja dari yang paling rendah kepada paras baja yang sederhana sebanyak 96% dan 19% , dan tiada lagi peningkatan selepas itu direkodkan.

Dengan kata lain, melalui system tanaman berselang di antara kacang soya dan Jagung manis adalah pilihan terbaik berbanding tanaman tunggal. Penggunaan nutrien yang lebih baik adalah faktor utama untuk meningkatkan hasil soya dalam Cs3. Pada masa kini kadar pengesyoran pembajaan masih belum mencukupi dan sebanyak 150% adalah kadar cadangan dan yang terbaik dalam kajian ini.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 25th September 2006 to conduct the final examination of Abdulkadir Iman Sh. Mohamoud on his Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Effects of Cropping System and Fertilizer on Sweet Corn and Vegetable Soybean Intercrop” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the examination committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or any other institutions

ABDULKADIR IMAN SH. MOHAMOUD

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	x
APPROVAL	xiii
DECLARATION	xv
LIST OF TABLES	xix
LIST OF FIGURES	xxiii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxvi
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4
2.1 Definitions	4
2.2 Advantages of intercropping	5
2.3 Effect of intercropping on growth and yield	6
2.4 Above and below ground plant parts contribution to growth and yield	7
2.5 Effect of intercropping on nutrient uptake	9
2.6 Advantages of combined intercrop yield	11
2.7 Mechanism of yield advantage in intercropping	12
2.7.1 Recovery or compensation mechanism	12
2.7.2 Nutrient uptake facilitation	13
2.8 Effect of cropping systems and fertilizers on light interception	14
2.9 Effect of fertilizers on growth and yield of corn and soybean	15
2.9.1 Effect of fertilizers on growth and yield of soybean	15
2.9.2 Effect of fertilizers on growth and yield of corn	18
2.10 Effect of cropping systems and fertilizers on soil fertility	19
2.11 Effect cropping systems and fertilizers on protein content of soybean grain	21
2.12 Effect of cropping systems and fertilizers on root variables	22
3 MATERIALS AND METHODS	25
3.1 Experimental Design	25
3.2 Rhizoboxes preparations	26
3.3 Soil collection and filling rhizoboxes	28
3.4 Cultural practices and varieties	28
3.4.1 Lime application	28
3.4.2 Plant density and varieties	29
3.4.3 Fertilizer application and pest control	29

3.4.4	Irrigation	31
3.4.5	Harvesting	31
3.5	Data collections	31
3.5.1	Growth and yield	31
3.5.2	Light interception	32
3.5.3	Land equivalent ratio	33
3.6	Root studies	33
3.7	Soil analysis	35
3.7.1	Soil sampling and drying	35
3.7.2	Analysis of soil pH, CEC, and Macronutrients	35
3.8	Plant analysis and calculations of nutrient uptake and utilization efficiency	37
3.8.1	Plant analysis	37
3.8.2	Calculations of nutrient uptake and utilization efficiency	37
3.9	Protein content of vegetable soybean grain	37
3.10	Vegetable soybean nodules	38
4	EFFECTS OF FERTILIZER LEVELS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF SWEET CORN AND VEGETABLE SOYBEAN	39
4.1	Introduction	39
4.2	Materials and methods	40
4.2.1	Data analysis	41
4.3	Results	42
4.3.1	Growth and yield of vegetable soybean	42
4.3.2	Growth and yield of sweet corn	54
4.3.3	Partial land equivalent ratio (PLER) and land equivalent ratio (LER)	61
4.3.4	Light interception	64
4.4	Discussion	66
4.4.1	Growth and yield of vegetable soybean	66
4.4.2	Growth and yield of sweet corn	72
4.4.3	Partial land equivalent ratio (PLER) and land equivalent ratio (LER)	75
4.4.4	Light interception	76
4.5	Conclusion	77
5	INFLUENCE OF FERTILIZER LEVELS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON ROOT MORPHOLOGY OF SWEET CORN AND VEGETABLE SOYBEAN	78
5.1	Introduction	78
5.2	Materials and methods	80
5.2.1	Data collection	80
5.2.2	Data analysis	80
5.3	Results	80
5.3.1	Root dry weight	80
5.3.2	Root volume	82
5.3.3	Total root length	84
5.3.4	Root surface area	86

