

ROLE OF MICROBIAL TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE BY IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH, PLANT BROAD-MINDEDNESS, CROP QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY FOR SUSTAINING RAPID POPULATION

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ABSTRACT

Presently, soil management strategies (SMS) depend on inorganic chemical fertilizers (IOCFs), which pose a serious threat to human health and the environment. Harnessing beneficial microbes as biofertilizers has become of paramount importance in the agricultural sector because of their potential role in food security and sustainable agricultural production. The eco-friendly approaches inspire a wide range of applications of plant growthpromoting rhizobacteria (PGPRs), Endo and Ectomycorrhizal fungi, cyanobacteria, and many other useful microscopic organisms led to improved nutrient uptake, plant growth, and plant tolerance to abiotic and biotic stress. Exerting soil management strategies are dependent on inorganic chemical-based fertilizers, which cause a serious risk to human health, Soil ecology and the environment. The abuse of advantageous organisms as a biofertilizer has gotten to be of fundamental significance within the agriculture sector for their potential role in food and nourishment security and sustainable crop production. The eco-friendly approaches motivate a wide extent of applications of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPRs), endo- and ectomycorrhizal microbes, cyanobacteria, and numerous other valuable microscopic microbes' forms driven to progressed nutrients uptake, plant development, and plant resistance to abiotic and biotic stress. The current manuscript highlights biofertilizers (BF)PGPRs, mycorrhizae and others useful microbes interceded crops' functional trails characteristics such as plant development and efficiency, nutritional profile, plant defense, and protection with especial accentuation on its trigger-to-trigger different growth and defenece-related genes in signaling systems of cellular pathways to cause a cellular reaction and subsequently crops enhancement. The information picked up from the literature assessed in this will help us to get the physiological bases of biofertilizers towards sustainable agriculture in diminishing issues related to the utilization of chemical fertilizers (CFs).

KEYWORDS

Biofertilizer, Crop Improvement, Environmental stress, Mode of action, Biofertilizers, Sustainable Agriculture

1. INTRODUCTION

Conventional agriculture (CA) plays a key role in fulfilling the growing food needs of a growing human population, resulting in an increasing reliance on chemical pesticides (CPs) and CFs (1). CFs are industrially engineered substances composed of known amounts of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), the use of which leads to air and groundwater pollution through eutrophication of water bodies (2). In this context, recent efforts have focused on producing “nutritious, high-quality food” on sustainable plots to ensure biosecurity. Innovative

views on agricultural production have increased the demand for bio-organic fertilizers with no alternatives to pesticides (3). In agriculture, promotion of alternative methods of soil fertilization relies on organic inputs to improve nutrient delivery and protect crop management (4). Organic farming (OF) is one strategy that not only ensures food safety but also contributes to soil biodiversity (5). Further advantages of organic/bio fertilizers include long-term shelf life without negative ecological impacts (6).

Organic farming (OF) is largely dependent on the soil's natural microbiome constituting all kinds of beneficial bacteria and fungi, including arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AM fungi) known as plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR). Biofertilizers (BF) keep the soil environment rich in all kinds of micro and macro nutrients through nitrogen fixation, dissolution or mineralization of phosphate and potassium, production of antibiotics, release of growth of plants and biodegradation of organic matter in the soil (7). When biofertilizers are used as seeds or soil inoculants, they multiply and participate in nutrient cycling and improve crop yields (8). Normally, 60-90% of the total fertilizer applied is lost and the remaining 10-20% is absorbed by the plants. In this regard, probiotics are of prime importance in integrated nutrient management systems (INMS) to support agricultural productivity and a healthy environment (9). Plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria or their enantiomers can increase the nutrient utilization efficiency of fertilizers. The synergistic interaction of PGPR and AMF was most consistent with 70% fertilizer plus AM fungi and PGPR for P uptake. The same trend was also reflected in tissue-wide N uptake, suggesting that 75%, 80% or 90% fertilizer plus inoculant is significantly equivalent to 100% fertilizer (10-14). Various manuscript is intended to meet the needs of agronomists and plant biologists, whose work is focused on creating clean and efficient ways to improve soil quality by nurturing and maintaining soil systems through natural and beneficial microorganisms. In addition, it presents recent development in field management that demonstrated the potential application of biofertilizers and increase nutrient composition, plant growth and yield, while improving tolerance. with environmental pressure, with special emphasis on bio-fertilizer extraction mechanism.

