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Influences of Hydroponics and Aeroponics in Soilless Culture in Commercial Food Production

(*Dr. Priyanka Solanki[1], Ashwani Kumar[2], Aotola Aier[3] and Ishwar Sharma[3])
[1]College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalawar, AU, Kota
[2]Department of Horticulture, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan
[3]School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University
*Corresponding Author's email: solankipriyanka@gmail.com

Abstract
Hydroponics and aeroponics are two techniques for cultivating plants by utilising mineral nutrient solutions in place of soil. Hydroponics use synthetic substrates such as sand, gravel, vermiculture, and perlite to provide plant roots with a well-balanced diet. Aeroponics is a cultivation method where plants are hung in a chamber with a humidity level of 100% and are nourished with a nutrient solution. The origins of hydroponics can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where controlled-environment agriculture was first employed in the 1st century. Plant secondary metabolites are used in the development of medications with anticancer and antiviral properties. Additionally, hydroponics, a cultivation method, has been employed in the Netherlands to enhance the productivity and quality of crops. Hydroponics is used in space to cleanse water, regulate the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide, and provide sustenance for astronauts. Aeroponics is an indoor horticultural technique that utilises minimum water and space, enabling year-round cultivation unaffected by weather conditions.

Introduction
The term hydroponics originates from the combination of two Greek words, hydro meaning water and ponos meaning labour, therefore translating to "water work". Hydroponics is a technique for cultivating plants by using mineral fertiliser solutions in place of soil. Other hydroponic terminology that are closely similar include "aqua culture," "hydro culture," "nutriculture," "soilless culture," "soilless agriculture," "tank farming," or "chemical culture." A hydroponicist is an individual who engages in the practice of hydroponics, which refers to the cultivation of plants without soil. Hydroponicum, on the other hand, is a term used to describe a structure or area where hydroponics is carried out. Hydroponics is a method of cultivating plants using nutrient solutions, which are water-based solutions including fertilisers. This may be done with or without the use of an artificial medium, such as sand, gravel, vermiculture, rockwool, perlite, peat moss, coir, or sawdust, to offer physical support. Liquid hydroponic systems lack any additional substrate to support the plant roots. Aggregate systems have a stable foundation of support. The environmental impact is minimal due to the absence of soil runoff and little water loss via evaporation. It is very beneficial in regions suffering from severe drought. These hydroponic mediums are specifically engineered to have a high porosity, allowing for optimal retention of both air and water. Healthy plant roots are formed by proper respiration. Hydroponics ensures that plants get a precisely balanced feed. Aeroponics is a hydroponic technology. The term "aeroponic" originates from the Latin words "aero" (referring to air) and "ponic" (meaning effort). Aeroponic growth is the process

of growing plants in a culture where the roots are exposed to air. These circumstances are naturally occurring. For instance, in tropical climes, orchids thrive and proliferate in trees.

Aeroponis is an application of hydroponics without a growing medium

A tiny spray of nutrient solution is used to nourish plant roots that are suspended in midair inside of a chamber that is maintained at a humidity level of one hundred percent. As a result of this mid-air feeding, the roots are able to take in the oxygen that they need, which in turn boosts their metabolism and development rate, which is said to be up to ten times faster than when they are grown in soil. Also, there is almost little water loss that occurs as a result of evaporation. The middle of the 1940s saw the beginning of laboratory research on air culture growth that made use of vapours. Now, aeroponics is being used in agricultural practices all over the globe. Growing in hydroponics and in vitro (plant tissue culture) are two methods of cultivation that are distinct from aeroponic culture. Aeroponics is a method of cultivating plants that avoids the usage of growing media, in contrast to hydroponics, which relies on water as both a growing medium and a vital mineral to maintain plant development.

Historical past

Ancient civilizations like the Babylonians and Aztecs used agricultural methods that included extracting nutrients from sources other than soil. The formulation of mineral fertiliser solutions for hydroponics did not occur until the 1800s. Controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) was first used during the 1st century to cultivate off-season cucumbers for the Roman Emperor Tiberius using "transparent stone" (mica). However, this technique was hardly utilised for the next 1500 years. During the 17th century, greenhouses and experimental hydroponics emerged in France and England. In 1699, Woodward successfully cultivated mint plants in England without using soil. The fundamental laboratory methods of nutrient solution culture were separately pioneered by Sachs and Knap in Germany. The cultivation of greenhouse regions had substantial growth in Europe and Asia throughout the 1950s. Additionally, in the 1970s, extensive hydroponic systems were established in the deserts of California, Arizona, Abu Dhabi, and Iran.

