

Figure S1. Effect of *Azospirillum brasilense* 1224^T harboring the plasmid pHRGFP_{GUS} on the growth of onion seedlings at 28 days post-inoculation. Plant weights (fresh and dry) and root number are shown in boxplots calculated from 36 replicates. Boxes indicate the median, and first and third quartile; whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum. Mean values were compared using the Mann-Whitney *U* test (*****p* < 0.001). Boxes: □, not inoculated; ■, inoculated.

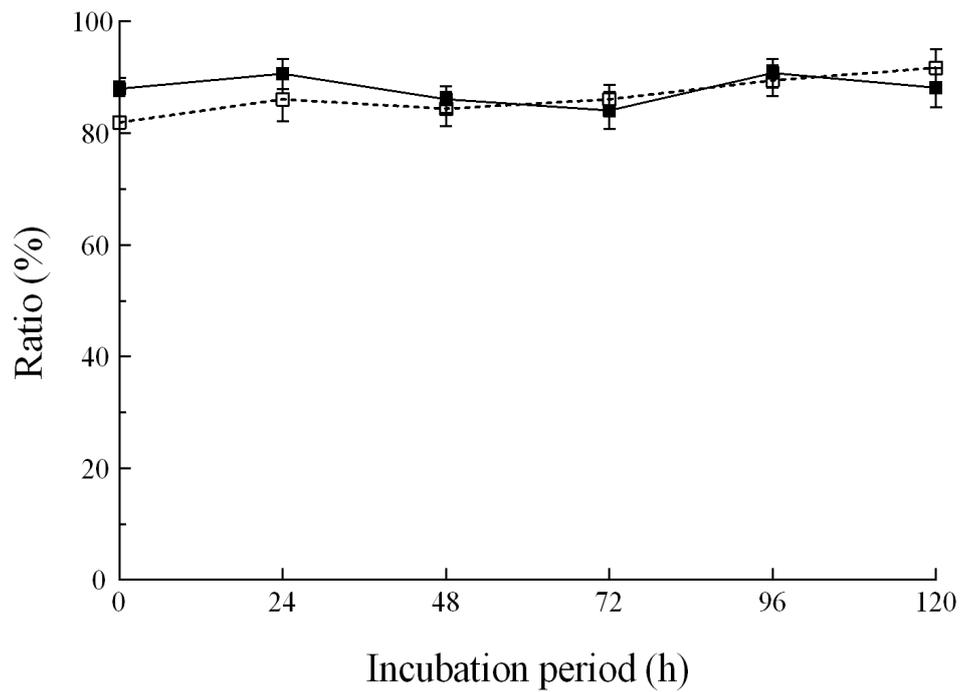


Figure S2. Maintenance of plasmids pHRGFPGUS and pBBR1MCS-2::mCherry in *Azospirillum brasilense* 1224^T in the absence of antibiotics. The cells were grown without antibiotics five consecutive times (120 h, which corresponds to approximately 35 generations) and the ratio (%) of plasmid maintained in the cells was monitored as described in Materials and Methods. Symbols: ■ and □, maintenance ratio of pHRGFPGUS and pBBR1MCS-2::mCherry in *A. brasilense* 1224^T, respectively.