Research

Dr. Noor Suraya produces EnviRoof for sustainable stormwater management

12 October 2022

PEKAN, 6 October 2022 – Cities continue to grow rapidly as migration from rural to urban areas increases.

This increase indirectly causes various urbanisation or municipal issues to occur.

Green areas have been replaced with rainproof areas such as building construction and roads that have increased rainwater flow.

The less water is absorbed into the soil, the more often flooding occurs and worsens.

The urbanisation process also increases the accumulation of pollutants in the catchment surface area, deteriorating water quality.

Looking at this situation, a lecturer of the Faculty of Civil Engineering Technology (FTKA), Dr. Noor Suraya Romali, 39, has produced Enviroof, a new low-cost green roof product that uses recycled materials such as shell waste and coconut coir as the best research for stormwater management.

The research was conducted in collaboration with FTKA lecturer, Dr. Abdul Syukor Abd Razak, Dr. Khairul Anuar Shahid, Dr. Suryati Sulaiman, postgraduate student Hadhirra Nurdiana Abdul Hamid, and several FTKA undergraduate students, Muhamad Nurfaizal Suzany, Fatin Afiqah Ardzu and Siti Khairena Khamis.

According to Dr. Noor Suraya, the burnt and crushed coconut shell waste has great potential to be used in the drainage layer to enhance the hydrological performance of the green roof which serves to hold rainwater and reduce the runoff peak flow.



FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

INVENTOR: DR NOOR SURAYA BINTI ROMALI FACULTY: FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY: UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG EMAIL: suraya@ump.edu.my CO-INVENTORS: DR ABDUL SYUKOR ABD. RAZAK, DR KHAIRUL ANUAR SHAHID, AND DR SURYATI SULAIMAN

STATE OF THE ART: The concept of EnviRoof





Patent UI20211007115

NOVELTY

Low cost and environmental friendly product.



Utilizing recycled waste materialscoconut waste. Beach morning glory

and creeping ox-eye flowering freely on sandy beach in Malaysia.

Low maintenance cost.

· Promoting applicability of green roof in Malaysia.

BENEFITS & APPLICABILITY Green, non-polluting

product Providing an environmental and esthetical value to environment. Stormwater management tool

· Help in reducing the risk of flood and provide better quality of water for environmental sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT





MARKETABILITY & COMMERCIALISATION

	94% potential marketability in Malaysia.
roof building	GTMP key sector 8
	GBI criteria:
TECHNOLOGY	 Requirement of ≥
MASTER	50% vegetated
MALAYSIA	roof from the roo
2017 - 2030	area.
	 Demand of
	building product
de.	with recycled
- Alteriate	content (≥10% of
Hilder	project materials)

COST ANALYSIS

	Price per m ²
Market	*RM400
Envir	RM150
*Source: At	dul Rahman et

al. (2013)

STATUS OF INNOVATION TRL 6 – Prototype system

ACHIEVEMENT/AWARD **GOLD MEDAL, CITREX 2021**

www.ump.edu.my

PUBLICATION:

- 1. Romali, N. S., Othman, N. S., and Mhd Ramli N. N. (2021). The application of green roof for stormwater quantity and quality improvement. IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci. 682 012029. (SCOPUS Indexed Proceeding).
- 2. Romali, N. S., Suzany, M. N., and Shahid, K. A. Green roof for stormwater runoff control. Expected to be published in AIP Proceeding in 2022. (SCOPUS Indexed Proceeding).

INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATOR:

MG Consult

"Enviroof is also important to improve runoff quality and make the environment always look green.

"It is a roof-covered system of plants consisting of five layers.

"The layers are plants (beach morning glory and creeping ox-eye), substrate (burnt soil), filter (coconut coir), drainage (burnt and crushed coconut shells) and waterproofing layer," she said.

She added that EnviRoof research began in 2020 and is still ongoing.

"Preliminary discussions have begun with the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID) to further expand the use of the green roof as the Best Management Practice (BMP) for rainwater management in Malaysia.

"Other than that, we are also working on knowledge sharing and technology transfer with a consulting engineering company, MG Consults," she said.

Dr. Noor Suraya added that the application of green roofs in Malaysia is limited, although it has many benefits.

"One of the reasons for the lack of use of green roofs is the high cost.

"That is why this research aims to produce low-cost green roofs.

"Recycling coconut waste as a green roofing material has been found to reduce costs compared to the green roofing products available in the market today," she said.

According to her, EnviRoof uses the latest filtration method where the vegetation layer functions to retain water, the substrate layer provides nutrients to the plants, and the coconut coir acts as a filter layer.

"In addition, the role of the drainage layer (burned and crushed coconut shell) is to allow water access and the waterproofing layer is used in the green roof system to avoid leakage.

"This research produces an economical green roof system which is cheaper than the existing system in the market to encourage the implementation of the green roof system in Malaysia.

"In addition, the production of green roofing systems from waste also helps to maintain the sustainability of nature and reduce the dumping of coconut waste in Malaysia," she said.

She planned to expand the research of this product to a pilot scale, where the system would be installed in selected buildings or residential areas to test its effectiveness.

Before this, she conducted research on waste traps or gross pollutant traps (GPTs) in 2010 to assist in stormwater management and the research won a bronze medal in the BioMalaysia Exhibition 2011.

This product bagged a gold medal in the 2021 Creation, Innovation, Technology & Research Exposition (CITREx).

At the International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2021 held at Kuala

Lumpur Convention Centre from 13 to 14 December 2021, this research also bagged a gold medal.

By: Nur Hartini Mohd Hatta, Corporate Communications Division, Chancellery Department

Translation by: Dr. Rozaimi Abu Samah, Engineering College/Faculty Of Chemical And Process Engineering Technology

TAGS / KEYWORDS

EnviRoof

<u>citrex</u>

<u>ITEX</u>

• 154 views

View PDF