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## Assessment of physicochemical parameters and characterization of multiple plant growth promotion traits of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* L

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### Abstract

The field used in this study was from a site situated of Allahabad School of Agriculture, University campus of SHIATS. Before starting an experiment, composite of soil samples from the surface 0 to 20 cm depth were collected and analyzed for physical and chemical characteristics. The data recorded during course of investigation were analyzed statistically using sample standard deviation one way analysis of variance. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was characterized as a gram negative rod shaped bacteria showing positive biochemical test. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was assayed for phosphate, Zinc, Potassium solubilization in different media it produce IAA, Auxin, HCN and it showed PQQ independent activity. Phosphate solubilization index was higher in NBRIP ( $3.44 \pm 0.19$ ) as compared to PVK media ( $1.51 \pm 0.02$ ).

**Keywords:** physicochemical parameters, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, PGP activity

### Introduction

Cucumber (*Cucumis sativa* L) is one of the monoecious annual crops in the Cucurbitaceae family that has been cultivated by man for over 3,000 years (Adetula and Denton, 2003; Okonmah, 2011) [1, 41]. It is a creeping vine which bears cylindrical edible fruit when ripe. Cucumbers are improvement because the cucumbers are susceptible to many pathogens for which there are currently no sources of resistance (Staub *et al.*, 1997) [55]. It is a creeping vine which bears cylindrical edible fruit when ripe. Cucumbers belong to the same botanical family as melons (including watermelon and cantaloupe) and squashes (including summer squash, winter squash, zucchini and pumpkin). Cucumber plants naturally thrive in both temperate and tropical environments, and generally require temperatures between 60-90°F/15-33°C. For this reason, they are native to many regions of the world. Cucumbers are usually more than 90% water, due to abundance of vitamins, minerals and organic acids in modern nutrition have especial importance (Daneshvar, 2004; Peyvast, 2009) [14, 45]. Its juice is often recommended as source of silicon to improve the health and complexion of the skin. Cucumber is a very good source of vitamins A, C, K, and B6, potassium, pantothenic acid, magnesium, phosphorus, copper and manganese (Vimala *et al.*, 1999) [62]. The ascorbic acid and caffeic acid contained in cucumber help to reduce skin irritation and swollen (Okonmah, 2011) [41]. The cucumber is originally from Indian subcontinent but is now grown on most continents. There are three main varieties of cucumber: "slicing", "pickling" and "burpless". Within these varieties, several different cultivars have emerged. Cucumbers are botanically categorized as berries, which are available in many different sizes, shapes and colors. They range from thick, stubby little fruits (10-12 cm long) to Dutch greenhouse varieties (of upto 50 cm long). The most popular variety is the long smooth salad cucumber which has a smooth, dark-green skin.

Biofertilizers, more commonly known as microbial inoculants, are artificially multiplied cultures of certain soil organisms that can improve soil fertility and crop productivity. Biofertilizers play a very significant role in improving soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, both, in association with plant roots and without it, solubilise insoluble soil phosphates and produces plant growth substances in the soil. They are in fact being promoted to harvest the naturally available, biological system of nutrient mobilization (Venkateshwarlu, 2008) [61]. Biofertilizers are products containing living cells of different types of microorganisms which when, applied to seed, plant surface or soil, colonize the rhizosphere or the interior of the plant and promotes growth by converting nutritionally important elements (nitrogen, phosphorus) from unavailable to available form through biological process such as

nitrogen fixation and solubilization of rock phosphate (Rokhzadi *et al.*, 2008) [50]. Beneficial microorganisms in biofertilizers accelerate and improve plant growth and protect plants from pests and diseases (Ei-Yazeid *et al.*, 2007) [19]. The role of soil microorganisms in sustainable development of agriculture has been reviewed (Lee and Pankhurst, 1992; Wani *et al.*, 1995) [35, 63].

*Pseudomonas* is aerobic non-sporing gram negative bacilli, motile by flagella. They are pathogenic to plants and animals (Champs *et al.*, 1993) [11]. *Pseudomonas* are widely distributed in nature and act as plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria by nitrogen fixation, mineral solubilization, as well as transformation of nutrients, production of phytohormones and siderophores, and 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) deaminase (Lugtenberg and Kamilova, 2009) [36]. IAA production by the potential biocontrol agent *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Karnwal, 2009) [31]. *Pseudomonas* sp. is ubiquitous bacteria in agricultural soils and has many traits that make them well suited as PGPR (Rodriguez and Fraga, 1999; Misko and Germida, 2002) [49, 38]. *Pseudomonads* produce HCN which control the growth of root-rot pathogens (Thomshow and Weller, 1995) [60].

