Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	**International Journal of Plant & Soil Science**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_IJPSS_84872**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Effect of nitrogen-fixing plant growth-promoting bacteria on germination, seedling vigour and growth enhancement of rice cultivars**
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty'**, provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.
To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment This manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.	**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)*
Compulsory REVISION comments	The whole manuscript could be put in the accepted format for this Journal (IJPSS).	
Minor REVISION comments	Corrections could be effected as here suggested – 1. Lines 2, 4, 8, 11, 20, 48: **of two rice cultivars** ; Line 13: **Results**: The PGPB ; Line 15: *IIRRNF8*) which enhanced ; Line 17: conditions were observed. Among ; Line 18: under both the *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions. ; Line 21: experiments. ; Line 22: could delete - **Graphical Abtract ;** Line 24: Figure 1. **Graphical Abtract (Nitrogen fixing PGPB on two rice cultivars)** ; Line 25: **Keywords**: Plant Growth Promoting Bacteria (PGPB), Nitrogen fixation, Rice seed germination, Rice seedling growth ; Line 43: (140.8 million tonnes per year) in the world. In India, rice production had ; Could check Lines 54 - Bandeppa *et al*., 2019 and Line 242 - Bandeppa *et al*., 2020 ; Line 69: 0 day to 3rd day ; Line 71: used for the estimation of the final germination percentage (Pieper, 1952). ; Could re-check Line 71 - Pieper, 1952 , Line282 – Piper ; Line 75: Three replications ; Line 101: (Figure 2). ; Line 107: ^{a,b,c,d,e} The mean values ; Line 110: Figure 2. ; Lines 125 to 127: Could delete the last Sentence and Reference on maize – this is not same as in rice ; Line 135: ^{a,b,c,d,e,f} The mean values ; Line 148: ^{a,b,c,d,e} The mean values ; Line 152: ***In vivo*** ; Line 156: fresh and dry weight, shoot fresh and dry weight and seedling fresh and dry weight ; Line 157: 25 days in pot experiment (Table 4; Plate 2).; Lines 159 and 182: ^{a,b,c,d,e,f} The mean values ; Line 162: **Plate 1. Growth** ; Line 168: (Table 4, Plate 2). ; Line 171: **Plate 2. Growth** ; Lines 173 to 174: fresh and dry weight, shoot fresh and dry weight and seedling fresh and dry weight ; Line 176: 25 days (Table 5; Plate 1 and Plate 2). ; Line 185: exhibited higher ability ; Line 188: had higher ability ; Could re-check Line 201: Gholamalizadeh *et al.* (2014) and Line 260: Gholamalizadeh *et al.* (2017) ; Could delete and replace the two sentences and References in Lines 210 to 214 , as these are not on rice but reports on soybean, maize and sugarcane crops. ; Line 214: rice seedlings could probably be ; Line 218: growth and is involved in the availability of uptake ; Line 221: enhanced seed germination and growth 2. Lines 246 to 249 ; Lines 288 to 290: Could delete and replace as found appropriate. ; Line 265: could supply Pp. no. if possible ; Line 282: Could supply Pp. no. or Replace with another Reference through Google search.	
Optional/General comments	Very good work. However , few old References could be upgraded by putting little more effort through google search.	

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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