



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**EFFECTS OF SUPPLEMENTARY LIGHTING ON VARIOUS  
PHYSIOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE OF CHINESE  
KALE (*Brassica oleracea* L.) GROWN ON DIFFERENT TIERS OF  
L-FRAME STRUCTURE**

**NUR ALYANI BINTI SHAKRI**

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STRUCTURE**

**By**

**NUR ALYANI BINTI SHAKRI**

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

**October 2018**

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## **DEDICATION**

**THIS THESIS IS DEDICATED TO**

**MY BELOVED PARENTS SHAKRI B MOHAMAD AND HALIMAH BT ISMAIL**

**MY SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER, MOHAMMAD HARIZ B ABDUL**

**RAHMAN**

**MY LOVELY HUSBAND SHAREL B SALIMAN**

**ALL MY KIND HEARTED SIBLINGS, LECTURERS AND FRIENDS**



Abstracts 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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**NUR ALYANI BINTI SHAKRI**

**October 2018**

**Chairman : Associate Professor Yahya Bin Awang, PhD**  
**Faculty : Agriculture**

Vertical farming is an advanced level of agricultural technology practiced when agricultural land is less available, where plants are grown in vertically stacked or inclined layers and/or integrated in other structures. Vertical farming would have different growth performances at every tier position, associated with differences in light availability. Incorporating artificial light within vertical farming would give greater impact on the growth of plants. The present study was conducted to evaluate the effect of artificial light regimes using light-emitting diode (LED) on growth and physiological processes, yield and quality parameters of two Chinese kale (*Brassica oleracea*) varieties (Type B Curly Leaf and Hong Kong Chinese Kale) grown on five descending tiers (Tier 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) of vertical L-frame structures. In the first experiment, plants grown on Tier 1 or upper most tier produced the highest fresh weight, leaf area, canopy diameter, plant height, number of leaves, root length and stem diameter compared to those grown on lower tiers (Tier 2, 3, 4 and 5). Type B Curly Leaf Chinese kale had higher fresh weight and total leaf area compared to Hong Kong Chinese kale. The interaction effect of combination between upper tier positions and Chinese kale variety Type B Curly Leaf showed significantly higher stem diameter and total leaf area. Fresh weight of Type B Curly Leaf Chinese kale on Tier 2 was significantly the highest. In the second experiment, growth of Type B Curly Leaf Chinese kale grown under different light regimes and different tier positions of L-frame structure was observed. The four different light regimes were L1: 12 hours daylight condition ( $1180 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ), L2: 12 hours daylight ( $1180 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) with 3 hours LED light at night time ( $228 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ), L3: 12 hours daylight ( $1180 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) with 6 hours LED light at night time ( $228 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and L4: 12 hours LED light ( $1170 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) on daytime. Plants grown in L4 light regime on day time resulted in higher number of leaves, canopy diameter, root length, fresh weight, total leaf area, chlorophyll content and vegetable firmness at different tier positions. Plants grown under L4 light regime and Tier 1 showed significant positive effects on most parameters. For the contrast analysis resulted shows that the Chinese kale grown under light regimes L1 was different from light regime L4 at the

most parameters. The result also indicate that contrast analysis for the light regimes L2 and L3 which is supplementary light at night was different from light regimes L4 which is the better light regimes than others and more efficient in this study. In conclusion, growth and physiological processes of kale were significantly affected when grown under different light regimes and tier positions. The 12-hour LED light on day time had significant impact on plants grown on the vertical L-frame structure. The study proposes the use of LED lights to overcome low growth performance of Chinese kale on lower tiers to reduce the effect of shading in vertical structure. Plants exposed to natural light on upper tier position and receiving supplemental LED light on day time would yield positively on plant productivity and quality.

