Supplementary Table S1. Strategy used for enrichment and isolation of indigenous bacteria under nitrogen and chromium stress

Enrichment Type	Target microorganism	Treatment (Days)								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	General heterotrophic bacteria under alternating nitrogen supplementation	 Initial incubation (EM-GH)	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Extended incubation	Final Culture (EM-GH) 
B	Chromium-tolerant heterotrophic bacteria	 Initial incubation (EM-Cr)	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Extended incubation	Final Culture (EM-Cr) 
C	Bacteria adapted to alternating ammonium- and nitrate-containing media under chromium stress	 Initial incubation (EM-Cr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-ACr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-NCr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-ACr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-NCr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-ACr)	2 mL was transferred into the new medium  (EM-NCr)	Extended incubation	Final Culture (EM-NCr) 
D	Sequentially enriched bacteria adapted to both nitrogen supplementation and chromium stress	 Initial incubation (EM-GH)	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} NH_4Cl	Supplemented with 100 mgL^{-1} KNO_3.	Transfer 2 mL into new EM-Cr medium  (EM-Cr)	Final Culture (EM-Cr) 

*Note: EM-GH: Enrichment Medium for General Heterotrophic, EM-Cr: Enrichment Medium-containing Chromium, EM-ACr: Enrichment Medium containing Ammonium and Chromium, EM-NCr: Enrichment Medium containing Nitrate and Chromium,

Supplementary Table S2. Summary of growth and functional activity of CSND isolates cultured in MM-ACr media over 72 h.

Isolate	Biomass (OD_{600})	Removal Efficiency (%)		Final pH
		$N–NH_4$	**Cr(VI)**	
Blank-B0	0.004^{a}	6.59^{a}	3.72^{a}	7.51^{de}
CSND-B01	0.215^{bc}	63.06^{e}	17.06^{b}	7.66^{f}
CSND-B02	0.182^{bc}	58.87^{de}	14.67^{b}	7.60^{ef}
CSND-B03	0.144^{bc}	40.86^{bc}	15.69^{b}	7.43^{bcd}
CSND-B04	0.197^{bc}	45.05^{bc}	37.18^{d}	7.60^{ef}
CSND-B05	0.152^{bc}	36.04^{b}	8.66^{a}	7.50^{d}
CSND-B06	0.144^{bc}	58.13^{de}	22.94^{c}	7.37^{abc}
CSND-B07	0.116^{bc}	46.05^{bc}	24.94^{c}	7.44^{bcd}
CSND-B08	0.120^{b}	48.65^{cd}	6.93^{a}	7.44^{bcd}
CSND-B09	0.377^{d}	48.76^{cd}	35.85^{d}	7.46^{cd}
CSND-B10	0.256^{c}	49.95^{cd}	24.45^{c}	7.35^{bc}
CSND-B11	0.373^{d}	40.05^{bc}	41.68^{d}	7.39^{abc}
CSND-B12	0.543^{e}	66.80^{e}	50.42^{e}	7.33^{a}
SEM	0.038	4.211	3.967	0.028
Sig.	***	***	***	***
n	3	3	3	3

Note: Different superscript letters ($^{a, b, c,d,e}$) in the same column indicate significant differences based on DMRT post hoc test at $P < 0.05$. Asterisks indicate the significance level on measured parameter as determined by one-way ANOVA (***, $P < 0.05$).

Supplementary Table S3. Summary of growth and functional activity of CSND isolates cultured in MM-NCr media over 72 h

