

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Topologically Zn<sup>2+</sup> hybridized ZnS nanospheres (Zn<sup>2+</sup>/ nZnS) efficiently restrained the infection of *Fusarium verticillioides* in rice seeds by hyphal disorganization and nutritional modulation

Varinder Khepar<sup>a</sup>, Anjali Sidhu<sup>b</sup> and Anju Bala Sharma <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

<sup>b</sup>Department of Soil Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

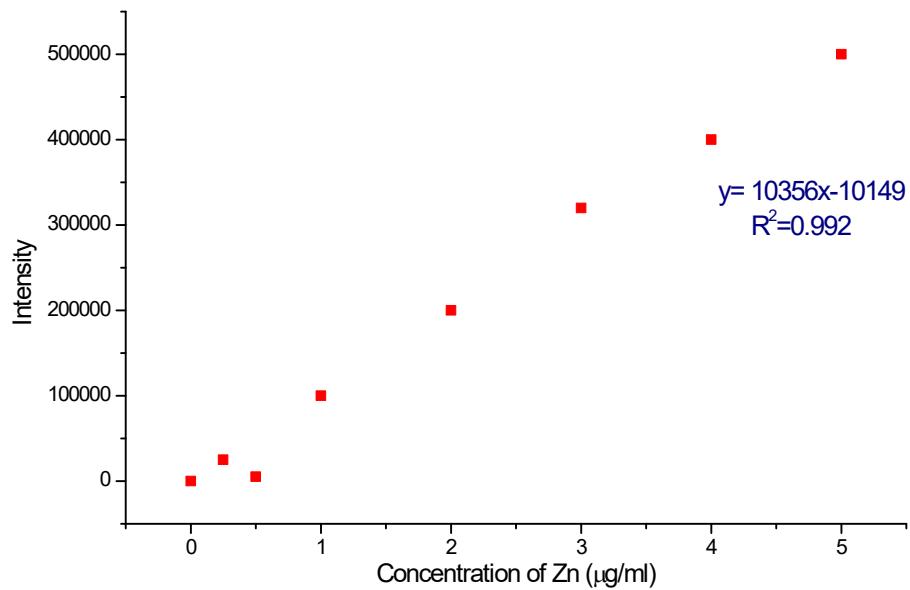
<sup>c</sup>Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Corresponding author: Email: [anjalisidhu@pau.edu](mailto:anjalisidhu@pau.edu)

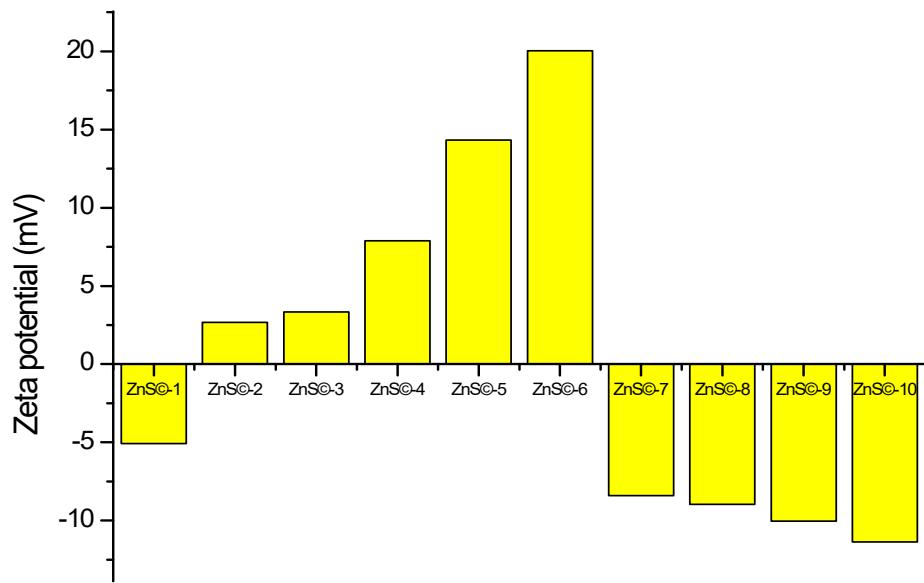
**Supporting table S1. Accuracy and precision of the ICP-OES method**

