

ENHANCEMENT OF FUMPAMENTAL PHOTOSYNTHETIC PROPERTIES

GROWTH AND VIELD IN MISPIO AND MISSO RICE VARIETIES VIA

EARLY-STAGE CO₂ ENRICHMENT BEFORE TRANSPLANTING

NOZZAMI ADAM BIN MUHAMAD MUJAB

PUTA Melaysia, in Fullillmen **ENHANCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL PHOTOSYNTHETIC PROPERTIES, GROWTH AND YIELD IN MR219 AND MR263 RICE VARIETIES VIA EARLY-STAGE CO² ENRICHMENT BEFORE TRANSPLANTING**

By

AZZAMI ADAM BIN MUHAMAD MUJAB

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

ENHANCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL PHOTOSYNTHETIC PROPERTIES, GROWTH AND YIELD IN MR219 AND MR263 RICE VARIETIES VIA EARLY-STAGE CO² ENRICHMENT BEFORE TRANSPLANTING

By

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September 2022

Chairman : Muhammad Nazmin bin Yaapar, PhD Faculty : Agriculture

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Speptember 2022
 Controlled environment systems such as glasshouses regularly utilise elevated $CO₂$ (eCO₂) to boost yield and quality in the production of high-value crops. Although this approach is quite commonly practised in commercial horticulture, its implementation on major crops such as rice is technically not feasible, especially elevating CO2 throughout the production field for the entire life cycle of the crop. During the early stage of rice plant development, the structure of the leaf is sensitive to environmental factors, including responses to $CO₂$ levels. In this project, the response of rice seedlings exposed to $eCO₂$ only during the initial nursery phase before field transplant can have a lasting impact until the harvest period was investigated. The study aims include understanding the effects of early-stage eCO₂ treatment on rice growth, leaf stomatal properties, photosynthetic performance and yield components at the rice seedling stage and mature stage. This experiment used two local rice varieties, namely MR219 and MR263. Rice plants were grown in a two-stage procedure. First, seedlings were grown in DIY ambient $CO₂$ (400 ppm) and elevated $CO₂$ (~800 ppm) chambers for 24 days and then transplanted to a rain shelter structure where the plants were grown to harvest. The $eCO₂$ source came from the fermentation of a mixture of sugar, distilled water, and baker's yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) granules. The first experiment showed that eCO₂ priming had significantly increased the seedling height (38-42%), the number of leaves (26-30%), leaf thickness (22-38%), leaf length (8-32%) and dry weight (58-69%) for MR219 and $MR263$ varieties. In general, $eCO₂$ treatment resulted in a larger stomatal complex (14-46%) and stomatal pore area dimensions (62-64%) with reduced stomatal density (11-19%) than aCO₂-grown leaves also in both varieties. Moreover, the intrinsic water use efficiency (iWUE) of $eCO₂$ leaves was also 38-68% higher in both MR219 and MR263. In terms of photosynthetic performance, the maximum assimilation rate (Amax), maximum Rubisco carboxylation rate (V_{cmax}), maximum electron transport rate (J_{max}), the quantum yield of PSII

ΦPSI), ETR, ΦCO₂) were quantified in eCO₂ MARSS fits leads to eCo² MARS fits like and the constrained in eCO₂. Maximum appeared to eCo₂
members an interactive right of motion of the motion of the motion of the p (ΦPSII), and quantum yield of $CO₂$ assimilation (ΦCO₂) were significantly higher for $eCO₂$ rice seedlings than $aCO₂$ for both rice varieties. In the second experiment, significant photosynthetic parametres enhancement (A_{max}, J_{max}, ΦPSII, ETR, ΦCO2) were quantified in eCO2 MR263 flag leaves but not in MR219. Interestingly, both rice varieties' seedlings when exposed to $eCO₂$ maintained a significantly higher V_{cmax} (> 10%) during the mature phase of plant development than plants grown continuously under $aCO₂$. In terms of yield components, both varieties exposed to early-stage $eCO₂$ treatment showed a significantly 14-27% higher filled spikelet number per panicle, 3% higher 1000 grain weight, 11.5-12.5% increase in tillers and 10-12% panicles numbers per plant with significantly 5-6% lower plant height. The yield potential shows an increase of 4-7% for MR219 and MR263 eCO2-treated seedlings compared to $aCO₂$. In conclusion, brief and targeted $eCO₂$ enhancement during the seedlings phase demonstrates a promising way of improving plant growth development, photosynthetic properties and rice yield performance. CO2 priming has been suggested as a potential strategy for improving the productivity of rice crops, especially in regions where maintaining elevated $CO₂$ levels throughout the entire crop life cycle is not feasible or practical. By exposing rice plants to elevated CO2 levels during their early growth stages, farmers may be able to take advantage of the benefits of $CO₂$ priming without having to maintain elevated CO2 levels throughout the entire crop life cycle and, in turn, increase farmers' income. This study can contribute to the development of more sustainable and efficient agricultural practices that can meet the growing demand for food.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PENINGKATAN SIFAT FOTOSINTETIK ASAS, PERTUMBUHAN DAN HASIL DALAM VARIETI PADI MR219 DAN MR263 MELALUI PENGAYAAN CO2 PERINGKAT AWAL KEPADA SEMAIAN SEBELUM DIPINDAHKAN

