**Tab. S1**. *Aspergillus terreus* seed treatments showed increases in growth and biomass accumulation in rice and maize under saline conditions. Data is presented in the form of mean ± standard error. Same letters on the data denotes non- significant differences within each treatment (**\***) denotes significant and (*ns*) non-significant difference among treatments (with and without *A. terreus*).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Without *A. terreus*** | | |  | |  |  | ***With A. terreus*** | | |  | |
|  |  | **Shoot** | | | **Root** | |  | | **Shoot** | | **Root** | | | |
|  |  | **Length (cm)** | **Dry wt (gm)** | **Length (cm)** | | **Dry wt (gm)** | |  | **Length (cm)** | **Dry wt (gm)** | | **Length (cm)** | | **Dry wt (gm)** | |
| **Maize** | 0mM | 28.93±1.31**a\*** | 0.19±0.01**a*ns*** | 13.77±2.09**a\*** | | 0.14±8.2500e-3**a\*** | | | 31.77±1.26**A\*** | 0.21±0.01**A*ns*** | | 15.43±2.16**A\*** | | 0.187±7.5e-3**A\*** | |
| 50mM | 23.73±0.68**b\*** | 0.13±0.01**b*ns*** | 12.30±2.12**b\*** | | 0.14±7.2500e-3**a\*** | | | 28.10±1.42**A\*** | 0.16±0.01**B*ns*** | | 14.30±2.04**A\*** | | 0.186±8.4e-3**A\*** | |
| 100mM | 13.70±0.61**b\*** | 0.10±6.7e-4**b*ns*** | 09.83±1.30**c** | | 0.02±7.6400e-3**b\*** | | | 17.30±1.54**B\*** | 0.10±2.3e-3**B*ns*** | | 13.30±1.50**B*ns*** | | 0.094±7.5e-3**B\*** | |
| 150mM | 10.09±1.01**c\*** | 0.07±6.7e-3**c** | 09.87±1.06**c*ns*** | | 0.02±8.7600e-3**b\*** | | | 14.47±1.43**C\*** | 0.08±2.8e-3**B*ns*** | | 10.77±0.88**B\*** | | 0.084±5.2e-3**B\*** | |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  | |  | |  | |
| **Rice** | 0mM | 13.96±0.66**a\*** | 0.03±0.002**a\*** | 10.62±0.31**a\*** | | 0.020±1.5e-3**a*ns*** | |  | 16.10±1.08**A\*** | 0.040±2.4e-3**A\*** | | 13.23±0.19**A\*** | | 0.018±1.5e-3**A*ns*** | |
| 50mM | 12.43±0.32**b\*** | 0.03±0.003**a\*** | 10.09±0.32**a\*** | | 0.020±1.5e-3**a*ns*** | |  | 14.13±0.40**A\*** | 0.040±2.4e-3**A\*** | | 11.03±0.32**B\*** | | 0.017±1.5e-3**Ans** | |
| 100mM | 07.07±0.28**c\*** | 0.009±2.2e-4**b\*** | 08.00±0.20**b\*** | | 0.009±1.2e-4**bns** | |  | 09.50±0.36**A\*** | 0.010±2.7e-3**B**\* | | 10.39±0.46**B\*** | | 0.011±8.5e-4**B*ns*** | |
| 150mM | 06.78±0.22**d\*** | 0.007±2.2e-5**c\*** | 07.91±0.22**c\*** | | 0.006±2.3e-4**c\*** | |  | 08.65±0.07**B\*** | 0.009±4.0e-5**C\*** | | 06.11±0.08**C\*** | | 9.2e-3±7.0e-5**C\*** | |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  | |  | |  | |

**Table S2**. Changes in the chlorophyll content of both rice and maize due to *Aspergillus terreus* seed treated under saline conditions. Data is presented in the form of the mean ± standard error. Same letters on the data denotes non- significant differences within each treatment (**\***) denotes significant and (*ns*) non-significant differences among treatments (with and without *A. terreus*).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | **Without *A. terreus*** | |  |  | **With *A. terreus*** | |  |
|  |  | **Chl. a** | **Chl. b** | **T. Chl.** | **Carotenoids** | **Chl. a** | **Chl. b** | **T. Chl.** | **Carotenoids** |