2. PLANT-MICROBES INTERACTIONS

Plants have complex interactions with various microorganisms found in the soil, including bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Some of these microorganisms form beneficial relationships with plants, providing them with essential nutrients, improving nutrient absorption, promoting growth, and protecting against disease and pests. Microbial biofertilizers (MBF) consist of specific beneficial microorganisms that are applied to plant roots or soil to improve nutrient uptake and delivery such as some strains of nitrogen-fixing bacteria (NFB) can form symbiotic relationships with legumes such as soybean (15-16) and peas, to convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form that plants can use. PGPRs are a group of beneficial bacteria that colonize the rhizosphere around the plant's roots and promote plant growth and productivity. They can stimulate root growth, produce growth promoters, solubilize nutrients, and improve plants' resilience to environmental stresses (ESs). Mycorrhizal fungi form a mutualistic relationship with plant roots, facilitating the absorption of nutrients, especially phosphorus (17). These fungi extend their mycelium into the soil, increasing the surface area for nutrient absorption and transferring nutrients to the plant in exchange for carbohydrates. Some soil microorganisms have the ability to inhibit plant pathogens, thereby reducing disease incidence and severity. These beneficial microorganisms (BMs) can compete with pathogens for resources, produce antimicrobial compounds, or induce plant defense mechanisms. Farmers can adopt practices that promote a diverse and healthy soil microbiome, such as minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, adopting crop rotation and cover cropping, and practicing conservation tillage. These practices create a more favorable environment for BMs to thrive. The utilization of BMs as a seed treatment can improve the establishment and early development of plants. Coating seeds with a microbial cultures

provides a favorable environment for seed germination, protects against seed-borne pathogens, and strengthens the plant's immune system. Farmers can adopt practices that promote a healthy and diverse soil microbiome (SMB), such as minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, adopting crop rotations and cover crops as well as conservation farming practices. These practices create a more favorable environment for the growth of BMs. Technological advances, such as high-throughput DNA sequencing and metagenomics, allow farmers to analyze the composition of the soil microbiome and understand its dynamics. This information can guide the selection of appropriate microbiological interventions and enable targeted management strategies. The microbiome approach to agriculture is a promising area, but it is still evolving. More research is needed to understand the complexities of plant-microbes interactions, optimize microbial formulations, and develop sustainable practices that maximize crop yields while at the same time and maintain soil health and ecosystem balance (15-16, 18-22).

3. RHIZOSPHERE MICROBIAL ORGANISMS TO ENHANCE PLANT GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

The history of human civilization (HC) run parallels to agriculture. The domestication of plants was the first step in the long journey that transformed man from forager searcher to settler. Over the years, however, the man-made effects of conventional agriculture on the soil have been costly. Soil erosion, nutrient depletion and pollution by natural elements, compounds and even xenobiotics have accumulated in the cultivated soil. Agricultural intensification has increased the productive capacity of agro-ecosystems, but has had undesirable environmental consequences, including degradation of land and water resources and alteration of biogeographic chemical cycles (23-24). All of the resource depletion mentioned above is the result of focusing agricultural production on human needs without regard to the health or stability of the soil (19). The importance of soil health and quality in relation to sustainable soil management has been discussed by Prasad (25). When it comes to xenobiotics, a number of chemical pesticides have been shown to be useful in solving many problems affecting human health and food production. However, the use of such pesticides sometimes comes with potential risks to humans and the environment (26).

4. POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BENEFICIAL MICROBES IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The rhizosphere, which is the restricted zone of soil encompassing the plant roots, can include up to 10^{11} microbial cells per gram of root (27) and more than 30k prokaryotic species (28) that in general, increase plant efficiency and productivity (28-31). The collective genome of the rhizosphere microbial community (RMC) encompassing plant roots is bigger compared to that of plants and is alluded to as microbiome (32), whose intuitive decide trim well being in common agro-ecosystem by giving various administrations to crop plants such as organic matter deterioration, supplement securing, water assimilation, nutrient recycling, weed control and biocontrol (33). The metagenomic study provide the individual with the core rhizosphere and endophytic microbiomes movement in *Arabidopsis thaliana* utilizing 454 sequencings (Roche) of 16S rRNA gene amplicons (34). It has been proposed that abusing tailor-made core microbiome exchange treatment in horticulture can be a potential approach in overseeing plant illnesses for diverse crops (35).

In the coming decades, the major focus would be on safe and environmentally friendly methods of harnessing beneficial microorganisms in sustainable agricultural production (36). The physico-chemical properties (PCP) of the soil as well as the biodiversity of the soil microbes (SMs), the overall health of the soil, the growth and development of the plants and the crop yields are

