

IMPROVING MICROBIAL INOCULANTS QUALITY FOR COMMERCIAL USES

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sci. (Biotechnology), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., 2003

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THESIS

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of**

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In

**Agricultural Sciences
(Microbiology)**

**Department of Microbiology
Faculty of Agriculture
Cairo University
EGYPT**

2019

Format Reviewer

Vice Dean of Graduate Studies

APPROVAL SHEET

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SUPERVISION SHEET

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Title of Thesis: Improving Rhizobial Inoculants Quality For Commercial Uses.
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ABSTRACT

Two hundred rhizobial isolates were obtained from root nodules, eighty from peanut, sixty from soybean, and sixty from pea. The three legumes are widely cultivated in different ecological areas covering sixteen Egyptian Governorates (AL-Ismailia, AL-Sharqia, AL-Dakahlia and AL-Qalyubia) in East Delta (Alexandria, Al-Behera and Kafr El sheikh) in West Delta (AL-Gharbia and AL-Monufia) in Middle Delta (AL-Giza, AL-Fayoum, Bani suef and AL-Menia) in Middle Egypt and (Assuit, Sohag and Aswan) in Upper Egypt.

The diversity of rhizobial isolates was assessed using several characterization techniques including growth rate on different growth media, reaction to salinity concentrations, temperature, pH, different antibiotics (IAR), and nitrogen fixation efficiency. DNA-PCR fingerprinting of the isolates was done using REP, ERIC and BOXA1 primers as well as fluorescence antibody (FA). A large percentage of the indigenous rhizobial population was efficient in fixing nitrogen. The study identified several efficient strains for each crop which can be recommended as inoculant strains to increase biological nitrogen fixation of the target legumes growing in soils of different ecological zones in Egypt including soils affected by high salinity and those exposed to high temperatures.

The study shows the diversity of rhizobial isolates of each legume and it identifies the best approach for tracking the inoculant strains using serological technique (FA) and/or molecular approach. This will be very valuable for further studies targeting inoculation success and competition for nodulation.

Keywords: *Rhizobium*, legumes crops, Nodulation, Nitrogen fixation, FA Molasses and DNA-PCR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to **Dr. Hassan Moawad Abd ElAal**, Professor of Environmental Microbiology, Agricultural and Biological Research Division, National Research Centre (NRC) and **Dr. Mohammed Zakaria Sedik**, Professor of Microbiology, Fac. Agric., Cairo University for their great guidance and generous helping through the course of study, suggesting the topics of this thesis, supervision of the work as well as unlimited encouragement, valuable advices and stimulating.*

*My gratitude and deeply thanks to **Dr. Wafaa Mohammed Abd El Rahim**, Professor of Environmental Microbiology, Agricultural and Biological Research Division, sincere help guidance and stimulating criticism throughout the work in the thesis.*

*Deep thanks to **Dr. Sayed Abd El-Kader**, Professor of Biochemistry, Fac. Agric., Cairo University for support, supervision and stimulating criticism throughout the work in the thesis.*

My deep appreciation to the staff members of the Agric. Microbiology Dept. Fac. Agric., Cairo University and the authorities of the National Research Center for their generous support and help.

Special deep appreciation is given to my family and my friends for their help and encouragement.

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