5.4	Discussion	87
5.5	Conclusion	91
6	EFFECT OF FERTILIZER LEVELS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON NUTRIENT UPTAKE AND UTILIZATION EFFICIENCY OF SWEET CORN AND VEGETABLE SOYBEAN	92
6.1	Introduction	92
6.2	Materials and methods	93
6.2.1	Plant analysis	93
6.2.2	Data analysis	94
6.3	Results	94
6.3.1	Nutrient uptake of vegetable soybean	94
6.3.2	Nutrient uptake of sweet corn	109
6.3.3	Nutrient utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	126
6.3.4	Nutrient utilization efficiency of sweet corn	130
6.4	Discussion	136
6.4.1	Nutrient uptake of vegetable soybean	136
6.4.2	Nutrient uptake of sweet corn	142
6.4.3	Nutrient utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	146
6.4.4	Nutrient utilization efficiency of sweet corn	146
6.5	Conclusion	147
7	EFFECT OF FERTILIZER LEVELS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON SOIL CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	148
7.1	Introduction	148
7.2	Materials and methods	149
7.2.1	Data collection	149
7.2.2	Data analysis	149
7.3	Results	149
7.3.1	Soil chemical properties after vegetable soybean harvest	149
7.3.2	Soil chemical properties after sweet corn harvest	153
7.4	Discussion	156
7.5	Conclusion	159
8	GENERAL DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION	160
	REFERENCES	167
	APPENDICES	180
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	210

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3.1 Fertilizer levels used in the experiment	25
3.2 Soil fertility status before planting	29
3.3 Critical nutrient levels in the soil for corn and soybean	29
4.1 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on plant height of vegetable soybean (cm) at different growth periods	44
4.2 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on number of leaflets per plant of vegetable soybean at different growth periods	45
4.3 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on seed and pod dry weight (g plant^{-1}) of vegetable soybean	48
4.4 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on total above-ground biomass per plant (g plant^{-1}), HI, and seed dry weight and leaf dry weight ratio	49
4.5 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on leaf and stem dry weight (g plant^{-1}) of vegetable soybean	50
4.6 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on number of marketable, non-marketable and total pods per plant of vegetable soybean	52
4.7 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on marketable, non-marketable and total fresh pod yield (g plant^{-1}) per plant of vegetable soybean	53
4.8 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on protein content (%) of vegetable soybean grain	54
4.9 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on plant height of sweet corn (cm) at different growth periods	56
4.10 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on number of leaves per plant of sweet corn at harvest	57
4.11 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on cob fresh weight (g plant^{-1}) per plant of sweet corn	59
4.12 Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on leaf, stem, and shelled cobs dry weight (g plant^{-1}) per plant	60

4.13	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on seed and total dry weight (g plant ⁻¹) per plant of sweet corn	61
4.14	Partial land equivalent ratio (PLER) of vegetable soybean and sweet corn and land equivalent ratio (LER) based on total dry matter	62
4.15	Partial land equivalent ratio (PLER) of vegetable soybean and sweet corn and land equivalent ratio (LER) based on grain yield	63
4.16	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on light interception (%) of sweet corn and vegetable soybean	65
4.17	Correlation coefficients (r) between growth and yield of vegetable soybean	68
4.18	Correlation coefficients (r) between growth and yield of sweet corn	75
6.1	Nitrogen and phosphorus utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	127
6.2	Potassium and calcium utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	129
6.3	Magnesium utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	130
6.4	Nitrogen and phosphorus utilization efficiency of sweet corn	132
6.5	Potassium and calcium utilization efficiency of sweet corn	134
6.6	Magnesium utilization efficiency of sweet corn	135
7.1	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on soil pH, and CEC after vegetable soybean harvest	150
7.2	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on total soil N and available P after vegetable soybean harvest	151
7.3	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on exchangeable soil K and Ca after vegetable soybean harvest	152
7.4	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on exchangeable Mg after vegetable soybean harvest	152
7.5	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on soil pH, and CEC after sweet corn harvest	153