improved through the inoculation of the microbes (6). Microbial populations (MPs) useful in agriculture include PGPRs, mycorrhizae, beneficial bacteria (BB), N₂-fixing cyanobacteria, stress-tolerant endophytes, and bio-degrading microbes (8). BFs are a complementary component to traditional crop and soil management, namely crop rotation, organic regulation, tillage maintenance, crop residue recycling, fertility restoration. soil fertility and biological control of pathogens and pests, an activity that can be significantly helpful in maintaining sustainability and crop production (6, 37). Nitrogen-fixing bacteria (NFB) such as *Azospirillum*, *Azotobacter*, *Cyanobacteria*, *Rhizobium* and phosphorus and potassium solubilizing (PBS) microbes are some of the PGPRs that, in addition to mycorrhiza, have been shown to increase in soil under minimum tillage treatment (38-41). A considerable amount of nitrogen can be supplied to *Helianthus annuus* by effective strains of *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum*, *Phosphobacter* and *Rhizobacter*. Similarly, in rice, the addition of *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and *Rhizobium* promotes physiology and improves root morphology (42). *Azotobacter* plays an important role in the nitrogen cycle in nature because it has many metabolic functions (6). In addition to its role in nitrogen fixation (NF), *Azotobacter* is also capable of producing vitamins such as thiamin and riboflavin (43), and plant hormones, namely indole acetic acid (IAA), cytokinins (CK). and gibberellin (GA). *A. chroococcum* improves plant growth (PG) by improving seed germination and promotes root structure (44) by inhibiting pathogenic microorganisms around the root system of plants (45). The genus includes many different species, namely *A. chroococcum*, *A. vinelandii*, *A. beijerinckii*, *A. nigricans*, *A. armeniacus* and *A. paspali*. It is used as a biofertilizer for various crops, namely wheat, oats, barley mustard, fennel, rice, flaxseed, sunflower, castor, corn, sorghum, cotton, jute, sugar beet, tobacco, tea, coffee, rubber and coconut (46). *Azospirillum*, which promotes PG and development (47), is one of a group of free-living, gram-mutating, motile bacteria that can survive and thrive under various conditions. Beneficial soil microorganisms (BSM) support agricultural production (AP) as BF (48) or symbiotically (36).

5. CREATING SELF-IMPROVING ABIOTIC AND BIOTIC RHIZOSPHERE SOIL COMPLEXITY

Infertile soil is a very complex system consisting of a matrix of solids, gasses, water and minerals dissolved in pores spaces. Solid substrates contain inorganic particles of different sizes, shapes and chemical properties, as well as a composition of organic matter in different stages of decomposition (49). While the solid substrate (SS) provides physical space, the soil solution contained in the pores is an immediate source of plant nutrients (50). In short, farmland has not only great diversity but also marked physicochemical heterogeneity in pH, water content, hardness, oxygen concentration and nutrient concentration (51). However, this is not a static situation. Although the term "infertile soil" is often associated with the abiotic part, soil is not completely motionless or dormant. Over time, all soils undergo long-term structural and physicochemical changes that lead to the formation of a typical soil profile. In addition, soil properties are constantly changing due to shorter seasonal and environmental changes (EVC), such as changes occurring in soil mass density after freezing and thawing, grain effects, etc. precipitation and soil compaction. On the other hand, while barren soil itself is a very complex and constantly changing entity, living soil is much more complex and fickle. Almost every small part of the earth's surface can be inhabited by living systems. While plant roots, large and small animals, and arthropods are visible the most obvious biota, soil is densely populated with a multitude of diverse microorganisms. Furthermore, although it is difficult to imagine organisms growing anaerobically in the atmosphere, aerobic and anaerobic organisms coexist underground. Of all the subterranean coexisting systems, bacteria represent the largest community of biodiversity. Microbes are unevenly distributed, but form cluster around nutrients and organic matter. It is well established that plant roots and their associated biofilms can strongly influence soil chemistry (52-53), especially in determining availability of nutrients in the soil (54).

Furthermore, roots exert a significant influence on the microbial population living underground. In addition, plants are resistant to potential enemies through the production of antimicrobials, phytotoxins, nematode-killing compounds, and pesticides (55). However, the general trend seems to be to produce organic compounds that can be useful not only to guests but also to uninvited guests (55). In short, the relationship between organisms and roots is complex and highly variable, leading to beneficial, harmful, or neutral effects for a given plant (56).

6. Biofertilizers Exploitation and Nutrients Profile of Agriculture Crops

An important advantage of beneficial microorganisms is their ability to take up and utilize phosphorus, which is available insoluble form and in sufficient quantities in the soil. *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Micrococcus*, *Flavobacterium*, *Fusarium*, *Sclerotium*, *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* have been reported to be active in the solubilization process (57). Similarly, two fungi *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *A. niger* was isolated from rotten cassava husks and found to convert cassava waste into phosphate biofertilizer by a semi-solid fermentation technique (58). *Burkholderia vietnamiensis*, a stress-tolerant bacterium, produces gluconate and 2-ketogluconate involved in phosphate dissolution (59). *Enterobacter* and *Burkholderia* isolated from the rhizosphere of sunflowers were found to produce siderophores and indole compounds (ICs) capable of solubilizing phosphate (60). KSM, such as *Aspergillus*, *Bacillus*, and *Clostridium*, have been found to be effective in solubilizing K in soil (61). Reciprocal mycorrhizal symbiosis with plant roots satisfies the plant's nutritional needs (62), resulting in improved PG and development and protection against pathogen attack and environmental stress (ESs) (63). This results in the external to internal cortical mycelium uptake of phosphate by the hypha, ultimately transporting phosphate to the cortical root cells (64). Nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria (NFC) such as *Aulosira*, *Tolypothrix*, *Scytonema*, *Nostoc*, *Anabaena* and *Plectonema* are commonly used as BFs (65-66). *Cylindrospermum musicola* increases root growth (RG) and rice yield (67). Constitutive expression of the *hetR* gene driven by a light-inducible promoter enhanced *HetR* protein expression, resulting in higher nitrogenase activity in *Anabaena* sp. (68).

