UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

WEED DIVERSITY UNDER DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES IN IRRIGATED DIRECT-SEEDED RICE CULTIVATION

MUHAMMAD SAIFUL BIN AHMAD HAMDANI

FP 2008 6
WEED DIVERSITY UNDER DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES IN IRRIGATED DIRECT-SEEDED RICE CULTIVATION

MUHAMMAD SAIFUL BIN AHMAD HAMDANI

MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

2008
WEED DIVERSITY UNDER DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES IN IRRIGATED DIRECT-SEEDED RICE CULTIVATION

By

MUHAMMAD SAIFUL BIN AHMAD HAMDANI

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

June 2008
Dedicated

To

My Father, My Mother and My Siblings

And Not To Forget

My Dearest Wife, son and All My Sincere Friends

For their understanding, encouragement and inspiration
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

WEED DIVERSITY UNDER DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES IN IRRIGATED DIRECT-SEEDED RICE CULTIVATION

By

MUHAMMAD SAIFUL BIN AHMAD HAMDANI

June 2008

Chairman : Associate Professor Abdul Shukor Juraimi, PhD
Faculty : Agriculture

This study comprised two sets of experiment. The field trials were conducted at MARDI Bertam Rice Research Station in Seberang Perai, Penang, while the experiments on weed seed viability were done in a glass house and the Weed Biology Laboratory at Universiti Putra Malaysia. This study began in February 2004 and ended in June 2006. All field trials and weed seed viability studies were done in Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005. The objectives of the study were: a) to investigate the population and status of dominant weeds and their effect on rice yield under different water regime treatments in field condition; b) to determine the total weed seed reserve, species composition of the entire weed seed bank in the soils and their viability after being treated under different water regime treatments in the rice field.

Five water regime treatments were used namely; T1 = continuous flooded condition until maturity, T2 = early flooding until 55 DAS (day after sowing) followed by saturated condition until maturity, T3 = early flooding until 30 DAS followed by...
saturated condition until maturity, T4 = continuous saturated condition until maturity, T5 = continuous field capacity condition throughout the experiment period.

Results from field trials indicated that in unweeded plots (no weed control treatment involved), T1 and T2 showed the lowest number of weed m$^{-2}$ and weed biomass m$^{-2}$ compared to the other water regime treatments. Plots treated with T1 and T2 significantly suppressed weed population to approximately 18 – 58% and reduced weed biomass to 14 – 57% as compared to the highest in T5 at all sampling dates (30, 60 and 90 DAS) in both Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005. For weed composition across the water regime treatments, 11 weed species were recorded in Off Season 2004 and 10 weed species in Main Season 2004/2005. Broadleaved weeds mostly *Monochoria vaginalis* and *Limnocharis flava* were the most dominant weeds in most of the water regime treatments. The SDR values of broadleaved weeds were 48.7% (T2) > 46.4% (T1) > 44.2% (T3) > 40.7% (T5) > 35.8% (T4) in Off Season 2004. In Main Season 2004/2005, the SDR values for broadleaved weeds increased to 79.5% (T2) > 68.2% (T1) > 62.4% (T3) > 62.2% (T4) > 50.57% (T5). Sedges mainly *Fimbristylis miliacea* and *Cyperus iria* were dominant in Off Season 2004 with SDR value more than 34% in all water regime treatments, but decreased to less than 23% in Main Season 2004/2005. For grasses, mostly *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Echinochloa colona* and *Leptochloa chinensis*, SDR value more than 20% were recorded in T4 and T5 in Off Season 2004 while in Main Season 2004/2005, SDR value between 21 – 34% were observed in T1, T3 and T5.

Meanwhile rice plants treated with T1 significantly produced the highest rice grain yield, followed by T2 and T3, while T4 and T5 were the lowest in weeded plots in
both planting seasons. However, rice yield in unweeded plots were not significantly different in all water regime treatments. The rice productions in weeded plots were in the range of 22 – 60% higher in Off Season 2004 and 56 – 78% higher in Main Season 2004/2005 than in unweeded plots. Weed control treatment evidently showed stronger influence than water regime treatments. The percentages of reduction in weeded plots from the highest rice yield in T1 to lowest in T5 were 40% in Off Season 2004 and 44.4% in Main Season 2004/2005. Meanwhile the reduction of rice yield in unweeded plots compared to weeded plots was much higher, which recorded the highest of 59.1% (in T1) in Off Season 2004 and 78.3% (in T4) in Main Season 2004/2005.