An era of synthetic chemicals came with the several insecticide and fungicide which successfully manage the infestation caused by insects, fungi and other microflora, but the descriptive use of chemicals and their residual toxicity adversely affects the non target animals including human being besides affecting the seed quality. Hence, the safe and feasible approach is the use of biofertilizer and vermicompost which are safe, ecofriendly, economical and easily available. Cucumber (*Cucumis satival L.*) is the most important vegetable crop in several developing countries. Vermicompost and biofertilizer are the most important input required for Cucumber cultivation. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* as a biofertilizer have ability to solubilize phosphorus, zinc, potassium and induce some substances like indole acetic acid (IAA), Gibberelic acid and Siderophore that could contribute to the improvement of Cucumber growth.

## Materials and Methods

The isolate bacterium (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) was procured from the Microbial Culture Collection Bank (MCCB), Department of Microbiology and Fermentation Technology, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Allahabad. The characterization was done by cultural, morphological and biochemical analysis as per Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology (Holt *et al.*, 1984) [27]. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186 was examined for beneficial traits of PGPR viz., solubilization of insoluble inorganic phosphate, Zinc, Potassium and production of plant growth promoting substances like IAA, HCN.

## Results and Discussion

### Cultural, morphological, biochemical and physiological characteristics of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186 was procured from the Microbial Culture Collection Bank (MCCB), Department of Microbiology and Fermentation Technology, Jacob School of Biotechnology and Bioengineering, SHIATS. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186 was characterized for cultural, morphological and biochemical characterization as

per Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology Holt *et al.* (1984) [27]. The *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* colony was Grey colored on nutrient agar medium with Entire margin, Convex, Translucent, Circular in shape and characterized as Gram negative, rod shaped bacteria and showed negative reaction for MR-VP, Indol production, carbohydrate fermentation (Sucrose, Glucose, Lactose, D-Manitol, Trehalose, D-Galactose, D-Xylose, sorbitol, L-Rhamanose, D- Fructose and L-Arbinose) and positive for (oxide, catalase, citrate utilization, nitrate reduction, urease, gelatin liquefaction, motility test, ONPG, PQQ test, starch hydrolysis). The *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* showed confluent growth at low temperature i.e 10°C while failed to grow at 50°C and 60°C. Growth of strain was subjected to grow at pH range of 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12. All pH supported the growth of strain. Salt tolerance was examined using NaCl concentration of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5% and it revealed that *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was able to tolerate all the NaCl concentration.

In a study conducted by Shivakumar *et al.* (2013) [53] *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a gram negative, motile rod, oxidase positive, liquefied gelatin and produced diffusible pigments. Which is in agreement with present investigation. In a similar research conducted by Boruah *et al.* (2012) [9] isolated *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ASO 3 from Geleky, Assam, India. Which was biochemically characterized as. Gram negative, rod shaped that produce fluorescent green pigment but showed negative in starch hydrolysis, H<sub>2</sub>S production, MR-VP. Yadav *et al.* (2010) [65] IAA production was increased on increasing the concentration of tryptophan from 100 to 200 µg ml<sup>-1</sup> Bacterial strain *P. aeruginosa* BHUPSO2 showed maximum significant concentration of IAA 21.35 µg ml<sup>-1</sup>. Karnwal (2009) [31] *P. aeruginosa* AK2 gram-negative, citrate-positive, oxidase-positive, catalase-positive, indole-positive, and hydrolyze starch and casein positive produced siderophores and were able to use glucose, mannitol, fructose, arabinose, trehalose, glycerol, xylose and starch as carbon source. These isolates were screened for their ability to produce IAA and other PGPR activity. Many researchers have reported the similar kind of study namely Dias *et al.* (2013) [18], Audipudi *et al.* (2014) [5], Prasad (2014) [47].

PGPR promotes plant growth and yield. They are capable of increasing availability of phosphorus to plant either by mineralization of inorganic phosphate by production of acids. This micro organism secret different types of organic acids, thus lowering the pH in rhizosphere consequently dissociate the bound forms of phosphate like Ca<sub>3</sub> (PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> calcareous soil. During phosphate solubilization, pH change due to organic acid production or H<sup>+</sup> ion dissociated from insoluble phosphates. Acidity causes more solubilization of the insoluble phosphate.