|  |  | **(µg mg−1fresh weight)** | | | | **(µg mg−1fresh weight)** | | | |
| **Maize** | 0mM | 2.16±0.10**a\*** | 1.39±0.02**a\*** | 3.55±0.03**a\*** | 3.77±0.06**a\*** | 2.56±0.01**A\*** | 1.58±0.02**A\*** | 4.14±0.03**A\*** | 5.23±0.02**A\*** |
| 50mM | 1.97±0.02**b\*** | 1.28±0.02**b\*** | 3.25±0.04**b\*** | 3.63±0.03a**\*** | 2.20±0.02**B\*** | 1.39±0.01**B\*** | 3.59±0.03**B\*** | 3.92±0.02**B\*** |
| 100mM | 1.87±0.03**b\*** | 1.11±0.01**c\*** | 2.98±0.04**c\*** | 3.43±0.04**b\*** | 2.16±0.02**B\*** | 1.25±0.02**C\*** | 3.41±0.04**B\*** | 3.70±0.01**C\*** |
| 150mM | 1.54±0.01**c\*** | 0.78±0.03**d\*** | 2.32±0.04**d\*** | 3.08±0.03**c\*** | 1.85±0.02**C\*** | 1.22±0.01**C\*** | 3.07±0.03**C\*** | 3.39±0.02**D\*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rice** | 0mM | 1.76±0.01**a\*** | 1.32±0.02**a\*** | 3.08±0.03**a\*** | 3.56±0.04**a\*** | 2.06±0.02**A\*** | 1.40±0.01**A\*** | 3.45±0.03**A\*** | 4.00±0.01**A\*** |
| 50mM | 1.70±0.02**a\*** | 1.06±0.02**b*ns*** | 2.76±0.04**b\*** | 3.50±0.03**a\*** | 1.92±0.02**B\*** | 1.14±0.02**B*ns*** | 3.05±0.04**B\*** | 3.69±0.02**B\*** |
| 100mM | 1.70±0.01**a\*** | 0.78±0.02**c\*** | 2.48±0.03**c\*** | 3.12±0.02**b\*** | 1.53±0.01**C\*** | 0.98±0.02**C\*** | 2.81±0.03**C\*** | 3.67±0.02**B\*** |
| 150mM | 1.17±0.02**b\*** | 0.55±0.01**d\*** | 1.72±0.03**d\*** | 2.38±0.04**c\*** | 1.53±0.02**D\*** | 0.89±0.02**D\*** | 2.42±0.03**D\*** | 3.32±0.04**C\*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Table. S3.** The relationship between physiological and antioxidant parameters versus with and without *Aspergillus terreus* undersaline conditions.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Maize** (With and without *A. terreus*) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | **Chla+b** | **C x+c** | **PIabs** | **Fv/Fm** | **qP** | **gs** | **Op** | **Proline** | **H2O2** | **Phenols** | **MDA** | **CAT** | **SOD** | **APX** | **GPX** |
| **RWC** |  | .949\*\* | .858\*\* | .840\*\* | .895\*\* | .842\*\* | 0.942\*\* | .794\* | -.749\* | -.935\*\* | -0.609 | -.950\*\* | -.749\* | -.848\*\* | -0.674 | 0.5 |
| **Chl a+b** |  |  | .890\*\* | .917\*\* | .945\*\* | .929\*\* | 0.916\*\* | .791\* | -0.595 | -.975\*\* | -0.465 | -.893\*\* | -0.666 | -0.672 | -0.553 | 0.475 |
| **C x+c** |  |  |  | .911\*\* | .834\* | .915\*\* | 0.886\*\* | 0.692 | -0.537 | -.821\* | -0.393 | -.824\* | -0.649 | -0.585 | -0.553 | 0.393 |
| **PIabs** |  |  |  |  | .897\*\* | .953\*\* | 0.893\*\* | .728\* | -0.335 | -.903\*\* | -0.147 | -.776\* | -0.438 | -0.443 | -0.33 | 0.592 |
| **Fv/Fm** |  |  |  |  |  | .962\*\* | 0.919\*\* | 0.682 | -0.446 | -.969\*\* | -0.363 | -.858\*\* | -0.503 | -0.572 | -0.465 | 0.665 |
| **qP** |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.890\*\* | 0.624 | -0.371 | -.919\*\* | -0.261 | -.820\* | -0.491 | -0.461 | -0.436 | 0.606 |
| **gs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .812\* | -0.574 | -.940\*\* | -0.453 | -.904\*\* | -0.593 | -.709\* | -0.537 | 0.54 |
| **Op** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -0.472 | -.781\* | -0.32 | -0.62 | -0.434 | -0.614 | -0.241 | 0.298 |
