

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Introduction	01
2. Literature review	08
3. Material and methods	35
3.1. Plant material	35
3.1.1. Collection of seeds	35
3.1.2. Viability test	35
3.1.3. Maintenance of rice seedlings in glass house condition	36
3.1.4. Maintenance in field condition	37
3.2. Fungal culture	38
3.2.1. Isolation and maintenance	38
3.2.2. Morphological and microscopic observation	39
3.2.3. Completion of Koch's postulate	39
3.2.4. Assessment of mycelia growth	39
3.2.4.1. Solid media	40
3.2.4.1. Liquid media	40
3.3. Soluble protein	40
3.3.1. Extraction and estimation of soluble proteins	40
3.3.1.1. Mycelia	41
3.3.1.2. Leaf	41
3.3.2. Estimation of soluble protein content	41
3.4. SDS-PAGE analysis of soluble proteins	41
3.4.1. Preparation of stock solution	41
3.4.2. Preparation of gel	42
3.4.3. Sample preparation	43
3.4.4. Electrophoresis	44
3.4.5. Fixing and staining	44
3.5. Preparation of antigens	44
3.5.1. Fungal antigen	44
3.5.1.1. Pathogen	44
3.5.1.2. Leaf	44
3.6. Raising of polyclonal antibodies	45
3.6.1. Rabbits and their maintenance	45
3.6.2. Immunization	45
3.6.3. Bleeding	45
3.7. Purification of IgG	46
3.7.1. Precipitation	46
3.7.2. Column preparation	46
3.7.3. Fraction collection	46
3.8. Immunological assays	46
3.8.1. Plate trapped antigen coated (PTA)- ELISA	46

3.8.2. Dot immunobinding assay	47
3.8.3. Western blot analysis	48
3.8.4. Fluorescence antibody staining and microscopy	50
3.8.4.1. Fungal mycelia	50
3.8.4.2. Cross section of rice leaves	51
3.8.4.3. Localization of chitinase in rice leaves	51
3.9. Isolation of genomic DNA	52
3.9.1. Preparation of genomic DNA extraction buffer	52
3.9.2. Genomic DNA extraction	52
3.9.3. Purification of genomic DNA	52
3.9.4. Measurement of DNA concentration using Spectrophotometry	53
3.9.5. Agarose gel electrophoresis to check DNA quality	53
3.9.5.1. Preparation of DNA samples for electrophoresis	53
3.9.5.2. Run gel electrophoresis for DNA fraction	53
3.10. ITS PCR analysis	54
3.10.1. ITS- PCR primers	54
3.10.2. Amplification conditions	54
3.10.3. Sequencing of rDNA gene	54
3.10.4. Sequence analysis	55
3.10.5. Chromatogram of sequence	55
3.10.6. Editing and alignment of sequence data	55
3.11. BLAST analysis of the sequences	55
3.12. Submission of rDNA gene to NCBI genebank	55
3.13. Multiple sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis	55
3.14. Assessment of disease caused by fungal pathogens on rice plants	55
3.14.1. Detached leaf	55
3.14.2. Whole Plant	56
3.15. Antifungal tests against pathogens in Dual Plate Culture	56
3.15.1. Antifungal test of PGPR	56
3.15.2. Antifungal test of PGPF	57
3.16. Mass multiplication of bioinoculants and pathogen and their application	58
3.16.1. Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi(AMF)	58
3.16.1.1. Isolation of AMF spores	58
3.16.1.2. Identification of AMF spores	58
3.16.1.3. Spore count	58
3.16.1.4. Histopathological study of rice roots	58
3.16.1.5. Percent Root colonization	59
3.16.1.6. Mass multiplication of AMF	59
3.16.2. Plant Growth promoting fungi (PGPF)	59
3.16.2.1. Selection of PGPF	59
3.16.2.2. Mass multiplication and application	60
3.16.2.2.1. Wheat bran culture	60
3.16.2.2.2. Foliar spray	60
3.16.3. Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR)	60

3.16.3.1. Selection of PGPR	60
3.16.3.2. Mass multiplication and application of PGPR	60
3.16.3.2.1. Soil drench	60
3.16.3.2.2. Foliar spray	61
3.16.4. Application of different bioinoculants under pot and field condition	61
3.16.5. Inoculum preparation of pathogen	61
3.17. <i>In vivo</i> assessment of plant growth promotion	62
3.17.1. Assessment of plant growth following application of bioinoculants	62
3.17.2. Assessment of disease severity	62
3.18. Extraction and assay of defense enzymes activities after application of Bioinoculants	62
3.18.1. β -1, 3- glucanase	62
3.18.2. Chitinase	63
3.18.3. Phenylalanine Ammonia Lyase	63
3.18.4. Peroxidase	64
3.18.5. Isozyme analysis of peroxidase	64
3.18.5.1. Preparation of stock solution	64
3.18.5.2. Preparation of gel	65
3.18.5.3. Sample preparation	66
3.18.5.4. Electrophoresis	66
3.18.5.5. Fixing and staining	66
3.18.6. Extraction and estimation of total sugar content	66
3.18.7. Extraction and estimation of total chlorophyll content	67
3.18.8. Extraction and estimation of Phenol content	67
3.18.8.1. Extraction of Total phenol	67
3.18.8.2. Estimation of Total phenol	67
3.19. HPLC Analysis of phenols and phytoalexin	68
3.19.1 Sample preparation	68
3.19.1.1 Phytoalexin	68
3.19.1.2. Phenolics	68
3.20. HPLC analysis	68
3.20.1. Phytoalexin	68
3.20.2. Phenolics	68
3.21. Bioassay of antifungal compounds	69
3.21.1. Radial growth bioassay	69
4. Results	70
4.1. Initial assessment of rice cultivars	70
4.1.1. Seed morphology of rice cultivars	70
4.1.2. Viability test	71
4.1.3. Growth rate	71
4.1.4. Total Protein content	71
4.2. Screening of resistance of rice cultivars towards brown spot pathogen	74
4.2.1. Growth rate	74
4.2.2. Disease development	74

