

Microbial-based pesticides: an alternative approach in the management of plant diseases

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Validated lab-based assays predict field performance

Variables	Initial screen (detached-leaf)	Confirmation Test	Greenhouse (Florida)	Field (Alabama)
Confirmation Test	0.75***yz			
Greenhouse (Florida)	0.71*	0.71*		
Field (Alabama)	0.98***	0.97***	0.79*	
Field (Florida)	0.90**	0.93**	0.85*	0.87**

*, **, and *** = significant at P < 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001, respectively

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Laboratory assays are predictive of performance in greenhouse and the field evaluations

ABSTRACT

Beneficial microorganisms with antimicrobial activity have been used for a long time in the management of plant pathogens. The most common approach to finding beneficial microbes (microorganisms with activity against plant pathogens) consists of isolating microorganisms from samples collected from diverse environments, selecting antagonistic strains through empirical screening, studying modes of action and stabilization through the formulation of selected microbial isolates. At AgBiome, our mission is to partner with the microbial world for human benefit and discover unique microbes with activity against major agricultural pests including plant diseases, insects, weeds, and nematodes. We have built a core collection of over 100,000 fully sequenced microbes from diverse environments and employ both the microbes and their sequences in the discovery of new biological products for disease and pest control. Using proprietary genomic tools, we are able to rapidly identify efficacious microbes from diverse genetic backgrounds and then iterate using genomically related microbes to identify those with efficacy rivaling the leading synthetic chemistries. The formulated microbial-based pesticides that can effectively control major plant pathogens may result not only in alternative management strategies but also in a



Discovery for Broad Spectrum Disease Control



Enhanced efficacy of AgBiome biofungicides on some crop diseases/pathogens





Performance Good control Eair control

• Microorganisms with high diversity and known genomic information are accessible for screening programs - This results in identification of a diverse set of active microbes that deliver multiple modes of action. • Our platform produces the Biological product pipelines in all major indication areas including fungicides, insecticides, nematicides, herbicides and biostimulants, etc