

Controlled-Environment Greenhouse



Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Newsletter – December 2013

Controlled Environment
Hydroponic Research and
Development Centre (II)



From the Editor

The Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre (the Centre) commissioned in mid-March 2013 under the Vegetable Marketing Organization is now producing hydroponic baby leaves, which are well received in the market. In this issue, we are going to take a look at the production in the Centre.



Production Technology Training for the Centre's Staff Members

Prior to the commencement of production, the Centre's staff members are given a month-long training on production technology so that they can familiarise themselves with the facilities, as well as the procedures and techniques of producing hydroponic baby leaves. The training covers personal hygiene measures, entry/exit procedures, sowing/cultivating, equipment control, product harvesting/packaging and various points to note, etc, during the production process.



Demonstrating the sowing techniques



Introducing the technology of production



Introducing the operation of equipment



Demonstrating the harvesting and packaging procedures



Production Process of Hydroponic Baby Leaves

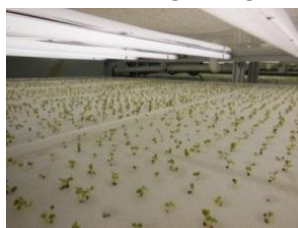
The Centre is now producing five varieties of baby leaves, including Mizuna, Chinese Flat Cabbage, Red Asian Mustard, Rocket and Oak Leaf Lettuce. It takes 21 days from sowing to harvesting. The production process is shown as follows:

Sowing



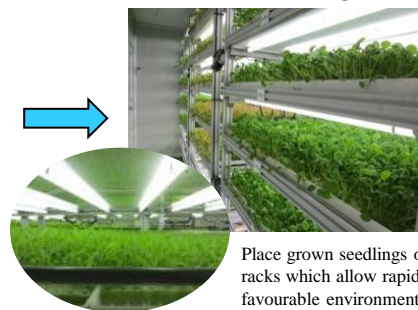
Place sterilised seeds onto sponge sheets and mulch them properly to allow germination in a favourable environment.

Seedling Raising



Move the seeds to raising layers after germination.

Cultivating



Place grown seedlings onto cultivation racks which allow rapid growth in a favourable environment.

Packaging



Upon harvesting, mix the five varieties together in the right proportion and pack them as ready-to-eat products.

Harvesting



Reap baby leaves when they are ready for harvest after a suitable period of time.

By adopting controlled environment hydroponics technology, we can now produce quality baby leaves all year round. They are ready-to-eat, pesticide-free and pollution-free with considerable market potential. It is hoped that the development of local vegetable production will usher in a new stage with this innovative technology.

AFCD Home Page:
<http://www.afcd.gov.hk>

For more information and visits to greenhouses, please contact:
Horticulture Section, AFCD (Tel: 2679 4294)