**Keywords:** kale, light emitting diode (LED), vertical structure.



Abstrak thesis tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

**KESAN PENGGUNAAN CAHAYA TAMBAHAN TERHADAP PPROSES  
FISIOLOGI DAN PERTUMBUHAN SAYUR KAILAN CINA (*Brassica  
oleracea* L.) YANG DI TANAM PADA STRUKTUR VERTIKAL YANG  
BERBEZA (L-FRAME)**

Oleh

**NUR ALYANI BINTI SHAKRI**

**Oktober 2018**

**Pengurus** : Associate Professor Yahya Bin Awang, PhD  
**Fakulti** : Pertanian

Kaedah penanaman menegak merupakan perkembangan terkini dalam teknologi pertanian yang sesuai digunakan sebagai alternatif tatkala berlakunya pengurangan kawasan pertanian, di mana tumbuhan yang ditanam pada tingkat tanaman menegak atau cenderung menegak dan / atau terintegrasi pada struktur lain. Penanaman secara vertikal akan menunjukkan prestasi pertumbuhan pokok berbeza mengikut ketinggian deretan bertingkat pada struktur vertikal yang berkait rapat dengan kadar penerimaan cahaya yang berbeza. Menggabungkan penggunaan cahaya buatan pada kaedah penanaman menegak ini merupakan alternatif yang memberi kesan yang besar pada pertumbuhan pokok. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menilai kesan rejimen cahaya buatan menggunakan diod pemancar cahaya (LED) terhadap proses pertumbuhan dan fisiologi, penghasilan dan kualiti pada dua jenis sayur kailan China (*Brassica oleracea* L.) iaitu Kailan Cina Jenis Daun B Kerinting dan Kailan Hong Kong yang ditanam pada lima tingkat para tanaman (tingkat 1, 2, 3, 4 dan 5) pada struktur vertikal (L-frame). Pada eksperimen pertama, tanaman yang ditanam di tingkat 1 atau tingkat paling atas memberi kesan yang lebih dari segi hasil, luas permukaan daun, diameter kanopi, ketinggian pokok, jumlah daun, panjang akar dan diameter batang kailan berbanding dengan yang ditanam di tingkat bawah (tingkat 2, 3, 4 dan 5). Manakala kailan Cina Jenis Daun B Kerinting menunjukkan hasil dan jumlah keluasan daun yang lebih tinggi berbanding dengan sayur kailan Cina jenis Hong Kong. Kombinasi di antara tingkat tanaman yang paling tinggi dan jenis sayur kailan Daun B Kerinting menunjukkan hasil yang lebih ketara pada diameter batang dan keluasan daun. Berat bersih sayur kailan jenis Daun B Kerinting yang ditanam pada tingkat 2 menunjukkan hasil yg lebih ketara. Pada eksperimen kedua adalah mengenai pemerhatian kesan pertumbuhan sayur kailan Cina jenis Daun B Kerinting terhadap rejim pencahayaan berbeza dan kedudukan tingkat tanaman berbeza pada struktur 'L-frame'. Empat jenis rejim pencahayaan yang diguna dalam kajian ini adalah seperti L1: 12 jam cahaya pada waktu siang ( $1180 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ), L2: 12 jam cahaya waktu siang ( $1180 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) tambah 3 jam lampu LED pada waktu malam ( $228 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )

<sup>2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>), L3: 12 jam cahaya pada waktu siang (1180  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) ditambah 6 jam lampu LED pada waktu malam (228  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) dan L4: 12 jam lampu LED pada waktu siang (1170  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ). Pokok yang ditanam di bawah cahaya L4 menghasilkan peningkatan terhadap bilangan daun, diameter kanopi, berat bersih, luas daun, panjang akar, kandungan klorofil daun, dan tekstur sayur pada tingkat tanaman yang berbeza. Rejim cahaya L4 dan tingkat tanaman teratas menghasilkan kesan yang lebih tinggi pada kebanyakan parameter yang di uji. Analisis perbandingan menunjukkan sayur kailan yang ditanam dibawah regim pencahayaan L1 berbeza dengan pencahayaan regim L4 pada kebanyakan parameter yang diuji. Dalam kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa analisis kontras untuk regim cahaya L2 dan L3 yang merupakan cahaya tambahan pada waktu malam adalah berbeza dengan cahaya regim L4 yang merupakan regim pencahayaan yang lebih baik dan efisien berbanding yang lain. Kesimpulannya, pertumbuhan dan proses fisiologi sayur kailan sangat dipengaruhi oleh faktor regim cahaya dan tingkat tanaman yang berbeza. Cahaya LED 12 jam pada siang hari memberi impak yang besar kepada pertumbuhan yang lebih sekata pada struktur vertikal (L-frame). Selain itu cahaya LED digunakan untuk meningkatkan prestasi pertumbuhan sayur kailan yang ditanam di tingkat bawah dan ianya juga dapat mengatasi kesan naungan yang berlaku pada struktur vertikal. Pokok yang terdedah kepada cahaya semulajadi pada kedudukan teratas tingkat tanaman dan menerima cahaya LED 12 jam pada siang hari akan menyumbang kepada kesan positif keatas produktiviti dan kualiti sayuran.

