

# Replacing Plastic Sponges with Biodegradable Organic Fiber Loofahs **Experimental Plan**





Planning and execution unit: Valofresh Co., Ltd

#### Ideology

Hydroponic farming has rapidly emerged around the world replacing traditional soil farming methods to meet the huge demand for vegetables. Currently, hydroponic farms around the world are facing the problem of unrecyclable sponge waste, leading to global water shortages. Billions of inorganic chemical sponges are produced every month on farms and must be discarded and cannot be recycled.

Valofresh Co., Ltd. conducted research and evaluation on the application of loofah products to see the feasibility of replacing inorganic chemical sponges with organic loofah fibers.

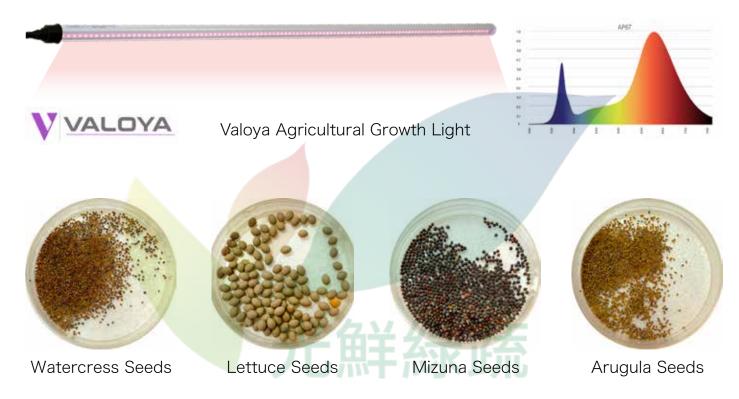
Valofresh Co., Ltd. will start this experimental plan in 2023, hoping to find the right organic fiber to replace the inorganic chemical sponge, truly achieving the goal of 100% zero waste and zero carbon emissions, fulfilling its corporate social responsibility for global ESG.



### **Equipment Required** for Experiments



Loofah









Pound Scale

Microscope

Perforated Board

#### **Experimental Crop Variations**



#### **Experimental Procedures**

#### 1.Extract loofah and divide into three sizes

3cmx3cmx1cm(0.2g)

3cmx3cmx2cm (0.4g)

3cmx3cmx3cm (0.8g)







#### 2.Loofah disinfection

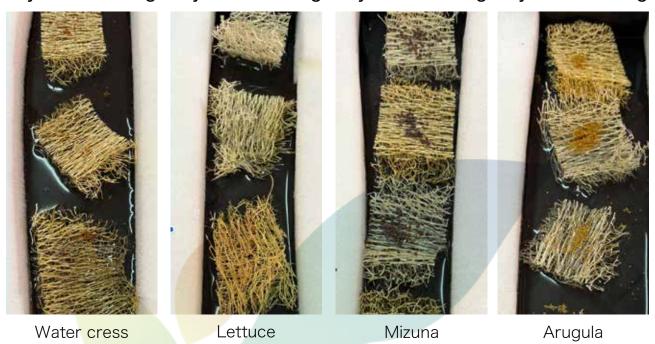
Soak in room temperature water (25 degrees Celsius) for 10 minutes. Soak in H2O2 hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes. Soak in 100 degree hot water for 10 minutes. Receive UV treatment for 60 minutes. Soak in hypochlorous acid (HCIO) for 10 minutes.

- 3.Sow seeds and start planting samples
- 4. Record growth from Day 1 ~ Day 28
- 5. Harvest crops
- 6. Perform inspection after the use of the loofah fiber
- 7. Initiate the Soil Burial Test



### Soak 3cmx3cmx1cm loofah in 25 degrees, room temperature, water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing



Day7 Starts sprouting sprouting sprouting sprouting Day5 Starts sprouting Sp

Day10 Colonized



Water cress

Day9 Contaminated



Lettuce

Day10 Colonized



Mizuna

Day9 Contaminated



Arugula

Day 17 Contaminated



Water cress

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

#### Soak 3cmx3cmx2cm loofah in 25 degrees, room temperature, water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing









Day7 Starts

Day8 Starts sprouting

Day4 Starts sprouting

Day5 Starts sprouting









Water cress

Lettuce

Mizuna

Arugula

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Two plants grew mold

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized









Water cress

Lettuce

Mizuna

Day16 Grow

Water cress

Day16 Grow



Lettuce

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day16 Grow



Arugula

Day30 Harvest

Day32 Grow



Lettuce

Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

Day33 Harvest

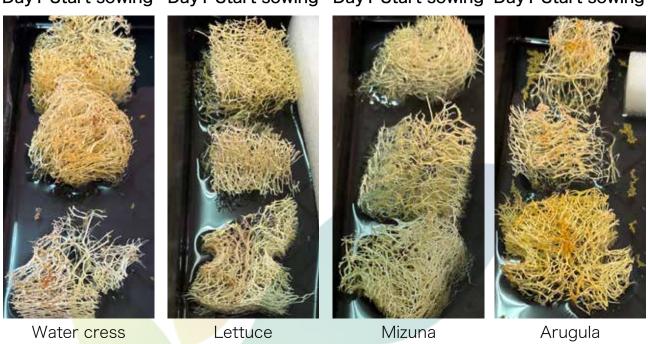


Arugula

Water cress

### Soak 3cmx3cmx3cm loofah in 25 degrees, room temperature, water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing



Day9 Starts sprouting spro

Day10 Two plants Day10 One plants grew mold grew mold Day10 Colonized Lettuce Water cress Day16 Grow Day16 Grow