7. Biofertilizers' Relevance and Plant Tolerance to Environmental Stress

Abiotic and biotic stresses are major constraints affecting crop productivity. Many tools of modern science (MS) are widely used to improve plants under stress, with the role of PGPR as a bioprotectant being of paramount importance in this regard (69). *R. trifolii* inoculated with *T. alexandrinum* showed higher biomass and increased nodule number under salt stress conditions (70). *P. aeruginosa* has been shown to tolerate biotic and abiotic stress (71). Paul and Nair (72) revealed *P. fluorescens* MSP-393 produces osmolytes and salt-stress-induced proteins that overcome the adverse effects of salt. *P. putida* Rs-198 increased the rate of K^+ , Mg^{2+} , and Ca^{2+} uptake while decreasing Na^+ uptake under alkaline and high-salinity conditions, thereby increasing germination rate and various growth parameters, namely plant growth. (69, 73-74). Several strains of the genus *Pseudomonas* have conferred plant tolerance via 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol (DAPG) (75). Interestingly, the root fungus *Piriformospora indica* was found to protect host plants from salt stress (76). In one study, inoculation of PGPR alone or in combination with AMs such as *Glomus intraradices* and *G. mosseae* improved nutrient uptake and normal physiological processes in *Lactuca sativa* under conditions of stress. The combination of *A. brasilense* and AM improved plant tolerance to various abiotic stresses (50). The additive effects of *P. putida* or *B. megaterium* and AM fungi were effective in reducing DSs (77). The photosynthetic efficiency and antioxidant response of rice exposed to drought stress were found to increase after inoculation with AM fungi (78-80). Beneficial effects of mycorrhiza have been reported in both drought and saline conditions (29-31, 81).

8. AZOSPIRILLUM-PLANT INTERACTIONS

Considering that salt-stressed plants also suffer from water deficit, inoculation of root seedlings with 10^8 cfu of *A. brasilense* followed by exposure to mild and severe salt stress may contribute to some of the reversed adverse effects has been shown to be reduced. Wheat seedlings inoculated with azospirillum survived up to 320 mM NaCl when he was exposed for 3 days (82). Uniform *T. aestivum* cv. 'Buck Ombú' seedlings (1cm long) were inoculated with *A. brasilense* Sp245 by soaking the roots in a suspension of 10^8 cfu ml⁻¹ for 3 hours. The inoculum was then replaced with either distilled water, 160 mM NaCl, 320 mM NaCl, 20% PEG 6000, or 30% PEG 6000, and seedlings were grown in a dark growth chamber at 20°C for up to 3 days. rice field. Fresh weight, fresh weight/dry weight, moisture content, and relative moisture content were higher in shoots from inoculated plants than in stressed controls (82). These changes may partially explain the improved crop performance. Indeed, field experiments were performed with his *S. bicolor*, *Z. maize* inoculated with *A. aestivum* has shown significantly higher yields, accompanied by enhanced water and mineral uptake, reduced canopy temperature, and improved growth and yield (82-83). Early studies of the benefits that plants could achieve after inoculation with *Azospirillum* emphasized the importance of improving plant water status (84-85). In this sense, the *Azospirillum* inoculation technique may be extended to dry soils to protect crops from drought. Since the main action of *Azospirillum* is to promote a more developed radical system, plant adaptation to water stress may be enhanced in inoculated cultures. In this context, experiments on plant response mechanisms to water stress showed significantly higher water content, relative water content, water potential, apoplastic moisture content, and lower cell wall elasticity in drought-stricken *Azospirillum*-inoculated plants. It was shown that the coefficient was achieve. *Azospirillum*-inoculated *T. aestivum* cv. "Pro-INTA Oasis" and grain were clearly 38.4, 22.2 and 125% more Mg, K and Ca than uninoculated plants (82). In any case, it is agreed that the positive effects of *azospirillum* on plants depend on good root colonization. Root colonization (RC) is not only important as the first step in infection by soil-borne pathogens (SBPs), but also in beneficial relationships with microbes. The first event in the colonization process is bacterial attachment to the roots. The interaction of *Azospirillum* with roots is a two-step process consisting of adsorption mediated by bacterial proteins and fixation involving bacterial polysaccharides (82). Chemical attraction, or chemotaxis, of soil microbes to plant roots is a well-understood mechanism involved in triggering plant root-microbes interactions. Bacterium resides mainly on the surface of roots and is present in *A. lipoferum* and some strains of *A. lipoferum*, *A. brasilense* can colonize the internal apoplast and intercellular spaces of roots, but others cannot. This ability could mean less sensitivity to harsh soil and/or environmental conditions, which in turn could mean more efficient promotion of plant growth (86). In this context, rhizobia that colonize roots in close association with plants are considered endophytes. These microbes live outside the symplast and do not produce nodules, but produce signaling compounds that stimulate plant growth, increase plant resistance to disease, and enhance soil nutrient mobilization.