4.2.3. Defence enzyme activity	76
4.2.3.1. Peroxidase	76
4.2.3.2. Phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL)	76
4.2.3.3. Chitinase	77
4.2.3.4. β -1, 3 Glucanase	77
4.2.4. Changes in level of phenolics	79
4.3. Morphological and cultural characteristics of the pathogen	80
4.3.1. Growth in different media	80
4.3.2. Microscopic observation	80
4.4. Bioassay of antifungal compounds	82
4.4.1. Radial growth bioassay of antifungal compound	82
4.5. Pathogenicity test of rice cultivars towards <i>D.oryzae</i>	83
4.5.1. Detached leaf	83
4.5.2. Whole plant	83
4.5.3. Immunological assays	85
4.5.3.1. PTA ELISA	85
4.5.3.2. Dot immunobinding assay	85
4.6. Immunological assay for detection of <i>Drechslera oryzae</i>	87
4.6.1. Soluble protein	87
4.6.2. Immunological assay	87
4.6.2.1. Dot immunobinding assay	87
4.6.2.2. Indirect immunofluorescence	87
4.6.2.3. Western blot analysis	87
4.7. Molecular characterization of the pathogen (<i>D. oryzae</i>)	89
4.7.1. 18 S rDNA sequence analysis for identification of pathogens	89
4.7.2. Chromatogram	89
4.7.3. Multiple sequence alignment	89
4.7.4. Phylogenetic analysis	92
4.8. Association of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) in rice cultivars	94
4.8.1. Characterization and identification of AMF	101
4.8.2. Histopathology and root colonization with AMF in rice cultivars	103
4.9. <i>In vitro</i> antagonistic activities of bioinoculants against <i>D. oryzae</i>	109
4.9.1. Antagonistic effect of PGPR isolates	109
4.9.2. Antagonistic effect of PGPF isolates	111
4.10. Growth promotion and biochemical changes in rice cultivar following application of PGPR.	112
4.10.1. Screening of PGPR for plant growth promotion	112
4.10.1.1. Growth enhancement	112
4.10.1.2. Total sugar content	115
4.10.1.3. Total chlorophyll content	115
4.10.1.4. Protein content	116
4.10.1.5. Total phenol content	117
4.11. Activation of defence response in rice cultivars against <i>D. oryzae</i> following application of PGPR	118

4.11.1. Disease suppression	118
4.11.2. Activity of defence enzymes	119
4.11.3. HPLC analysis of phytoalexin	121
4.12. Growth promotion and biochemical changes in rice cultivar following application of PGPF.	123
4.12.1. Growth enhancement	124
4.12.2. Total sugar content	125
4.12.3. Total protein content	125
4.12.4. Total Phenol content.	125
4.13. Activation of defence response in rice plants following application of PGPF against <i>D.oryzae</i>	128
4.13.1. Disease suppression	128
4.13.2. Defence enzymes	129
4.13.3. HPLC analysis of phytoalexin	129
4.14. Growth promotion and biochemical changes in rice cultivar following application of AMF.	133
4.14.1. Growth promotion	133
4.14.2. Changes in biochemical activity	133
4.15. Activation of defence response in rice plants following application of AMF against <i>D.oryzae</i>	136
4.15.1. Disease suppression	136
4.15.2. Defence enzyme	136
4.16. Growth promotion and biochemical changes in rice cultivar following dual and combined application of bioinoculants against <i>D. oryzae</i>	137
4.16.1. Growth promotion	138
4.16.2. Changes in biochemical activity	138
4.17. Activation of defence response of <i>Rice</i> following dual and combined application of bioinoculants against <i>D. oryzae</i>	140
4.17.1. Disease suppression	140
4.17.2. Changes in activity of defense enzymes	142
4.17.3. Radial growth bioassay of antifungal compound (phytocassanes)	145
4.17.4. Cellular localization of Glucanase	146
4.17.5. Cellular localization of Chitinase	147
4.17.6. HPLC analysis of phenolics	149
4.17.7. HPLC analysis of phytoalexin	152
5. Discussion	155
6. Conclusion	170
7. Bibliography	174