



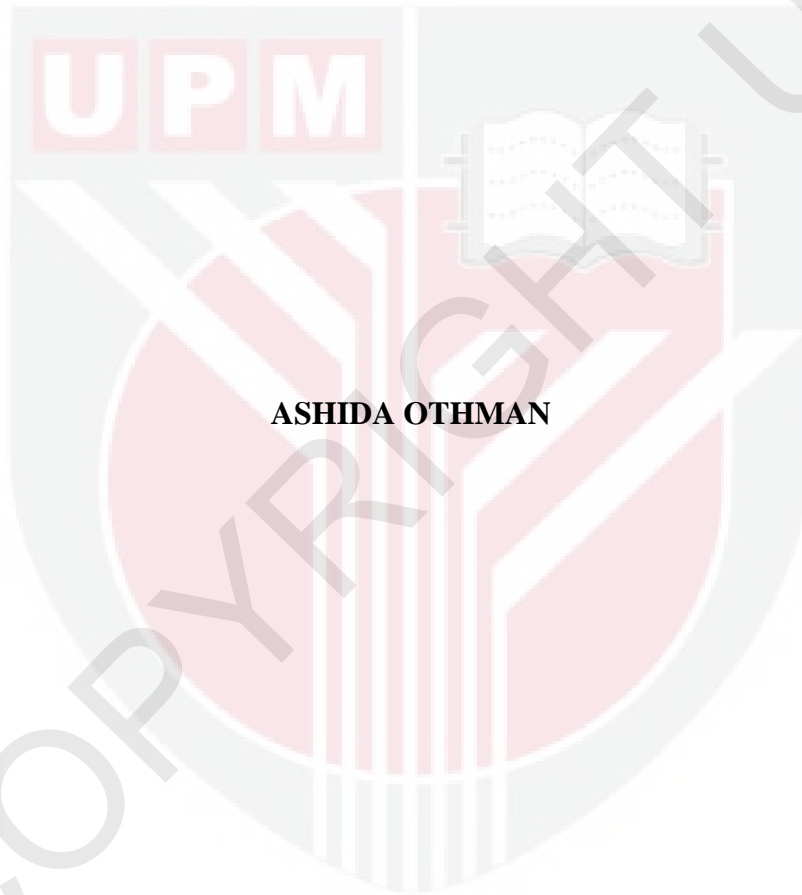
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**GENE EXPRESSION AND PROMOTER CHARACTERISATION OF
STEAROYL-ACP DESATURASE AND ACYL CARRIER PROTEIN GENES
FROM OIL PALM (*ELAEIS GUINEENSIS* JACQ.) FRUITS**

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
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By

ASHIDA OTHMAN

**This thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

October 2010

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

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October 2010

Chairman: Assoc Prof Datin Siti Nor Akmar Abdullah, PhD

Faculty: Faculty of Agriculture

In this study, the expression profiles of the genes encoding two key proteins, stearyl-ACP desaturase (*SADI*) and acyl carrier protein (*pACP3*) which are involved in plant fatty acid biosynthesis were analysed and their promoter sequences characterized with the aim of obtaining a better understanding of the regulation of storage oil production in oil palm fruits. Real-time PCR was carried out using RNA extracted from different oil palm tissues including mesocarp at 7, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 19 weeks after anthesis (w.a.a.), kernel (12 and 15 w.a.a.), spear and mature leaves as well as abscisic acid and ethylene treated spear leaves. In the mesocarp, *SADI* showed a sharp increase in expression levels between 7 to 12 w.a.a. reaching a peak at 15 w.a.a. followed by small decline at 19 w.a.a.. Meanwhile *pACP3* expression levels increased 45-fold between 7 to 10 w.a.a. remained high until 19 w.a.a. The expression levels of *pACP3* were slightly higher than *SADI* between 12 – 19 w.a.a. In kernel, *SADI* and *pACP3* expression levels were higher at 12 w.a.a. than 15 w.a.a. and *pACP3* was expressed at higher levels than *SADI* in both tissues. Both genes were expressed at much lower levels in leaves and *SADI* was shown