8.1. Azospirillum 'S Mechanism of Growth Promotion

Besides the BNF mentioned above, several mechanisms have been hypothesized to explain how *Azospirillum* promotes plant growth and development, including phytohormone production and nitrate reduction. However, to date, no clear mechanism has been established that could explain the growth-promoting ability of these bacteria. Rather, the most common hypothesis is that the sum of events is responsible for the overall effect of PG promotion. Genus *Azospirillum* is not considered a classical biocontrol agent against soil-borne plant pathogens (SBPPs). However, there are reports that *A. brasilense* has moderate ability to biologically control crown gall-producing *Agrobacterium*. In addition, *A. brasilense* may limit the growth of other non-pathogenic rhizobacteria. *Azospirillum's* antibacterial activity may be related to its ability to

generate known bacteriocins and siderophores (87). Furthermore, it was recently reported that *A. brasilense* can synthesize phenylacetic acid (PAA), an auxin-like molecule (ALM) with antibacterial activity (ABA). PAA was detected by concentrating the culture supernatant only in the presence of 0.5 mM phenylalanine added to the medium as a precursor molecule. It has also been detected at the onset of secondary metabolism. Widely accepted hypothesis also states that as root surface area increases, so does nutrient uptake over time. From this point of view, PGPR fortification could be an indirect consequence of its effect on root development (88-89). In addition to its physiological activity on root membranes, there is evidence that the fatty acid composition of the major root phospholipids is affected by *A. brasilense* inoculation (85, 90-94). Although the effects mediated by PGPRs have been fairly well characterized, the underlying signaling mechanisms that these bacteria cause in plants remain to be identified. It was assumed that all effects of *Azospirillum* on plants depended on the plant species and cultivar inoculated and the inoculum concentration used (71). Regarding the latter factor, inoculation of many different plant species with *Azospirillum* resulted in root elongation ranging from 10^6 to 10^8 cells per seedling (82). Furthermore, *Azospirillum*-inoculated tomato roots incubated with NO-specific fluorescent probes showed higher fluorescence intensity compared with uninoculated roots. Fluorescence was mainly localized to vascular tissue and root subepidermal cells (82). Furthermore, treatment of inoculated seedlings with the NO scavenger (4-carboxyphenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethylimidazole-1-oxyl 3-oxide completely reversed this effect, suggesting that azospirillum-induced LRF Induction is believed to be NO dependent. blocked (82)

9. SOIL EROSION AND NUTRIENT LOSS

A study on soil aggregate stabilization (SAS) under field conditions (FCs) was recently published (95). In fact, *Lactuca sativa*, *L. calcareous* soil containing 10^{10} cfu of *Pseudomonas mendocina* inoculated. In the 'Focea' plants, a clear increase in the proportion of stable aggregates was observed with each application (approximately 84% increase over the control soil). Fertilized and control soils without inoculation had the lowest aggregate stability. The use of inoculants and subsequent fertilization practices to reduce the burden of soil nutrient depletion in cultivated land suggests that a variety of microorganisms may enhance plant uptake of essential macronutrients. (96-102). Several examples have been reported of simultaneous growth enhancement and increased phosphorus and nitrogen uptake by plants as a result of inoculation with PSB. Inoculation with two strains of *Rhizobium leguminosum*, selected for their ability to solubilize phosphorus, improved root settlement and growth promotion and significantly increased phosphorus levels in lettuce and maize (96). *R. leguminosum* ssp. *trifolii* also increased nitrogen uptake in rice.

10. MYCORRHIZAL FUNGAL BIOFERTILIZER

10.1. AM Fungi for Soil Highway for Nutrient Transfer & Chemical Communication

Mycorrhizal relations involve ~50,000 taxa of soil fungi and ~340,000 land plants approximately 70–95% of all species (25, 29-31, 103-106). Based on the fossil record and molecular estimates, the evolutionary history of AM fungi originates as far back as 460 million years ago. Four main types of mycorrhizae have been described based on their structure and function: a. The AM fungus has 240 species of Glomeromycota, accounting for <0.5% of the relative abundance of fungal communities found in soil b. Ectomycorrhiza (ECM) - reserved for shrubs and perennials (about 2% of all terrestrial plants), compare to Ericoid mycorrhiza (ERM) - invasive only plants of the family Ericaceae d. Orchid mycorrhizae (ORM) - invades only plants of the Orchidaceae family A single fungus that can connect different plants underground to form a common mycorrhizal network (CMN). CMNs can serve as highways for transferring nutrients and chemical signals

between plants. Soil bacteria and other fungi reside in cavities, attracted and nourished by plant secretions and mycelium. Specific plant and root microbial flora facilitate the release of nutrients (N and P) from soil organic matter (29, 91, 107-114).

