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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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The effects of 3

Microbiological solubilization of inorganic P-fractions normally encountered in soils

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## Abstract

field.

Phosphorus solubilizing microorganisms were isolated from four different soils collected from two regions of the province of Quebec. All soils contained P-solubilizing microorganisms, but 10 bacteria and 3 fungi were selected because of their high solubilizing activity. These selected organisms were able to grow on solid culture media containing FePO<sub>4</sub>, AlPO<sub>4</sub>, CaHPO<sub>4</sub> or Ca<sub>3</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> as sole source of phosphorus. In liquid cultures, fungal isolates were better P-solubilizers than bacterial isolates. In fact, SEM microscopy showed that the hyphae of fungi are attached to the P particles while bacteria are not.

A greenhouse trial was conducted to study the effect of inoculation with P-solubilizing microorganisms on maize (cultivar Funk's 4066) yield and phosphorus uptake. The soil used (one of the four used for the isolation of the microorganisms) was a loam with a pH 4.83% organic matter content, 6.22, contained 175 kg ha P and 730 kg ha K. An equivalent of 180 Kg ha' N as ammonium nitrate, and 60 Kg had K as KCl was applied to all pots. Phosphorus was added at a rate of 70 Kg had P2O5 as superphosphate or rock phosphate. The experimental design was a split plot with 14 treatments (10 bacteria, 3 fungi and a and 3 phosphorus treatment (check, check) phosphate and superphosphate) with 5 replications. After 3 weeks of growth, all treatments had no effect on maize dry matter yield. However, the bacterial isolate # 3 did increase the P-uptake of maize plants receiving rock phosphate by 17% as compared uninoculated control (P > 0.132). In general, in the

greenhouse trial, the bacterial isolates performed

bacteria and one fungal isolate on maize and lettuce yield and P uptake are under investigation in the

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better than the 3 fungi tested.