

## Exploring the potential of biostimulants to optimize lettuce cultivation in coupled and decoupled aquaponics systems: growth performance, functional characteristics and metabolomic analysis

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**Table S1:** The parameters derived from the fast JIP fluorescence induction with their explanations and equations, according to Strasser et al. (2000). The secondary parameters presented in Figure 3 are bolded.

Parameter	Explanation
$F_o = F_{50\mu s}$	The initial value of the fluorescence. This is the first reliable fluorescence value after the illumination
$F_{300\mu s}, F_J, F_I$	The fluorescence values at 300μs, 2ms and 30ms respectively
$F_M$	The maximum value of fluorescence. This is the maximum level of OJIP curve
Area	Area between from fluorescence induction (OJIP) curve to maximal fluorescence $F_M$
$S_m = \text{Area} - F_v$	Normalized total complementary area above the OJIP transient
$F_v = F_M - F_o$	Variable chl fluorescence
$F_v/F_M$	Maximal quantum yield of PSII photochemistry
$M_o = 4 (F_{300\mu s} - F_o)/(F_M - F_o)$	The initial slope (in ms <sup>-1</sup> ) of relative variable chl fluorescence curve (for $F_o = F_{50\mu s}$ )
$V_J = (F_{2ms} - F_o)/(F_M - F_o)$	Relative variable fluorescence at 2ms - point J of OJIP curve
$V_I = (F_{30ms} - F_o)/(F_M - F_o)$	Relative variable fluorescence at 30ms - point I of OJIP curve
$\varphi E_o = ET_o / ABS = \varphi P_o \cdot \psi E_o = 1 - F_J / F_M$	Quantum yield of electron transport to intermediate acceptors
$\varphi R_o = \varphi P_o \cdot \psi E_o \cdot \delta R_o = 1 - F_I / F_M$	Quantum yield of electron transport to final acceptors
$1 - V_I$	Yield of reactive centers of PSI
$1/V_I$	Relative yield of final acceptors e <sup>-</sup> of PSI
$ABS/RC = (M_o / V_J) \cdot F_M / (F_M - F_o)$	Absorption flux (for PSII antenna chls) per active reaction center (RC)
$TR_o / RC = M_o / V_J$	Trapped energy flux per active RC
$DI_o / RC = (M_o / V_J) \cdot (F_o / F_v)$	Dissipated energy flux per active RC
$PI_{total} = (RC/ABS) \cdot (\varphi P_o / 1 - \varphi P_o) \cdot (\psi E_o / 1 - \psi E_o) \cdot (\delta R_o / 1 - \delta R_o)$	Index of total photosynthetic efficiency

**Table S2.** The metabolic profile of lettuce samples of the individual treatments. The analysis of metabolites was performed by GC-MS chromatography. The detected amount of each metabolite was assigned as the relative response (f<sub>i</sub>) of the compound compared to the adonitol (internal standard). Values represent the average of the four biological replicates. Different letters denote statistically significant differences between treatments ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

Chemical category	Compound	CAP -BS1	CAP-BS-2	CAP	DCAP -BS1	DCAP -BS2	DCA P	HP-BS1	HP-BS2	HP
Amino acids	Alanine	0,062 6a	0,251 ab	0,256a b	0,087a	0,126a	0,390 b	1,148 c	0,173a b	0,161a
	Aspartic acid	0,074 abc	0,079 bc	0,137 d	0,045a b	0,176d e	0,204e	0,105 c	0,158 d	0,035a