Mycorrhizae are the connections between fungi and the roots of higher plants. AM fungi must be one of the most amazing things to see under a microscope. With good root staining, the internal and external structures of the host root look very nice. The arbuscules where the magic happens look like little trees inside individual cell. Branched structures form inside the plant cell but the plant's cell membrane remains intact and forms around the arbuscule. Thus, expanding the exchange zone between plants and fungi. The fungus provides the plant with nutrients obtained from its fine network of mycelium in the soil while the plant provides sugar for the fungus to exchange. The mycelium can be seen growing intracellularly in the roots up to the appressoria, where it leaves the roots and spreads into the soil. A large network of mycelium forms around the plant's roots. This network of mycelium can absorb nutrients from soil particles much more efficiently than plant roots alone. This is mainly because the diameter of the mycelium is very small compared to the root hairs. Other mycorrhizal structures include vesicles that are the storage organs of mycorrhizae. Here energy can be stored before being used by mycorrhiza. At the end of the growing season of the annual plant, the energy stored in the vesicles is used to form spores. These spores ensure the survival of mycorrhizae in the soil (91).

10.2. Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Phosphate Acquisition

Phosphate is an essential nutrient and limits PG in many environment (91, 103-116). Phosphate exists in soil in the form of inorganic orthophosphate (Pi), which readily binds with cations, especially under acidic conditions. Of the cations, iron, aluminum and calcium are the most common. The mobility of sequestered phosphate is reduced, resulting in a rapid depletion of available phosphate near the root system upon plant uptake, creating a local depletion zone (115). In modern agriculture, the problem of phosphate limitation is addressed through the widespread use of phosphate additives, with over 4,000,000 tons per year in the US alone (www.fao.org). However, as reserves dwindle, phosphate extraction becomes increasingly difficult and costly. In addition, phosphate uptake efficiency may be as low as 20% (91), and much of the added phosphate will leach into adjacent waterways, adversely affecting the environment. increase. Plants in wild ecosystems have been shown to derive much of their phosphate from mycorrhizal fungi (117). Investigating the current importance and potential future benefits of mycorrhizal colonization on phosphate uptake by crops remains a major focus of current mycorrhizal research.

10.3. AM Fungi Control Agricultural Crops Disease

Plant diseases (PD) can be controlled by engineering natural microbes or by introducing antagonists to reduce disease-causing bacteria (63). AM fungi and their associated interactions with plants mitigate damage caused by plant pathogens (118). Given the rising cost of pesticides and the environmental and public health hazards associated with pathogens resistant to pesticides and chemical pesticides (CP), AM fungi are more suitable and environmentally friendly for sustainable agriculture and forestry. It could be an alternative. Interactions between various AM fungi and plant pathogens vary depending on the host plant and culture system. Moreover, the protective effect of AM vaccination is either systemic or local in nature. Plant parasitic nematodes are found in agricultural soils worldwide and most crops are susceptible to damage by these parasites. Yield losses of up to 50% can occur when host plants are infested with nematodes, and these losses can be exacerbated if the plants are susceptible to other pathogens. Diseases caused by fungal pathogens (FP) persist in the soil matrix and soil surface residues. Root and crown tissue damage is often hidden in the soil. As a result, the disease may go

unnoticed until the above-ground parts of the plant are heavily infected. RC by AM fungi reduces the severity of diseases commonly caused by plant pathogens. Less damage to mycorrhizal plants may be due to changes in root growth and morphology. Histopathological changes in host roots. Physiological and biochemical changes within plants. The mycorrhizosphere influences the microbial population. Competition over settlement sites and photosynthesis. Activation of defense mechanisms. and nematode parasitism by AM fungi (25, 31, 100). Of the various mechanisms proposed for biological control of plant diseases, effective defense is the cumulative result of all mechanisms acting individually or together. Challenges in achieving biological control through the use of AM fungi include the essential nature of AM fungi, limited understanding of the mechanisms involved, and the role of environmental factors in these interactions. increase. AM fungi are rarely found in commercial nurseries due to the use of composted soilless media, high levels of fertilizer, and regular application of fungicide solutions. The potential benefits of AM fungi in horticulture, agriculture and forestry are not considered significant in these industries. This perception may be due in part to inadequate methods for large-scale production of the inoculum. Planting sequence, fertilization, and plant pathogen control practices influence both the prevalence of AM fungi in soil and their impact on plants (119). Knowledge of factors such as fertilizer use, pesticide use, and soil management practices that affect AM fungi is essential for the use of AM fungi in sustainable agriculture (119-120). Additionally, effective vaccines should be identified and used as biofertilizers, bioprotectants and biostimulants for sustainable agriculture and forestry.