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PENINGKATAN SIFAT FOTOSINTETIK ASAS, PERTUMBUHAN DAN

HASIL DALAM VARIETI (PAD) MENZAR SEMELALU MPIROANYAAN

CO_C PERINGKAT AWAL KEFADA SEMAIAN SEBELUM DIPINDANKAN

CO_C PERINGKAT AWAL KEFADA SEMAIAN SEBELUM DIPINDANKAN
 Sistem persekitaran terkawal seperti rumah kaca kerap menggunakan CO² tinggi (eCO2) untuk meningkatkan hasil dan kualiti dalam pengeluaran tanaman bernilai tinggi. Walaupun pendekatan ini agak biasa diamalkan dalam hortikultur komersial, pelaksanaannya pada tanaman utama seperti padi secara teknikalnya tidak boleh dilaksanakan, terutamanya meningkatkan CO₂ di seluruh ladang pengeluaran untuk sepanjang kitaran hayat tanaman. Semasa peringkat awal perkembangan pokok padi, struktur daun adalah sensitif terhadap faktor persekitaran, termasuk tindak balas terhadap paras CO2. Dalam projek ini, tindak balas anak benih padi yang terdedah kepada eCO₂ hanya semasa fasa awal sebelum pemindahan ladang boleh memberi impak yang berpanjangan sehingga ke dalam tempoh penuaian telah dikaji. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk memahami kesan rawatan eCO₂ di peringkat awal terhadap pertumbuhan padi, sifat stomata daun, prestasi fotosintesis dan komponen hasil pada peringkat anak benih padi dan peringkat matang. Eksperimen ini menggunakan dua jenis padi tempatan iaitu MR219 dan MR263. Pokok padi ditanam dalam dua peringkat prosedur. Pertama, anak benih ditanam dalam ruang ambien DIY (aCO2) dan CO2 tinggi (~800 ppm) selama 24 hari dan kemudian dipindahkan ke struktur perlindungan hujan di mana tumbuhan ditanam sehingga penuaian. Sumber eCO₂ yang digunakan berasal daripada penapaian campuran gula, air suling, dan butiran yis pembakar (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Eksperimen pertama menunjukkan bahawa rawatan eCO₂ telah meningkatkan ketinggian anak benih dengan ketara (38-42%), bilangan daun (26-30%), ketebalan daun (22-38%), panjang daun (8-32%) dan berat kering (58-69%) untuk varieti MR219 dan MR263. Secara amnya, rawatan eCO₂ menyebabkan stomata kompleks yang lebih besar (14-46%) dan dimensi kawasan liang stomata (62-64%) dengan ketumpatan stomata yang berkurangan (11-19%) daripada daun aCO² juga untuk kedua-dua varieti. Selain itu, kecekapan penggunaan air intrinsik (iWUE) daun $eCO₂$ juga adalah 38-68% lebih tinggi untuk MR219 dan MR263.

(CCO) dolar) lettera lebih fingli untuk kineta lebih pagi untuk kineta lebih padi eCO; dolar) lettera lebih pagi untuk kineta lebih padi eCO; dolar) lettera lebih padi eCO mengekalkan (V_{re} yang japit) telesari sarak padi Dari segi prestasi fotosintesis, kadar asimilasi maksimum (A_{max}), kadar karboksilasi Rubisco maksimum (Vcmax), kadar pengangkutan elektron maksimum (J_{max}), hasil kuantum PSII (ΦPSII), dan hasil kuantum asimilasi CO₂ $(\Phi CO₂)$ adalah ketara lebih tinggi untuk anak benih padi eCO₂ daripada aCO₂ untuk kedua-dua varieti padi. Dalam eksperimen kedua, peningkatan parameter fotosintesis yang ketara (A_{max}, J_{max}, ΦPSII, ETR, ΦCO₂) diperoleh dalam daun pengasuh eCO2 MR263 tetapi tidak pada MR219. Menariknya, kedua-dua anak benih varieti padi apabila terdedah kepada eCO₂ mengekalkan V_{cmax} yang jauh lebih tinggi (> 10%) semasa fasa matang berbanding tanaman yang ditanam secara berterusan dengan aCO2. Dari segi komponen hasil, kedua-dua varieti yang terdedah kepada rawatan eCO2 peringkat awal menunjukkan bilangan bulir biji padi terisi yang ketara 14-27% lebih tinggi bagi setiap tangkai, berat 1000 biji 3% lebih tinggi, peningkatan 11.5-12.5% dalam bilangan anak pokok dan peningkatan 10-12% bilangan tangkai bagi setiap rumpun dengan ketinggian pokok 5-6% lebih rendah dengan ketara berbanding aCO2. Potensi hasil menunjukkan peningkatan sebanyak 4-7% untuk anak benih MR219 dan MR263 yang dirawat $eCO₂$ berbanding dengan aCO₂. Secara kesimpulannya, rawatan peningkatan CO2 yang disasarkan semasa fasa awal anak benih padi mampu menjanjikan peningkatan pertumbuhan tanaman padi, tambahbaik ciriciri fotosintetik dan prestasi hasil padi. Rawatan eCO2 pada peringkat awal ini dicadangkan sebagai strategi yang berpotensi untuk meningkatkan produktiviti tanaman padi, ini memandangkan mengekalkan tahap $CO₂$ yang tinggi sepanjang kitaran hidup tanaman padi adalah tidak praktikal. Petani mungkin dapat mengambil keuntungan dari manfaat dengan kaedah ini tanpa perlu mengekalkan tahap $CO₂$ yang tinggi sepanjang kitaran hidup tanaman padi dan pada masa yang sama dapat meningkatkan pendapatan petani. Kajian ini dapat menyumbang kepada pembangunan amalan pertanian yang lebih mampan dan efisyen yang dapat memenuhi permintaan makanan yang semakin meningkat.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Φ CO_{2,2500} Quantum yield of CO2 assimilation at 2500 µmol photon m⁻² s⁻¹
- ΦPSII Quantum yield of Photosystem II
- ΦPSII₂₅₀₀ Quantum yield of Photosystem II at 2500 µmol photon m⁻² s⁻¹
- Ф Phi

