

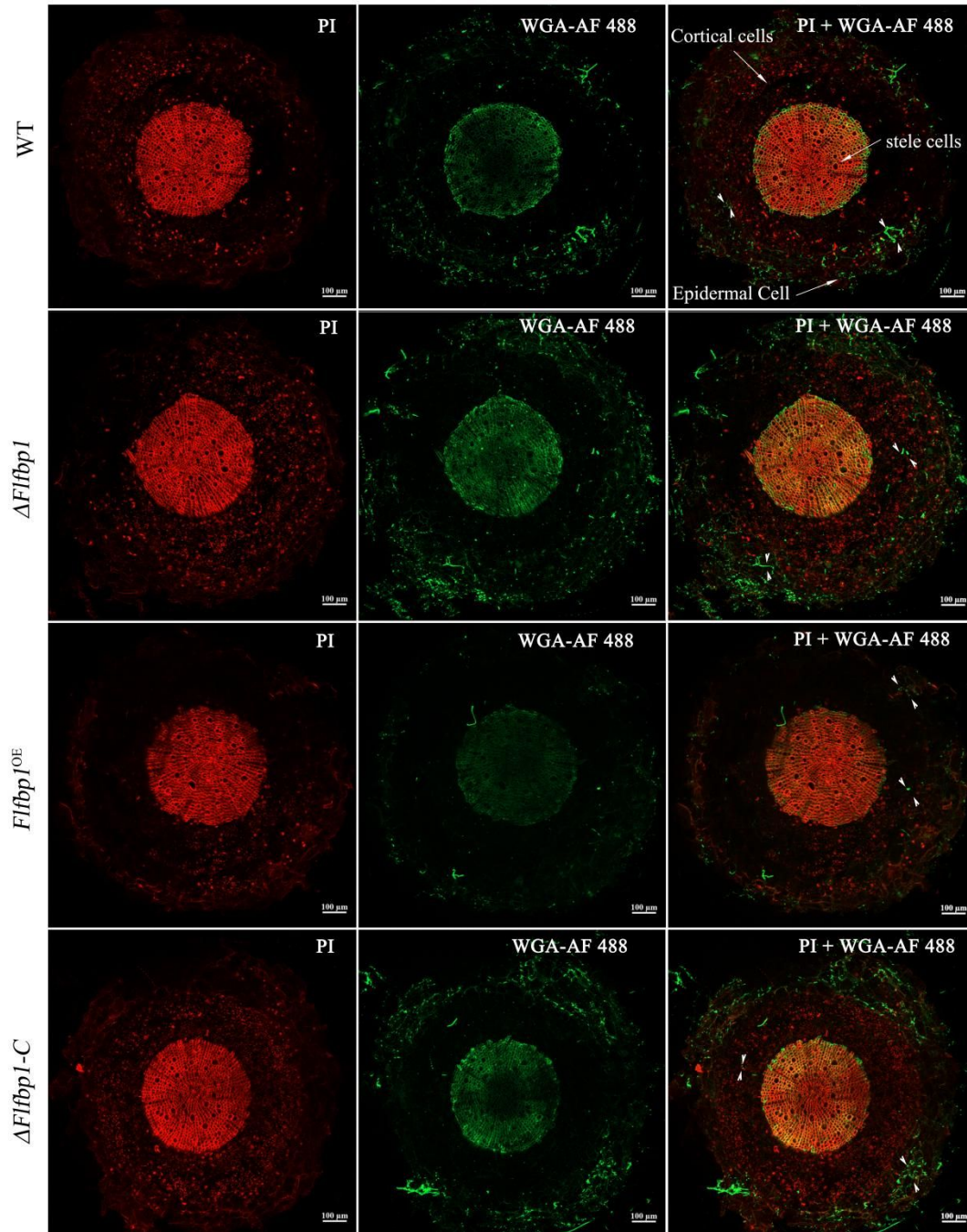


Fig. S5. *Flfbp1* modulates the intensity, but not the site, of fungal colonization in tobacco roots. Cross-sections of tobacco roots inoculated with WT, $\Delta Flfbp1$, *Flfbp1*^{OE}, and $\Delta Flfbp1-C$ strains were stained with PI (red) and WGA-AF 488 (green). No significant differences in root tissue structure were observed among groups. Fungal hyphae were consistently distributed in the cortical cells, indicating that colonization sites were not affected by genotype. Notably, roots inoculated with the *Flfbp1*^{OE} strain showed significantly reduced colonization signals compared with WT, $\Delta Flfbp1$, and $\Delta Flfbp1-C$, demonstrating that overexpression of *Flfbp1* strongly suppresses fungal colonization intensity in roots. The small arrows indicate the colonization sites of different *F. lateritium* strains in tobacco root cells. Scale bar = 100 μm.