10.4. AM Fungal Communities Improve Yield Production

Population growth, urban sprawl, and growing interest in using biofuels are putting significant pressure on a portion of high-quality agricultural soils in many countries. Growing cereals and oilseeds such as barley, corn, soybean and wheat has been an important part of the agricultural economy for many years, and the continued rise in demand and prices has led farmers to grow high-intensity crops to: began to adopt agricultural management. Increased production increases crop productivity. Tillage, crop rotation, fallow, varietal rotation, and pesticide application are common practices in large-scale crops, and all these practices have environmental impact (103-114). Fertilizer use is a common agricultural management practice, but there is growing evidence that fertilizer use has many adverse effects on ecosystems. Regardless of the type of fertilizer applied (organic or mineral), conventional agriculture produces large excesses of nitrogen and phosphorus that can lead to phosphorus losses through nitrogen leaching and leaching from the soil profile (121). Not only does this loss result in high economic costs for farmers, this phenomenon also leads to soil contamination. Furthermore, excessive fertilizer application can pose a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems through surface water and groundwater degradation (122). Recently, it has been noted that fertilizer runoff from agricultural lands is one of the causes of cyanobacterial overgrowth and potentially harmful bloom growth, resulting in restricted access to lakes. Low-input farming systems are gaining traction in many developed countries due to growing concerns about conserving natural resources, reducing environmental degradation, and rising fertilizer costs. Conventional cropping systems with reduced fertilizer and pesticide application rates have been developed, but are rarely used in North American cereal production, probably due to a lack of understanding of agricultural soil dynamics (123). Many biological, chemical and physical factors affect soil quality. Among them, the rhizosphere microbial community (RMC) has been shown to directly affect soil fertility by contributing to nutrient cycling (NC) and performing essential processes that improve soil structure and PG and health. (124). Therefore, the extent to which these communities interact is of great importance, and this includes phenomena such as hormone production (HP), enhanced nutrient availability, and reduced root disease. Mycorrhizal symbiosis (MS) has been shown to favor the growth of many crops, mainly due to extensive development of mycelial networks in the soil, more efficient use of nutrients, and improved plant uptake. (117). MS also increases resilience to biotic and

abiotic stresses and reduces disease incidence, a key component of sustainable agriculture (124). Proper management of mycorrhizal fungi in agriculture should ultimately lead to significant reductions in chemical consumption and production costs. Soils generally contain natural AM fungi that colonize plant roots (91). Growth promotion and phosphorus uptake in plants colonized by AM fungi are well-known processes (29, 31, 103-114). With the current trend to reduce pesticide use, research is focused on improving crop yield and yield sustainability. This is a promising approach to achieve high yields with low fertilizer use and support sustainable agricultural systems.

10.5. AM Fungi for Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agricultural systems (SASs) use natural processes (NPs) to achieve acceptable levels of productivity and food quality (FQ) with minimal negative environmental impact (118). By definition, sustainable agriculture (SA) must be ecologically sound, economically viable and socially responsible. Similarly, sustainable forest management (SFM) refers to a holistic approach to environmental protection (EP) that combines the production and planting of trees for useful products, the protection of soil, air, water quality, wildlife and aesthetics. Sustainable agriculture relies on long-term solutions that use proactive rather than reactive system-level measures. Mycorrhizal fungi, especially AM fungi, are ubiquitous in soil and form symbiotic relationships with most terrestrial plants, including agricultural crops, cereals, vegetables and horticultural crops (91). In agriculture, several factors, such as the host plant's dependence on mycorrhizal root colonization (MRC), tillage system, fertilization, and mycorrhizal inoculation (MI) potential, influence plant response and the benefits of mycorrhizae to the plant. Due to their role in promoting plant health and improving soil fertility and soil assemblage stability, there is increasing interest in propagating AM fungi for sustainable agriculture (SA). Effective utilization of these fungi can increase yields while minimizing the use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers (103-114). The intensive use of CFs, the introduction of organic matter, the use of soil management techniques such as fallow cultivation and the cultivation of legumes can improve soil conditions, improve soil bioactivity and avoid external influences. It has been used to improve crop production in poor soils to optimize nutrient cycling. Minimize input and maximize utilization (125-126). This approach was developed for soil biota management using earthworms and microsymbionts. These soil organisms account for over 90% of soil biological activity and contribute to nutrient cycling, soil fertility, and symbiotic processes in the rhizosphere. The diversity and activity of soil fungi is poorly studied and understood (127). Mycorrhizae constitute an important group as they are widespread and potentially important contributors to plant microbial biomass and soil nutrient cycling processes (128). Mycorrhizal association has beneficial effects on plants and thus on crop productivity for SA (129). These improve the absorption of nutrients, especially P, and also improve the absorption of micronutrients such as zinc and copper. They can stimulate the production of PG substances and reduce stress, disease, or pest infestations (130 -131) Proper use of this technique requires the selection of optimal inoculum cultures adapted to the specific environmental factors that limit plant productivity.

