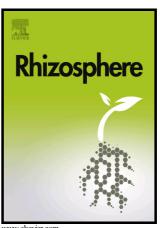
## Author's Accepted Manuscript

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#### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

Field application of two plant growth promoting rhizobacteria with potent antifungal properties

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Two bacterial strains VBLR10 and VBLR39 were identified for their anti-fungal properties from the rhizosphere of healthy *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) plants in a wilt infested field of Binuria, West Bengal and showed maximum sequence similarities with *Bacillus subtilis* and *Cellulosimicrobium cellulans* respectively in 16s rRNA gene sequence homology. The strains showed excellent plant growth promoting activities in small field trials and antifungal activity in the laboratory against *Alternaria alternata*, *Helminthosporium oryzae*, *Penicilium digitatum* and *Fusarium oxysporum* producing prominent zones of inhibition on agar. Cell free supernatants of both VBLR10 and VBLR39 could reduce radial mycelial growth of *Fusarium oxysporum* when they were used to poison the growth medium. VBLR39 was also found to produce siderophore in a qualitative assay. Both strains survived for more than one year in alluvial soil sample at 28°C and at 37°C. The efficiency and applicability of the strains

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