| Zn added<br>( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) | Zn found ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )<br>(mean $\pm$ s.d) | Relative Recovery (%) | Relative Standard Deviation (%) |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0.50                             | 0.48 $\pm$ 0.01                                   | 96.00                 | 2.08                            |
| 1.00                             | 0.97 $\pm$ 0.04                                   | 97.00                 | 4.12                            |
| 2.00                             | 1.94 $\pm$ 0.11                                   | 97.00                 | 5.67                            |
| 5.00                             | 4.83 $\pm$ 0.27                                   | 96.60                 | 5.59                            |
| 10.00                            | 9.41 $\pm$ 0.66                                   | 94.10                 | 7.01                            |

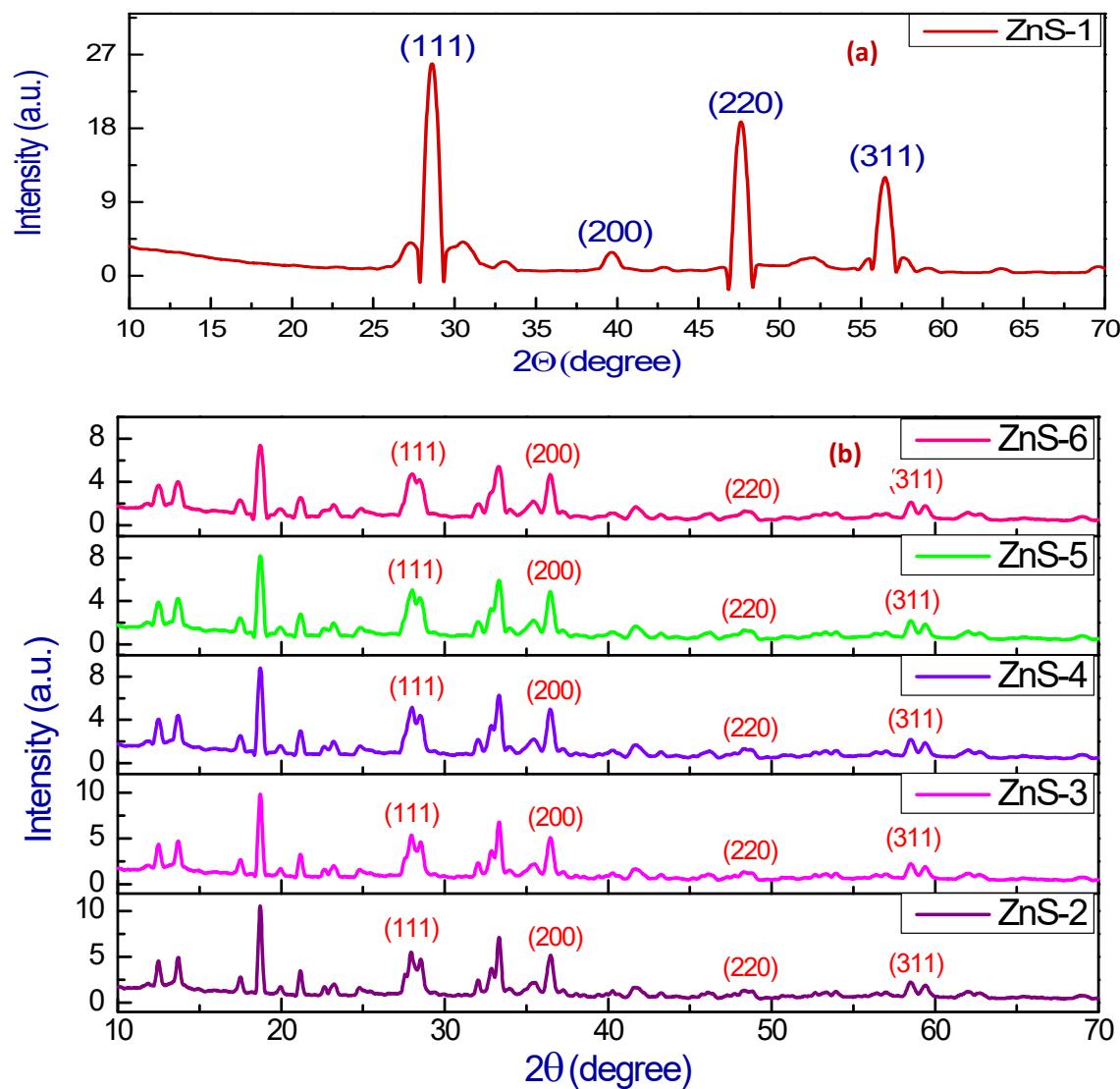
**Supporting figures:**

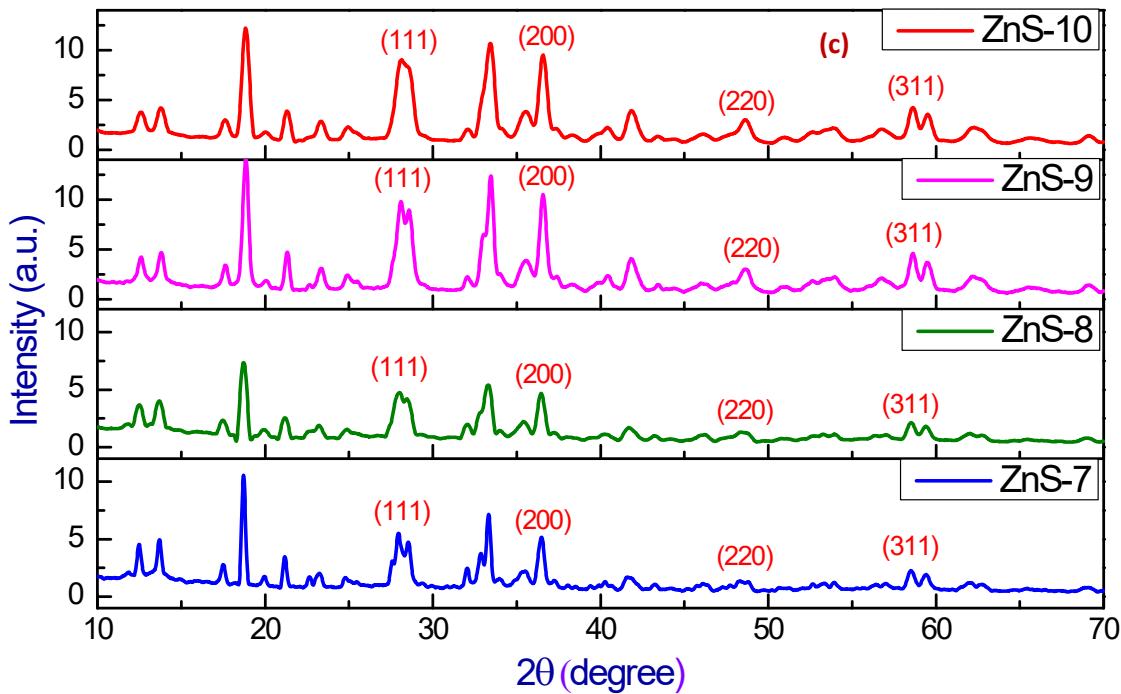


**Figure S1.** Linearity relationship between concentration of Zn and intensity of light emitted at wavelengths of 213.857 nm by using ICP-OES method