The hydroxyl and carboxyl group of organic acid. Chelate the cations (Al, Fe, Ca) bond to phosphate, the latter being converted to soluble forms it leads to decrease in pH.

PSB produces IAA, GA<sub>3</sub> and cytokinin which enhance plant metabolism. PSB also secretes acid phosphatases that mineralizes and mobilizes phosphorus in soil.

Hydrogen cyanide produced by micro organism posses important antifungal features that eventually control root fungi pathogen. Cyanide acts as general metabolism inhibitor the host plants are generally not harmfully affected by enoculation with HCN producing bacteria.

**Table 1:** Cultural, Morphological, Biochemical and Physiological characteristics of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186

		Characteristics	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> MCCB00186
Cultural characteristics	Colony colour		Greyish (Nutrient agar medium)
	Margin		Entire
	Elevation		Convex
	Shape of colony		Irregular large
	Opacity		Translucent
	Pigmentation		Blue-green (Nutrient agar medium)
	Consistency		Mucoid
	Texture		Glossy
Morphological characteristics	Gram reaction		Gram negative
	Cell shape		Short rod
	Cell arrangement		Mono bacillus
Biochemical characteristics	Oxidase test		+
	Catalase test		+
	MR		-
	VP		-
	Indole test		-
	Citrate utilization test		+
	Starch hydrolysis test		+
	Nitrate reduction test		by pass reaction
	Urease test		+
	Gelatin liquefaction		+
	Motility test		+
	ONPG		+
Carbohydrate fermentation	D-xylose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	D-fructose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Glucose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Sucrose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Manitol		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Sorbitol		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Lactose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	Trehalucose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	D-galactose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
	L-rhamnose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>
L-arabinose		A <sup>-</sup> G <sup>-</sup>	
Physiological characteristics	Temperature(°C)	0	-
		5	-
		10	+
		20	+
		30	++
		40	+++
		50	-
		60	-
	pH	5	-
		6	+
		7	++
		8	+
		9	-
		10	-
		11	-
		12	-
	NaCl (%) Concentration	1	+
		2	+
		3	+
		4	+
		5	+
		6	+
		7	-
		8	-
9		-	
10		-	

A<sup>+</sup> = Acid positive, G<sup>+</sup> = Gas positive, A<sup>-</sup> = Acid negativeG<sup>-</sup> = Gas negative, Conc. = Concentrated

+ = light growth, ++ = strong growth

### Characterization of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 as a plant growth promoting rhizobacteria

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186 was screened for plant growth promoting features which were assayed through phosphate solubilization, potassium solubilization, zinc solubilization, IAA and HCN production, PQQ independent activity. The strain showed a positive assay for the aforementioned PGPR traits therefore, the strain was selected for biofertilizer production and examination (Table 2).

In a research conducted by Shivakumar *et al.* (2013) [53] PGPR characterization of *P. aeruginosa* was examined. *P. aeruginosa* FP6 evidenced to produce hydrogen cyanide HCN and IAA. According to Boruah *et al.* (2013) [9] isolate *P. aeruginosa* for tea industry in Assam, India that had positive PGPR characterization of IAA and HCN production. Isfahani and Besharati (2012) [29] used *P. sp.* as PGPR on Cucumber that was able to solubilize phosphate. Yadav *et al.* (2010) [65] examined the PGPR characterization of *P. aeruginosa* BHU PSB 02 and *P. putida* BHU PSB04. Both isolates were able to produce IAA, Phosphate Solubilization and ammonia production that enhanced the growth of chickpea. Servanani *et al.* (2003) [52] isolated Zinc solubilizing *Bacillus sp.* and *Pseudomonas spp.* Using Zinc oxide, Zinc sulphide and Zinc carbonate in plate broth assay *P. sp.* ZSB S-2 produced clear zone of 3.30 cm with Zn oxide (highest). According to Suresh *et al.* (2010) [57] are in accordance to the present investigation in which 10 fluorescent *Pseudomonas* were found positive for IAA and HCN production. Patten and Glick (1996) [43] reported Bacteria belonging to the genera *Pseudomonas sp.* that produced auxin which helps in stimulating plant growth as well as production of HCNA per Moreira *et al.* (2011) [39] all the strains were able to solubilize at least one of the low soluble inorganic phosphates in the solid GELP medium except for INPA 03-11B. Karnwal (2009) [31] showed that *Pseudomonas fluorescens* AK1 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* AK2 had better PGPR activity than other isolates. Many researchers have reported the similar kind of study namely Ahmed and Shahab (2010) [3]. Dias *et al.* (2013) [18]. Young *et al.* (2005) [66]. PGPR promotes plant growth and yield. They are capable of increasing availability of phosphorus to plant either by mineralization of inorganic phosphate by production of acids. This microorganism secretes different types of organic acids, thus lowering the pH in rhizosphere consequently dissociates the bound forms of phosphate like  $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$  calcareous soil.

