

## Supplementary Materials

**Supplementary Table S1.** Analysis of variance related to antioxidant enzyme activity and protein content traits in response to drought stress and elicitors treatments at 10 and 20 days after exposure to stress (10 and 20 DAS) times.

| SOV                              | 10 DAS |            |          |                      |                      |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                                  | DF     | Peroxidase | Catalase | Superoxide dismutase | Protein              |
| Drought stress (A)               | 1      | 76**       | 0.27**   | 2.2**                | 0.002*               |
| Salicylic acid and melatonin (B) | 2      | 52**       | 1.3**    | 0.04*                | 0.0009 <sup>ns</sup> |
| A × B                            | 2      | 44**       | 1.02**   | 0.06**               | 0.001*               |
| Error                            | 12     | 1.7        | 0.02     | 0.01                 | 0.000001             |
| SOV                              | 20 DAS |            |          |                      |                      |
|                                  | DF     | Peroxidase | Catalase | Superoxide dismutase | Protein              |
| Drought stress (A)               | 1      | 330**      | 5.3**    | 2.2**                | 0.002*               |
| Salicylic acid and melatonin (B) | 2      | 1177**     | 0.8**    | 0.04*                | 0.0009 <sup>ns</sup> |
| A × B                            | 2      | 347**      | 1.4**    | 0.06**               | 0.001*               |
| Error                            | 12     | 16.3       | 0.04     | 0.01                 | 0.000001             |

\*, \*\*; Significant at p = 0.05 and 0.01, respectively

**Supplementary Table S2.** Analysis of variance of fresh weight (FW), dry weight (DW), number of roots (NOR), number of leaves (NOL), length of roots (LOR) and number of internodes (NOIN) in response to drought stress and elicitors treatments at 10 and 20 days after exposure of stress (10 and 20 DAS) times.

| SOV                              | 10 DAS |                   |       |        |        |                   |                     |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|
|                                  | DF     | FW                | DW    | NOR    | NOL    | LOR               | NOIN                |
| Drought stress (A)               | 1      | 215**             | 9**   | 1422** | 14**   | 544**             | 0.2 <sup>ns</sup>   |
| Salicylic acid and melatonin (B) | 2      | 4.5**             | 0.5** | 94**   | 5.7**  | 0.5 <sup>ns</sup> | 0.001 <sup>ns</sup> |
| A × B                            | 2      | 112**             | 10**  | 70**   | 0.72** | 5.6**             | 0.9 <sup>ns</sup>   |
| Error                            | 12     | 0.35              | 0.04  | 2.61   | 0.33   | 1.5               | 0.34                |
| SOV                              | 20 DAS |                   |       |        |        |                   |                     |
|                                  | DF     | FW                | DW    | NOR    | NOL    | LOR               | NOIN                |
| Drought stress (A)               | 1      | 2.2 <sup>ns</sup> | 1.5** | 4868** | 40.5** | 241**             | 0.22 <sup>ns</sup>  |
| Salicylic acid and melatonin (B) | 2      | 57**              | 24**  | 681**  | 0.06** | 2*                | 0.67 <sup>ns</sup>  |
| A × B                            | 2      | 181**             | 7.9** | 1206** | 0.17*  | 24**              | 0.22 <sup>ns</sup>  |
| Error                            | 12     | 1.77              | 0.14  | 2.7    | 0.31   | 0.49              | 0.30                |

\*, \*\*; Significant at p = 0.05 and 0.01, respectively