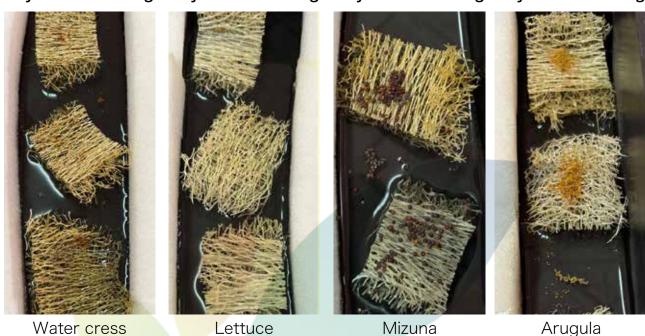


Day10 One plants

grew mold

### Soak 3cmx3cmx1cm loofah in H2O2 hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





Day10 One plants grew mold

Water cress

Day10 Two plants grew mold

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized

Arugula

Day17 Grow

Day17 All moldy

Day16 Grow

Day17 Grow





### Soak 3cmx3cmx2cm loofah in H2O2 hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing







Lettuce



Mizuna



Arugula

Day7 Starts sprouting



Water cress

Day7 Starts sprouting



Lettuce

Day6 Starts sprouting



Mizuna

Day6 Starts sprouting



Arugula

#### Day10 One plants grew mold



Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized









Water cress

Lettuce

Day16 Two plants grew mold

Mizuna

Arugula

Day17 Grow





Day16 Grow



Day17 One plants grew mold



Water cress

Lettuce

Mizuna

Arugula

Day30 Harvest



Day32 Grow



Lettuce

Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

Day33 Harvest

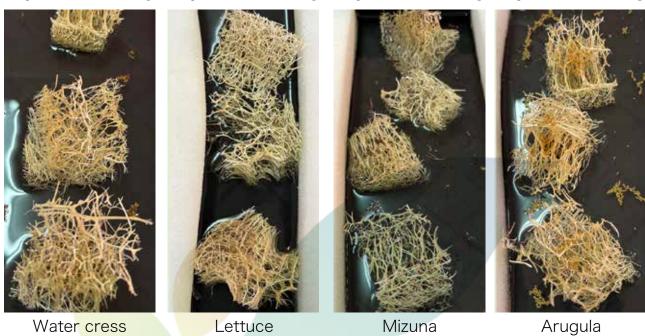


Arugula

Water cress

### Soak 3cmx3cmx3cm loofah in H2O2 hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





# Day10 Colonized Water cress











Day16 Grow







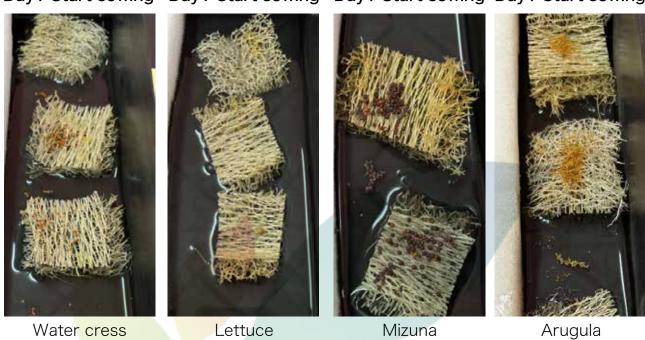






### Soak 3cmx3cmx1cm loofah in 100 degree hot water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





Day10 One plants grew mold

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized

Arugula

Day16 Grow





Water cress

Lettuce Iviizuria

Arugula

### Soak 3cmx3cmx2cm loofah in 100 degree hot water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing







Lettuce



Mizuna



Arugula

Day7 Starts sprouting



Water cress

Day5 Starts sprouting



Lettuce

Day5 Starts sprouting



Mizuna





Arugula

Day10 One plants Day10 Three Day10 Colonized Day10 Colonized grew mold plants grew mold Lettuce Arugula Water cress Mizuna Day16 Grow Day16 Grow Day16 Grow Day16 Grow