The effect of different water regime treatments on viability of weed seeds in rice field was evaluated. Total weed seed reserves in soils taken from Off Season 2004 rice plots were dominated by broadleaved weeds (90625 seeds m$^{-2}$) mainly *Hedyotis corymbosa*, *Monochoria vaginalis* and *Ludwigia hyssopifolia*, followed by sedges (34257 seeds m$^{-2}$), mostly *F. miliacea* and *Cyperus iria*, while grasses (20647 seeds m$^{-2}$), predominantly *Leptochloa chinensis* recorded the lowest number in all water regime treatments. In soils taken from Main Season 2004/2005 rice plots, sedges (53041 seeds m$^{-2}$) mainly *Fimbristylis miliacea* along with broadleaved weeds (54624 seeds m$^{-2}$), predominantly *Monochoria vaginalis* and *Ceratopteris pteridoides* dominated in most of the water regime treatments, while grasses, mainly *Leptochloa chinensis* and *Panicum repens* again recorded the lowest number (24935 seeds m$^{-2}$). 10 weed species, which were not observed in the field trials, were recorded from the same soil in the weed seed bank experiment.
Differences in water regime treatments did not significantly reduce the viability of weeds seeds in the soil in Off Season 2004. However, a small reduction in seed viability (approximately 8%) was observed in Main Season 2004/2005. As for the similarity between weed seed bank composition and aboveground weed flora composition, a moderate value (62.07 - 73.33%) was observed in Off Season 2004, while in Main season 2004/2005, the value was slightly lower (51.65 – 64.29%).

Lima rawatan regim air telah digunakan dalam kajian ini iaitu; T1 = keadaan banjir berterusan sehingga buah padi masak, T2 = keadaan banjir pada peringkat awal penanaman sehingga 55 HLT (hari lepas tanam) diikuti dengan keadaan tanah tepu air
berterusan sehingga buah padi masak, T3 = keadaan banjir pada peringkat awal penanaman sehingga 30 HLT diikuti dengan keadaan tanah tepu air berterusan sehingga buah padi masak, T4 = keadaan tanah tepu air berterusan sehingga buah padi masak, T5 = keadaan tanah pada takat kapasiti air ladang berterusan sepanjang tempoh eksperimen dijalankan.

Keputusan ujian ladang menunjukkan untuk plot-plot tanpa merumpai (tiada kawalan rumpai), T1 dan T2 menunjukkan nilai terendah bagi bilangan rumpai m⁻² dan biomas rumpai m⁻² berbanding regim rawatan air lain. Plot-plot yang dirawat dengan T1 dan T2 didapati mengurangkan populasi rumpai kepada kira-kira 18 – 58% dan mengurangkan biomas rumpai sebanyak 14 – 57% dengan perbezaan bererti berbanding nilai tertinggi dalam T5 pada kesemua tarikh persampelan (30, 60 dan 90 HLT) pada kedua-dua Luar Musi 2004 dan Musim Utama 2004/2005. Untuk komposisi rumpai pula, 11 spesies telah direkodkan pada Luar Musim 2004 dan 10 spesies pada Musim Utama 2004/2005. Rumpai berdaun lebar, terutamanya Monochoria vaginalis dan Limnocharis flava mendominasi dalam hampir keseluruhan rawatan regim air. Nilai SDR untuk rumpai berdaun lebar ialah 48.7% (T2) > 46.4% (T1) > 44.2% (T3) > 40.7% (T5) > 35.8% (T4) pada Luar Musim 2004. Pada Musim Utama 2004/2005, nilai SDR tersebut telah meningkat kepada .5% (T2) > 68.2% (T1) > 62.4% (T3) > 62.2% (T4) > 50.57% (T5). Rusiga, terutamanya Fimbristylis miliacea dan Cyperus iria mendominasi pada Musim Kedua 2004 dengan nilai SDR melebihi 34% dalam semua rawatan regim air, tetapi menurun kepada kurang daripada 23% pada Musim Utama 2004/2005. Untuk rumpai berdaun tirus pula, kebanyakannya Echinochloa crus-galli, Echinochola colona dan Leptochloa chinensis, nilai SDR melebihi 20% telah direkodkan dalam T4 dan T5.


