International Journal of Forest, Animal and Fisheries Research (IJFAF)
ISSN: 2456-8791
[Vol-9, Issue-1, Jan-Mar, 2025]
Issue DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.22161/ijfaf.9.1
Article DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.22161/ijfaf.9.1.4

Impact of Soil Microbial Diversity on Plant Growth and Decomposition

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Received: 13 Feb 2025; Received in revised form: 15 Mar 2025; Accepted: 20 Mar 2025; Available online: 29 Mar 2025

***Abstract*— *The diversity of soil microbes plays a vital role in supporting plant growth and accelerating the decomposition of organic matter. A rich microbial ecosystem enhances nutrient availability, promotes soil fertility, and aids in maintaining plant health. This paper examines the influence of soil microbial diversity on plant development and the breakdown of organic residues. It discusses how various microbial species, particularly bacteria and fungi, contribute to nutrient cycling and soil stability. Additionally, the study explores sustainable agricultural practices that nurture microbial communities to optimize crop yields. The findings indicate that fostering microbial diversity can lead to improved soil health and long-term agricultural sustainability.*

Keywords— ***Soil Microbes, Plant Growth, Organic Decomposition, Nutrient Cycling, Sustainable Agriculture.***

I. INTRODUCTION

Soil microorganisms are integral to maintaining ecological balance, as they drive nutrient availability and organic matter decomposition. Their diversity directly influences soil productivity and plant development. Understanding their role is key to improving soil management techniques for sustainable agriculture.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research highlights the essential roles of microbes such as fungi, bacteria, and actinomycetes in soil health. These organisms assist in breaking down organic materials, enriching soil nutrients, and enhancing plant immunity against diseases. Previous studies emphasize their importance in ecosystem stability and sustainable farming.

Problem Statement

The degradation of microbial diversity due to excessive chemical fertilizer use, monoculture farming, and environmental changes has led to declining soil fertility. This study aims to explore the impact of microbial diversity loss on plant growth and decomposition and to suggest strategies for restoring microbial ecosystems.

III. METHODOLOGY

Soil samples from different environments are analyzed to assess microbial diversity. Both culture-dependent and molecular methods are used to examine microbial populations. Experimental trials compare plant growth and decomposition rates under varying microbial conditions.

IV. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The findings suggest that higher microbial diversity improves soil nutrient availability, plant root health, and organic matter breakdown. Certain microbial species facilitate nitrogen fixation, phosphorus solubilization, and enzymatic degradation of complex organic substances, ultimately enhancing soil fertility.

V. CONCLUSION

The presence of diverse microbial communities is crucial for maintaining productive and sustainable agricultural systems. Encouraging practices such as composting, crop rotation, and reduced chemical inputs can help sustain microbial diversity and promote soil health.

VI. FUTURE PROSPECTS

Future research should focus on the genetic interactions among soil microbes, the development of microbial-based soil amendments, and long-term monitoring of soil biodiversity in different agricultural settings.

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