CONTENTS

I) INTRODUCTION 1

II) LITERATURE REVIEW
A. C₄ Photosynthesis 4
B. Physiology and Biochemistry under Water Stress 12

III) MATERIALS AND METHODS
1. Plant material 36
2. Water stress treatments 36
3. Sampling 37

IV) EXPERIMENTAL METHODS
1. Leaf anatomy 38
2. Leaf water potential 38
3. Stomatal parameters 39
4. Photosynthesis 40
5. CO₂ compensation and photorespiration 43
6. Dark respiration 45
7. Translocation 46
8. Transpiration and water use efficiency 47
9. Enzyme compliment of leaves 48
10. Pigment composition 53
11. Photo-chemical activities 54
12. Photophosphorylation 55
13. Nitrogen metabolism 57
14. Growth parameters 59a
15. Grain yield 59a

V) RESULTS
A. C₄ Photosynthesis
1. Leaf anatomy 60
2. CO₂ compensation 60
3. ¹⁴C CO₂ fixation 61
4. Radiotracer kinetics 62
5. Enzyme complements 63
6. Pigment composition 65
B. Physiology and Biochemistry under water stress

1. Temperature and humidity 66
2. Leaf water potential 67
3. Stomatal parameters 69
4. \(^{14}\text{CO}_2\) fixation 71
5. \(\text{CO}_2\) compensation 72
6. Dark respiration 72
7. Translocation 72
8. Transpiration and water use efficiency 73
9. Photosynthetic enzymes 74
10. Pigment composition 77
11. Photochemical activities 78
12. Photophosphorylation 79
13. Nitrogen metabolism 80
14. Growth parameters 81
15. Grain yield 83a

VI) DISCUSSION
A. \(\text{C}_4\) photosynthesis 84
B. Physiology and Biochemistry under water stress 92

VII) SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION 115

VIII) REFERENCES 121
IX) APPENDIX 168