**Plant probiotic bacteria suppress wheat blast fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae Triticum* pathotype**

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Wheat blast is a fearsome fungal disease caused by a fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae Triticum* (*MoT*)pathotype. It has been a threat to wheat production in Brazil and some countries in South America since its first emergence in Parana state of Brazil in 1985. In February 2016, it emerged for the first time in Bangladesh and devastated more than 15,000 hectares of wheat in a large area of the South-western and western parts of Bangladesh (Islam et al. 2016, BMC Biol 14:84). In 2017, it spread in West Bengal of India and reemerged in Bangladesh. We think that it further spread in wheat growing area in neighboring Asian countries and pose a serious threat to the food and nutritional security of the region. At present, it is unclear whether resistant wheat varieties against *MoT* are available and the degree to which fungicide application for the neck blast management is reliable. Applications of plant probiotic bacteria are known to promote growth of host plants and suppress phytopathogenic fungi by various mechanisms. However, there are no biocontrol agents so far developed against the wheat blast fungus. To find potential biocontrol agents, we screened several hundreds of plant probiotic bacteria isolated from the surface sterilized seeds and organs of various crop plants including wheat and rice in Bangladesh. Some of the isolates viz. BTS 3 (R2), BTS 4 (R3), BTS 5 (SL3) and BTLK6A (K6A) displayed potent inhibitory activities against the wheat blast fungus in vitro and suppression of disease *in vivo*. Based on 16S rRNA gene sequence data, these plant probiotics were tentatively identified as *Bacillus subtilis* BTS 3 (R2), *B. amyloliquefaciens* BTS 4 (R3), *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* BTS 5 (SL3) and *B. amyloliquefasciens* BTLK6A (K6A). Figure 1 displays the curative and preventive effects of the isolated plant probiotic bacteria on wheat seedlings challenged with a Bangladeshi isolate of the blast fungus MoT.