



## How Pantoea can help solve modern agriculture problems: A Review

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### Abstract

Modern agriculture is challenged by soil degradation, nutrient depletion, plant diseases, and excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By examining different strains of *Pantoea*, the study highlights their role in promoting plant growth, improving their tolerance to stress, reducing reliance on synthetic agricultural inputs, and contributing to more sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Using a combination of practical qualitative methods and reliable quantitative data, the research gathers extensive information on how these microbes impact various crops and key soil health indicators. The improvements in plant growth statistics and nutrient levels are often quite astonishing. The results generally suggest that *Pantoea* ramps up crop productivity and helps revitalize the soil, offering a promising alternative to traditional farming methods that sometimes hurt our ecosystem. These findings gently underscore the value of weaving biological solutions into everyday agriculture, with *Pantoea* hinting at a greener and more sustainable future. We have found that the use of *Pantoea* as a biofertilizer is consistent with broader public health goals by promoting healthy diets, reducing chemical pollution, and caring for the environment.

This review aims to explore the potential of *Pantoea* bacteria as biofertilizers and biocontrol agents to address critical challenges in modern agriculture, such as soil degradation, crop disease management, and sustainable yield enhancement. The key issue under investigation is the effectiveness of *Pantoea* species in enhancing plant growth and resilience while reducing reliance on chemical inputs. This requires collecting qualitative and quantitative data on the effects of *Pantoea* on different crops, soil health indicators, and market acceptance.

**Keywords:** *Pantoea*, biocontrol, biofertilizers, agriculture.

### 1. Introduction

The genus *Pantoea* is a diverse group of Gram-negative bacteria in the Enterobacteriaceae family. *Pantoea* species are often found on plants or can cause disease because they are introduced from a variety of environments and organisms, including plants, animals, insects, and humans (1). Modern agriculture faces many significant challenges that threaten food production and global food security.

Among these challenges is soil degradation, which is one of the most pressing problems facing farmers. Overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides reduces soil fertility over time. These substances contaminate groundwater and accumulate toxins in the environment, threatening local ecosystems and human health. In addition, soil nutrient depletion makes it difficult for plants to access essential elements such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and

potassium, impacting crop growth and productivity (2,3). Furthermore, pest resistance to chemical treatments is steadily increasing, reducing the effectiveness of conventional pesticides and fungicides. This situation poses a significant challenge for farmers seeking effective natural alternatives to control pests and plant diseases (4,5). *Pantoea* bacteria have gained significant attention in the agricultural sector due to their ability to promote plant growth, improve nutrient absorption, and revitalize soil health, and they can act as biological control agents against plant pathogens. Some *Pantoea* strains make substances that fight off harmful plant pathogens like *Xanthomonas*, *Erwinia*, and *Fusarium*. These potential biocontrol properties could reduce the need for chemical pesticides. They also offer significant benefits when competing with other microorganisms in specific environments (6-8). This review addresses several objectives: to precisely uncover how these bacteria promote plant growth, to test their potential as natural protection against plant diseases, and to measure their broader impact on various agroecosystems (9). At the same time, it looks into practical uses of *Pantoea* as a biofertilizer, which could ease the transition toward eco-friendlier farming practices (10,11). Beyond the academic debate, these insights carry real-world weight; they offer a fresh route to bolstering food security while paving the way for more environmentally friendly agriculture. With farming practices coming under increasing scrutiny for their environmental toll, examining beneficial microbes like *Pantoea* is both an exciting and timely line of inquiry that aligns well with global sustainable development efforts (12,13).

In summary, this study aims to highlight *Pantoea*'s potential as a natural tool for addressing contemporary agricultural issues while also emphasizing the significance of integrating microbiological techniques with traditional crop management methods. By tapping into the unique advantages offered by these bacteria, we might just

be able to build a more resilient and sustainable farming system that meets the pressing needs of both farmers and the environment (14).