7.6	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on total soil N and available P after sweet corn harvest	154
7.7	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on exchangeable soil K and Ca after sweet corn harvest	155
7.8	Effect of cropping systems and fertilizer levels on exchangeable Mg after sweet harvest	156
A.1	Mean squares of plant height (cm) and number of leaflets per plant of vegetable soybean at different growth periods	182
A.2	Mean squares of plant fresh weight (g plant ⁻¹) and number of pods per plant of vegetable soybean at harvest	182
A.3	Mean squares of yield and dry matter distribution of vegetable soybean at harvest	183
A.4	Mean squares of harvest index (HI), seed: leaf ratio and protein content of vegetable soybean grain	183
A.5	Mean squares of plant height (cm) and number of leaves per plant of sweet corn at different crop growth stages	184
A.6	Mean squares of fresh and dry weight (g plant ⁻¹) of sweet corn at harvest	184
A.7	Mean squares of land equivalent ratio (LER) and partial land equivalent ratio (PLER)	185
A.8	Mean squares of percent light interception of sweet corn and vegetable soybean	185
A.9	Mean squares of vegetable soybean and sweet corn root variables at harvest	186
A.10	Mean squares of vegetable soybean nutrient uptake	186
A.11	Mean squares of sweet corn nutrient uptake	188
A.12	Mean square of nutrient utilization efficiency of vegetable soybean	189
A.13	Mean square of nutrient utilization efficiency of sweet corn	190
A.14	Mean square of soil nutrient content after vegetable soybean harvest	191
A.15	Mean square of soil nutrient content after sweet corn harvest	191

B.1	Phosphorus uptake of vegetable soybean root and shoot at harvest	193
B.2	Nitrogen and phosphorus uptake of sweet corn grain	193
B.3	Ca uptake of sweet corn stover and grain	193
B.4	Calcium uptake of total above ground biomass of sweet corn	194
B.5	Magnesium uptake of sweet corn grain	194
B.6	Correlation coefficients (r) between pod dry weight, seed dry weight Total dry weight, root dry weight and nutrient uptake of vegetable soybean	195
B.7	Correlation coefficients (r) between pod dry yield, seed dry yield, total dry weight and nutrient content in vegetable soybean seed and shoot	196
B.8	Correlation coefficients (r) between dry matter distribution and nutrient uptake of sweet corn	197
B.9	Correlation coefficients (r) between stover, seed, total dry weight and nutrient content of sweet corn	198
B.10	Nitrogen content in shoot and grains of vegetable soybean	199
B.11	Phosphorus content in shoot and grains of vegetable soybean	199
B.12	Potassium content in shoot and grains of vegetable soybean	200
B.13	Calcium content in shoot and grains of vegetable soybean	200
B.14	Magnesium content in shoot and grains of vegetable soybean	201
B.15	Nitrogen and phosphorus content in roots of vegetable soybean	201
B.16	Nitrogen content in stover and grain of sweet corn	202
B.17	Phosphorus content in stover and grain of sweet corn	202
B.18	Potassium content in stover and grain of sweet corn	203
B.19	Calcium content in stover and grain of sweet corn	203
B.20	Magnesium content in stover and grain of sweet corn	204
E.1	Magnesium content in stover and grain of sweet corn	209