**Kata kunci:** Kailan, diod pemancar cahaya (LED), struktur vertikal.



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

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
DOA	Department of Agriculture
GAE	Gallic acid equivalent
g/mol	Gram Per Mol
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen peroxide
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Sulphuric acid
LAI	Leaf Area Index
LED	Light-emitting diode
MeOH	Methanol
mmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	Millimol per meter square per second
mS/cm <sup>2</sup>	Milli-Siemens per centimeter
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
PPFD	photosynthetic photon flux density
RCBD	Randomized Complete Block Design
TFC	Total flavonoid content
TPC	Total phenolic content
µg	Microgram
µmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	Micromole per meter square per second

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General introduction

Leafy vegetables, also called leafy greens, potherbs, vegetable greens or salad greens refer to any leafy plants including their leaves and stems that are eaten as a vegetable. They are a valuable part of human diet because of their nutritive values. They are also known as nutritional powerhouses filled with minerals and vitamins. Leafy vegetables have always been important in the Malaysian food diet with the majority consuming green vegetables such as Chinese kale, lettuce, spinach, mustard, okra and cabbage (Ismail and Sook Fun, 2003). Furthermore, leafy vegetables are rich in human nutrition with the dark green leafy ones that are a great source of antioxidants (Gupta and Prakash, 2008). They are also rich in fibre, folate, carotenoids and chlorophyll which are good alkalinizers of the human blood. The substances in dark green leafy vegetables has been documented to inhibit the growth of certain types of cancer which become harmful to the human body beside acting as antioxidants (Adams, 2013).

Chinese kale, *Brassica oleracea*, var. *Alboglabra*, is a vegetable belonging to Brassicaceae family and is eaten fresh or cooked. This vegetable is usually preferred for its bolting stems as the common edible and crunchy parts. According to Sun et al. (2011) the tender bolting stem has a favourable flavour and a high source of nutritional values for the human body. The time frame for harvesting kale is usually a personal choice loosely based on flavour preferences. According to Mateljan (2007), cruciferous vegetables, like kale, are among the vegetables that have the highest concentrations of phytonutrients. It has well been documented that phytonutrients increase the ability of the liver to produce enzymes that assist in the detoxification of the body. Kale is high in fibre and a functional cancer prevention making the demand for the vegetable all-time high.

The Chinese kale was use in this study because this plant need consistent of light and water supplied. Beside that Chinese kale has short time of growth and lower cost in handling, According to Qian et al (2016), state that the effects of different light qualities including white, red and blue lights were effect the growth performance and quality of Chinese kale like antioxidant capacity was investigated using light emitting diodes as a light source for plant. The LED also needed for enhancing the chlorophyll a, b and  $\beta$ -carotene contents of Chinese kale (Lefsrud et al. 2008). The great temperatures for the growing of Chinese kale were 18-28 °C (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Government, 2010).

Vertical farming is an advance level of agricultural technology, practiced when agricultural land has become less available and traditional farming methods have

become outdated, time consuming and wasteful. Not limited to these reasons, vertical farming has become a very useful indoor farming (Frediani, 2017). It has been proposed to be very suitable for leafy vegetables and other short term crops. The concept is said to be able to fulfil ever increasing demand for leafy vegetables when urbanisation is also increasing. Vertical farming could increase vegetable production with less cost on land preparation when cities expand. In vertical farming, plants, grown on different tier positions on vertical system, intercept different quantity of light affecting growth, yield and quality of crops. Plants on lower tiers receive low light intensity which affects plants growth rate as a result of low net photosynthesis.

Hydroponic, which involves growing plants in nutrient solutions that are free of soil as a growing medium, is the predominant growing system used in vertical farming and hydroponics. Hence, the vertical farming would take up considerably much less space than traditional farming method. It has been equated that 1 indoor acre of vertical farm can grow the equivalent of 4-6 outdoor acres on a traditional farm depending on the plants (Banerjee and Adenauer, 2014). The L-frame hydroponic system is a popular structure in a vertical garden that has been documented to maximize the number of plants that can be grown in a small space giving benefits to the environment, economic and social being (Safikhani et al., 2014).

