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Research Article

A REVIEW ON PLANT GROWTH PROMOTORY PROPERTIES OF FLUORESCENT PSEUDOMONADS

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ABSTRACT

The modern agriculture system emphasizes on wide use of chemical based fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides which have dramatically polluted the environment. By employing eco-friendly methods like the application of bioinoculant and biopesticides, agricultural sustainability, environmental safety and increased crop production can be achieved. The useful effects of microbial inoculants, mostly plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) necessitates the demand for increased research and their utility in modern agriculture. Fluorescent pseudomonads are well known potential plant growth promoting bacteria which are common inhabitants of agricultural field soil and plant rhizosphere. They play a crucial role in agriculture by enhancing the growth of plants by showing various properties like phosphate solubilization, phytohormones and siderophore production also it helps in suppression of phytopathogens which cause diseases to plants by producing antimicrobial compounds.

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INTRODUCTION

In twenty first century increased use of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, drought, salinity, loss of soil fertility, fluctuating climatic conditions and increase in attack by phytopathogens on crops etc (Abboud, 2014) are the current challenges that are been faced by agriculture sector. The international need to enhance agricultural production from rapidly declining land resources had placed considerable strain on the fragile agriculture ecosystem (Gomiero *et al.*, 2011). The use of plant growth promotory rhizobacteria as bioinoculants in agriculture system will greatly helps in solving the above mentioned problems. Since long there had been a practice of using PGPR for enhancing crop production, plant and soil health. Further more understanding of the basic mechanism of plant-bacteria interactions and their beneficial relationship is likely to accelerate the acceptance efficiency of these microorganisms as appropriate and effective addition in agriculture practices. The rhizospheric soil is directly influenced by plant root exudates and considered as a sink of nutrients compared to bulk soil. Fatty acids, amino acids, nucleotides, phenols, organic acids, plant growth promoters/regulators, sterols, sugars and vitamins are the nutrients mainly present in rhizospheric soil. The nutrients availability in roots consequently increased the microbial population among which fungi and bacteria influenced the plant growth significantly (Uren, 2001).

Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria

Rhizosphere is the confined area where root activity significantly influences biological properties (Manthey *et al.*, 1994). In the rhizosphere, a large number of microorganisms ranging from algae, bacteria, fungi and nematodes coexist with each other. Bacteria plays a major role in this mixed population and is the most abundant. Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria are class of bacteria that are positive promotor of soil quality and dwell with the plant symbiotically at their rhizosphere or as an endophyte that invades the tissue of host plants. PGPR can aid in stimulating plant growth by increasing the plant nutrition by several mechanisms like the production of plant growth hormones, nitrogen fixation and phosphate solubilization, siderophore production (Glick, 1995; Ahmad *et al.*, 2008a; Bhattacharyya and Jha, 2012). The major task which is to be dealt in modern agriculture is to increase crop production, maintain environmental safety and soil fertility.

Depending on their presence rhizobacteria were categorized as (i) Rhizosphere, bacteria living in soil that are strongly adhered to the roots (ii) Rhizoplane, bacteria that are adhered to root surface (iii) Endophytes, bacteria residing inside root tissues and occupies spaces between cortical cells (iv) Symbiotic, bacteria residing inside root nodules of legumes and woody plants (Glick, 1995). Microorganisms belonging to any of these categories can directly improve plant growth either by increasing nutrient uptake of nitrogen, phosphorus and other

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important minerals and indirectly by suppressing the harmful effects of various plant pathogens in the form of biocontrol (Kloepper *et al.*, 1989). Vessey *et al.* (2003) categorized the bacteria belonging to the first three groups mentioned above have been categorized as extracellular PGPR (ePGPR) namely *Bacillus*, *Caulobacter*, *Pseudomonas*, *Arthrobacter*, *Erwinia*, *Micrococcus*, *Hyphomicrobium*, *Flavobacterium*, *Chromobacterium*, *Serratia*, *Agrobacterium* and the fourth group has been categorized as intracellular PGPR (iPGPR) includes the genera *Rhizobium*, *Bradyrhizobium*, *Sinorhizobium*, *Azorhizobium*, *Mesorhizobium* and *Allorhizobium*.

