

Suppl. Table 1. Sampling sites, coordinates and names of the isolates

Sampling sites	Coordinates (latitudes and longitudes)	Total no. of isolates	Name of isolates
BHU (South campus), Varanasi, Mirzapur	25°02'57.1" N 82°35'38.3" E	9	M, M-1, M-2, U, UL-1, UL-2, UL-3, UL-5, UL-6
Ganga riverbank (Anta Ghat), Patna, Bihar	25°37'17.2" N 85°09'06.3" E	13	A-1.1, A-1.2, A-1.3, A-1.4, A-2.1, A-2.2, A-2.3, A-2.4, A-3.1, A-3.3, A-4.2, A-4.B, A-5

* M - middle; U and UL - upper layer of soil; A - along with riverbank (Ghat)

Suppl. Table 2. Chlorophyll Content and root development of control vs *Azotobacter* treated plants

Sl. no.	Treatments	Growth parameters of rice seedlings	Intervals of days of observation			
			On 5 th day (germination)	On 15 th day	On 30 th day	On 50 th day
1	M-1	Root development	Root branching, Fine root hairs, 5-6 roots per seedlings	Good amount of TLRs were seen with root hairs	Moderate FLRs were seen	Lateral and nodal roots, thick long fibrous roots
		Chlorophyll content	-	-	-	30.85
2	A-2.3	Root development	3-4 roots/plants with long roots and few branching	TLRs were seen	Moderate FLRs with prominent nodal roots	Not dense, moderate length thick, few FLRs
		Chlorophyll content	-	-	-	31.0
3	UL-6	Root development	5-6 roots/plant, moderate root length with branching	Good amount of TLRs with nodal roots were seen	Dense FLR network, fine root hairs development	Longest and dense root system in all treatments, FLRs
		Chlorophyll content	-	-	-	29.2
4	Consortium (M-1+ A-2.3+ UL-6)	Root development	3-4 roots/plants, moderate growth	TLRs were seen	Short FLRs, prominent nodal root system	Few and short FLRs with moderate growth
		Chlorophyll content	-	-	-	30.1
5	Control	Root development	3-4 roots/plants, moderate growth	TLRs with few root hairs were seen	Few FLRs, prominent nodal root system	Not dense, few long nodal roots with short FLRs
		Chlorophyll content	-	-	-	31.0