England pioneered the Nutrient Film Technique (NFT) and made many additional improvements to it. When choosing a location for a greenhouse, it is important for a grower to consider several chemical qualities that might potentially provide challenges for greenhouse cultivation, such as pH alkalinity and soluble salts. In 1942, Carter conducted the first study on air culture growth and provided a description of a technique for cultivating plants in water vapour, which allowed for easier investigation of the roots. In 1957, Went was the first to introduce the term "aeroponics," which refers to the cultivation of coffee plants and tomatoes by suspending their roots in air and supplying them with a nutritional mist.

Soilless culture/aeroponics and hydroponics

Gericke first described hydroponics as the cultivation of plants using a solution of mineral nutrients, without the presence of a solid substrate for root development. The distinction between hydroponics and soilless cultivation of plants has sometimes been obscured. Soilless culture is a more encompassing word compared to hydroponics, since it simply means that no clay or silt soils are employed. It is important to understand that although sand is a kind of soil, sand culture is classified as a sort of soilless cultivation. "Hydroponics exclusively refers to a method of cultivation that does not involve the use of soil, while not all forms of soilless cultivation can be classified as hydroponics."

Production of plant roots secondary metabolites

Plant secondary metabolites are mostly used for the development of anticancer and antiviral pharmaceuticals. Hydroponics has been used to cultivate whole plants in non-sterile environments and induce the release of secondary metabolites from the roots, allowing for the

collection of these chemicals from the nutrient solution in which the plant was grown. Hyoscyamine and scopolamine, which are alkaloids, may be extracted from the Datura innoxia mill plant. When producing plant secondary metabolites, we evaluated hydroponics as a technology that is similar to bioreactors. Hydroponics is a well-established approach used for the cultivation of legumes and flowers, resulting in significant biomass output.This method is referred known as "Plant Milking Technology (PMT)" since it involves stimulating root exudation to collect a liquid nutrition solution. Hydroponic plants release their components without losing viability, which may be compared to the process of cow growth and milking.

Hydroponics in Netherlands

The Netherlands once had the distinction of being one of the major consumers of methyl bromide in Europe for the purpose of soil fumigation. This insecticide is effective for managing soil-borne pests in greenhouse-grown crops, including tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries, cucumbers, sweet peppers, and eggplants. It may also be used on nursery crops and cut flowers, while just a small quantity is necessary for fumigating soils in field crops. Growers in the Netherlands have effectively removed the danger of soil transmitted pest infection and improved crop production and quality by using alternative farming techniques, such as hydroponics and soil less culture on artificial platforms. Hydroponics and soilless cultivation on artificial substrates may be used as a substitute for methyl bromide soil fumigation. This approach was often used in the Netherlands.

Hydroponics in space

Intensive research is now being conducted on the use of hydroponics in space to filter water, maintain a balance of oxygen (O_2) and carbon dioxide (CO_2) in different regions, and provide food for people. Hydroponics is used for cultivation in arid regions and extreme environments like the Polar Regions.

An early instance of hydroponics achieving success took place on Wake Island, a rugged island in the Pacific Ocean that served as a refuelling stop for Pan American Airlines. Hydroponics was used throughout the 1930s to grow vegetables specifically for the passengers. Hydroponics was essential on Wake Island due to the absence of soil and the exorbitant cost of transporting fresh veggies by air. During the 1960s, Allen Cooper, an English individual, pioneered the Nutrient Film Technique. The land pavilion, which debuted in 1982 at Walt Disney World's EPCOT centre, prominently showcases a diverse range of hydroponic methods. NASA has conducted substantial hydroponic research for its Control Ecological Life Support System (CELSS) in recent decades. Hydroponics systems designed for Mars are using LED illumination to cultivate plants utilising various colour spectrums while generating little heat.

NASA Aeroponics

Aeroponics is a technique for cultivating plants where a nutrient solution is sprayed or misted over the roots in a consistent or intermittent manner. This method entails cultivating plants without using a solid medium by periodically spraying their roots with a thin mist of automated fertilisers. The main advantage of aeroponics is its superior aeration quality. In 1983, GTi developed and commercially distributed the first aeroponic apparatus that was made available for public acquisition. At that time, it was referred to as the "Genesis Machine". The term "Genesis rooting system" was used to refer to the rooting mechanism of the Genesis machine during its sale. Within the framework of a nascent discipline, the achievement was revolutionary in the realm of artificial air cultivation at that period. The Genesis machine just required an ordinary water tap and wall connection for electricity. Due

to the advantages of working with mist rather than liquid in a zero gravity environment, NASA has prioritised the employment of aeroponic methods.

Space plants

In the 1960s, two different missions, Sputnik 4 and Discover 17, were responsible for the first launching of plants into orbit around the globe. Experiments with beans, wheat, peas, and maize have been conducted in space using the GAP technology developed by space agency NASA. Later on, plant experiments were carried out on a number of other Soviet, American, and combined Soviet–American flights. These missions included Biosatellite 2, Skylab 3, and 4, Apollo-Soyuz, Vostok, Zond, and Sputnik. The influence of low gravity on the direction of roots and shoots was shown by some of the early findings from study.

