



## Scoping the potential use of microbial inoculants in cotton production systems

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There is a growing body of research showing that beneficial microbes can enhance soil productivity and yield in cropping systems. To appreciate the potential uses of beneficial microbes for increasing yield, it is necessary to understand how the microbes promote the growth of plants in terms of biofertilization and disease control, what are the mechanisms employed, what are the challenges for the isolation and use of plant growth promoting microbes, as well as what might hinder their successful application. This presentation critically reviews information on microbial inoculants, giving ample of examples of identified plant growth promoting microbes (including commercial products) and how they may benefit the plant, with particular focus on cotton and cotton related systems.