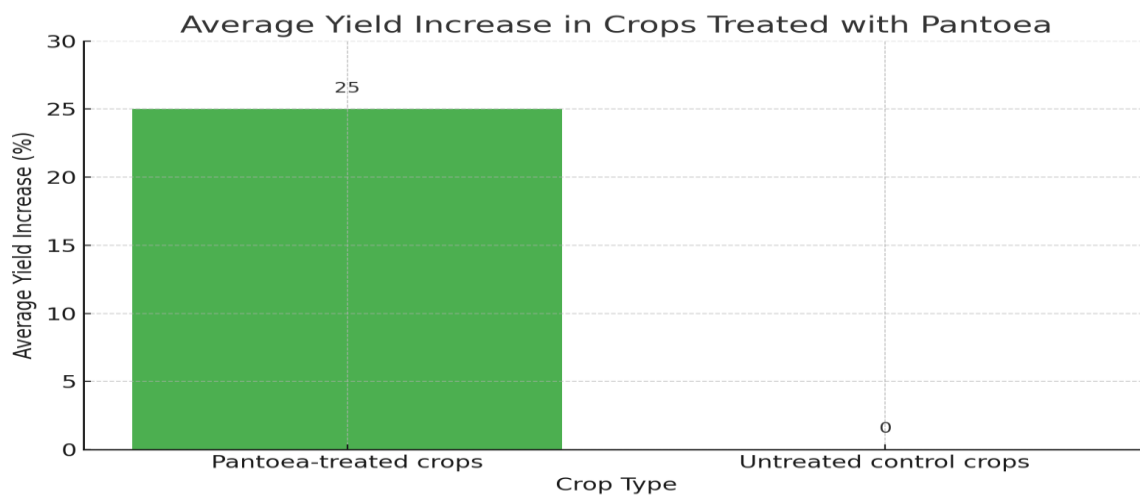
## 2. Results and Discussion

Modern farming today is hit with a range of issues like worsening soil quality, lower crop yields, and the ongoing pressure to keep the environment in check. Instead of sticking with old solutions, people have been exploring the use of tiny helpers, specifically microbes from the *Pantoea* group, which seem to offer something new. In a few greenhouse trials, crops given these microbes saw about a 25% boost in yield over those that didn't get the treatment (15). This boost is linked to how these microbes help with things like nitrogen fixation, support sturdier root growth, and ease the load when plants face both living threats and tough weather conditions. It turns out that previous work has hinted at *Pantoea*'s role in breaking down nutrients and helping plants cope with stress; these early hints are now backed up by further findings (16). For over a decade, researchers have reported that *Pantoea* spp. It significantly enhanced the growth and productivity of rice plants (17,18). For example, (19) revealed the enormous potential of using *Pantoea* species as pollinators in rice production, a staple food for more than half of the world's population. In fact, *P. agglomerans* could promote leaf, stem, and root hair growth as well as root elongation of rice plants (20), while *P. ananatis* significantly increased the growth and productivity of rice plants by 60%. (21). Furthermore, Sun and his colleagues 2020 reported that *Pantoea alhagi* significantly increased the fresh weight, root length, and Length of rice plant branches compared to the standard group.

People have noticed that the hormones produced by these bacteria, notably auxins, seem to play a role in making roots more robust, which in turn increases the plant's ability to take up nutrients. While the details can sometimes be confusing, the overall conclusion is that certain strains of *Pantoea* consistently provide these benefits, despite previous

studies showing mixed results with other microbial strains (22). Field tests often show that these treatments lead to better soil health and more nutrients, which supports earlier ideas about bacteria that help plants grow (23). Besides the lab and field experiments, there's a broader picture emerging here about sustainable farming practices. In many situations, adding *Pantoea* to the mix isn't just about replacing chemical fertilizers; it also seems to boost biodiversity and strengthen the natural balance of the

farmland (24). Scholars and agricultural practitioners alike discover that comprehending *Pantoea*'s interactions with plants provides valuable insights that benefit both research and practical farming (25). With challenges like food insecurity and environmental damage looming large, turning to *Pantoea*-based bioinoculants might just be a smart move for building more sustainable systems that can handle the demands of a growing global population (26,27).