For minimizing the dependence of farmers on chemical fertilizers without declining the productivity of crops, the application of different PGPRs in the form bioinoculants single or mixed is presently the main thrust area of research to increase the crop yield (Trivedi *et al.*, 2012). The discovery of different PGPRs is gaining momentum and emphasis on development of bioinoculants for various economically important crops are undergoing till date (Saharan and Nehra, 2011; Glick, 2014; Zahid *et al.*, 2015).

Genus *Pseudomonas*

Pseudomonas are gram negative, motile, oxidase positive, extremely diverse genus of γ -Proteobacteria (Galli *et al.* 1992). Members of this genus have very minimal nutritional requirement for survival and growth under simple conditions when grown with other microbial system (Foster, 1988). A *Pseudomonas* strain was phenotypically characterized by Den in 1926, the basis being their nutritional utilizing characteristics. Stanier *et al.* (1966) conducted an extensive analysis on *Pseudomonas* based on phenotypic characterization that resulted in subdivision of genus into species and grouping these species. It is widely distributed in nature. *Pseudomonas* is ideal and the most studied Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria till date. Pseudomonads have diverse plant growth promoting activities (Glick, 1995; Podile and Kishore, 2006; Goswami *et al.*, 2016). The positive influence of these bacteria is due its capability to improve plant growth and suppression of plant diseases. Most of the strains of fluorescent pseudomonad species such as *P. putida*, *P. aeruginosa*, *P. chlororaphis*, *P. montelli*, *P. fluorescens*, etc. are known to be the most powerful plant growth promoting bacteria (Baavno and Musarrat 2003; Kumar *et al.* 2005; Naik *et al.* 2008; Jha *et al.* 2009).

Mechanisms of plant growth promotion by Fluorescent pseudomonads

Phosphate Solubilisation

Phosphorus is an important nutrient that is required for plants development. Soil contains a diversified range of organic phosphorus substrates, but to make this form accessible to the plant it requires to be hydrolyzed into inorganic form (Glass 1989). Also a large portion of soluble inorganic phosphate applied to soil as chemical fertilizer is rapidly immobilized soon after application and becomes unavailable to plants (Dey 1998). The principal mechanism for the mineralization of organic phosphorus is the production of organic acids and acid phosphatases. To solve the problem of phosphorus deficiency, the application of microbial inoculants having phosphate

solubilizing ability could be considered as an eco-friendly and cost effective alternative to reduce dependence on chemical phosphate based fertilizers (Khan *et al.*, 2014).

Phytohormones

In the various stages of plant development like cell elongation, cell division, apical dominance and tissue differentiation phytohormones plays an important role. Fluorescent pseudomonads produce variety of phytohormones such as gibberellins, abscisic acid, cytokinins and auxins (Streit *et al.* 1996; Patten and Glick 2002). Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) a type of auxin is a pivotal phytohormone as it stimulates the mass and longitudinal increase of root hairs thereby resulting in improvement in plant uptake capacity to absorb nutrients and water from soil, thus stimulating plant growth. Fluorescent pseudomonads yield a significant amount of IAA and are also capable of producing hormones like cytokinins and gibberellins (Kumar *et al.* 2005). Cytokinins are believed to act as a signal involved in mediating ecological stress from roots to shoots (Jackson 1993). Ethylene causes inhibition of root growth is a phytohormone of gaseous nature and is commonly induced by cutting plants.