Organic acids	GABA	0,411 a	1,067 e	0,576c	0,821d	0,503b	0,808 d	0,411 a	0,473 b	0,461a b
	Glycine	0,137 abc	0,158 bc	0,039a	0,087a b	0,182c	0,155a bc	0,163 bc	0,278 d	0,143 bc
	Pyroglutamic acid	0,018 a	0,138 ab	0,047a	0,557c	0,288b	0,674c	0,110 ab	0,293 b	0,275 b
	Serine	0,040 a	0,079 ab	0,137a b	0,045a	0,1876 b	0,104a b	0,176 ab	0,118a b	0,036a
	Threonine	0,028 a	0,079 bc	0,046 8a	0,045a	0,049a b	0,152 d	0,054 ab	0,097c	0,218e
	Valine	0,006 a	0,033 ab	0,039a b	0,018a b	0,151fg	0,164 g	0,072 cd	0,127e f	0,096 de
	β-Alanine	0,000 a	0,000a a	0,000a	0,019b	0,241f	0,081 d	0,055 c	0,149e	0,045c
Water-soluble Sugars	Butyric acid	0,006 a	0,033 ab	0,018a	0,008a	0,142b	0,087a b	0,043 ab	0,113a b	0,098a b
	Citric acid	0,829 e	0,620 d	0,516c	0,177a	0,200a	0,322 b	0,221 a	0,187a	0,150a
	Erythronic acid	0,051 ab	0,079 bc	0,284 d	0,045a	0,154d	0,148 d	0,053 ab	0,092c	0,063a b
	Erythro-Pentonic acid	0,234 ab	0,270 ab	0,058a	0,127a	0,206a b	0,481c	0,144 a	0,362 bc	0,122a
	Fumaric acid	0,902 b	0,079 a	0,124a	0,091a	0,081a	0,291a	0,091 a	0,152a	0,044a
	Gluconic acid	0,718 d	0,304 abc	0,058a	0,185a b	0,171a b	0,559 bcd	0,841 d	0,687c d	0,147a
	Glutaconic acid	0,040 a	0,079 c	0,058a bc	0,045a	0,048a b	0,075 bc	0,084 c	0,151 d	0,035a
	Glyceric acid	32,86 8c	32,48 1c	25,79 4bc	19,265 ab	25,026 bc	24,77 8bc	20,72 0ab	20,15 9ab	13,40 6a
	Isocitric acid	0,372 bcd	0,436 de	0,499e	0,302a b	0,324a bc	0,507e	0,391 cd	0,328a bc	0,275a
	Lactic acid	0,109 a	0,159 ab	0,087a	0,177b	0,154a b	0,150a b	0,188 b	0,295c	0,154a b
	Malic acid	30,16 6ab	38,14 5cd	24,91 1a	35,699 bc	53,092 e	42,09 9d	33,78 5bc	30,30 5ab	25,84 4a
	Malonic acid	0,040 a	0,033 a	0,018a	0,023a	0,117b c	0,073a b	0,053 a	0,147c	0,036a
	Oxalic acid	0,878 b	0,297 a	0,353a	0,177a	0,237a	0,272a	0,732 b	0,360a	0,072a
	Ribonic acid	0,063 a	0,079 ab	0,076a b	0,045a	0,191a b	0,281 b	0,055 a	0,097a b	0,035a
	Succinic acid	1,273 e	0,804 d	0,723 d	0,367a bc	0,480c	0,672 d	0,256 ab	0,416 bc	0,169a
	Tartaric acid	0,040 a	0,079 bc	0,058a b	0,045a	0,150d	0,154 d	0,052 ab	0,097c	0,071a bc
	Threonic acid	0,131 cd	0,159 de	0,137c de	0,083b c	0,052a b	0,180e	0,084 bc	0,106c d	0,011a
Water-soluble Sugars	Arabinose	0,063 ab	0,079 ab	0,058a b	0,023a	0,057a b	0,144c	0,070 ab	0,109 bc	0,035a
	Fructose	108,9 97a	156,8 40d	143,3 01cd	158,09 1d	300,44 8f	131,2 44bc	206,8 60e	118,5 43ab	152,5 33d
	Galactose	5,450 d	5,458 d	1,952a b	1,003a	4,341c	2,882a bc	3,259 bc	7,695e	1,223a b
	Glucose	112,5 48a	149,0 58c	134,7 70bc	151,93 4c	330,74 6e	129,1 90ab	199,4 12d	113,6 47a	139,5 94bc
	Maltose	0,131 b	0,205 b	0,132 b	0,147b	0,340c	0,179 b	0,053 a	0,169 b	0,059a

	Mannose	0,255 b	0,487 e	0,286 b	0,217a	0,375c	0,356c	0,410 d	0,625f	0,198a
	Mannose-6-deoxy	0,898 a	1,402 b	1,387 b	2,002c	1,481b	1,297a b	2,443 d	1,436 b	1,589 bc
	Ribofuranose	0,028 a	0,033 a	0,047a	0,008a	0,151c	0,097 b	0,053 a	0,037a	0,034a
	Ribose	0,269 bc	0,251 bc	0,284c	0,140a	0,254b c	0,358 d	0,218 b	0,265 bc	0,154a
	Sedoheptulose	0,086 ab	0,079 ab	0,105 b	0,045a	0,084a b	0,079a b	0,085 ab	0,165c	0,059a
	Sucrose	58,77 2c	63,28 4c	88,93 7d	40,147 b	56,510 c	36,87 6ab	34,89 2ab	30,28 7a	31,36 8a
	Tagatofuranose	0,320 bc	0,549 d	0,586 d	0,183a	0,360b c	0,419c	0,251 ab	0,230a b	0,328 bc
	Talopyranose	0,000	0,079 c	0,000a	0,045b	0,084c	0,149 d	0,085 c	0,151 d	0,047 b
	Threose	0,040 ab	0,057 b	0,018a	0,045a b	0,101c	0,105c	0,051 ab	0,090c	0,021a
	Xylose	0,103 a	0,158 abc	0,115a	0,088a	0,131a b	0,267c	0,166 abc	0,239 bc	1,226 d
Sugar alcohols	Glycerol	0,623 a	0,988 bc	0,695a	0,880b c	1,987f	1,487e	1,017 c	1,181 d	0,847 b
	meso-Erythritol	0,233 c	0,125 ab	0,116a b	0,061a b	0,092a b	0,098a b	0,086 ab	0,154 bc	0,037a
	Myo-Inositol	8,023 e	8,376 e	8,211e	4,876d	4,712c d	2,837a	4,453 cd	4,377 bc	3,985 b
	Ribitol	0,006 a	0,033 ab	0,036a b	0,029a b	0,152d	0,042a b	0,048 b	0,098c	0,032a b
	Xylitol	0,086 ab	0,079 ab	0,087a b	0,045a	0,119b	0,079a b	0,102 b	0,096a b	0,065a b
Other	Aucubin	0,154 ab	0,091 a	0,077a	0,125a	0,261b	0,187a b	0,168 ab	0,175a b	0,125a
	Phosphoric acid	0,000 a	0,000 a	0,000a	0,282d	0,417e	0,187c	0,121 b	0,150 b	0,200c
	Silanamine	1,062 a	2,114 cd	1,832 b	2,386ef	2,244d e	2,530f	2,260 de	1,907 bc	2,165c de