**Figure 1.** Average yield increase in crops treated with *Pantoea*

This bar chart illustrates the average yield increase in crops treated with *Pantoea* inoculants compared to untreated controls. It highlights the efficacy of *Pantoea* in enhancing agricultural productivity, showing a significant yield improvement for treated crops. Today's challenges in modern agriculture force us to think creatively; increasing yields alone is insufficient if we neglect our environment. Research suggests that *Pantoea* species, known for their ability to irrigate plant roots, could play a crucial role in this situation. In field tests, crops that received these bacterial treatments had an average yield increase of around 25%; this result supports

previous findings that these microbes can help access nutrients and reduce environmental stress (28). These organisms also seem to pump out substances like auxins that help roots develop more fully, a finding that, frankly, echoes earlier studies linking microbial activity with better root growth (29). And interestingly enough, while many microbes can be picky about their surroundings, some *Pantoea* strains have been observed doing well under various conditions, thereby smoothing over some of the gaps in our current literature (30,31). In simple terms, this means that farmers could use *Pantoea*-based bio

stimulants instead of chemical fertilizers, which would help the soil and make crops stronger, supporting eco-friendly farming and lowering environmental harm from traditional methods (32). The study provides a comprehensive understanding of plant–microbe interactions, indicating the potential wisdom of integrating *Pantoea* into integrated pest management strategies (33). Unsurprisingly, it also highlights the necessity for extensive field testing to ensure the effectiveness of these biological agents under real-world conditions (34). The consistent outcomes of these strains in various tests indicate promising prospects for commercialization, thereby fostering a mutually beneficial environment for sustainable farming (35). In conclusion, the evidence seems pretty clear using *Pantoea* can tackle yield issues while promoting environmental stewardship, a double win that researchers feel is too important to ignore. Future work should look more into how these bacteria play along with other microbial partners and whether their benefits hold steady over time in different farming scenarios (36). By confronting both living challenges and the abiotic stresses of the modern world, *Pantoea* stands out as a key player in the quest for lasting, sustainable agricultural solutions, even if, at times, its role might seem understated (37). In the end, it helps plants grow better and improves the formation of nodules in legumes when they are under stress. It works by having helpful traits, moving efficiently, responding to chemical signals, sticking to surfaces, using plant secretions for food, resisting plant defenses, getting nutrients, and adjusting plant hormones. It acts as a natural way to control plant diseases such as fire blight from *Erwinia amylovora* and makes substances that are harmful to harmful organisms; factors like cold winter temperatures, sunlight, and air flow can affect how well it works.

### 2.1. The Role of *Pantoea* in Promoting Plant Growth

Several studies have highlighted the role of *Pantoea* in promoting plant growth. The production of plant growth regulators (PGRs), such as indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), is one of the main mechanisms by which *Pantoea* promotes plant growth. IAA stimulates root elongation and improves plant nutrient and water uptake (38). Furthermore, cytokinin's help cells divide and grow, while gibberellins encourage stems to grow longer and seeds to sprout (39). Research has indicated that *Pantoea* can promote the growth of a wide range of crops, including wheat, rice, corn, and tomatoes. To solve this problem, we can stimulate plant growth using *Pantoea* bacteria, which help improve nutrient absorption and enhance disease resistance. *Pantoea* makes and controls plant hormones that affect how plants grow and develop, like auxins, for example, indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), which helps create and lengthen side roots, making it easier for crops to take in water and nutrients, encourages the growth of root hairs, and increases the root area for better nutrient absorption. A study by Liu and his colleagues (2019) demonstrated that *Pantoea* agglutinin fungi isolated from tomato roots promote root growth and nutrient uptake.