Phosphate solubilizing microorganism convert insoluble phosphate into soluble forms (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) through process of acidification, chelation, exchange reactions and production of gluconic acid, succinic, acetic, glutamic, oxaloacetic, pyruvic, malic, fumaric acid and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid.

During phosphate solubilization, pH change due to organic acid production or  $\text{H}^+$  ion dissociated from insoluble phosphates. Acidity causes more solubilization of the insoluble phosphate.

The hydroxyl and carboxyl group of organic acid. Chelate the cations (Al, Fe, Ca) bond to phosphate, the latter being converted to soluble forms it leads to decrease in pH.

PSB produces IAA,  $\text{GA}_3$  and cytokinin which enhance plant metabolism. PSB also secretes acid phosphatases that mineralizes and mobilizes phosphorus in soil.

Hydrogen cyanide produced by microorganism possesses important antifungal features that eventually control root fungi pathogen. Cyanide acts as general metabolism inhibitor

the host plants are generally not harmfully affected by enoculation with HCN producing bacteria.

**Table 2:** Determination of PGPR characteristics of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186

Assay	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> MCCB00186
Phosphate solubilization	+
Potassium solubilization	+
Zinc solubilizing	+
Indole acetic acid production	+
HCN production	+
PQQ independent activity	+

### Qualitative determination of Phosphate solubilization index (PSI) and Phosphate solubilization efficiency (PSE) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 on two selective media

Phosphate solubilization index (PSI) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* on PVK medium recorded at 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d and 10d were (1.31±0.16, 1.40±0.06, 1.49±0.06, 1.51±0.02) respectively while in NBRIP medium the PSI at 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d, and 10d were (2.22±0.19, 2.55±0.19, 2.88±0.19, 3.44±0.19) respectively. Phosphate solubilization efficiency (PSE) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* on PVK medium analyzed at 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d and 10d were (31.67±16.07, 39.40±5.63, 49.47±6.37, 51.85±3.20, 62.35±7.73) respectively. While PSE on NBRIP for same days were recorded as 122.2±19.2, 155.3±19.1, 188.8±19.4, 211.0±19.1, 244.2±19.4, respectively (Table 3).

In a study conducted by Karpagam and Nagalakshmi (2013) [32] 6 bacteria among 37 isolates showed highest phosphate solubilization index (PSI) ranged from 1.13 - 2.23. Phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas sp.* BRS-2 was conducted by Islam *et al.* (2011) [28] that showed the phosphate solubilization index of 2.5. Mardad *et al.* (2013) [37] examined PSB6 was the most efficient phosphate solubilizer on NBRIP plates with a solubilization index of 4.40. Babana *et al.* (2006) [6] reported solubilization index of rock phosphate solubilizer on NBRIP agar plates solubilization index 3.60. Phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was conducted by Tambekar *et al.* (2009) [59] that showed positive phosphate solubilized. Many researchers have reported the similar kind of study namely Halder *et al.* (1990) [25], Goldstein (1995) [23], Kim *et al.* (1998) [33].

Phosphate solubilizing microorganism convert insoluble phosphate into soluble forms (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) through process of acidification, chelation, exchange reactions and production of gluconic acid, succinic, acetic, glutamic, oxaloacetic, pyruvic, malic, fumaric acid and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid.

During phosphate solubilization, pH change due to organic acid production or  $\text{H}^+$  ion dissociated from insoluble phosphates. Acidity causes more solubilization of the insoluble phosphate

Phosphorus plays a significant role in physiological and biochemical. Plant activities like photosynthesis transformation of sugar to starch and transporting of genetic traits phosphorus can also cause early ripening in plants decreasing green moisture, improving crop quality and is most sensitive nutrient to soil pH. Phosphate solubilization ability of PSB has direct correlation with pH of the medium.