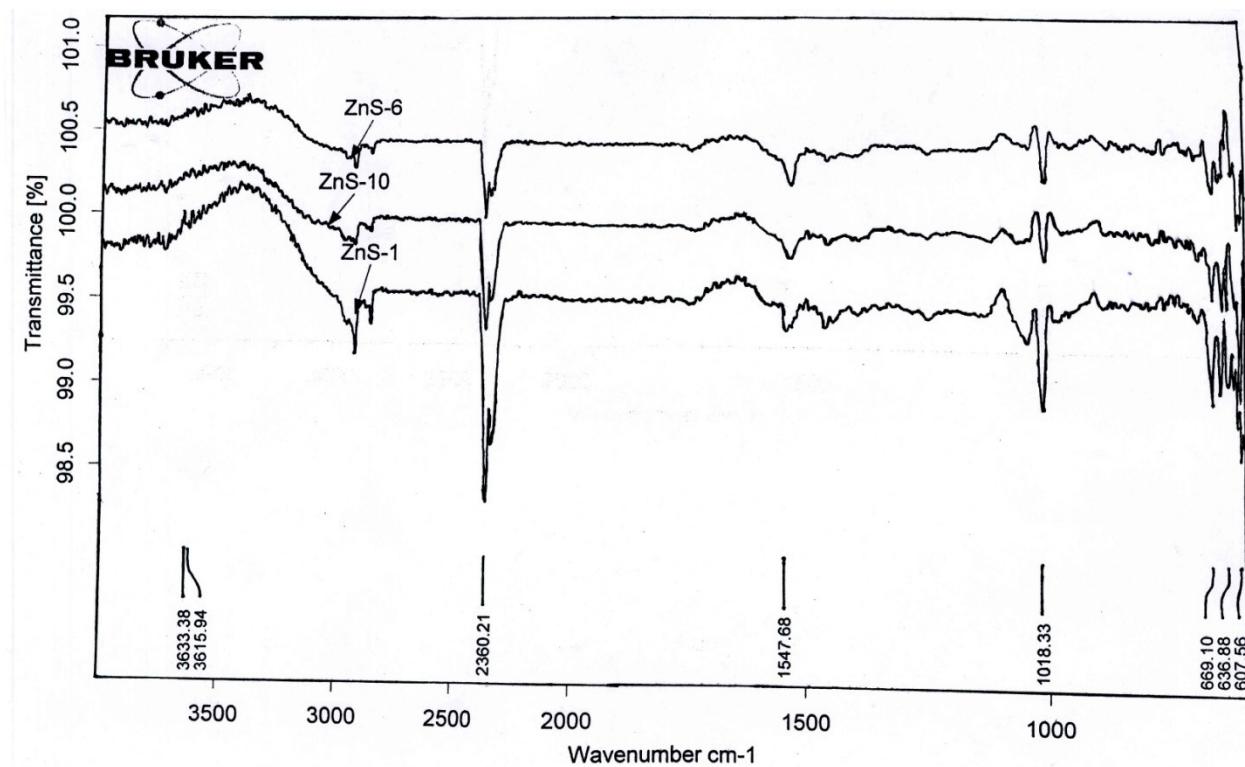


**Figure S2.** Comparative average zeta potential value of uncoated (ZnS©-1),  $\text{Zn}^{2+}/\text{nZnS}$  (ZnS©-2 to ZnS©-6) and  $\text{S}^{2-}/\text{nZnS}$  (ZnS©-7 to ZnS©-10)