Siderophore Production

Iron is relatively insoluble in soil yet an essential nutrient for development of plants. Plant roots can readily absorb ferrous ions (Fe^{2+}), but ferric ions (Fe^{3+}) is the most common form available in the soil. Production of siderophore is an important trait, expressed by rhizobacteria to improve plant growth. Siderophores are small high affinity iron chelating compounds which increases plant growth by direct and indirect mechanisms. The direct mechanism provides iron to plants and in indirect mechanism by suppressing plant diseases by binding with iron strongly making them unavailable to plant pathogens (Glick, 2012). Under iron limiting situations, most of the species of Fluorescent pseudomonads yields fluorescent yellow siderophores such as called as pyochelin (Cox *et al.* 1981), pyoverdines (Budzikiewicz 1993, 1997), quinolobactin (Matthijs *et al.* 2007), ornicrogatin (Matthijs *et al.* 2008) and pseudomonine (Lewis *et al.* 2000; Mossialos *et al.* 2000; Mercado-Blanco *et al.* 2001). Siderophores production has been linked to the resistance to disease by suppressing the causative agent and is produced by fluorescent pseudomonads (Loper 1988). Production of siderophore by fluorescent pseudomonads is influenced by factors such as, nature concentration of carbon and nitrogen sources (Park *et al.* 1988), phosphate level (Barbhaiya and Rao 1985); iron concentration (Kloepper *et al.* 1980a, b); presence or absence of trace elements such as magnesium (Georgia and Poe 1931); zinc (Chakrabarty and Roy 1964) or molybdenum (Lenhoff *et al.* 1956); temperature conditions (Weisbeek *et al.* 1986) and extent of aeration (Lenhoff 1963).

Antimicrobial Metabolites

Fluorescent pseudomonads are known to synthesize a wide range of secondary metabolites along with certain cell wall degrading enzymes. They produce secondary metabolite having well-characterized biocontrol properties which includes phenazines, pyoluteorin, phloroglucinols, lipopeptides, pyrrolnitrin, and hydrogen cyanide. These metabolites exhibit

lethal activity against a wide range of pathogenic fungi and bacteria.

Response of Crops to inoculation of *Pseudomonas sp*

Members of the genus *Pseudomonas* are most important as well as dominant genus of gram negative bacteria in soil community that influences plant growth because of its direct as well as indirect mechanisms (Lucy *et al.*, 2004). Chemicals that are used to control diseases are hazardous to animals, humans, beneficial organisms and stays in natural ecosystems. The inoculation of soil with *Pseudomonas sp.* has enhanced yield in two cultivars of rice (Mirza *et al.*, 2006) and tomato (Minorsky, 2008). Inoculation of *Pseudomonas sp.* significantly increased the growth parameters of Tomato plant (Luis *et al.*, 2017). Plant vigour index and Asparagus productivity was enhanced due to inoculation with *Pseudomonas sp.* under greenhouse conditions (Liddycoat *et al.*, 2009). *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* RRALC3 strain showed to increased biomass and nutrients of *Pongamia sp.* seedlings in forest soil (Parthasarathy Radhapriya, 2015). Patten and Glick (2002) reported the role of indole acetic acid in increasing 50% root length as compared to mutant deficient in IAA. 1-amino cyclo propane 1- carboxylic acid (ACC) deaminase activity is also found in *Pseudomonas sp.* G12-2. *Pseudomonas sp.* CHAO a well-studied biocontrol agent, known for the production of siderophore, hydrogen cyanide and different antibiotics. Sharma *et al.* (2003) reported that when *Vigna radiata* plant, inoculated with siderophore producing *Pseudomonas* strain GRP3 and grown in iron limiting conditions, results in reduced chlorotic symptoms and increased chlorophyll content compared to uninoculated plants. Similarly, Vansuyt *et al.* (2007) reported that Fe-pyoverdine complex synthesized by *Pseudomonas sp.* C7 absorbed and assimilated by *Arabidopsis thaliana*, thus increasing the iron level within the plant cells and resulted in improvement in plant growth.

Fluorescent *Pseudomonads* suppress disease severities caused by phytopathogens and enhance growth of a variety of crops like wheat (Weller and Cook 1983), rice (Mew and Rosales 1986; Sakthivel and Gnanamanickal 1987), sugar beet (Suslow and Schroth 1982), potato (Kloepper *et al.* 1980), cassava (Hernandez *et al.* 1986) radish (Kloepper and Schroth 1978), cotton (Howell and Stipanovic 1980). A number of different fluorescent pseudomonad species such as *P. aeruginosa* (Bano and Musalata 2003; Sunish kumar *et al.* 2005), *P. putida* (Scher and Baker 1980), *P. chlororaphis* (Chin-A-Woeng *et al.* 1998); *P. cepacia* (Cattelan *et al.* 1999) has been reported as a biocontrol against fungal pathogen as well as plant growth promotor (de Salmone *et al.* 2001).

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