Kesan rawatan regim air berbeza terhadap kebernasan biji benih rumpai di kawasan sawah padi telah dikaji. Pada Luar Musim 2004, jumlah biji benih rumpai yang tersimpan di dalam kesemua rawatan regim air didominasi oleh rumpai berdaun lebar (90625 m\(^{-2}\) biji benih), terutamanya *Hedyotis corymbosa, Monochoria vaginalis* dan *Ludwigia hyssopifolia* diikuti oleh rusiga (34257 m\(^{-2}\) biji benih), terutamanya *Fimbristylis miliaea* dan *Cyperus iria*, sementara rekod paling rendah didapati pada
rumpai berdaun tirus (20647 m\(^2\) biji benih), kebanyakannya *Leptochloa chinensis*.
Pada Musim Utama 2004/2005, rusiga terutamanya *Fimbristylis miliacea* (53041 m\(^2\) biji benih) bersama-sama rumpai berdaun lebar (54624 biji benih m\(^2\)), terutamanya *Monochoria vaginalis* dan *Ceratopteris pteridoides* mendominasi kebanyakkan rawatan regim air sementara rumpai berdaun tirus (24935 biji benih m\(^2\)), kebanyakannya *Leptochloa chinensis* dan *Panicum repens* sekali lagi merekodkan bilangan terendah. 10 spesies rumpai yang tidak didapati dalam ujian ladang telah direkodkan dalam kajian bank biji benih rumpai.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise to Almighty Allah for His blessings, kindness and giving me proper guidance, strength, and will to complete this study.

I wish to express my gratitude, indebtedness and deep respect to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Shukor Juraimi, the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for his sincere support, guidance, encouragement, invaluable suggestions and generous help throughout the study period. I am also much indebted and grateful to Associate Professor Dr. Anuar Abdul Rahim and Dr. Azmi Man, members of the supervisory committee, for their encouragement, constructive suggestions and guidance in formulation and execution of the research projects and critical review of the manuscript.

I, thankfully acknowledge the assistance of Ministry of Higher Education for financial support and facilitating my study in Malaysia, and MOSTI (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation) for providing research facilities under the Intensification of Research Priority Areas No. 01-02-04-0778-PR0068/05-05. Furthermore, I also would like to express my many thanks to the administrative authorities of Universiti Putra Malaysia for providing deputation and all kinds of help to accomplish my degree.

I feel proud to express my sincere appreciation to Hj. Yasir Isman, Mr. Mohd Najib Mohamad Yusof, Mr. Erwan Shah, Dr. Arifin Tasrif, Dr. Mahfuza Begum, Mr. Chew See Eng, Pak Hamid, En. Din and all MARDI Bertam officers for their assistance in the experiments. I also wish to express my appreciation to all of my postgraduate
friends. I respectfully acknowledge the blessings and good wishes of my father, sisters, brothers, brother-in-law and relatives.

Finally, my wife Mrs. Suhaina Mustaffa who deserves a lot of thanks and appreciation not only for her love and care, but also for active cooperation and support to conduct experiments and encouragement a higher degree.

I would like to express my humble apology to those persons, who helped me but may not find their names in my narration here.
I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 16 June 2008 to conduct the final examination of Muhammad Saiful bin Ahmad Hamdani on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Weed Diversity under Different Water Regimes in Irrigated Direct Seeded Rice Cultivation” 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:

Mohammad bin Mohd. Lassim, PhD
Associate Professor
Faculty of Agriculture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Roslri bin Mohamad, PhD
Professor
Faculty of Agriculture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Razi bin Ismail, PhD
Professor
Faculty of Agriculture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Ismail bin Sahid, PhD
Professor
Centre of Graduate Management
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
(External Examiner)

HASANAH MOHD GHAZALI, PhD
Professor/Deputy Dean (Thesis)
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:
This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

**Abdul Shukor Juraimi, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Anuar Abdul Rahim, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Azmi Man, PhD**  
Senior Research Officer  
MARDI  
Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang  
(Member)

_______________________  
AINI IDERIS, PhD  
Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  

Date: 11 September 2008
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 it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

MUHAMMAD SAIFUL
AHMAD HAMDANI

Date: 22 July 2008
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xviii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xx</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Water Resource Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Water Shortage Crisis in Crop Production</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Water Deficit Problems of Rice Farming in Malaysia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Rice (<em>Oryza sativa</em> L.)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 The Malaysian Rice Industry</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1 Background and History</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2 Water Management Effects on Rice Growth and Yield</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Weeds</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Distribution of Rice Field Weeds</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1 Weeds in Rice Fields of Malaysia</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.2 Yield Loss Due to Weeds</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 Water-Weed Interaction</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.1 Water Management and Weed Species</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.2 Water Management and Control of Rice Field Weeds</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.3 Water Management and Herbicide Effectiveness</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 The Soil Seed Bank</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.1 Fate of Seeds in the Seed Bank</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.2 Management and Weed Seed Emergence</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 EFFECT OF DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES ON WEED DIVERSITY AND RICE YIELD</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Effect of Different Water Regimes on Weed Diversity and Rice Yield in Bertam Rice Field</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1 Experimental Location and Land Preparation</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2 Treatments and Experimental Design</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3 Weed Sampling</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4 Dominance of Weed Species</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.5 Rice Yield 46
3.1.6 Statistical Analysis 47