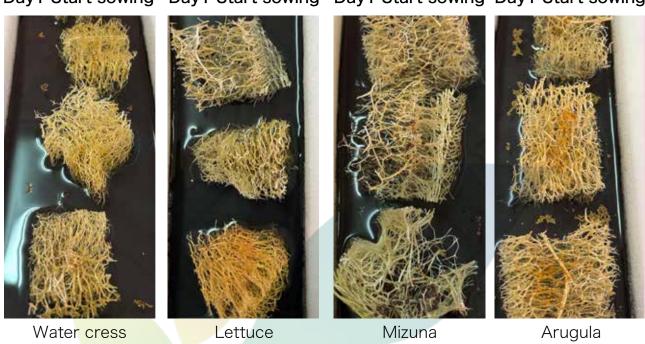


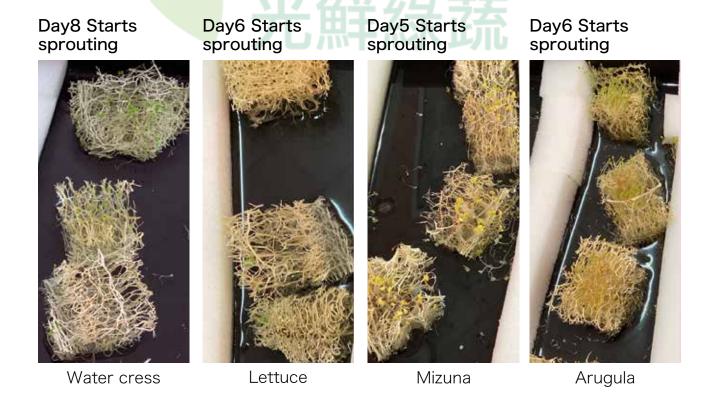


Water cress

### Soak 3cmx3cmx3cm loofah in 100 degree hot water for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





Day10 One plants grew mold



Water cress

Day10 Colonized



Lettuce

Day10 Colonized



Mizuna

Day10 Colonized



Arugula

Day16 Grow



Water cress

Day16 Grow



Lettuce

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day16 Grow



Arugula

Day30 Harvest



Water cress

Day32 Grow



Lettuce

Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

Day33 Harvest

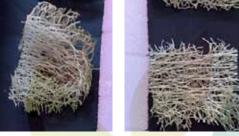


Arugula

#### 3cmx3cmx1cm loofah Receive UV treatment for 60 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing









Day6 Starts

sprouting

Day6 Starts sprouting

Lettuce

Day4 Starts sprouting

**Day6 Starts** sprouting







Lettuce



Mizuna



Arugula

#### Day10 Colonized Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized

Day10 Colonized







Water cress

Lettuce

Mizuna

Arugula

Day16 Grow



Day16 Grow

Day16 Grow

Day16 Grow





Mizuna



Water cress

Day30 Harvest

Day32 Grow

Day26 Harvest





Lettuce



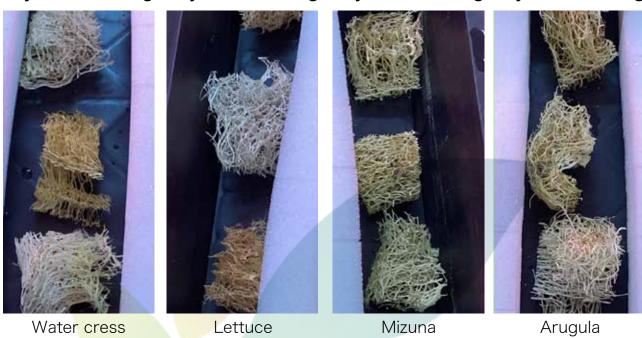


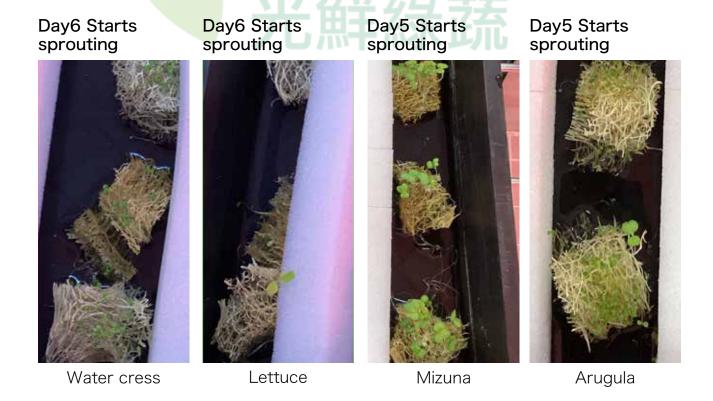
Water cress

Mizuna

#### 3cmx3cmx2cm loofah Receive UV treatment for 60 minutes **Growth Process**

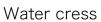
Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





### Day10 Colonized Day10 Colonized Day10 Colonized Day10 Colonized





Lettuce



Mizuna



Arugula

Day16 Grow



Water cress





Lettuce

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day16 Grow



Arugula

Day30 Harvest



Water cress

Day32 Grow



Lettuce

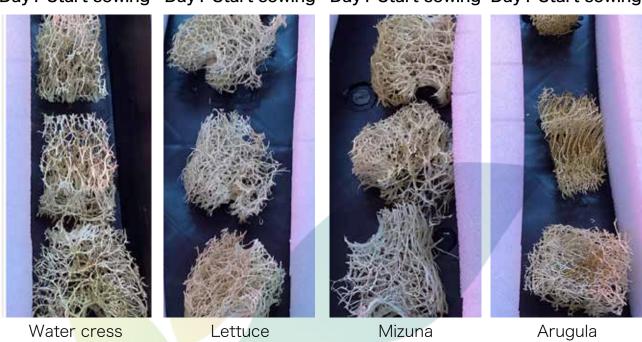
Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

