

**SupplementaryTable S2.** Abundance and diversity index of rhizobacterial population isolated from rhizospheric soil on different microbiological media

Rhizobacterial Population Avg.log (Cfu/g of soil)															
Agro-climatic regions	Nutrient Agar	Number of bacteria types (n)	Shannon diversity index	Kings' B	Number of bacteria types (n)	Shannon diversity index	Tryptone soya agar	Number of bacteria types (n)	Shannon diversity index	Casamino peptone glucose (CPG) media	Number of bacteria types (n)	Shannon diversity index			
Upper Gangetic Plains Region	9.64 ± 0.14 <sup>a</sup>	9.00 ± 1.00	0.23 ± 0.08	± 9.33 ± 0.09 <sup>c</sup>	2.00 ± 0.00	0.08 ± 0.03	± 9.47 ± 0.44 <sup>b</sup>	5.00 ± 1.00	0.16 ± 0.66	± 9.15 ± ± 0.72 <sup>d</sup>	2.00 ± 0.00	0.08 ± 0.03	±		
Western Himalayan Region	9.58 ± 0.09 <sup>c</sup>	8.00 ± 0.00	0.22 ± 0.12	± 9.23 ± 0.16 <sup>d</sup>	1.00 ± 1.00	0.05 ± 0.10	± 9.40 ± 0.09 <sup>c</sup>	2.00 ± 0.00	0.08 ± 0.08	9.00 ± ± 0.06 <sup>e</sup>	1.00 ± 0.00	0.05 ± 0.06	±		
Middle Gangetic Plain Region	9.65 ± 0.11 <sup>a</sup>	12.00 ± 1.00	0.27 ± 0.04	± 9.46 ± 0.12 <sup>a</sup>	3.00 ± 0.00	0.12 ± 0.06	± 9.37 ± 0.31 <sup>c</sup>	6.00 ± 1.00	0.18 ± 0.74	± 9.26 ± ± 0.09 <sup>c</sup>	3.00 ± 1.00	0.12 ± 0.34	±		
Trans-Ganga Plains Region	9.62 ± 0.05 <sup>b</sup>	10.00 ± 2.00	0.24 ± 0.44	± 9.38 ± 0.54 <sup>b</sup>	2.00 ± 1.00	0.08 ± 0.08	± 9.51 ± 0.09 <sup>a</sup>	4.00 ± 0.00	0.14 ± 0.19	9.32 ± ± 0.79 <sup>b</sup>	3.00 ± 1.00	0.12 ± 0.51	±		
Southern Plateau and Hills region	9.64 ± 0.08 <sup>a</sup>	9.00 ± 0.00	0.23 ± 0.12	9.45 ± 0.34 <sup>a</sup>	2.00 ± 0.00	0.08 ± 0.24	9.48 ± 0.45 <sup>b</sup>	5.00 ± 1.00	0.16 ± 0.04	± 9.37 ± ± 0.91 <sup>a</sup>	2.00 ± 1.00	0.08 ± 0.07			
Total			1.17 ± 0.27	±		0.41 ± 0.24	±		0.71 ± 0.52	±		0.43 ± 0.39	±		

\*Values given in column are the average of three replications followed by standard deviation. Values with different alphabetical (a–e) superscripts within a column are significantly different as determined by LSD test ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).