10.6. Mycorrhizal Fungi Tolerance Plant Stress Resilience

Mycorrhizal fungi (MF) facilitate interactions between plants and soil microbiota, which in turn helps promote PG, improve nutrient uptake, and increase resilience to pathogens to biotic and abiotic stresses. Factors that contribute to the increased ability of plants invaded by AM fungi to resist abiotic stresses such as drought and salinity include a. Depletes osmotic pressure by creating accumulation of proline and soluble sugars. b. Increases photosynthetic efficiency by increasing stomatal conductivity and chlorophyll concentration. c. Compared to increase root length and sucker hair density to increase water absorption as well as strigolactone secretion to promote AM symbiosis under water stress conditions. d. Prevent excessive Na⁺ absorption to

maintain ionic homeostasis under the influence of salt. e. Combats oxidative stress by increasing the activity of antioxidant enzymes (AOE) such as CAT, SOD and POD to eliminate ROS. Under biological stress condition (BSC), AM fungi protect host plants against pathogen infection by increasing the systemic defense response (SDR) of the host plant and induces PR gene expression. Increases biosynthesis and secretion of phenols and citrates that repel pathogens and formation of deposits on the cell wall to limit the invasion of mycelium. Expression of ENOD11 and several defense-related genes, as well as root remodeling genes, are upregulated during invasion. This then allows the formation of a pre-permeabilization device or PPA (115). The biology behind the development of arbuscules is unknown, but turning off a gene called vapillin reduces arbuscule growth (132). Many other genes are known to be involved in tree formation, including subtilisin protease 65, phosphate transporter 66, or two ABC transporters 67 (133-134). Nitrogen-fixing genes (NFG) are now commonly used by scientists to create genetically engineered plants that can fix atmospheric nitrogen (FAN). Induction of the *nif* gene occurs in NFB with low nitrogen and oxygen concentrations in the rhizosphere. Interestingly, sugarcane seedlings inoculated with wild strains of *G. diazotrophicus* showed radioactive N₂ fixation compared to *G. diazotrophicus* mutants with *nif-D* gene mutations, proving the importance of the *nif* gene. The efficiency of nitrogen fixation depends on the use of carbon (135-136). Bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis* (UFLA285) can differentially induce 247 genes in cotton plants compared to controls that did not receive PGPR (137). A few disease resistance genes that act through osmotic regulation via jasmonate/ethylene signaling and proline synthesis genes were differentially expressed upon UFLA285 induction (137). Several differentially expressed genes, including metallothionein-like protein type 1, NOD26-like integral membrane protein, ZmNIP2-1, thionin family proteins, oryzalin gamma chain precursor, stress-associated protein 1 (OsISAP1), and probenazole has been identified. Inducible protein PBZ1, auxin- and ethylene-responsive genes (138). The expression of the defense-associated proteins PBZ1 and thionine was found to be repressed in rice H-seropedicae association, suggesting regulation of plant defense responses during establishment (138).

11. CONCLUSION

Environmental constraints are a major problem for declining productivity. Our reliance on CFs and CPs has fueled the growth of industries that produce potentially lethal chemicals that are not only dangerous to humans, but also dangerous to soil ecology, environment and upset the ecological balance. BFs can help to solve the problem of feeding a growing world population at a time when the agricultural sector is facing a lot of environmental pressures. It is important to recognize the useful aspects of BFs and to implement their uses in modern agricultural practices (MAP). Cutting-edge innovation creates utilizing effective tools of molecular biotechnology can improve biological pathways of phytohormone production. Beneficial PGPRs, mycorrhizae and other microbes can help alleviate environmental stress. However, the lack of awareness of improved protocols for field biofertilizer applications (FBFA) is one of the few reasons to many effective PGPRs and microbes remain beyond the reach of conservationists and farmers. Nevertheless, recent technology related to microbiology, plant-pathogen interactions, and genomics can help optimize the required protocols. The success of BFs depends on the invention of innovative strategies regarding the function of PGPRs, other microbes and their appropriate application in the agricultural. The major challenge in this area of research lies in the fact that, in addition to identifying the PGPR strains and their characteristics, dissecting the actual mechanism of action of PGPR to reach the extraction efficiency in agriculture sustainability is essential. Microbes that promote PG in vegetable production (VP) have received little attention from the scientific community. However, several lines of evidence suggest that PGPM can improve crop yields in anthropogenically degraded environments. Overall, they can help reduce the burden of soil nutrient loss in arable land, counteract some of the negative effects of water and salt pressure on crop growth, and help PG and productivity and avoid or minimize the absorption of

contaminants along with CFs. In addition, common practices in VP are soil sun drying, transplanting, sample seeding, drip irrigation combined with fertilizing and the use of soilless supports. All of this can be improved by using PGPM. New evidence has elucidated the mechanism of PG promotion induced by useful bacterium and fungi. Research needs to be conducted in different localities in different parts of the world and with different soil types to validate the beneficial impact of PGPR and AM fungi on soil fertility, PG, productivity and develop fact-based recommendations for its use in worldwide. Additionally field trials on other plant species and soil types are also needed to fully understand the benefits of this microbial technology. Lastly, carbon flow in soil plant systems treated with PGPR and AM fungi are needed to fully determine their effect on the physico-chemical properties of soils and environment.

RECOMMENDATION

SH plays an important role in the ability of plants to produce food, fuel and fiber for the growing world population. The efficient and diverse adoption of soil microbiota supported by these new technologies can facilitate and promote sustainable agriculture and can effectively contribute to meet the triple requirements of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

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