to be expressed at higher level than *pACP3* in spear leaves. For both genes, ABA and ethylene treatments of spear leaves resulted increases in expression levels. For *SAD1* and *pACP3* promoter isolation, genomic DNA from oil palm spear leaves was isolated and digested with seven different blunt end restriction enzymes: *DraI*, *EcoRV*, *PvuII*, *ScaI*, *StuI*, *MssI*, and *SmiI*, to produce seven different GenomeWalker libraries. One gene-specific primer and one gene-specific nested primer were designed based on the 5' –untranslated region (UTR) of both genes and used for genome walking in isolating the promoter sequences. Sequence alignment of the isolated promoters with their respective cDNAs showed 100% sequence identity. The transcription start sites (TSS) of both genes were determined using 5'-rapid amplification of cDNA ends (5'-RACE) strategy. Based on the results, both *SAD1* and *pACP3* TSS have an adenine base (A) as their transcription initiation sites. Relative to the TSS, the isolated *SAD1* and *pACP3* promoter sequences were determined to be 1022 bp and 1227 bp in length, respectively. Identification of *cis*-regulatory elements using Softberry, PLACE and TRANSFAC softwares showed many motifs in common for both promoters. These include proximal regulatory elements (TATA and CAAT boxes), phytohormone responsive [abscisic acid (Athb1, ACGTATERD1 MYB1AT), gibberillic acid (GAmYb), ethylene (ERE)], light responsive (CIACADIANLELHC, Dof1, Dof2, -10PEHVPSBD, EBOXBNNAPA, GATABOX, REALPHALGLHCB2), abiotic factors/wounding responsive (OSE2ROOTNODULE, WBOXATNPR1, WBOXHVISO1, WBOXNTERF3, WRKY71OS), cold or drought responsive (MYCCONSENSUSAT) and endosperm specificity (PBF, DOFCOREEZM, RYREPEATBNNAPA). Using these two genes as models, a better insight on the transcriptional control of fatty-acid biosynthetic genes during period of oil synthesis in oil palm fruits has been achieved in this study.

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

**PENGEKSPRESAN DAN PENCIRIAN PROMOTER GEN STEAROYL-ACP
DESATURASE & ACYL CARRIER PROTEIN DALAM BUAH KELAPA
SAWIT (*ELAEIS GUINEENSIS* JACQ.)**

Oleh

ASHIDA OTHMAN

Oktober 2010

Pengerusi: Prof Madya Datin Dr. Siti Nor Akmar Abdullah, PhD

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Dalam kajian ini, profil pengekspresan bagi dua gen yang mengkodkan stearyl-ACP desaturase (*SADI*) dan acyl carrier protein (*pACP3*) iaitu dua protein yang penting dalam biosintesis asid lemak telah dianalisis dan jujukan promoter kedua-dua gen tersebut telah dicirikan demi memahami regulasi penghasilan simpanan minyak di dalam buah kelapa sawit. Real-time PCR telah dilakukan menggunakan RNA yang telah diekstrak daripada pelbagai jenis tisu kelapa sawit termasuk mesokarp 7, 10, 12, 15 dan 17 minggu selepas antesis (m.s.a.), kernel (12 dan 15 m.s.a.), pucuk daun, daun matang dan juga daun yang telah dirawat dengan etilena dan asid absisik. *SADI* menunjukkan peningkatan pengekspresan yang mendadak di dalam tisu mesokarp di antara 7 hingga 12 m.s.a. dengan tahap yang tertinggi pada 15 m.s.a. dan disusuli dengan sedikit penurunan pada 19 m.s.a. Sementara itu, tahap pengekspresan *pACP3* meningkat sebanyak 45 kali ganda di antara 7 hingga 10 m.s.a. dan kekal tinggi sehingga 19 m.s.a. Tahap pengekspresan *pACP3* adalah lebih tinggi berbanding *SADI* di antara 12 hingga 19 m.s.a. Tahap pengekspresan *SADI* dan *pACP3* adalah tinggi pada 12 m.s.a berbanding 15 m.s.a pada tisu kernel dengan *pACP3* diekspreskan lebih tinggi