**Table 3:** Zone of clearance (mm) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 on two selected media

Time days	Halo zone measurement (mm)			
	PSI		PSE	
	NBRIP	PVK	NBRIP	PVK
0	0±0 e	0±0c	0±0 e	0±0
2	2.22±0.19 d	1.31±0.16 b	122.2±19.2 d	31.67±16.07 b
4	2.55±0.19 cd	1.40±0.06 ab	155.3±19.1 cd	39.40±5.63 b
6	2.88±0.19 bc	1.49±0.06 ab	188.8±19.4 bc	49.47±6.37 ab
8	3.11±0.19 ab	1.51±0.02 ab	211.0±19.1 ab	51.85±3.20 ab
10	3.44±0.19 a	1.62±0.08 a	244.2±19.4 a	62.35±7.73 a
F <sub>cal.</sub>	149.52	161.06	72.56	21.52
F <sub>tab.</sub>	2.178	2.178	2.178	2.178
F <sub>test</sub>	S	S	S	S
CD-(0.05%)	0.729	0.340	73.336	34.105
S. Ed.(±)	0.141	0.063	14.343	6.671

Data are means ± S.D (n=3)

Different letters in each column denote significant differences (P< 0.05) according to a Tukey's HSD test

Each letter shows relative degree of significant each other

a = most significant value

d = is least significant value

### Quantification of phosphorus solubilized by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB00186 in PVK broth at different time intervals

Solubilized phosphate was estimated using PVK media by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at different time intervals which gradually increased at different time intervals which gradually increased at different time intervals of 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d, and 10d. Solubilized phosphate (mg/ml) was 0.333 at 2d, 0.343 at 4d, 0.373 at 6d, 0.463 at 8d, and 0.486 at 10d.

In a study conducted by Bhakthvathalu *et al.* (2013) [8] characterized multiple plant growth promoting traits of *Pseudomonas sp.* a potential stress tolerant biocontrol agent. Results found were in contrast with present investigation. Phosphate solubilization in broth medium was 270µg/ml while in present investigation it ranged from (31.0 to 46.8 µg/ml). Study conducted by Babana and Antoun (2006) [6] is in agreement with present research who recorded (90mg/l)

phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas sp.* similar result also reported by Santhaguru and Saravanan (2012) [51]. Study conducted by Parani and Saha (2012) [42] is in contrast with present research who recorded 968.5 mg/l phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas sp.*

Phosphorus (P) is an essential macronutrient often limiting the plant growth due to its low solubility and fixation in the soil. Improving soil fertility by releasing bound phosphorus by microbial inoculants is an important aspect for increasing crop yield. Phosphorus release from insoluble phosphates reported for several soil microorganisms has been attributed mainly to the production of organic acids and their chelating capacity. Direct periplasmic oxidation of glucose to gluconic acid is considered as the metabolic basis of inorganic phosphate solubilization by many Gram- negative bacteria as a competitive strategy to transform the readily available carbon sources into less readily utilizable products by other microbes.

**Table 4:** Quantification of phosphorus solubilized by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 in PVK broth at different time intervals

Time intervals (days)	Quantitative estimation of solubilized phosphate by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> in PVK medium(mg/ml)
2	0.33±0.17 e
4	0.34±0.16 d
6	0.37±0.17 c
8	0.463±0.18 b
10	0.49±0.18 a
F <sub>cal.</sub>	2698.87
F <sub>tab.</sub>	2.228
F <sub>test</sub>	S
CD-(0.05%)	0.001
S. Ed.(±)	2.419

Data are means ± S.D (n=3)

Different letters in each column denote significant differences (P< 0.05) according to a Tukey's HSD test

Each letter shows relative degree of significant each other

a = most significant value

e = is least significant value

### Qualitative determination of Zinc solubilization index (ZSI) and Zinc Solubilization efficiency (ZSE) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 modified PVK medium

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 was effectively solubilize the insoluble was Zn compound used Zinc sulfate under the assay conditions. Zinc solubilization was assayed for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* on modified PVK media at different time intervals of 2d, 4d, 6d, 8d, and 10d.

Solubilization index (cm) was recorded in 2d(1.73), 4d(1.37), 6d(2.23), 8d(2.43) and 10d(2.60) which was gradually increased from 2d to 8d but it was same at 10d while solubilization efficiency (%) of Zinc was recorded (100) in 2d, (150) in 4d, (183.33) in 6d, (216.66) in 8d, and (233.33) in 10d (Table 5).