CHAPTER 1

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is indeed an important cereal for its role as the staple food for almost half of the world's population (Sekhar, 2018). GRiSP (2013) reported that over half of the world's population relies on rice for at least 20% of their daily caloric intake. However, rice production is not keeping pace with the demand stemming from the ever-rising global human population. As a result, agricultural productivity is in the need to improve remarkably to cater for the hungry people who are going to reach 9.9 billion by 2050, an increase of more than 25% from the current population of around 7.8 billion (PRB, 2021) .

1.1 **Background**

Note (*Oryza setiwe* Li, is indeed an important coreal for its role as the staple food

for almost half of the world's population (Sekhar, 2018), GRSP (2013) reported

that over half of the world's popula $CO₂$ is one of the substrates that limits photosynthesis, particularly in the C3 plant system living at the current $CO₂$ level. Thus increasing $CO₂$ levels in crop production has been employed as a way to enhance the carboxylation rate of photosynthesis while minimizing photorespiration through oxygenation reaction suppression of Rubisco (Bhagat et al., 2014). This simple method increases photosynthesis efficiency which generally results in better plant performance that leads to a higher yield (Sakai et al., 2019; Usui et al., 2016). In the Free-Air Carbon dioxide Enrichment (FACE) experiment, elevated CO₂ (eCO₂) will promote the net photosynthetic of the plant and thus plant productivity, according to Long et al., 2004 and Leakey et al., 2009. $eCO₂$ also has been used widely for many years as a $CO₂$ gas fertilizer to increase photosynthetic performance and yield in vegetables and high-value crops grown in greenhouses (Bisbis et al., 2018).

1.2 Problem Statement

The CO2 enrichment method is relatively common in commercial horticultural crop production, due to the massive areas involved in major food crops such as rice, it is technically not feasible to elevate $CO₂$ throughout the whole rice crop life cycle. In addition, large-scale manipulation of atmospheric $CO₂$ levels is not practical or economically feasible. Furthermore, rice is a unique crop that is typically grown in flooded paddies, which complicates attempts to manipulate $CO₂$ levels. The flooded fields make it difficult to regulate $CO₂$ levels within the rice canopy, as the water covering the fields can trap and release $CO₂$ at different rates, making it difficult to maintain consistent $CO₂$ levels. Given these limitations, $CO₂$ priming is suggested as a potential alternative to continuous $CO₂$ elevation for rice crops.

Early-stage $CO₂$ enrichment or $CO₂$ priming is a technique that involves exposing crops to elevated levels of carbon dioxide $(CO₂)$ for a short period during their early growth stages. The idea behind this technique is that by subjecting plants to higher concentrations of $CO₂$ early on, they can become more efficient at utilizing CO2 throughout their life cycle, even when grown under normal $CO₂$ concentrations. This technique can help to increase rice yields and improve crop productivity more practically and sustainably.

1.3 Objectives

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of early-stage $CO₂$ enrichment on fundamental photosynthetic properties, growth, and yield in two rice varieties, MR219 and MR263. The objective of this study is:

- 1. To evaluate how $eCO₂$ influences rice seedling establishment before they could be transplanted into the field for MR219 and MR263 rice varieties.
- 2. To assess the efficacy of growing rice in $eCO₂$ during the seedling stage in improving rice harvest components in both MR219 and MR263 rice varieties.

subjecting plants to higher concentrations of CO₂ early on, they can become
more effecter at utilizing CO- throughout their file cycle, even when grown under
normal CO₂ experimention. This technique can help to more an The results of this study could have significant implications for rice production and food security in the face of climate change. By identifying a potential method for enhancing the efficiency of photosynthesis and improving growth and yield in rice plants, this study may contribute to the development of more sustainable and efficient agricultural practices that can meet the growing demand for food.

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