



# Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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## Imec, an environmentally-friendly technology for soil-free film farming on a magical sheet

**Text and Photos by Haruna Usukiwaka in Japan**

A method of farming on sheets of film developed by Japanese farmers has been introduced to Sri Lanka by the Asian Productivity Organization. The sheets are made from a material similar to the highly absorbent, high molecular weight used in disposable paper diapers.

This innovative system, usually known as hydroponics, is called film farming. It was recently introduced to Sri Lanka by a multinational international trade mission led by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, led by Dr. Tetsuya Akita, head of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Head Office in Tokyo.

The new system is a low-cost, high-quality vegetable production method. It uses less water and fertilizer than conventional methods and is suitable for small-scale farmers and even hobby farmers. It is also a highly productive system for crop rotation in many parts of Sri Lanka and especially in the dry zone of the island.

**Principle of imec**

Imec is a plant culture technology for growing plants from cultured medium with a hydroponic concept of hydroponics. The principle is a thin layer of film with a film which is called imec. This soft and flexible film does not have shape and will sink into water. It is also used in making soft contact lenses. This innovative film is now widely used in aquatic culture, but it is only allowed to be used in the hydroponic system.

Since the hydroponic system absorbs water and nutrients from the culture medium for growing crops, water and nutrients do not sink into the soil. At the same time, a lot of the water and nutrients are absorbed by the plants. This is the principle of imec. It is also used in making soft contact lenses. This innovative film is now widely used in aquatic culture, but it is only allowed to be used in the hydroponic system.

The other important point of imec is that the imec does not absorb water and nutrients from the culture medium. It is also used in making soft contact lenses. This innovative film is now widely used in aquatic culture, but it is only allowed to be used in the hydroponic system.

**Composition of imec system**

The imec system is composed of the hydroponic system, a drip system, a nutrient solution, and a water pump. The drip system is used to deliver the nutrient solution to the plants. The nutrient solution is made from a mixture of water and fertilizer. The water pump is used to circulate the nutrient solution in the system.

The imec system can be easily set up in the home or in a small-scale cultivation. The first step is to spread the imec sheet on the ground and to connect the drip pipes on it to the water pump. Then, the nutrient solution is delivered to the plants. It is called imec.

Dr. Tetsuya Akita, head of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Head Office in Tokyo, is also the CEO of the Japanese company that introduced this technology. He has been working on the development of imec for many years.

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A person using a tool to make a hole in the imec film for planting.



A person watering plants in the imec system.

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