### 2.2 *Pantoea* and Biocontrol of Plant Diseases

One of the most important aspects of *Pantoea* in agriculture is its ability to act as a biocontrol agent. The bacteria make different substances that can kill harmful germs, like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Xanthomonas*, and *Fusarium* (40). These compounds help protect plants from a wide range of fungal, bacterial, and viral diseases. Furthermore, *Pantoea* bacteria compete with pathogenic microorganisms for nutrients and space, preventing the growth of harmful pathogens. For instance, (41) used *Pantoea ananatis* to control bacterial blight in rice and onions. The use of *Pantoea* in integrated pest management (IPM) systems can help agriculture stay resilient and adapt over time (42). reduce the need for chemical pesticides, lowering production costs, and reducing environmental pollution. To address this problem, *Pantoea* exhibits antimicrobial

properties that help suppress plant pathogens through multiple mechanisms, such as pathogen suppression and antibiotic production. *Pantoea agglomerans* produces syringomycin-like antibiotics that inhibit bacterial and fungal pathogens. Vannes and his colleagues (2008) demonstrated that *Pantoea agglomerans* suppressed bacterial and fungal pathogens responsible for apple and pear fruit rot.

### 2.3 *Pantoea* and Soil Health

*Pantoea* bacteria contribute to soil health by improving nutrient cycling and increasing nutrient availability. Some *Pantoea* strains are capable of fixing nitrogen in the soil, which is essential for plant growth. By converting atmospheric nitrogen into a form usable by plants, *Pantoea* reduces the need for synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, which are expensive and can have negative environmental impacts (43). In addition, *Pantoea* can enhance phosphorus solubilization, making phosphorus, which is often present in an insoluble form in soil, more available to plants. Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth, particularly for root and flower development (44). *Pantoea* in the root zone helps keep the soil healthy by increasing the variety of microbes and encouraging helpful microbial groups that improve soil fertility (45). Some *Pantoea* strains are capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen and converting it into forms that plants absorb, reducing the need for chemical nitrogen fertilizers. Additionally, researchers have conducted studies to assess *Pantoea*'s capacity to break down the insecticide chlorpyrifos. Agriculture widely uses an organophosphate compound, yet it produces toxic byproducts and negatively affects microorganisms. *Pantoea* is a useful way to break down

organophosphates and enhance soil health, making it suitable for use in large-scale soil treatment methods and in polluted soils, as shown in research (46).

### 3. Experimental or Theoretical Methods

Modern farming today faces a whole mix of challenges, from rising food needs to keeping our environment in check. A promising route comes in the form of helpful microbes like *Pantoea*. Generally speaking, we still don't fully understand how these little organisms enhance soil health and help crops withstand both living pests and harsh weather; this knowledge gap has been a significant challenge in agricultural microbiology. Researchers are taking a different approach by collecting different *Pantoea* strains from various farms and then studying, in greenhouses and in the field, how these strains help plants grow (32). They're also ready to dive into modern molecular tools—think next-generation sequencing—to untangle how *Pantoea* mixes with the plant microbiome and possibly nudges sustainable practices along (43). This work is pretty important because it tries to blend theoretical ideas with real-world farming practices. By teaming up with farmers to see if *Pantoea*-based methods catch on, the study might help cut down on the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides while giving a boost to soil and crop health (47). And in a nod to everyday experience, the research slips in a look at how farmers feel about these microbial helpers—a detail that adds both flavor and practical weight to the findings (32). Ultimately, the plan is to carve out clear paths for fitting *Pantoea* into our current farming systems, thus moving toward more sustainable food production (48).