berbanding *SADI* pada kedua-dua tisu. Kedua-dua gen diekspreskan pada tahap yang sangat rendah di dalam daun dan *SADI* telah menunjukkan pengekspresan yang tinggi daripada *pACP3* dalam pucuk daun. Rawatan pucuk daun dengan etilena dan asid absisik menunjukkan peningkatan yang nyata dalam tahap pengekspresan pada kedua-dua gen. Bagi kajian pemencilan promoter *SADI* dan *pACP3*, DNA genomik telah dipencilkan daripada pucuk daun sawit dan dicernakan dengan tujuh enzim penyekat berhujung tumpul yang berbeza iaitu *DraI*, *EcoRV*, *PvuII*, *ScaI*, *StuI*, *MssI*, dan *SmiI* untuk menghasilkan tujuh perpustakaan GenomeWalker yang berlainan. Satu pencetus spesifik-gen dan satu pencetus tersarang kedua spesifik-gen telah direka berdasarkan kawasan 5'-tak tertranslasi (5'-UTR) kedua-dua gen dan digunakan untuk memencilkan jujukan promoter menggunakan teknik 'genome walking'. Pensejajaran jujukan promoter-promoter yang dipencilkan bersama cDNA masing-masing menunjukkan 100% jujukan identiti. Tapak permulaan transkripsi (TPT) kedua-dua gen telah ditetapkan menggunakan strategi 5'-RACE (Amplifikasi Pantas 5' untuk Hujung cDNA). Berdasarkan hasil kajian, kedua-dua TPT bagi gen *SADI* dan *pACP3* dimulakan dengan bes adenin (A). Sejajar dengan TPT masing-masing, saiz jujukan promoter *SADI* dan *pACP3* adalah 1022 bp dan 1227 bp. Pengenalpastian elemen pengawalatur-cis menggunakan perisian Softberry, PLACE dan TRANSFAC menunjukkan banyak motif yang sama ditemui pada kedua-dua promoter. Motif ini termasuk elemen pengawalaturan proksimal (kotak TATA dan CAAT), tindak balas terhadap fitohormon [asid absisik (*Athb1*, *ACGTATERD1*, *MYB1AT*), asid giberelik (*GAmyb*), etilena (ERE)], cahaya (*CIACADIANLELHC*, *Dof1*, *Dof2*, *-10PEHVPSBD*, *EBOXBNNAPA*, *GATABOX*, *REALPHALGLHCB2*), faktor abiotik / kecederaan (*OSE2ROOTNODULE*, *WBOXATNPR1*, *WBOXHVIS01*, *WBOXNTERF3*,

WRKY71OS), sejuk atau kemarau (MYCCONSENSUSAT) dan endosperm spesifik (PBF, DOFCOREEZM, RYREPEATBNNAPA). Kebanyakan elemen-elemen ini termasuk etilena, asid absisik, kecederaan dan responsif terhadap cahaya telah ditemui dalam gen kemasakan buah yang lain, manakala asid absisik telah terbabit dalam mengawalatur pengumpulan gen dalam biosintesis asid lemak bagi tanaman biji minyak. Elemen endosperm-spesifik juga telah ditemui dalam promoter gen protein penyimpanan spesifik-biji. Dengan menggunakan kedua-dua gen ini sebagai model, kefahaman dalam pengawalan transkripsi gen biosintesis asid lemak semasa tempoh penghasilan minyak dalam buah kelapa sawit telah ditingkatkan dalam kajian ini.

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APPROVAL

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on to conduct the final examination of Ashida binti Othman on her thesis entitled “Gene Expression And Promoter Characterisation Of Stearoyl-Acp Desaturase And Acyl Carrier Protein Genes From Oil Palm (*Elaeis Guineensis* Jacq.) Fruits” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