The data was analysed for significance (p<0.005) using one way ANOVA followed by *post hoc* Tukey's HSD comparison. No significant difference was found in intent of

ZSI and ZSE over increasing time duration from 0 to 10 hours. Thus, increasing time interval failed to be a limiting factor for solubilization of Zinc by *P. aeruginosa* MCCB00186

In a study conducted by Servanan *et al.* (2003) [52] isolated Zinc solubilizing *Bacillus sp.* and *Pseudomonas spp.* Using Zinc oxide, Zinc sulphide and Zinc carbonate in plate broth assay *Pseudomonas sp.* ZSB S-2 produced clear zone of 3.30 cm with Zn oxide (highest). Zinc phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas sp.* was also conducted by Simine *et al.* (1998) [54] that showed gluconic acid and  $\alpha$  – keto gluconic acid produced is broth helped in solubilization of Zinc salt. Similar study was also performed by Bapiri *et al.* (2012) [7] *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* obtained the highest potential in Zinc carbonate ( $ZnCO_3$ ) containing medium producing a clearing zone of 1.70 cm halo diameter/colony diameter at 2.99 and zone area of 4.10 cm<sup>2</sup>. Pawar *et al.* (2015) [44] evaluated zinc solubilization of *Pseudomonas sp.* were showed highest solubilization efficiency and solubilization index (S.E. = 203.33 and S.I. = 3.03). The zinc phosphate solubilization by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was investigated

by Desai *et al.* (2012) [15] reported that zinc solubilization 2.64cm clearing zone. Cozzi *et al.* (1969) [12] reported that the complexing agents produced by microbes stabilized the inorganic ions in the solution and kept them from precipitation or in some cases, prevented from being oxidized or reduced and converted to insoluble forms.

Zinc is an essential micro nutrient required for growth and metabolism of micro organism and plants. Zinc is present in enzymes system as co- factor and metal activator of many enzymes. Bacterial enzymes contain zinc is the active centre or in structurally important site. Zinc occur in soil as sphalerite, olivine, horn blende, augite and biotite. Rhizobacteria play important role in converting this unavailable zinc to available form. Organic based nutrition is best and more efficient the basic principle behind this approach is decreasing the pH to 5 or below and making zinc soluble as a consequence the available zinc will get increased in the soil system. pH is a vital factor in solubilization. Rhizobacteria can contribute to zinc immobilization by precipitation and adsorption.

**Table 5:** Zinc solubilization index (ZSI) and Zinc solubilization efficiency (ZSE) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 on modified PVK medium

Time days	Zone of clearance (mm) in modified PVK media	
	ZSI	ZSE
	1.73± 0.15b	135±30.41 c
4	1.37± b	159.00±8.54 c
6	2.23± a	204.66±23.79 b
8	2.43± a	225.32±9.60 ab
10	2.60± a	246.33±11.53 a
F <sub>cal.</sub>	12.27	17.89
F <sub>tab.</sub>	2.228	2.228
F <sub>test</sub>	S	S
CD-(0.05%)	0.450	34.41
S. Ed.(±)	0.0228	168.73

Data are means ± S.D (n=3)

Different letters in each column denote significant differences (P< 0.05) according to a Tukey's HSD test

Each letter shows relative degree of significant each other

a = most significant value

#### Qualitative determination of Potassium solubilization index (KSI) and Potassium solubilization efficiency (KSE) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 on Alexandrovo medium

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 was examined for potassium solubilizing index and potassium solubilization efficiency on Alexandrovo medium. PSI as well as PSE was found to gradually increase over times, but thus were no significant variation in PSI and PSE over time (Table 6).

The data was analysed for significance (p<0.005) using One way ANOVA followed by comparison Tukey's HSD (*post hoc*). No significant difference was found in intent of KSI and KSE over increasing time duration from 0 to 10 hours. Thus, increasing time interval failed to be a limiting factor for solubilization of potassium by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