## 3cmx3cmx3cm loofah Receive UV treatment for 60 minutes Growth Process

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing

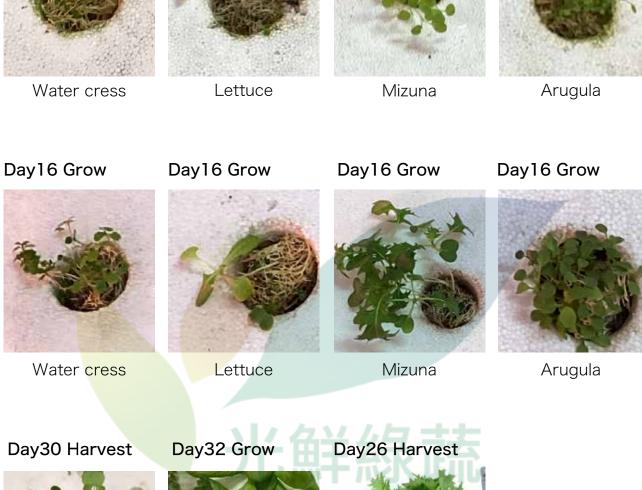


Day6 Starts sprouting sprouting sprouting Day5 Starts sprouting

Day5 Starts sprouting Day5 Starts sprouting

Water cress Lettuce Mizuna Arugula







#### Soak 3cmx1cm loofah in hypochlorous acid (HCIO) for 10 minutes **Growth Process**

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing







Lettuce



Mizuna



Arugula

Day6 Starts sprouting



Water cress

Day7 Starts sprouting

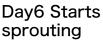


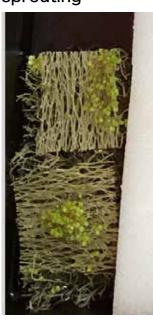
Lettuce

Day4 Starts sprouting



Mizuna





Arugula

## Day9 Colonized Water cress Day16 Grow









Water cress

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day16 Grow



Arugula

Day30 Harvest



Water cress

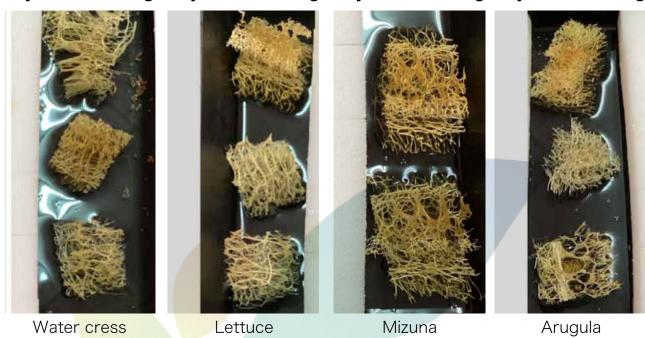
Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

## Soak 3cmx3cmx2cm loofah in hypochlorous acid (HClO) for 10 minutes Growth Process

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing





Day9 Colonized Day9 Colonized Day9 Colonized

Day9 Colonized Day9 Colonized

Water cress

Lettuce

Mizuna

Arugula

Day16 Grow

Water cress

Day16 Grow



Lettuce

Day16 Grow



Mizuna

Day16 Grow



Arugula

Day30 Harvest



Water cress

Day32 Grow



Lettuce

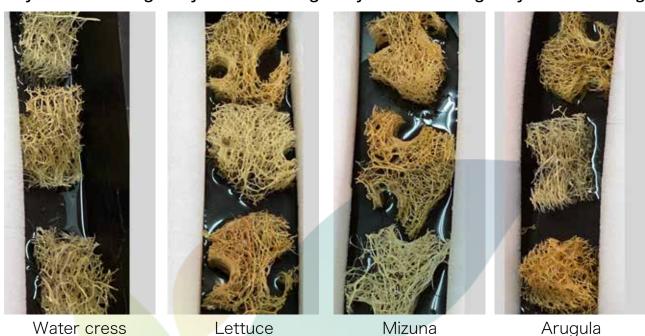
Day26 Harvest



Mizuna

## Soak 3cmx3cmx3cm loofah in hypochlorous acid (HClO) for 10 minutes Growth Process

Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing Day1 Start sowing













#### 大元光鮮有限公司

#### Valofresh EcoSponge: La révolution du loofah pour l'agriculture verticale

#### Cultivation verte, guidée par les fibres naturelles

L'éponge en loofah de Valofresh, une ferme pionnière, incarne une révolution écologique en offrant une alternative durable aux blocs de mousse synthétique dans l'agriculture verticale. Grâce à l'utilisation de fibres de loofah 100 % naturelles, Valofresh ouvre la voie à une réduction drastique des déchets plastiques, proposant ainsi une solution avant-gardiste et écologiquement responsable pour des légumes éclatants de santé.

Les fermes verticales du monde entier, qui recourent habituellement à des blocs de mousse inorganique pour la croissance racinaire des semences, génèrent ainsi d'importantes quantités de déchets plastiques non recyclables. Non seulement cette pratique est néfaste pour l'environnement, mais elle accroît également les coûts liés à la gestion des déchets plastiques. Notre invention, en utilisant des fibres de loofah naturelles à la place des blocs de mousse inorganique, offre une solution durable et définitive à ce problème persistant de pollution plastique.