As an important environmental factor, light not only source of energy for plant photosynthesis, but also for regulating plant growth and development (Jiao et al., 2007). In recent years, attention has been paid to the blue and red LED lights as essential energy sources for photosynthetic carbon assimilation (Lin et al., 2013). LED also functional increase the nutrient contents, reduce contamination from microbial and changing the ripening of postharvest fruits and vegetables. LED treated agronomic products can be beneficial for human health due to their good nutrient value and high antioxidant properties (Hasan et al., 2017).

Light-emitting diode (LED) has long been implemented in horticultural industry. It has brought the interest of numerous researchers in investigating the influence of LED light regimes on horticultural crops. Light, being very important in influencing physiological factors in plant growth, supplies energy for growth and plays an important role in directing energy along the various possible metabolic pathways. LED light also has its impact on plant growth in vertical structures suitable for plant growing in shaded areas (Hakkim et al., 2016; Touliatos et al., 2016). Therefore, in optimizing the quality and productivity of Chinese kale in vertical farming system, studies on the effects of supplementary light regimes and L-Frame planting system were justified.

Information gained from the studies on the effect of different levels of vertical structures and different light regimes on Chinese kale would lead to the determination of light regimes in a vertical structure on Chinese kale. Better growth performance and quality of Chinese kale would be beneficial in giving new perspectives in vertical farming and light regimes research in the future.

## **1.2 Research hypothesis**

The hypothesis of the present study is:

1. Crop grown on upper tier received full light exposure giving better growth performance and quality of Chinese kale when compared to other tier levels.
2. Better and uniform Chinese kale growth performance and quality is under artificial light (LED) on day time.

## **1.3 Objective of study**

The general objective of the study was to examine the effect of growing position on growth, yield and quality of Chinese kale grown on an L-Frame structure using hydroponic system. The specific objectives were:

1. To determine the effect of tier positions on growth, physiological processes, and productivity of Chinese kale grown on L-frame structures.
2. To evaluate the changes in physiological processes, productivity and quality of Chinese kale grown under different regimes of light emitting diode (LED) at different tiers on L-Frame growing structures.

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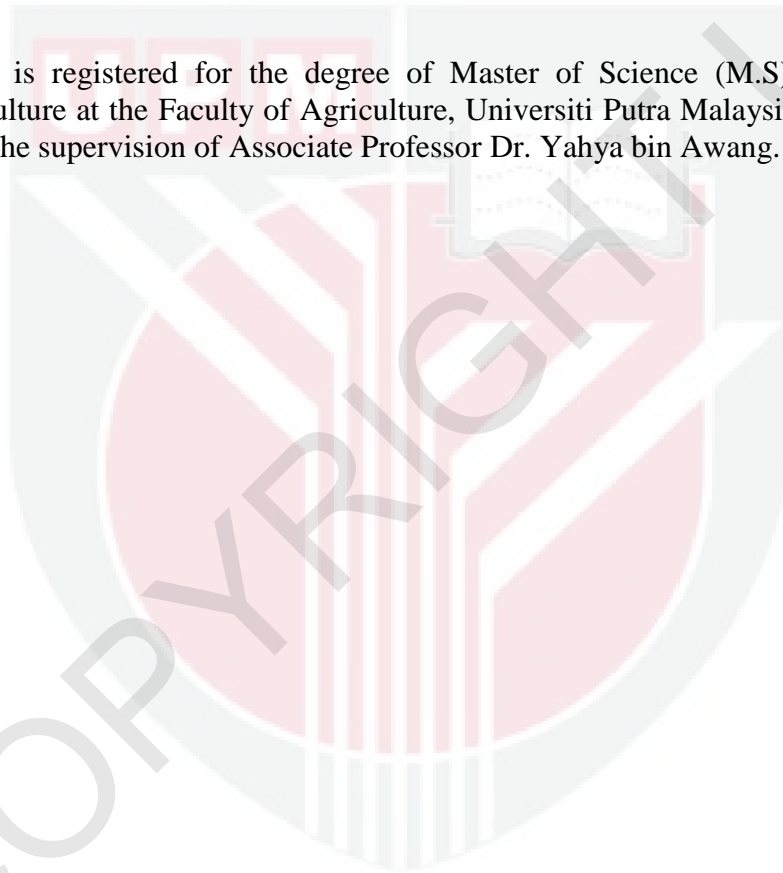
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## PUBLICATION

### Publication in journal

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