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 48
3.2 Effect of Different Water Regimes on Weed Diversity and Rice Yield in Bertam Rice Field
3.2.1. Effect of Different Water Regimes on the Number of Weed in Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005 48
3.2.2. Effect of Different Water Regimes on Weed Growth in Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005 55
3.2.3. Changes of Weed Flora under Different Water Regime Treatments in Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005 59
3.2.4. Community Dominance and Coefficient of Similarity 66
3.2.5. Rice Yield 68
3.2.6. Conclusion 75

4 EFFECT OF DIFFERENT WATER REGIMES ON VIABILITY OF RICE WEED SEEDS IN BERTAM RICE FIELD 77

INTRODUCTION 77
4.1 Number, Composition and Viability of Rice Weed Seeds under Different Water Regime Treatments 79
4.1.1. Experimental Location 79
4.1.2. Soil Sampling and Weed Seed Bank Determination 79
4.1.3. Study on Weed Seeds Viability 80
4.1.4. Data Collection and Statistical Analysis 83

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 84
4.2 Effect of Water Regime Treatments on the Number, Composition and Viability of Rice Weed Seed Bank 84
4.2.1. Weed Seed Bank Composition in Bertam Rice Field Soils in Off Season 2004 84
4.2.2. Weed Seed Bank Composition in Bertam Rice Field Soils in Main Season 2004/2005 85
4.2.3. Weed Seeds Viability under Different Water Regimes Treated Soil 92
4.2.4. Vegetation Similarity between Seed Bank and Aboveground Weed Flora 97
4.2.5. Conclusion 99

5 GENERAL CONCLUSION 101

REFERENCES R. 1
APPENDICES A. 1
BIODATA OF STUDENT B. 1
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS B. 2
## LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Planting, sampling and harvesting in field experiment at MARDI Bertam.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on the number of weed plants m(^2) in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at different sampling dates in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on the number of weed plants m(^2) in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at different sampling dates in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on weed plants biomass (g m(^{-2})) in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at different sampling dates in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on weed plants biomass (g m(^{-2})) in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at different sampling dates in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on summed dominance ratio (%) of major weed groups in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at 60 DAS in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on summed dominance ratio (%) of weed species in unweeded plots at 60 DAS in Bertam rice field in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Effect of water regime treatments on summed dominance ratio (%) of major weed groups in unweeded plots in Bertam rice field at 60 DAS in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Effect of water regime treatments on summed dominance ratio (%) of weed species in unweeded plots at 60 DAS in Bertam rice field in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>Sorenson’s index of similarity (%) in weed species among five different water regime treatments in unweeded plots at 60 DAS in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>Sorenson’s index of similarity (%) in weed species among five different water regime treatments in unweeded plots at 60 DAS in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.12 Rice yield reduction (%) between weeded and unweeded plots under different water regimes in Off Season 2004 and Main Season 2004/2005.

4.1 The composition of total weed seeds by the calculation of I. V. value (%) in unweeded soils taken from Bertam rice plots treated with five different water regimes in Off Season 2004.

4.2 The total weed seeds population (number m$^{-2}$) in unweeded soils taken from Bertam rice plots treated with five different water regimes in Off Season 2004.

4.3 The composition of total weed seeds by the calculation of I. V. value (%) in unweeded soils taken from Bertam rice plots treated with five different water regimes in Main Season 2004/2005.

