Bahia - Brazil, 16 July 2025

Prof. Dr. Dilantha Fernando

Editor-in-Chief

Plants - MDPI

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to submit the manuscript entitled “*Azospirillum brasilense* as a bioinoculant to alleviate salinity effects on quinoa seed germination”, authored by Jose David Apaza-Calcina et al. for consideration for publication in Plants - MDPI.

This study investigates the potential of two halotolerant strains of *Azospirillum brasilense* (BR-11001 and BR-11002) to enhance germination, early development, and salt tolerance in Chenopodium quinoa under saline stress. We assessed germination dynamics, seedling development, and stress response under increasing NaCl concentrations. Our findings demonstrate that inoculation with *A. brasilense* significantly mitigates the inhibitory effects of salinity, improving both germination rate and seedling vigor - an insight that contributes to sustainable crop production strategies under abiotic stress.

We believe the manuscript is well-suited to Plants, as it aligns with the journal’s focus on plant physiology, microbiome interactions, and environmental adaptation. This work is original, has not been published, and is not under consideration elsewhere. All authors have approved the final manuscript and consent to its submission.

Sincerely,

Jose David Apaza-Calcina

Corresponding author