Valofresh Ltd, le principal acteur de l'agriculture verticale à Taiwan, élimine annuellement plus de 10 millions d'éponges inorganiques, leur plus grand défi en matière de réduction de carbone et de plastique. Le passage aux fibres de loofah est un pas important vers une meilleure durabilité et améliore nettement son ESG.



L'utilisation de fibres de loofah naturelles en remplacement des blocs de mousse inorganique permet de résoudre de manière durable le problème de déchets plastiques non recyclables des fermes verticales, offrant une solution écologique et réduisant les coûts liés à la gestion des déchets.



#### **Traditionnel :**Non biodégradable Déchets plastiques marins

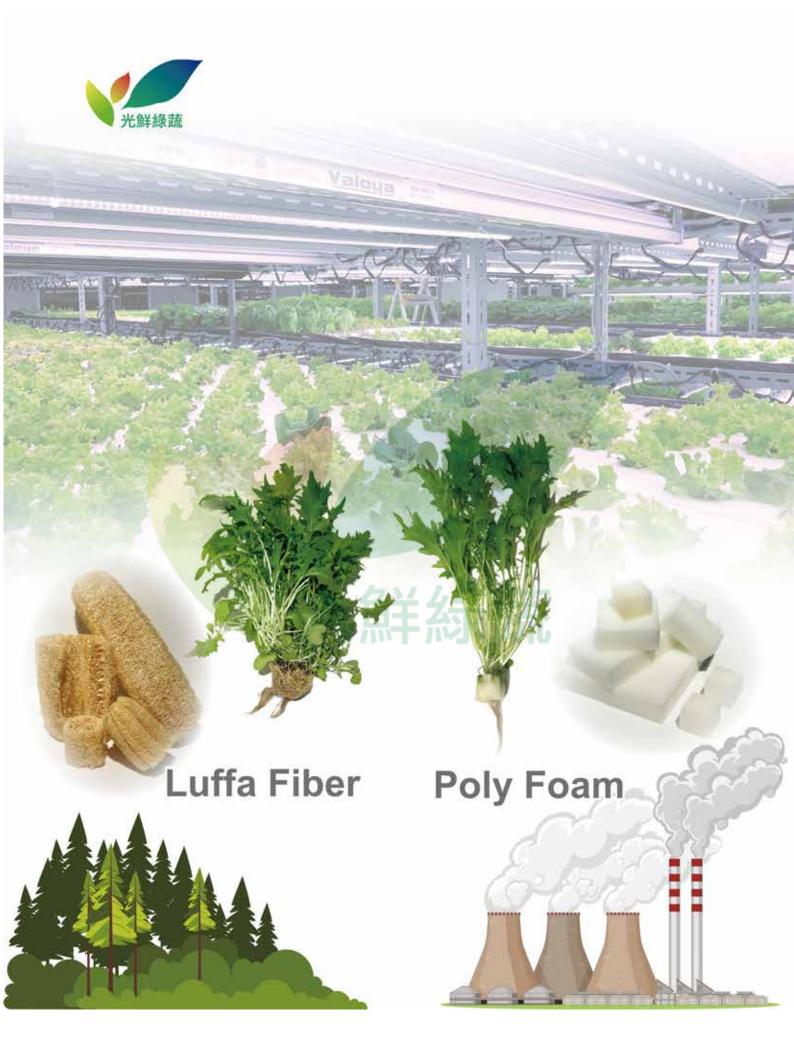
Innovation : Capture de carbone



En Taiwan, des tests en laboratoire ont réussi à cultiver dans des conditions réelles et ont lancé un projet complet sur la base de luffa.

1)Tsai-Tao Wu 2)Jie-Zhong Xu 3)Jasmine Wu 4)Jane Ruth Lin

NO.68



# 2024 International Exhibition of Inventions in Paris, France Won the 123rd Gold Medal Award



▲ Certificates and Gold Medals ▶



### Congratulatory messages from the President and Vice President

