Review Form 3

Journal Name:	**International Journal of Plant & Soil Science**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_IJPSS_124568**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Endophytic Bacillus and Xylaria sp. inhibit two major rice pathogens**
Type of the Article	**Original Research Article**

Review Form 3

PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	**Reviewer's comment**	**Author's Feedback** *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)*
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	It must holds significant importance for several reasons related to sustainable agriculture, plant health, and disease management. Studying the ability of *endophytic Bacillus* and *Xylaria* sp. to inhibit rice pathogens offers a promising path toward eco-friendly and effective disease management strategies. It helps reduce the reliance on harmful chemicals, promotes sustainable agriculture, and ensures the health and productivity of rice, a critical global food crop.	
Is the title of the article suitable? **(If not please suggest an alternative title)**	Title can be elaborative. Few suggestions are below. 1. Biological Control of Major Rice Pathogens: Inhibitory Effects of Endophytic *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* sp 2. Sustainable Disease Management in Rice: Antagonistic Activity of Endophytic *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* Against Key Pathogens 3. Harnessing Endophytes: *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* sp. as Biocontrol Agents Against Rice Pathogens 4. Dual Action Biocontrol: Endophytic *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* sp. Suppress Two Major Rice Diseases 5. Natural Defense: The Inhibitory Effects of Endophytic *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* sp. on Rice Pathogens	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	1. It can include importance of rice crop. 2. Sustainable and eco-friendly disease management strategies are urgently needed to reduce the reliance on chemical pesticides and mitigate the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture. 3. In conclusion, this research highlights the potential role of endophytes in sustainable agriculture and suggests that integrating beneficial microbes into rice disease management strategies could help enhance plant health, increase crop yields, and contribute to global food security.	
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	Yes	
Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	1. Make sure that *Magnaporthe oryzae* and *Xanthomonas oryzae* have been correctly identified as the rice pathogens you are working with. 2. Ensure that *Bacillus* and *Xylaria* isolates are definitively confirmed as endophytes. (Define sterility test) 3. Clarify in the manuscript how *in vitro* findings (such as pathogen inhibition on culture plates) correlate with *in vivo* experiments (testing in rice plants under controlled or field conditions). Sometimes *in vitro* effects don't fully translate into *in vivo* efficacy, so it's important to discuss whether the findings from both settings align and under what conditions. 4. For the scientific validity of your results, robust statistical analysis is crucial. Ensure that your inhibition assays, whether *in vitro* or *in vivo*, are statistically evaluated, showing significant differences between treated and control groups. The inclusion of replicates, controls, and proper statistical tests will strengthen the scientific rigor. **Balanced Conclusion**: 5. Your abstract suggests a strong efficacy of these endophytes. In the conclusion of the full manuscript, discuss the potential for large-scale application, but also the need for further testing under different environmental conditions, different	

	rice varieties, or on a commercial scale.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. **-**	**Need reference for endophyte surface sterility. (Remove the all possible exophytes, mention the procedure)**	
Minor REVISION comments **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?**	Yes	
Optional/General comments		

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	**Author's comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)*
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	*(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)*	

Reviewer Details:

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