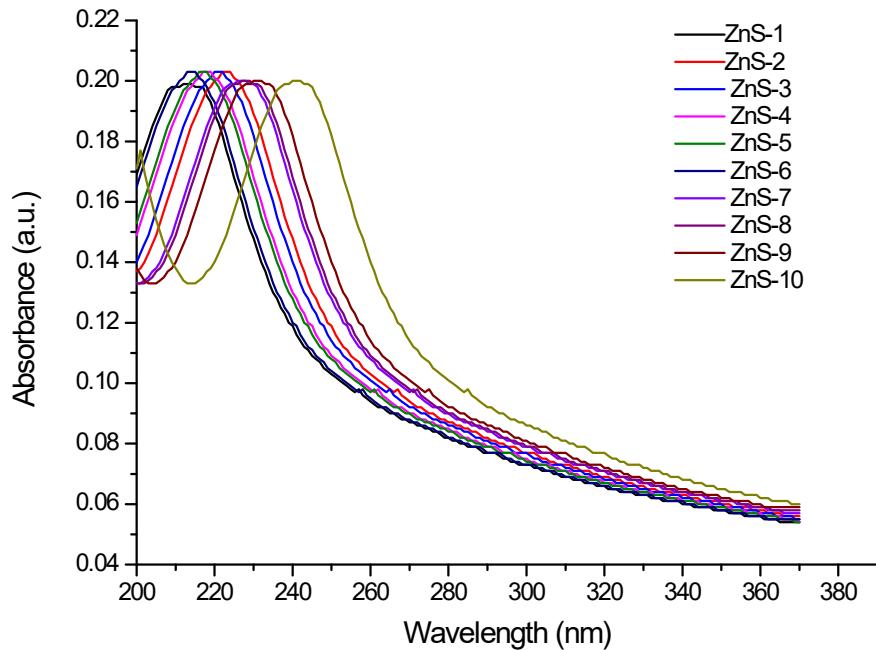




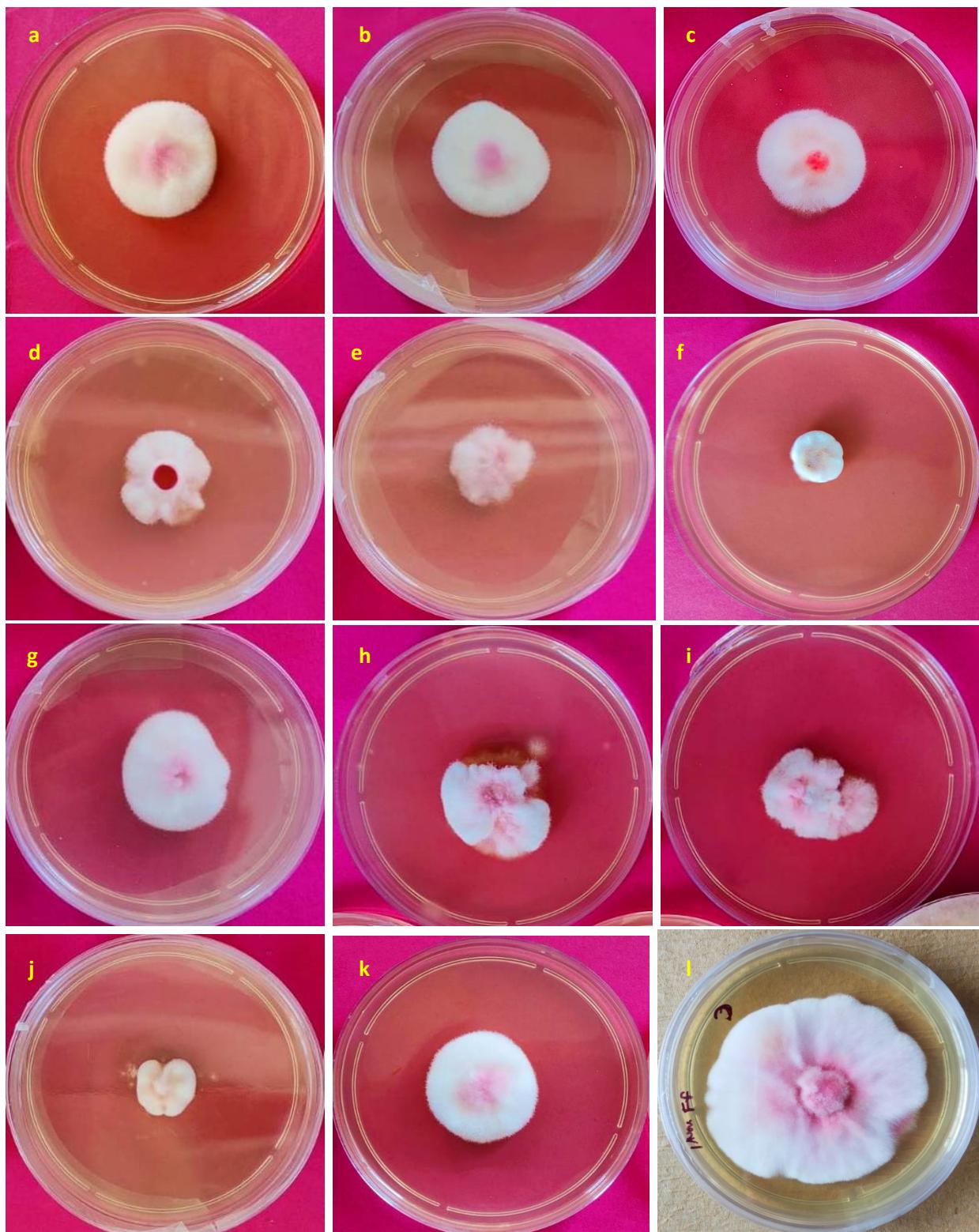
**Figure S3.** X-ray diffraction pattern of (a) uncoated ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}1$ ), (b)  $\text{Zn}^{2+}/\text{nZnS}$  ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}2$  to  $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}6$ ) and (c)  $\text{S}^{2-}/\text{nZnS}$  ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}7$  to  $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}10$ )