In a study conducted by Prajapati and Modi (2012) [46] isolated and characterized potassium solubilizing bacteria from ceramic industry soil. He found highest solubilization zone 1.57cm by KSB8 which is in agreement with present investigation. Present investigation very well supported the findings of Archana *et al.* (2008) [4] who found 1.20 cm solubilization index by KSB16. Bacteria have also been shown to accelerate the dissolution of silicates by the

production of excess proton and organic ligands and in some cases by the production of hydroxyl anion, extra cellular polysaccharides (EPS) and enzymes. Berthelin and Belgy (1997) [10] found that a variety of extra cellular polysaccharides significantly enhanced the dissolution of plagioclase. The production of organic acids such as acetate, citrate and oxalate by microorganism can increase mineral dissolution rate Hazen *et al.* (1991) [26]. Moreover results also suggest that the weathering ability of the bacteria which involves the production of protons, organic acids, siderophores and organic ligands Grayston *et al.* (1996) [24]. Bacteria can decompose potassium by production of organic acid. Therefore phosphate solubilizing bacteria can also decompose potassium. Potassium is the third important plant nutrient and it play important role in activation of several metabolic process including protein synthesis, enzymes, it also causes resistance towards diseases and insect. It is applied to soil as natural or synthesis fertilizers but only 2% of this is available to plant. Most common soil components of potassium, 90 to 98% are feldspar and mica. There rhizobacteria decomposes alimino silicat minerals and releases a portion of potassium contained therein. Bacteria can decompose potassium by production of organic acid therefore, PSB can solubilizer or mineralize potassium.

**Table 6:** Variation in Potassium solubilization index (KSI) and Potassium solubilization efficiency (KSE) by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186 Aleksandrov medium

Time days	Zone of clearance (mm) in Aleksandrov media	
	KSI	KSE
0	0±0 b	0±0 b
2	2.30±0.17 a	130.6±17.3 a
4	2.53±0.27 a	153.0±27.9 a
6	2.51±0.22 a	153.0±21.5 a
8	2.65±0.39 a	165.2±38.9 a
10	2.79±0.41 a	180±40.9 a
F <sub>cal.</sub>	42.034	16.60
F <sub>tab.</sub>	2.178	2.178
F <sub>test</sub>	S	S
CD-(0.05%)	0.506	49.870
S. Ed.(±)	0.228	22.890

Data are means ± S.D (n=3)

Different letters in each column denote significant differences (P< 0.05) according to a Tukey's HSD test

Each letter shows relative degree of significant each other

a = most significant value

b = is least significant value

**Table 7:** Quantitative estimation of available Potassium by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* CCB 00186

Time intervals (days)	Quantitative estimation of solubilized potassium by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> in Alexandrove medium (mg/ml)
2	0.30±0.21 c
4	0.915± 0.21 bc
6	1.225±0.21 b
8	1.535±0.21 ab
10	1.995±0.43 a
F <sub>cal.</sub>	10.806
F <sub>tab.</sub>	2.57
F <sub>test</sub>	S
CD-(0.05%)	0.709
S. Ed.(±)	0.055

Data are means ± S.D (n=2)

Different letters in each column denote significant differences (P< 0.05,) according to a Tukey's HSD test

Each letter shows relative degree of significant each other

a = most significant value

c = is least significant value

### Qualitative estimation of IAA production by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was examined for plant growth promoting traits. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* showed positive IAA production.

In a study conducted by Audipudi *et al.* (2014) [5] the results revealed that all 10 isolates were positive to IAA, Siderophore production, Phosphate solubilisation and Ammonia production. Except CEFR 6, none of the isolates was found negative for HCN production.

### Quantitative estimation of IAA production by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186

In a study conducted by Santhaguru and Saravanan (2012) [51] studied diversity of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria including *Pseudomonas sp.* from rhizospheric soil of some tropical grasses in southern Tamil Nadu. Results obtained were in accordance with present investigation. IAA

production of *Pseudomonas sp.* pf13 was 59.42  $\mu$ g IAA/mg protein while in present investigation it ranged from 56.55 to

374.9  $\mu$ g/ml 2d to 10d. Similar result was also found by Dey *et al.* (2004) [17] who recorded 3.6 mg/ml IAA by *Pseudomonas* (PGPR1). Results obtained by Kannaprinam and Ramakumar (2011) [30] is in contrast of present research who recorded (26.5  $\mu$ g/ml IAA) presence of L-tryptophan.

Present investigation very well supported the finding of Bhakthvatchalu *et al.* (2013) [8] who recorded (80  $\mu$ g/ml IAA) by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in presence of L-tryptophan compared to its absens (16  $\mu$ g/ml). Similar results also reported by Ahmad *et al.* (2005) [2].