R

Isolate	Biomass (OD_{600})	Removal Efficiency (%)		Final pH
		$N–NO_3$	**Cr(VI)**	
Blank-B0	0.010^{a}	1.18^{a}	1.81^{a}	7.51^{cde}
CSND-B01	0.121^{b}	83.58^{cde}	3.25^{a}	7.58^{ef}
CSND-B02	0.122^{b}	84.44^{de}	2.81^{a}	7.60^{f}
CSND-B03	0.094^{b}	80.66^{bcde}	8.95^{ab}	7.50^{bcd}
CSND-B04	0.136^{bc}	79.67^{bcde}	14.57^{b}	7.57^{def}
CSND-B05	0.109^{b}	76.11^{bc}	8.29^{ab}	7.51^{cde}
CSND-B06	0.166^{c}	94.93^{g}	11.44^{ab}	7.29^{a}
CSND-B07	0.212^{d}	73.12^{b}	2.12^{a}	7.52^{cde}
CSND-B08	0.242^{de}	76.85^{bcd}	3.91^{a}	7.43^{b}
CSND-B09	0.435^{g}	92.24^{fg}	35.03^{c}	7.69^{g}
CSND-B10	0.264^{e}	95.43^{g}	15.13^{b}	7.25^{a}
CSND-B11	0.324^{f}	86.33^{ef}	30.64^{c}	7.46^{bc}
CSND-B12	0.475^{h}	96.10^{g}	47.76^{d}	7.75^{g}
SEM	0.038	6.844	4.056	0.038
Sig.	***	***	***	***
n	3	3	3	3

Note: Different superscript letters ($^{a, b, c,d,e}$) in the same column indicate significant differences based on DMRT post hoc test at $P < 0.05$. Asterisks indicate the significance level on measured parameter as determined by one-way ANOVA (***, $P < 0.05$).

Supplementary Table S4. Summary of growth and functional activity of CSND isolates cultured in MM-ANCr media over 72 h.

R

Isolate	Biomass (OD_{600})	Removal Efficiency (%)				Final pH
		$N–NH_4$	$N–NO_3$	N-Total	Cr(VI)	
Blank-B0	0.017^{a}	2.75^{a}	2.97^{a}	2.86^{a}	1.01^{a}	7.39^{a}
CSND-B01	0.438^{f}	54.53^{de}	42.16^{e}	48.35^{gh}	15.53^{fg}	8.85^{g}
CSND-B02	0.448^{f}	56.75^{ef}	34.75^{de}	45.75^{fgh}	16.46^{g}	9.09^{h}
CSND-B03	0.160^{bc}	35.05^{bc}	29.16^{bcd}	32.10^{de}	8.35^{bcd}	7.70^{cd}
CSND-B04	0.098^{b}	21.62^{b}	28.90^{bcd}	25.26^{bc}	9.77^{bcde}	7.46^{ab}
CSND-B05	0.429^{f}	53.18^{de}	40.59^{de}	46.65^{fgh}	12.69^{defg}	8.03^{e}
CSND-B06	0.179^{cd}	40.52^{cde}	32.78^{de}	36.65^{ef}	7.71^{bc}	7.69^{cd}
CSND-B07	0.271^{de}	42.96^{cde}	32.24^{cde}	37.60^{efg}	8.47^{bcd}	7.42^{ab}
CSND-B08	0.098^{b}	40.69^{cde}	16.93^{b}	28.81^{bcd}	8.36^{bcd}	7.49^{abc}
CSND-B09	0.308^{de}	28.12^{bc}	20.28^{bc}	24.19^{bc}	14.12^{efg}	7.85^{de}
CSND-B10	0.147^{bc}	21.67^{b}	19.19^{b}	20.43^{b}	6.28^{b}	7.41^{ab}
CSND-B11	0.247^{d}	39.66^{cd}	35.55^{de}	37.61^{efg}	11.64^{cdef}	7.62^{bc}
CSND-B12	0.552^{g}	70.49^{f}	38.89^{de}	54.69^{h}	21.52^{h}	8.59^{f}
SEM	0.045	4.948	3.102	6.043	1.451	0.161
Sig.	***	***	***	***	***	***
n	3	3	3	3	3	3

Note: N-Total: total removal from the mixture of N-ammonium and N-nitrate in the media. Different superscript letters ($^{a, b, c,d,e}$) in the same column indicate significant differences based on DMRT post hoc test at $P < 0.05$. Asterisks indicate the significance level on measured parameter as determined by one-way ANOVA (***, $P < 0.05$).