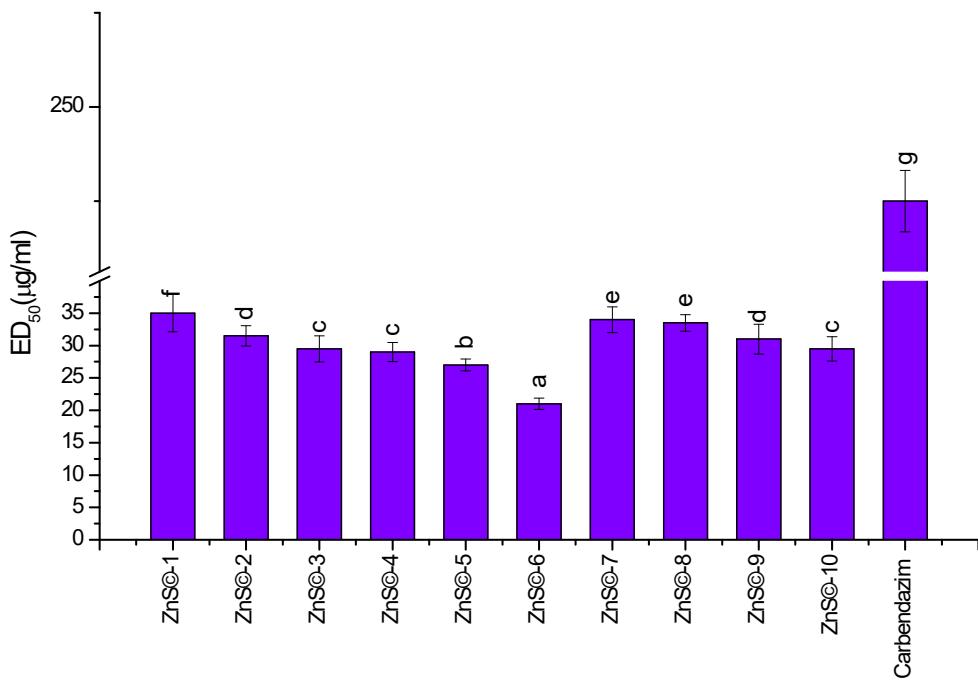
**Figure S4.** FT-IR spectrum of (a) uncoated ZnS NPs ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}1$ ) (b)  $\text{Zn}^{2+}/\text{nZnS}$  ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}6$ ) (c)  $\text{S}^{2-}/\text{nZnS}$  ( $\text{ZnS}\circledcirc\text{-}10$ )



