ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Completion of this doctoral thesis is an outcome of the affection and support of many good people who were always there to extend their whole hearted support. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them. I would like to express my special appreciation and thanks to my guide Dr. P. Suprasanna. Sir you have been a tremendous mentor for me. I would like to thank you for encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a researcher. Your advice on both research as well as on my career has been priceless.

I would also like to thank my committee members, Dr. S.K. Apte (Chairman), Dr. A. Sharma (Member), Dr. N. Jawali (Member) and Dr. S. F. D’souza (ex-guide and member) for their support, critical comments and suggestions. I would especially like to thank Dr. Vinay Kumar for his scientific advice and many insightful discussions and suggestions during my bioinformatics and proteomics studies. I am also very grateful to Dr. K.V. Rao, Professor, CPMB, Osmania University, Hyderabad for providing lab facilities for plant transgenic development and characterization.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues Dr. Ashish, Dr. Sudhakar, R.K.Ji, Srinivas Sir Manish, Laxmi ma’am, Jincy, Survey Ji, Shriram and Ganesh, who supported me during experimentation, in writing, and incited me to strive towards my goal. I extend my gratitude to Dr. Vikas Patade and Dr. Vinayak for their help and suggestions to perform some experiments in the early days of my Ph.D thesis work. I thank Dr. Hema Rajaram (MBD) for helping me in HBNI matters, and acknowledge the crucial help extended by Dr. Gagan (BARC) and Srinath (CPMB) in my research work. I also thank Sumit, Aman and Shyam for their support.

A special thanks to my family. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my mother-in-law, father-in-law, my mother, and father who supported me in every possible way to see the completion of this work. I am immensely indebted to Sweta, Bausky, Chintu, Santu and Bantu for understanding me and providing the strength to achieve the goal. At the end I would like express appreciation to my beloved husband Neeraj who has been
always my support in the moments when there was no one to answer my queries. To my sweethearts Ananya and Arshia, I would like to express my thanks for being such ‘wonderful girls’ always cheering me up.

……..Archana N. Rai