Response to Reviewer 1 Comments

Lines 105-109: the origin and repository of the Azospirillum strain 245 is incorrectly reported "…belonging to the CREA Research Centre…". See Dos Santos Ferreira et al., Int. J. Syst. Evol. Microbiol. DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.004517. The above isolate has a well known international history and the origin should be correctly reported.

All isolates……. are deposited in the collection of Biological Resource Centre Johanna Döbereiner (WDC364), Embrapa Agrobiologia, Seropedica, Rio de Janeiro-Brazil (www.embrapa.br/agrobiologia/crb-jd). Sp245T is also deposited in the Bacterial Culture Collection at the Microbiology and Agricultural Zoology (WDCM31), Institute INTA-IMYZA, Castelar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in the Collection of Rhizosphere Microorganisms of the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Plants and Microorganisms (WDCM1021), Russian Academy of Sciences (IBPPM RAS), Prospekt Entuziastov, Saratov, Russia (http://collection.ibppm.ru/).

Response (Lines 106-109): Yes, of course, You're right. We meant that the bacteria used in this experiment were isolated from soil of field of CREA Reserach Centre and now they are stored in their collection. This part has been modified to clarify this misunderstanding.

Line 127 : aerobically incubated ?

Response: (line 131). Yes. 'Aerobically' was added

Line 128 : rhizosphere soil

Response (Line 133): done

Line 164: Gene ontology (GO); delete "gene ontology in the following line

Response (Line 166) done

Line 198: colonization by culturable aerobic rhizobacteria

Response (Line 198): done

Line 199 and 200: rhizosphere soil

Response (Lines 199-200): done

Line 386: Bacillus licheniformis

Response (Line 386): done