ASHIDA OTHMAN

Date: 29 October 2010

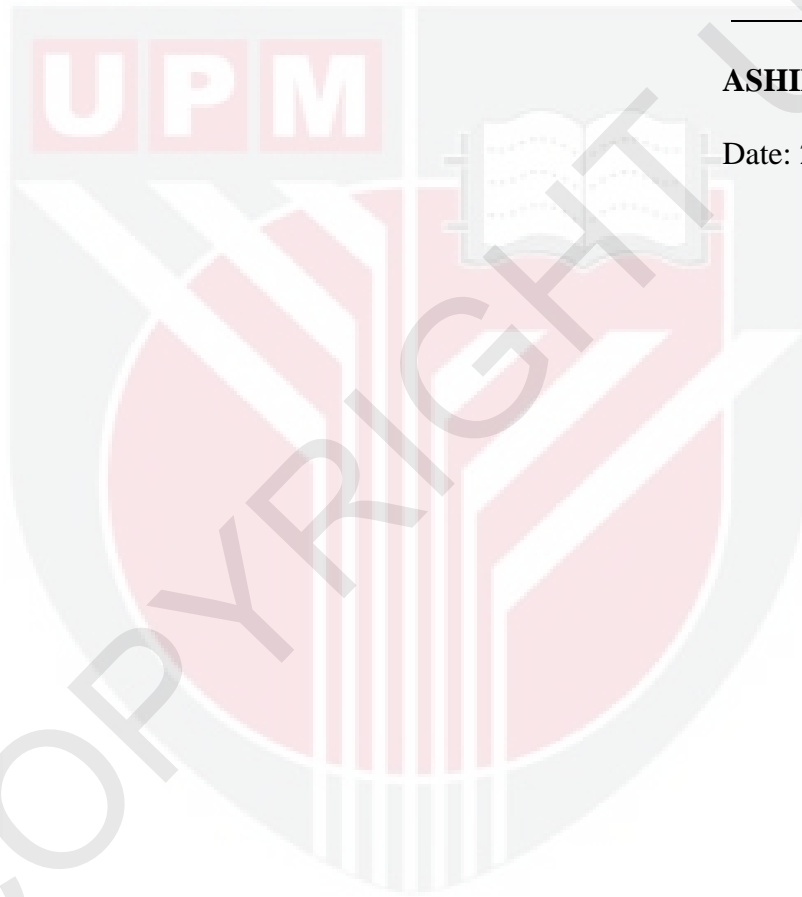


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
APPROVAL	vii
DECLARATION	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 The Oil Palm Industry	5
2.2 Palm Oil and Its Benefit	6
2.3 Plant Fatty Acid Biosynthesis	10
2.4 Stearoyl ACP Desaturase (SAD)	14
2.5 Acyl Carrier Protein (ACP)	16
2.6 Plant Gene Promoters	17
2.6.1 Proximal Regulatory Elements	17
2.6.2 Distal Regulatory Elements	18
2.6.3 Tissue-specific Promoters Isolated from Oil Palm	19
2.7 Genomic Walking For Gene Promoter Isolation	21
2.8 Real Time PCR for Gene Expression Analysis	22
3 MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1 Plant Materials	25
3.2 Total RNA Extraction	25
3.3 RNA Quantification	26
3.4 DNase I sample treatment	27
3.5 Reverse Transcription	27
3.6 Gene Expression Analysis of SAD and ACP genes	
3.6.1 Probe and Primer Design for Real Time PCR	28
3.6.2 Checking the PCR Efficiency	28
3.6.3 Real-Time PCR with TaqMan Probe	29
3.6.4 Quantification and Analysis	30
3.7 Construction of Oil Palm Genome Walker Libraries	
3.7.1 Genomic DNA Extraction	31
3.7.2 Integrity and Quantification of Genomic DNA	32
3.7.3 Blunt-End Digestion of Genomic DNA	33
3.7.4 DNA Purification	33
3.7.5 Ligation to Genome Walker Adaptor	34
3.7.6 Gene-Specific Primer Design for Genomic Walking	34

3.7.7	Primary Genome Walking	35
3.7.8	Secondary Genome Walking	37
3.7.9	Cloning and transformation of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> gene promoters into TOPO Vector	38
3.7.10	Analysis of Positive Transformants	39
3.8	Determination of Transcription Start Site of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> Gene Promoters	
3.8.1	Gene Specific Primer Design for Determination of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> TSS	41
3.8.2	First Strand cDNA Synthesis using SMART RACE cDNA Amplification	41
3.8.3	Rapid Amplification of cDNA 5' ends	42
3.8.4	Gel Extraction	43
3.8.5	Cloning of SMART RACE PCR products	44
3.9	Sequencing Analysis & Identification of Regulatory Motifs in Oil Palm Promoters	
3.9.1	Sequence Analysis of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> gene promoters	44
3.9.2	Sequence Analysis of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> RACE products	45
3.9.3	Identifications of regulatory motifs in <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> promoter	46
4	RESULTS	
4.1	Expression Analysis of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> Genes	
4.1.1	RNA Extractions	48
4.1.2	Optimization of Real Time PCR assays	51
4.1.3	Real-Time PCR Analysis	54
4.2	Isolation of the Oil Palm Fatty Acid Biosynthetic Genes (<i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i>) Promoter Fragment	
4.2.1	Extraction of Nucleic Acids	60
4.2.2	Construction of GenomeWalker Library	62
4.2.3	Isolation of Oil Palm <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> Promoter Fragments using GenomeWalker Libraries	62
4.2.4	Cloning of the Fatty Acid Biosynthetic Genes (<i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i>) Promoter	67
4.2.5	5'-RACE for Amplifying 5'-end Regions of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> cDNAs	69
4.3	In Silico Sequence Analysis of the <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> Promoters	
4.3.1	Identification of Promoter Sequences Isolated from GenomeWalker Libraries	75
4.3.2	Determination of the TSS for <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> Promoters	78
4.3.3	Analysis of <i>SAD1</i> and <i>pACP3</i> promoter cis-regulatory elements	80

5	DISCUSSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS	86
6	CONCLUSION	97
	REFERENCES	99
	APPENDICES	109
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	127

