

## LIST OF CONTENTS

S No	Title	Page No
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of literature</b>	5
2.1	Significance of phosphorus in plant nutrition	5
2.2	Phosphorus bioavailability in soils	5
2.3	Role of microorganisms in phosphorus bioavailability	6
2.3.1	Microbial Mineralization of organic P	6
2.3.2	Microbial solubilization of insoluble P	7
2.3.3	Microbially modified root architecture.	8
2.4	Combined use of PSM and RP for P nutrition of crops	9
2.5	Phosphate solubilizing microorganisms (PSM) and plant growth	12
2.6	Effect of PGPR containing ACC-deaminase on P-uptake	15
2.7	Organic amendments and P bioavailability	16
2.7.1	Organic waste materials	16
2.7.2	Compost	17
2.8	RP-enriched compost and its effects on crop yields	18
2.9	Strategies to enhance P use efficiency	20
2.9.1	Proper application method	20
2.9.2	Microbial mediations and phosphorus use efficiency	21
2.9.3	Genetic engineering and phosphorus use efficiency	21
2.10	Applicability under local conditions	22
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials and Methods</b>	24
3.1	Selection of rhizobacteria	24
3.2	Preparation of inocula	24
3.3	Preparation of rock phosphate enriched compost (RP-EC)	24
3.4	Laboratory trials	26
3.4.1	Solubilization of RP-P in soil	26
3.4.2	Solubilization of RP-P in soil amended with compost and PSB	26
3.5	Seed inoculation	26

3.6	Pot trials	28
3.6.1	Study 1.	28
3.6.2	Study 2	28
3.7	Field trials	30
3.8	Soil analysis	30
3.8.1	Soil texture	31
3.8.2	Saturation percentage (SP)	31
3.8.3	pH of the saturated soil paste (pHs)	31
3.8.4	Electrical conductivity of saturated soil extract (ECe)	31
3.8.5	Organic matter	31
3.8.6	Available phosphorous	31
3.8.7	Extractable potassium	31
3.9	Plant analysis	32
3.9.1	Digestion of plant material	32
3.9.2	Phosphorus determination	32
3.10	Nutrient composition of composted organic waste	32
3.10.1	Carbon estimation	32
3.10.2	pH determination	32
3.10.3	Nitrogen estimation	32
3.10.4	Phosphorus estimation	33
3.10.5	Potassium estimation	33
3.11	Statistical analysis	33
<b>4</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Solubilization of RP-P in soil</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Effect of PGPR and P source on growth, yield and P-nutrition of wheat (Pot trial)</b>	<b>36</b>
4.2.1	Plant height (cm), spike length (cm), spike lets spike <sup>-1</sup>	36
4.2.2	No of tillers, grains spike <sup>-1</sup> , 100-grain weight (g)	36
4.2.3	Biomass, grain yield, straw yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	36
4.2.4	Root elongation (cm), root fresh weight and dry weight (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	39
4.2.5	Phosphorus concentration (%), P uptake (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat grain and straw	39

<b>4.3</b>	<b>Effect of PGPR and P source on growth, yield and P nutrition of wheat (Field trial)</b>	41
4.3.1	Plant height (cm), spike length (cm), spike lets spike <sup>-1</sup>	41
4.3.2	No. of tillers (m <sup>-2</sup> ), grains spike <sup>-1</sup> and 1000-grain weight (g)	41
4.3.3	Biomass, grain yield, straw yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	43
4.3.4	Phosphorus concentration (%), P uptake (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat grain and straw	43
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Solubilization of RP-P in soil amended with compost and PSM</b>	46
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Effect of PGPR and rock phosphate enriched compost (RP-EC) on growth, yield and P nutrition of wheat (Pot trial)</b>	48
4.5.1	Plant height (cm)	48
4.5.2	Number of tillers (tillers pot <sup>-1</sup> )	48
4.5.3	Spike length (cm)	50
4.5.4	Number of grain spike <sup>-1</sup>	50
4.5.5	100- grain weight (g)	50
4.5.6	Plant biomass (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	52
4.5.7	Grain yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	52
4.5.8	Straw yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	53
4.5.9	Root elongation (cm)	53
4.5.10	Root fresh weight (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	57
4.5.11	Root dry weight (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	57
4.5.12	Phosphorus concentration (%) in wheat grain and straw	59
4.5.13	P-uptake (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat grain and straw	59
4.5.14	Soil available P after wheat harvest (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	62
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Effect of PGPR and rock phosphate enriched compost (RP-EC) on growth, yield and P nutrition of wheat (Field trial)</b>	64
4.6.1	Plant height (cm)	64
4.6.2	Number of tillers (tillers m <sup>-2</sup> )	64
4.6.3	Spike length (cm)	66
4.6.4	Number of grains spike <sup>-1</sup>	66
4.6.5	1000-grain weight (g)	66
4.6.6	Biomass (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	70

