

Acknowledgement

In the first place, I would like to record my gratitude to **Dr. Mukund Nagorao Mohrir** for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences throughout the work as well as any accomplishment requires the effort of many people and this work is no different. Above all and the most needed, he provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways. His truly scientist intuition has made him as a constant oasis of ideas and passions in science, which exceptionally inspire and enrich my growth as a student, a researcher and a scientist want to be. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

I am also obliged to Shri. Ravindra Patil Shisode, President, Shri. Rajendra Patil Shisode, Secretary, Pratishtan Shikshan Prasarak Mandal and Dr. S. D. Shastri, Principal, Pratishtan Mahavidyalaya, Paithan, Aurangabad, for their support and encouragement.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to Padmshree B. V. Nimbkar, Founder President, Mr. Zia Quraishi, Chairman and Managing Director and Dr. C.D. Basarkar, Director of Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd. Phaltan Dist. Satara for providing all necessary field facilities and their encouragement during course of investigation. I am very grateful to Dr. Nandini Nimbkar, President NARI, Dr. Vrijendra Singh Safflower Breeder, Dr. Inayatullaha Siddiqui, Mr. Deshpande, Mr. Vilas, for their support in analysis and compilation of this research work.

I am very thankful to Director, Indian Institute for Vegetable Research, Varanasi for providing me germplasm lines of okra for present investigation.

I will remain indebted forever to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad and Department of Botany, as student and for getting full support and co-operation for completion of my Ph. D research work. I also want to express my gratitude to Dr. Suniti Barve, Professor and Head, Department of Botany. Dr. Ashok Chavan, Professor and COE, Dr. A. S. Dhabe, Professor, Dr. Milind Sardesai, Asso. Professor and Dr. Narayan Pandhure, Assistant Professor for their valuable guidance and support. I am also grateful to Dr. V. S. Kothekar Ex-Professor and Head, Department of

Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Dr. S. S. Aithal Principal VDMD college Degloor and Dr. V. G. Makne, Ex-Oilseeds Specialist, Oilseeds Research Station, M. A. U. Latur.

I am especially thankful to Mr. S. R. Deshmukh, Mr. V. L. Bhoite, Mr. A. C. Shinde, Mr. D. V. Jagdale, Mr. D. M. Dhawle, Mr. S. G. Shedge, Mr. R. R. Potdar, Mr. S. B. Kumbhar and staff of Nimbkar Seeds Pvt. Ltd. Phaltan Dist. Satara for their help and support.

It is my duty to extend sincere thanks to my close relatives, Mrs and Mr. Shaikh Mujeeb, Mrs. and Mr. Shaikh Mubeen, Mrs and Mr. Md. Sajid Ali, Mr. N. Y. Ansari, Mrs. and Mr. M. M Hussain,. Mrs. and Mr Samiullah Khan, Mrs. and Mr. Sibgatullaha Khan, Mrs and Mr. Gous Mohiuddin MAU Parbhani and Mr. Md. Majid Sohel, Mrs. and Mr. Md.Mujahed Ajmal, Mrs and Mr. Abdul Moeed, Mrs and Mr. Md. Abdul Muqet, Shaikh Sameer, Dr. Shaikh Abdul Baseer, Mrs and Mr. Dr. Raheel, Miss. Shaikh Zareen, Mrs. and Mr Muthhir Hussain, Mr. Muqtadir Hussain, Mrs. and Mr. Khalilullha Khan, Mirza Khalil Baig, Mrs. and Mr. Md.Imtayz Ali, Mrs. and Mr Md.Irfan Ali, Mrs and Mr. Md.Basit Ali, Mrs. and Mr. Ilyas Patel and Mrs. and Mr Abdul Mohseen, Mrs. and Mr. Nazim, Mrs. and Mr. Syed. Harees, Mrs. and Mr. Kamran Khan, Md. Adnan, Abdul Rameez, Shaikh Raheel, for their support and blessings.

My special thanks to Dr. R. S. Jadhav, Dr. Amit Hatti, Dr. Sachin Chavan, Dr. Shahid shaikh, Dr. Sayyed Juned, Mr. Rizwan Deshmukh, Mr. Nisar Deshmukh, Mr. Ikram Deshmukh, Mr. Ahsan Deshmukh, Mr. Shaikh Shamshir, Mr. Shaikh Moin, Mr. Shaikh Riyaz, Mr. Mohamad Fatthe, Mr. Younus Choudhari, Mr. Asif patel, Mr. Shaikh Imran, Mr. Nisar Syed, Mr. Saeed Kazi, Late Mr. Maksood Bhai and Mr. Santosh Shirshetwar for their help and support during the course of investigation.

I would like to mention special thanks to Mrs. Rekha Basarkar, Mrs. Renuka Mohrir, Mr. Vishal Basarkar, Sarang Mohrir, Saurabh Mohrir and Aniruddha Dhanorkar for their help support and encouragement.

I am also thanks to Librarian, Vasantrao Naik Maratwada Agriculytural Univrsity, Parbhani and Mahatma Phule Agricultural University Rahuri for their support in literature collection work.

I am thankful to Mr. Baburao Dhokne, Artist, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for his help in preparation of artistic cover page and photo plates.

Above all, It is my duty to express a great gratitude of sense to my beloved parents Mr. Abdul Majeed (Guruji) and Mrs. Siraj Begum for their blessings and consistent encouragement for higher education.

Mr. Shaikh Md. Soyab Akhil Md. Ab. Mazid