Title: Fungal endophytes and a virus confer drought tolerance to *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants through modulating osmolytes, antioxidant enzymes and expression of host drought responsive genes

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Fungal endophytes and a virus confer drought tolerance to *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants through modulating osmolytes, antioxidant enzymes and expression of host drought responsive genes

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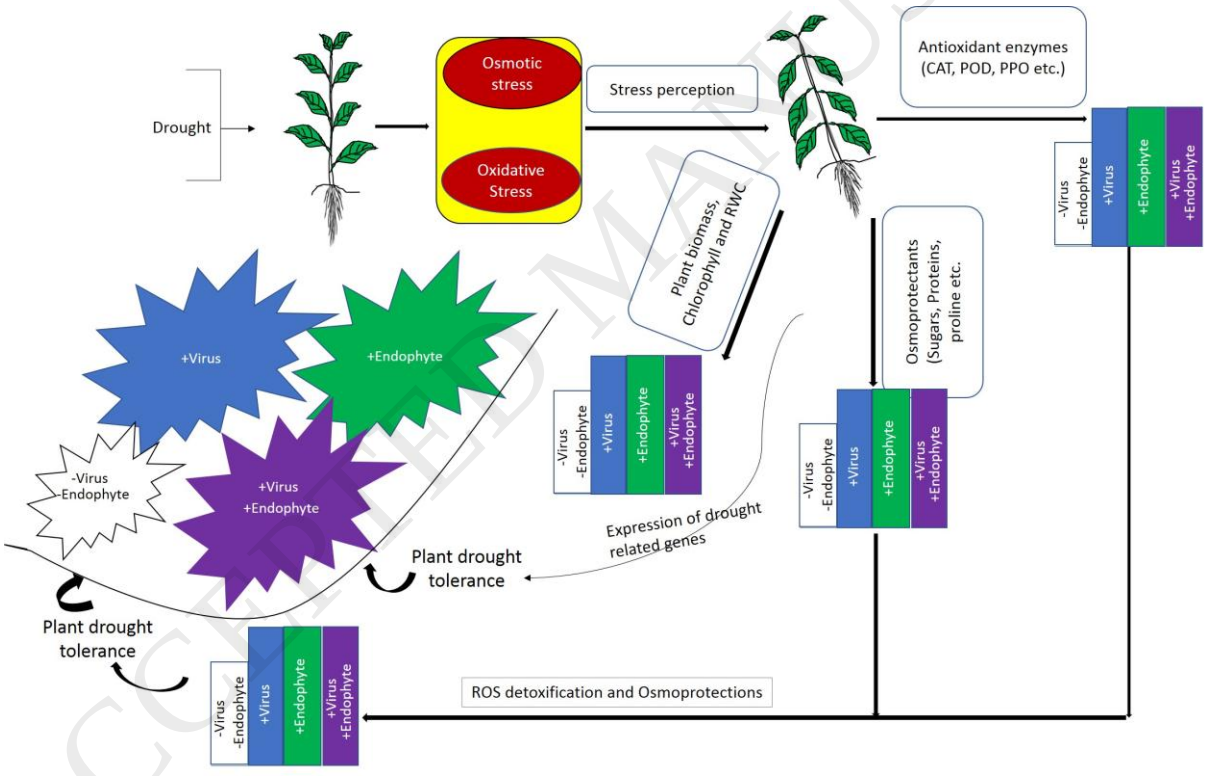
Graphical abstract



Highlights

- Water stress tolerance of endophyte-colonized plants was correlated with increases in plant biomass, RWC, osmolytes, and antioxidant enzymes.
- There was significant upregulation of drought-related genes in endophyte colonized plants.