THE AM (*ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL*) FUNGI, A NEW BIOLOGICAL TOOL

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Abstract: The AM Fungi has emerged as a new biological tool. An arbuscular mycorrhiza (plural mycorrhizae or mycorrhizas) is a type of mycorrhiza in which the fungus penetrates the cortical cells of the roots of a vascular plant. Arbuscular mycorrhizae (AMs) are characterized by the formation of unique structures such as arbuscules and vesicles by fungi of the phylum Glomero-mycota (AM fungi). AM fungi (AMF) help plants to absorb nutrients such as phosphorus and micronutrients from the soil. It is believed that the development of the arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis played a crucial role in the initial colonisation of land by plants and in the evolution of the vascular plants (Brundrett, 2002).

Keywords: AM Fungi, VAM Fungi, Arbuscules, Phosphorus uptake, Derived benefits.

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