

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Table S1. Physico-biochemical properties of initial soil used in this study

S. No.	Soil parameters	Value
1.	Texture class	Dystric Eutrudepts (Inceptisols)
2.	Soil separates	
i.	Coarse sand (0.2–2.0 mm)	11.43%
ii.	Fine sand (0.02–0.2 mm)	17.50%
iii.	Silt (0.002–0.02 mm)	47.33%
iv.	Clay (<0.002 mm)	22.57%
3.	pH	8.2
4.	EC	1.8 dsM ⁻¹
5.	ESP	7.67
6.	organic carbon	0.37%
7.	Olsen P	22.26 mg kg ⁻¹
8.	total N	55.50 mg kg ⁻¹
9.	K	126.50 mg kg ⁻¹
10.	Zn	0.20 mg kg ⁻¹

Supplementary Table S2. Salt tolerance (NaCl) and biochemical properties of selected strains used in this study

Properties/ characteristics	<i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> B-16	<i>T. harzianum</i> UBST H-501
Amylase production	+ve	+ve
Salt tolerance (NaCl)	5.00%	4.50%
HCN production	+ve	+ve
IAA production	+ve	+ve
H ₂ O ₂ production	+ve	ND
Urease test	+ve	ND
Catalase test	+ve	ND
Starch hydrolysis	+ve	+ve
Ammonia production	+ve	ND
Protease production	+ve	+ve
Siderophore production	+ve	+ve
Phosphate solubilization	+ve	+ve
Potash (K) solubilization	+ve	+ve
Zinc oxide (ZnO)	+ve (5.65 µg ml ⁻¹)*	+ve (4.50 µg ml ⁻¹)*
Zinc carbonate (ZnCO ₃)	+ve (7.05 µg ml ⁻¹)*	+ve (5.69 µg ml ⁻¹)*
Zinc phosphate [Zn ₃ (PO ₄) ₂]	+ve (7.50 µg ml ⁻¹)*	+ve (6.90 µg ml ⁻¹)*

* Represents Zinc concentration (µg ml) in growth medium. Data are mean (n=5).