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Seminar Title	: IMPA2 provides nonhost resistance against rice sheath blight caused by <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>
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Venue	: LS Seminar Hall
Date and Time	: 06 May 2024 (16:30)
Abstract	: Rice sheath blight caused by <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> AG-1 IA ( <i>R. solani</i> ) is one of the most devastating necrotrophic diseases with a wide host range. It poses a major threat to global rice production. There has been no fully resistant rice cultivar nor any effective control measures of it. Here, we have isolated an EMS-generated <i>Arabidopsis</i> mutant (Col-0 background) that is susceptible to <i>R. solani</i> and named <i>rss1</i> ( <i>R. solani</i> susceptible). Bulked segregant analysis led us to identify a single recessive gene mapped to the lower arm of Chromosome 4 between JAERI18 and Ch4_9.18 (844.6 Kb). NGS data of the bulked susceptible population aligned to the reference genome (TAIR10) delineated nonsynonymous mutation P65S in the mapped region. Further, T-DNA insertion lines screening showed correlated disease phenotype in SALK_099707 ( <i>At4g16143</i> ) with <i>rss1</i> . We found that <i>rss1</i> negatively regulates photosynthetic pigment biosynthesis whereas defense responses viz HR, ROS, callose deposition, and cell death enhanced upon <i>R. solani</i> infection. In addition, a gradual decrease in <i>PR1</i> gene expression by 3 dpi upon infection revealed that <i>RSS1</i> positively regulates early SA-mediated resistance. Meanwhile, increased expression of <i>PDF1.2</i> by 3 dpi supports switching from SA-mediated defense to JA-mediated defense, leading to the necrotrophic mode of infection at a later phase. Enhanced expression of <i>ATG8a</i> in <i>rss1</i> supported autophagic cell death. Altogether, our results demonstrate that IMPA2 provides NHR against <i>R. solani</i> in Col-0 that evokes SA-mediated early immunity with boulevard for potential biotechnological application. Keywords: Ethyl methane sulphonate, IMPA2; Infection cushion; Nonhost resistance; Necrotroph; <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> ; Sheath blight