| **Proline** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.534 | .948\*\* | .794\* | .957\*\* | .957\*\* | .927\*\* | 0.035 |
| **H2O2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.423 | .895\*\* | 0.58 | 0.647 | 0.502 | -0.555 |
| **Phenols** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.7 | .904\*\* | .878\*\* | .926\*\* | 0.157 |
| **MDA** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .830\* | .842\*\* | .817\* | -0.4 |
| **CAT** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .866\*\* | .954\*\* | 0.091 |
| **SOD** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .841\*\* | -0.195 |
| **APX** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.031 |
| **Rice** (With and without *A. terreus*) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | **Chla+b** | **C x+c** | **PIabs** | **Fv/Fm** | **qP** | **gs** | **Op** | **Proline** | **H2O2** | **Phenols** | **MDA** | **CAT** | **SOD** | **APX** | **GPX** |
| **RWC** |  | .948\*\* | .863\*\* | .931\*\* | .925\*\* | .947\*\* | .864\*\* | .804\* | -0.628 | -.912\*\* | -0.402 | -.990\*\* | -.802\* | -0.661 | -0.61 | -0.447 |
| **Chl a+b** |  |  | .961\*\* | .906\*\* | .948\*\* | .971\*\* | .911\*\* | .806\* | -0.602 | -.985\*\* | -0.345 | -.944\*\* | -.780\* | -0.698 | -0.555 | -0.453 |
| **C x+c** |  |  |  | .811\* | .901\*\* | .934\*\* | .868\*\* | .712\* | -0.415 | -.946\*\* | -0.142 | -.871\*\* | -0.632 | -0.573 | -0.374 | -0.319 |
| **PIabs** |  |  |  |  | .959\*\* | .944\*\* | .935\*\* | .806\* | -0.537 | -.881\*\* | -0.33 | -.959\*\* | -.824\* | -0.571 | -0.634 | -0.408 |
| **Fv/Fm** |  |  |  |  |  | .941\*\* | .931\*\* | .749\* | -0.438 | -.933\*\* | -0.19 | -.938\*\* | -.719\* | -0.511 | -0.495 | -0.268 |
| **qP** |  |  |  |  |  |  | .919\*\* | .795\* | -0.557 | -.932\*\* | -0.323 | -.972\*\* | -.808\* | -0.632 | -0.587 | -0.443 |
| **gs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .905\*\* | -0.505 | -.932\*\* | -0.285 | -.892\*\* | -.797\* | -0.656 | -0.588 | -0.506 |
| **Op** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -.719\* | -.845\*\* | -0.565 | -.804\* | -.874\*\* | -.855\*\* | -.747\* | -.787\* |
| **Proline** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.595 | .949\*\* | 0.581 | .865\*\* | .915\*\* | .880\*\* | .862\*\* |
| **H2O2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.332 | .902\*\* | .756\* | .737\* | 0.527 | 0.493 |
| **Phenols** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.358 | .775\* | .791\* | .889\*\* | .835\*\* |
| **MDA** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .810\* | 0.62 | 0.609 | 0.432 |
| **CAT** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .818\* | .947\*\* | .769\* |
| **SOD** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .746\* | .925\*\* |
| **APX** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | .773\* |

Significant level at (p≤0.01) is denoted by using Pearson’s correlation coefficients. **\*\*** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**\*** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)