4.6.7	Grain yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	70
4.6.8	Straw yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	71
4.6.9	Phosphorus concentration (%) in wheat grain and straw	71
4.6.10	P uptake (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat grain and straw	74
4.6.11	Soil available P after wheat harvest	76
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Effect of PGPR and rock phosphate enriched compost (RP-EC) and on growth, yield and P nutrition of maize</b>	78
<b>4.7.1</b>	<b>Pot trial</b>	78
4.7.1.1	Plant height (cm)	78
4.7.1.2	Cob length (cm)	78
4.7.1.3	Cob weight (cm)	80
4.7.1.4	Fresh biomass (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	80
4.7.1.5	Dry biomass (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	82
4.7.1.5	Kernel yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	82
4.7.1.6	Stover yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	85
4.7.1.7	Root growth (cm), root fresh and dry weight (g pot <sup>-1</sup> )	85
4.7.1.8	Phosphorus concentration (%) in maize kernel and stover	87
4.7.1.9	P uptake (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) in maize kernel and stover	89
4.7.1.10	Soil available P (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) after maize harvest	89
<b>4.7.2</b>	<b>Field trial on maize</b>	94
4.7.2.1	Plant height (cm)	94
4.7.2.2	Cob length (cm)	94
4.7.2.3	Kernels cob <sup>-1</sup>	94
4.7.2.4	1000-grain weight (g)	96
4.7.2.5	Dry biomass (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	96
4.7.2.6	Cob yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	98
4.7.2.7	Kernel yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	98
4.7.2.8	Stover yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	102
4.7.2.9	Phosphorus concentration (%) in maize grain and stover	102
4.7.2.10	P uptake (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) in maize grain and stover	103
4.7.2.11	Soil available P (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> ) after maize harvest	106
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	108

<b>6</b>	<b>Summary</b>	116
	<b>Literature cited</b>	120

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table No</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No</b>
3.1	Characterization of selected PGPR for their growth promoting traits	26
3.2	Analysis of rock phosphate enriched compost	28
3.3	Physical and chemical characteristics of the soil	30
4.1	Effect PGPR and P source on plant height (cm), spike length (cm), spikelets spike <sup>-1</sup> of wheat under pot trial	37
4.2	Effect of PGPR and P source on number of tillers, grains spike <sup>-1</sup> and 100-grain weight (g) of wheat under pot trial	37
4.3	Effect of PGPR and P source on biomass, grain and straw yield (g pot <sup>-1</sup> ) of wheat under pot trial.	38
4.4	Effect of PGPR and P source on root elongation (cm), root fresh and root dry weight (g pot <sup>-1</sup> ) of wheat under pot trial.	38
4.5	Effect of PGPR and P source on phosphorus concentration (%) in wheat grain and straw under pot trial	40
4.6	Effect of PGPR and P source on P uptake (mg pot <sup>-1</sup> ) in wheat grain and straw under pot trial	40
4.7	Effect of PGPR and P source on plant height (cm), spike length (cm) and spike lets spike <sup>-1</sup> of wheat under field conditions	42
4.8	Effect of PGPR and P source on number of tillers (m <sup>-2</sup> ), grains spike <sup>-1</sup> and 1000-grain weight of wheat under field conditions	42
4.9	Effect of PGPR and P source on biomass, grain and straw yield (Mg ha <sup>-1</sup> ) of wheat under field conditions	44
4.10	Effect of PGPR and P source on phosphorus concentration (%) in wheat grain and straw under field conditions	44