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
3.1	Arrangement of rhizoboxes in the field	26
3.2	Diagrams representing rhizoboxes used in the experiment	27
3.3	Filling rhizoboxes with soil	28
3.4	Plant spacing of sweet corn and vegetable soybean mono-crop and Intercrop grown in rhizobox	30
3.5	Whin RHIZO 2000c PC program	34
5.1	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on root dry weight of sweet corn (A) and vegetable soybean (B)	81
5.2	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on root volume of sweet corn (A) and vegetable soybean (B)	83
5.3	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on total root length of sweet corn (A) and vegetable soybean (B)	85
5.4	Effect of fertilizer levels and cropping systems on root surface area of sweet corn (A) and vegetable soybean (B)	87
6.1	Nitrogen uptake of vegetable soybean roots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	95
6.2	Nitrogen uptake of vegetable soybean shoots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	96
6.3	Nitrogen uptake of vegetable soybean grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	96
6.4	Nitrogen uptake of total above ground biomass of vegetable soybean as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	98
6.5	Phosphorus uptake of vegetable soybean roots as influenced by Fertilizer levels and cropping systems	99
6.6	Phosphorus uptake of vegetable soybean shoots as influenced by Fertilizer levels and cropping systems	100
6.7	Phosphorus uptake of vegetable soybean grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	101
6.8	Phosphorus uptake of total above ground biomass of vegetable soybean as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	102

6.9	Potassium uptake of vegetable soybean shoots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	103
6.10	Potassium uptake of vegetable soybean grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	103
6.11	Potassium uptake of total above ground biomass of vegetable soybean as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	104
6.12	Calcium uptake of vegetable soybean shoots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	105
6.13	Calcium uptake of vegetable soybean grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	106
6.14	Calcium uptake of total above ground biomass of vegetable soybean as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	106
6.15	Magnesium uptake of vegetable soybean shoots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	107
6.16	Magnesium uptake of vegetable soybean grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	108
6.17	Magnesium uptake of total above ground biomass of vegetable soybean as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	109
6.18	Nitrogen uptake of sweet corn roots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	110
6.19	Nitrogen uptake of sweet corn stover as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	111
6.20	Nitrogen uptake of sweet corn grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	112
6.21	Nitrogen uptake of total above ground biomass sweet corn as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	113
6.22	Phosphorus uptake of sweet corn roots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	114
6.23	Phosphorus uptake of sweet corn stover as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	114
6.24	Phosphorus uptake of sweet corn grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	115
6.25	Phosphorus uptake of total above ground biomass sweet corn as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	116

6.26	Potassium uptake of sweet corn stover as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	117
6.27	Potassium uptake of sweet corn grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	118
6.28	Potassium uptake of total above ground biomass sweet corn as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	119
6.29	Calcium uptake of sweet corn stover as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	120
6.30	Calcium uptake of sweet corn grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	121
6.31	Calcium uptake of total above ground biomass sweet corn as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	122
6.32	Magnesium uptake of sweet corn roots as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	123
6.33	Magnesium uptake of sweet corn stover as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	124
6.34	Magnesium uptake of sweet corn grain as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	125
6.35	Magnesium uptake of total above ground biomass sweet corn as influenced by fertilizer levels and cropping systems	125
8.1	Insect attack on mono-crop vegetable soybean	165
8.2	Insect attack on intercropped vegetable soybean	165
8.3	Comparison of insect attack on mono-crop and intercrop vegetable soybean	165
A.C1	Monthly mean temperature at Universiti Putra Malaysia (2004/2005)	206
A.C2	Monthly mean rainfall and evaporation at Universiti Putra Malaysia (2004-2005)	206
A.D1	Number of nodules per plant of intercropped and mono-crop vegetable soybean (55DAS)	208
A.D2	Nodule dry weight per plant of intercropped and mono-crop vegetable soybean (55DAS)	208

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
BNF	Biological nitrogen fixation
Ca	Calcium
CEC	Cation exchange capacity
DAS	Days after sowing
EARO	Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
HI	Harvest index
K	Potassium
LER	Land equivalent ratio
Mg	Magnesium
MOP	Muriate of potash
N	Nitrogen
P	Phosphorus
PLER	Partial land equivalent ratio
Ppm	Parts per million
RCBD	Randomized complete block design
RFR	Recommended fertilizer rate
R1	Beginning of bloom stage of soybean
R2	Full bloom stage of soybean
R3	Beginning of pod
R4	Full pod stage
R5	Beginning of seed formation
R6	Full seed development

R7	Beginning of maturity
SAS	Statistical analysis system
TSP	Triple super phosphate
UPM	Universiti Putra Malayisa