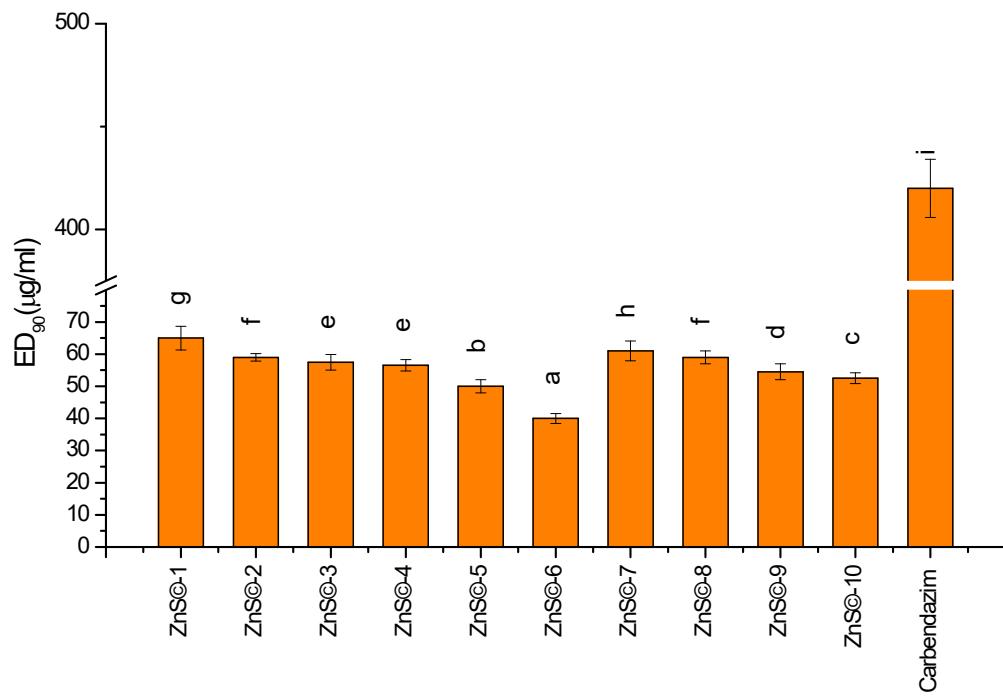
**Figure S5. UV-visible spectrum of differentially surface charged ZnS NPs (ZnS©-1 to ZnS©-10)**



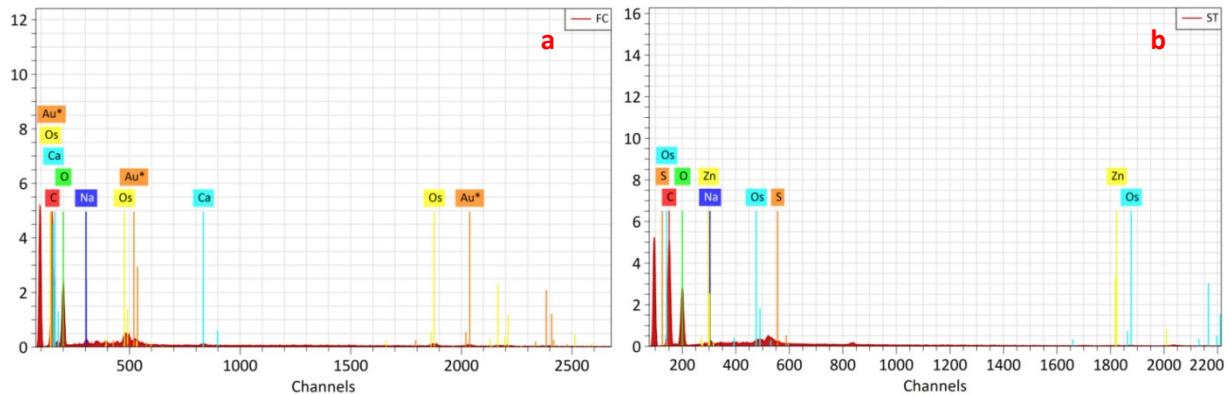
**Figure S6. Antifungal evaluation of (a) ZnS©-1 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (b) ZnS©-2 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (c) ZnS©-3 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (d) ZnS©-4 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (e) ZnS©-5 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (f) ZnS©-6 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (g) ZnS©-7 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (h) ZnS©-8 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (i) ZnS©-9 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (j) ZnS©-10 at 40 $\mu$ g/ml, (k) carbendazim at 250  $\mu$ g/ml and (l) untreated (control) against mycelium growth of *F. verticillioides*.**