### HCN production by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was examined for plant growth promoting traits. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* showed positive HCN production.

In a study conducted by Ahmed and Shahab (2010) [3] are reliable for current investigation that determined a total of 2212 base which showed 95% homology with pqq BC gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* LESB58 and 97% homology to pqq AB gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 and 77% of pqq A-D gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strain B 16. Study conducted by Suresh *et al.* (2010) [57] are in accordance to the present investigation in which 10 fluorescent *Pseudomonas* were found positive for IAA and HCN. Patten and Glick (1996) [43] reported bacteria belonging to the genera *Pseudomonas* to produce auxin which helps in stimulating plant growth. Production of HCN, IAA and Phosphate solubilization has been implicated in the plant growth promotion by PGPR Sullivan and Gara (1992) [56]. Similar result was accomplished by Ahmed and Shahab (2010) [3] a

remarkable change in colour from yellow to Reddish – Brown indicates HCN production and which could be used for the IAA production. Study conducted by Dalal and Kulkarni (2013) [13] is in agreement with present investigation. He found that *Pseudomonas sp.* was able to produce Gibberalic acid. Shivakumar *et al.* (2013) [53] reported strong HCN production by isolate *P. aeruginosa* FP6, as evidenced by change in color of filter paper from yellow to reddish- brown after 2-3 days of incubation. Higher amount of HCN was produced by the isolate ( $0.09 \pm 0.01$ ) at 625 nm absorbance. Hydrogen cyanide is a secondary metabolite produced by microorganism possess importer antifungal features that eventually control root fungi pathogen. Cyanide acts as general metabolic inhibition the host plant are generally not harmfully affected by inoculation with HCN producing bacteria.

#### PQQ independent activity by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was examined for plant growth promoting traits. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* showed positive PQQ independent activity.

In a study conducted by Ahmed and Shahab (2010) [3] PQQ *i.e.* Pyrroloquinoline (4, 5 – dihydro -4, 5 – dioxa 1H – pyrrolo -2, 3 -4) quinoline -2, 7, 9-Tricarboxylic acid is an aromatic, Tricyclic orthoquinone that serve as redox cofactor for several bacterial Dehydrogenase. The redox cofactor PQQ links the oxidation of many different compounds to the respiratory

chain in gram negative bacteria and acts as reactive oxygen scavenger (ROS) to neutralize free radicals. It also functions as potent growth factor by enhancing DNA synthesis. Thus it has been regarded as plant growth promoting factor. The rhizospheric bacteria are thought to produce HCN towards soil borne pathogens and *Pseudomonas* is found to predominantly acquire the rhizosphere of plant. Study conducted by Suresh *et al.* (2010) [57] are in accordance to the present investigation in which 10 fluorescent *Pseudomonas* were found positive for IAA and HCN. Raychaudhuri *et al.* (2013) [48] Enter Doudoroff (E.D) pathway is a branch metabolic gluconate catalyzed by PQQ dependent enzyme pathway of oxidative glucose metabolism, where oxidative glucose converted to gluconate catalyzed by PQQ dependent enzyme. Kuenen *et al.* (1988) [34] *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were also grown oxygen limited on acetate/glucose mixture in the presence of 100mM PQQ. Bacterial metabolism of sugars may precede *vi* a different catabolic routes. *Pseudomonas spp.* Can catalyze entail oxidation of phosphorylated or no phosphorylated sugar to the corresponding aldonic acid which transiently accumulates in medium the accumulation of aldonic acid by bacteria is associated with the presence of a membrane bound aldose dehydrogenase (Known as glucose dehydrogenase, GDH) which contains pyrrolo- quinolone quinone (PQQ) as a prosthetic group. The enzyme is located on the periplasmic side of cell membrane and donates its electrons to the electron transport chain at level of cytochrome b.

**Table 8:** IAA, HCN, Auxin production and PQQ independent activity by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MCCB 00186

PGP traits	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> MCCB00186
IAA production	+
HCN production	+
Auxin production	+
PQQ independent activity	+

#### Conclusions

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was characterized as a Gram negative, rod shaped that possessed PGPR trait *viz* IAA and HCN production, Phosphate, Potassium and Zinc solubilization efficiency and PQQ independent activity. Strains showed high solubilization value of phosphate, potassium at 10<sup>th</sup> day of incubation quantified as  $3.44 \pm 0.19$ ,  $2.79 \pm 0.41$  respectively by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* for phosphate and potassium.

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