

CONTENTS

Preface by Dr. Sueo Machi, the FNCA Coordinator of Japan	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Members of the FNCA Biofertilizer Project Group	v
Contributing Authors	vii
I. Introduction	1
II. General Methods to Evaluate Microbial Activity	3
1. Isotopic Methods	3
1.1. N₂-fixing Activity	3
1.1.1. Introduction.....	3
1.1.2. Total N accumulation.....	5
1.1.3. N difference method.....	6
1.1.4. ¹⁵ N dilution method.....	9
1.1.5. ¹⁵ N natural abundance method.....	14
1.1.6. ¹⁵ N ₂ fixation activity.....	14
1.1.7. Appendix: Direct Analysis of ¹⁵ N Abundance of Kjeldahl Digested Solution by Emission Spectrometry.....	18
1.2. P-solubilizing Activity	29
2. Conventional Methods	32
2.1. N-fixing Activity	32
2.1.1. Acetylene reduction assay.....	32
2.1.2. H ₂ production assay.....	33
2.1.3. Relative ureide method.....	33
2.2. P-solubilizing Activity	39
III. Carriers for Biofertilizers	41
1. Carrier Materials	41
1.1. Introduction.....	41
1.2. Carrier material.....	41
1.3. Sterilization.....	42
1.4. Appendix: Enhanced Growth and Nodule occupancy of Red Kidney Bean and Soybean Inoculated with Soil Aggregate-Based Inoculant.....	42
2. Carrier Sterilization using γ-irradiation	44
2.1. Introduction.....	44
2.2. The properties of ionizing radiation.....	44
2.3. The effects of radiation on microorganisms.....	45
2.4. The necessity of radiation sterilization.....	46

2.5. The practical example for carrier sterilization.....	46
2.6. Appendix: γ -ray irradiation facilities and electron-beam irradiation facilities potentially available for carrier sterilization in Asia.....	49
IV. Inoculant for Biofertilizers.....	54
1. <i>Rhizobium</i> Inoculant.....	54
1.1. Introduction.....	54
1.2. Isolation of <i>Rhizobium</i> Strains.....	54
1.2.1. Collection and preservation of root nodules in field trips.....	54
1.2.2. Isolation of bradyrhizobia from dried root nodules.....	55
1.2.3. Isolation of rhizobia from fresh nodules.....	56
1.3. Rhizobial Inoculant Production.....	57
1.3.1. Production of broth culture.....	57
1.3.2. Production of sterile carrier-based inoculant.....	59
1.3.3. Production of non-sterile carrier-based inoculant.....	59
1.3.4. Production of liquid inoculant.....	59
1.4. Introduction to the <i>Rhizobium</i> Supplier and Field Experiments in Japan.....	61
1.4.1. Production and Sales of <i>Rhizobium</i> Biofertilizers.....	61
1.4.2. Facility of biofertilizer production in TFAC.....	62
1.4.3. Outline of <i>Rhizobium</i> inoculant production in Tokachi Federation of Agricultural Cooperation.....	62
1.5. Inoculant Application.....	63
1.6. Field Experiments Related to New Inoculation and Fertilization Methods for Soybean in Japan.....	64
2. Non-Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixers.....	69
2.1. Introduction.....	69
2.1.1. <i>Azospirillum</i>	69
2.1.2. Other Associative Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria.....	70
2.2. Isolation of Microbial Strains.....	72
2.2.1. Isolation of endophytic bacteria from grass/rice roots.....	72
2.2.2. Isolation of Associative Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria from rice roots.....	79
2.2.3. Evaluation of N ₂ Fixation of Associative Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria.....	81
2.3. Inoculant Production.....	82
2.3.1. Associative Nitrogen Fixer.....	82
2.3.2. Mass Inocula Production.....	83
2.4. Application of biofertilizer from Associative Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria.....	84
2.4.1. Benefits of Biofertilizer.....	84
2.4.2. Application of Biofertilizer.....	85
2.4.3. Procedures for Growing Corn using Biofertilizer Inoculated Seeds in Indonesia.....	86
2.5. Tips on Buying and Storage of Biofertilizers.....	89
2.6. Cautions and Limitations of Biofertilizer.....	89

3. Mycorrhiza	90
3.1. Introduction	90
3.2. Benefits of Mycorrhizal Biofertilizer	90
3.3. Isolation of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi	92
3.3.1. Taxonomy of AM fungi.....	92
3.3.2. Observation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in roots.....	93
3.3.3. Isolation of spores from soils and their observation for identification.....	93
3.3.4. Morphological observation of spores for identification.....	94
3.3.5. Culturing AM fungi.....	96
3.3.6. DNA extraction from spores.....	98
3.4. Inoculant Production	99
3.4.1 Preparation of trap culture inoculum of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal spores.....	99
3.4.2 Inoculation of AMF.....	100
3.4.3 Problems and potential for AMF inoculum production and utilization.....	100
3.5. Inoculant Application	101
3.6. Preservation and Precautions	101
4. Phosphate Solubilizers	103
4.1. Isolation of Microbial Strains	103
4.1.1. Mechanisms of phosphate solubilization.....	103
4.1.2. Isolation of mineral phosphate solubilizer.....	104
4.2. Inoculant Production	105
4.2.1. Cultivation.....	105
4.2.2. Collection.....	105
4.2.3. Formulation of inoculants using carrier materials.....	106
4.3. Inoculant Application	106
4.3.1. Inoculation method of phosphate solubilizer.....	106
4.3.2. Improvement of phosphate solubilizers.....	107
4.3.3. Case study of improvement of soil condition for phosphate solubilizers on the fifty-years long-term experiment in rice paddy soils in Korea.....	107
V. Quality Control of Biofertilizers	112
1. General Concept of Quality Control	112
1.1. Definition of Biofertilizer.....	112
1.2. Microbial Functions Newly Recommended as Biofertilizer.....	112
1.3. Properties of Microbial Products.....	113
1.4. Quality Management.....	115
2. Procedures for Quality Control of Biofertilizer	116
2.1. <i>Rhizobium</i>	116
2.1.1. Mother culture test.....	116
2.1.2. Broth test.....	117
2.1.3. Peat test.....	118

2.2. Non-symbiotic N₂-fixer	119
2.3. Mycorrhiza	121
2.3.1 Laboratory quality control.....	121
2.3.2 Preparation room quality control.....	121
2.3.3 Growth room quality control.....	121
2.3.4 Storage room quality control.....	121
2.4. Phosphate Solubilizers	122
2.4.1. Inoculation on the Media.....	122
2.4.2. Count of Colony Forming Units.....	123
2.4.3. Analysis of Organic Acid.....	123
2.4.4. Test of Quality Certificated.....	123
2.4.5. Prospects.....	124