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**GROWTH STIMULATION OF GREENHOUSE TOMATO PLANTS BY  
*PSEUDOMONAS PUTIDA* AND *TRICHODERMA ATROVIRIDE***

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A study was undertaken to evaluate the effect of *Pseudomonas putida* and *Trichoderma atroviride* on the growth of healthy tomato plants. Results showed that inoculation of these microorganisms in the rhizosphere increased significantly the vegetative as well as the reproductive growth. Subsequently, the production and the catabolism of indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) by these microorganisms were evaluated *in vitro* to further assess the possible role of this plant growth regulator in the effect observed *in planta*. Results showed that both microorganisms were able to produce IAA in the presence of different precursors and were also able to degrade and to use IAA for their own development. Such degradation of exogenous IAA by *P. putida* and *T. atroviride* was also observed in the rhizosphere of tomato seedlings. This study suggests that the effect on plant growth of *P. putida* and *T. atroviride* could be related, at least in part, to a regulation of the concentration of IAA in the rhizosphere of tomato plants.