**Table 1.** *Pantoea* spp. as Biocontrol Agents in Agriculture.

Study	Methodology	Findings
Pantoea dispersa as Biocontrol Agent for Sweet Potato Black Rot	In vitro co-cultivation of <i>P. dispersa</i> strains with <i>C. fimbriata</i> ; in vivo pre-treatment of sweet potato leaves and tuberous roots with <i>P. dispersa</i> followed by inoculation with <i>C. fimbriata</i> .	<i>P. dispersa</i> strains RO-21 and SC exhibited fungicidal activity against <i>C. fimbriata</i> , significantly reducing disease incidence in sweet potato leaves and tuberous roots. Pre-treatment with <i>P. dispersa</i> led to reduction in disease symptoms compared to controls.
Pantoea–Bacillus Composite Microbial Community Against Potato Anthracnose	Isolation and identification of <i>P. agglomerans</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> ; assessment of antimicrobial activity; evaluation of biofilm formation; in vivo efficacy tests on potato tubers inoculated with <i>C. coccodes</i> .	The composite microbial community demonstrated significant inhibitory effects on <i>C. coccodes</i> , with an inhibition rate of 68.58% when <i>P. agglomerans</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> were combined. The treatment also enhanced potato defense mechanisms, evidenced by increased peroxidase and superoxide dismutase activities.
Risk Assessment of <i>Pantoea</i> spp. on Rice, Peanut, and Corn in the USA	Surveys in Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma; isolation of <i>Pantoea</i> spp. from symptomatic plants and seeds; molecular characterization using 16S rRNA primers and multi-locus sequence-based typing.	<i>Pantoea</i> spp. were identified as emerging pathogens in rice, peanut, and corn, with distribution and pathogenicity varying across regions. The study highlights the need for monitoring and management strategies to mitigate potential crop losses.
Integrated Bacterial Disease Management for Organic Onion Production	Evaluation of physical, chemical, and biological seed treatments against <i>P. ananatis</i> ; assessment of microbial control agents and weed management strategies under field conditions.	Certain seed treatments and microbial control agents effectively reduced <i>P. ananatis</i> infection in onions. Integrated management approaches combining microbial treatments with weed control showed promise in enhancing disease resistance and supporting sustainable organic onion production.
Effective biocontrol agent against Botrytis infection for tomato plants and fruit	Inoculation of <i>P. ananatis</i> on tomato plants and fruit	<i>P. ananatis</i> produced antifungal compounds that inhibited the growth of <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> .



#### 4. Conclusions

Pantoea research in modern farming has revealed its potential benefits for our fields. Researchers have dug into how this microbe not only boosts plant growth but also helps plants snag vital nutrients and shrug off environmental stress, making it a solid plant growth-promoting rhizobacterium (PGPR). Their work tackles some of today's big issues, like dropping yields, degrading soils, and overreliance on chemical fertilizers, suggesting that Pantoea could serve as a sustainable substitute (38). Generally speaking, these findings stress the need to blend microbial solutions into everyday agriculture, as studies show that using Pantoea makes soils healthier and crops tougher (34). Farmers, in practice, might gain a lot from switching to Pantoea-based treatments, which could lower the need for synthetic fertilizers and nudge farm ecosystems toward a more natural balance (32). The study even hints at Pantoea's innovative role in easing food security worries, especially for crops that battle both living pests and harsh conditions in our ever-shifting climate (6). Moving forward, researchers are encouraged to take a closer look at multi-strain Pantoea applications, checking how well different strains perform under varied conditions to lift overall productivity (39). It's also suggested that long-term field trials be run to judge the economic sense of these approaches across diverse cropping systems, offering the kind of data needed for real-world use (37). At times, employing molecular techniques to study how Pantoea mingles with other rhizosphere microbes and plant roots might reveal even more about its benefits (40). Such insights can help shape practical guidelines for microbial inoculation while reinforcing the call for policy shifts that support biotechnological advances in farming (36). Overall, these findings could lead to more sustainable farming methods that use helpful microbes like Pantoea, which would strengthen global food systems (5). By bridging gaps left in current literature on microbial interventions, this review lays the groundwork for further ventures in agricultural

microbiology (41). It also seems clear that ongoing research in this field is key to crafting innovative strategies that not only boost crop yields but also protect environmental health as agricultural demands continue to grow (3). Finally, the Pantoea species holds significant value. To degrade pesticides, reduce environmental contamination, to promote sustainable agricultural practices, research indicates that Pantoea improves soil health by decomposing organic matter and contributing to soil fertility.

#### Conflicts of Interest:

*"The authors declare no conflict of interest."*

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