Biocontrol's in space

Stoner's study for a natural liquid biocontrol, which was referred to as organic disease control (ODC) at the time, was funded by NASA in 1996. This biocontrol method triggers plants to develop without the use of pesticides as a way of controlling pathogens in a closed-loop culture system with the intention of preventing the spread of illness. Aquatic elements that occur naturally are the source of ODC. NASA was the organisation that carried out Stoner's biocontrol tests in the year 1997. For the sole purpose of examining the advantages of biocontrol, the tests carried out by NASA [30] were carried out. A self-contained, self-supporting, inflatable aeroponic crop production unit with integral environmental systems for the control and delivery of a nutrient/mist to the roots, the NASA low-mass inflatable aoneroponics system (AIS) is an inflatable low-mass aeroponic system (AIS) for space and earth for high performance food production. It is designed to produce high-performance food. The cultivation of pharmacological drugs inside plants is accomplished by the use of aeroponic bio-pharming. Within a facility that operates in a closed-loop system, the technique enables the total containment of permitted substances. Dr. Neil Reese, who was doing research on genetically modified organisms at South Dakota State University, used aeroponics to cultivate genetically modified maize as recently as 2005. In 2005, biopharmaceutical maize was cultivated using aeroponics. According to Reese, aeroponics help to buffer the ability to make biopharmaceutical production economically feasible. During the year 2006, the postgraduate PhD programme in aeroponics was developed by the Ag University of Hanoi Vietnam in collaboration with Stoner. In the month of January 2007, Vietman became a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The use of aeroponics in Vietnam will have an effect on farms.

Advantages

Hydroponics is a kind of indoor gardening that may be enjoyed. When it comes to growing plants in environments that are not conducive to their development, such as Antarctica and space colonies, hydroponics is the method of choice. When compared to traditional agricultural techniques, hydroponics requires just one-twentieth of the amount of water that is necessary to cultivate the same amount of fruits and vegetables. Two further possible uses for nutrient solutions are the maintenance of turf and the cultivation of plants in containers. Growing media may be recycled and reused to some extent. The space required for technique and culture is reduced. Following the harvesting process, it may be packed and sold. During its lifetime, so that it may maintain its delicious flavor for a longer amount of time.

In light of the growing knowledge of the presence of pesticides and pollutants in the food supply, many are searching for alternatives that are less hazardous. The good news is that hydroponics is a perfect replacement for the new criteria that consumers have. Plants will acquire a robust resistance to the disease. Additionally, the use of hydroponics yields outcomes that are far more constant because to the fact that it is highly CEA. Due to the fact

that hydroponics systems are housed inside greenhouses, it is possible to cultivate plants throughout the whole year without being influenced by the weather. The farmer is able to exercise exact control over the plants and, in many cases, even the seasons when using hydroponics.

A growing trend in today's world is the cultivation of smaller hydroponic gardens for the purpose of personal consumption and pleasure. There are already available hydroponics kits for home cultivation, with prices beginning at about fifty dollars. If there is no soil, then there will be no weeds, pets, or diseases that are transmitted via the soil. When plants are cultivated hydroponically, the root systems remain smaller. This allows the plant to focus its growth energy on developing plant mass rather than on the roots. This has the potential to result in a growth rate that is up to thirty percent quicker.

Disadvantages

There are high initial setup costs, a need for certain skills and expertise, and the fact that hydroponic techniques are not applicable to all plant species. It is possible for plants to perish in a short amount of time if the timers or pumps fail, or if the infrastructure becomes clogged. There is no question that hydroponics is a promising approach; yet, there are still many issues that have not been handled. For instance, by using hydroponics, it is possible to obtain significant increases in biomass in comparison to "normal" culture techniques; however, this comes at the price of increased concentrations of secondary metabolites or resistance against infections.

21st Century Aeroponics

Aeroponics is an advancement in artificial life support that features non-damaging plant support, seed germination, environmental management, and drip watering methods. These techniques have been used by conventional agriculturalists for decades. Advantages: The most significant benefit of aeroponics is that it provides good aeration. As a result of the fact that a mist is simpler to manipulate than a liquid in an environment with zero gravity, NASA has allocated a significant amount of attention to these approaches. The cost was one of the most significant drawbacks they had. Hydroponic systems are undergoing significant technological advancements, and the systems that are now in use are delivering yields that have never been seen before. If we look back over the last half-century, we can see that the prospects for hydroponics are brighter than they have ever been. In all honesty, I am certain that hydroponics will once again become popular.

Conclusion

For the purpose of guaranteeing the sustainable and profitable development of horticultural crops, it is important to highlight the substantial role that hydroponics and aeroponics may play. This is particularly important in a world that is experiencing resource restrictions and a rising demand for fresh food.

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