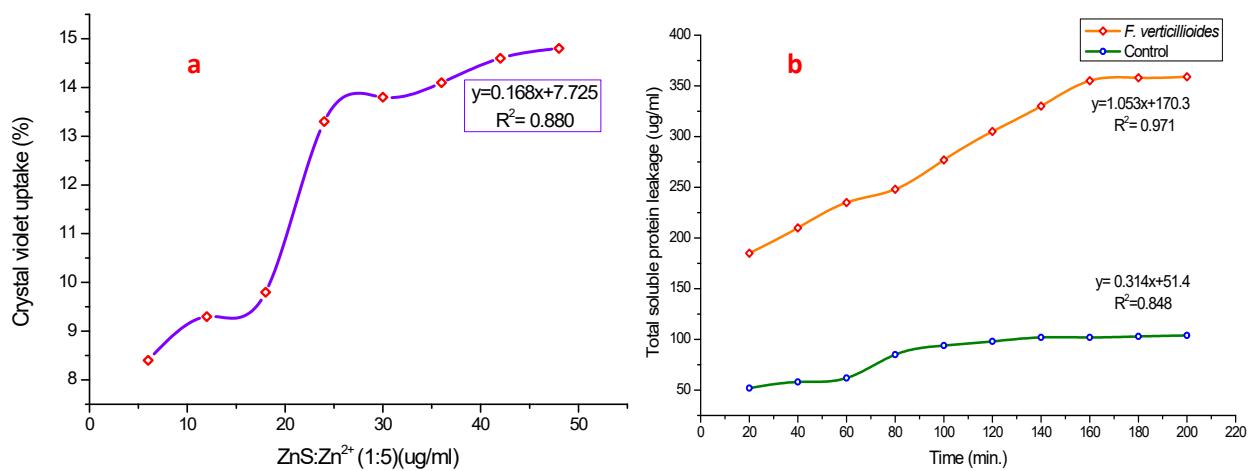
**Figure S7.** ED<sub>50</sub> (µg/ml) values of surface charged ZnS NPs and carbendazim (standard) against *F. verticillioides*



**Figure S8.** ED<sub>90</sub> (µg/ml) values of surface charged ZnS NPs and carbendazim (standard) against *F. verticillioides*



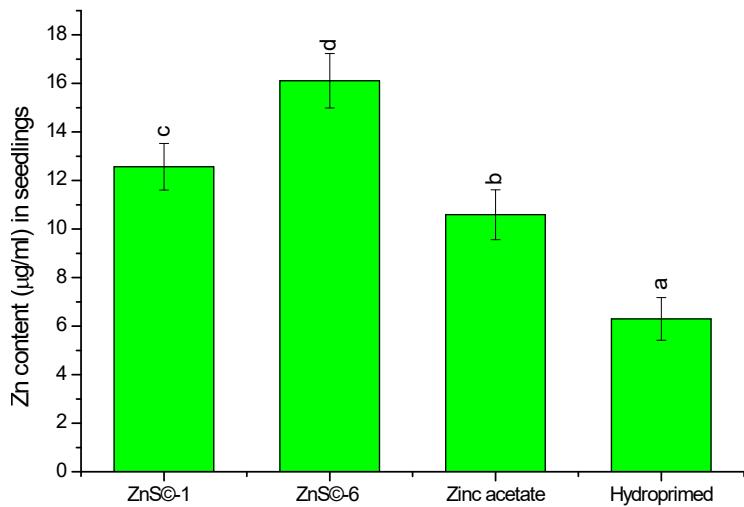
**Figure S9.** EDS spectrum represents the qualitative elemental analysis of the ZnS©-6 NPs on hyphal surface. (a) Control (untreated) and (b) ZnS©-6 treated *F. verticillioides*



**Figure S10.** (a) Crystal violet uptake of ZnS©-6 treated ruptured *F. verticillioides* hyphae, (b) Intracellular soluble protein leakage from ZnS©-6 treated damaged *F. verticillioides* hyphae



**Figure S11. Relative seed health and quality parametes of rice seeds nanoprimed with (a) ZnS<sub>0</sub>-1 at 48 $\mu$ g/ml (b) ZnS<sub>0</sub>-6 at 48 $\mu$ g/ml, (c) zinc acetate at 48 $\mu$ g/ml, (d) hydroprimed(Control) and (e) carbendazim at 2000 $\mu$ g/ml**



**Figure S12. Analysis of nutritional Zn (μg/ml) content in rice seedlings by ICP-OES**