4.4 The total weed seeds population (number m$^{-2}$) in unweeded soils taken from Bertam rice plots treated with five different water regimes in Main Season 2004/2005.
## LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Eight major rice granaries in Peninsular Malaysia. Table modified from Clare (2000) and MOA (2007).</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>The seed bank cycle (inputs to the seed bank are shown in black arrows and losses in white arrows, modified from Anil Shrestha (2001).</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Map of field experiment at Mardi Kepala Batas, Seberang Perai, Malaysia. Yellow arrow shows the experimental plot location. Picture was downloaded from Google earth website: <a href="http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html">http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html</a>.</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Figure 3.2. Field trial layout at MARDI Bertam, Kepala Batas, Seberang Perai.</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on rice yield (kg ha(^{-1})) in weeded and unweeded plots in Off Season 2004.</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on rice yield (kg ha(^{-1})) in weeded and unweeded plots in Main Season 2004/2005.</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on viability of weed seeds (%) in Off Season 2004 unweeded Bertam rice field soils.</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Effect of different water regime treatments on viability of weed seeds (%) in Main Season 2004/2005 unweeded Bertam rice field soils.</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Coefficient of similarity in weed species between seed bank and aboveground weed flora by the calculation of the Sorenson’s Index of Similarity in Bertam rice field under five different water regime treatments.</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.), is one of the most important cereal crops in the world (Wangda et al., 2003). It feeds well in excess of more than 2 billion people in Asia and many in Latin America, providing on average 32% of total calorie uptake (Mclean et al., 2002). However, yield stagnation or even decline has been observed in some rice growing areas of Asia since in the early 1980s (Flinn and De Datta, 1984; Cassman and Pingali, 1994). One of the major factors is a crisis of fresh water. Per capita availability of water resources has declined by 40 – 60% in many Asian countries between 1955 and 1990 (Gleick, 1993). Agriculture’s share of water will decline at an even faster rate because of increasing competition from urban and industrial sectors (Tuong and Bhuiyan, 1994).

Report from United Nation’s World Food Programme (WFP) shows the biggest threat to Asia in the future will be the shortage of clean water, as Asia accounts for 60% of the world’s population but has only 36% of the global freshwater (Sariam, 2004). According to FAO (2000), Malaysia is categorized in Zone 3 in terms of water scarcity in the 20th Century with a need to increase water management between 25 – 100 % to meet the 2005 water requirement and rice cultivation will be badly affected by this phenomenon.

Observations have been made and most of the results showed that weeds are one of the major constraints on yield and quality of rice (Tsuru, 1991). The total annual worldwide
loss of rice due to weed infestation was found to be 15% with 5 – 72% ranging in Malaysia solely (Kuan et al., 1990). A change in crop establishment method from transplanting to wet seeding brings about changes in the weed community (Bhagat et al., 1999). Weed type and degree of infestation in rice fields are often determined by the type of rice culture (irrigated, rainfed lowland, deepwater or tidal wetlands), stand establishment method (transplanted, direct seeded), moisture regime (irrigated, rainfed), land preparation (lowland, upland) and cultural practices (Baltazar and De Datta, 1992). Under reduced water condition, weed management is most critical especially in direct-seeded rice cultivation. Rice yield is drastically reduced because of increase in weed infestations due to limited water supply (Cooper, 1982).

Weed species respond differently to changing water regimes (Bhagat et al., 1999), and soil moisture status following planting is the major factor influencing weed flora composition (Drost and Moody, 1982). In rice culture, water and weeds are often considered to be closely interlinked. Weed species respond differently to changing water regimes (Bhagat et al., 1999). For example, the dominance of grasses are favored by saturated and below saturated conditions, whereas broadleaves (aquatics) and sedges growth rapidly when soil is submerged with water (Bhagat et al., 1999). In Malaysian rice farms in the Muda irrigation project, rapid changes in water management practices have caused major shifts in weed populations from annuals to perennials, from shallow emerging to deep emerging weeds and from less competitive to more competitive weeds (Noda, 1973; Bhagat et al., 1999).
Most weeds propagate from seeds; only a few propagate vegetatively. Agricultural soils generally contain a large reservoir of weed seeds (Zimdahl et al., 1988). The number and type of weed seeds present in the soil reservoir are largely determined by the water holding capacity and pH of the soil, past weed control practices and land preparation practices. The amount of water also influences the periodicity in the germination of weeds (Diop and Moody, 1984). Variation in soil moisture conditions can also affect weed seed emergence and viability differently (Mercado, 1979).

Unfortunately, little information is available on the effects of different water regimes on weed diversity and rice growth and yield in Malaysian condition. Thus, proper amount and period of water maintained in the field must be given emphasis, which besides enhancing rice production; appropriate water management can also provide valuable indications for future weed problems and perhaps, are indispensable for evolving suitable weed control strategies.

The objectives of the research were:

1. To investigate the population and status of dominant weeds and their effects on rice yield under different water regime treatments in Bertam rice field.
2. To determine the total weed seed reserve, species composition of the entire weed seed bank in the soil and their viability after being treated under different water regime treatments in Bertam rice field.