ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude to director Dr. T. Mohapatra, Central Rice Research, Institute (CRRI) Bidyadherpur, and Cuttack for his encouragement and giving me this privilege to carry out my research work in this premiere research institute of international repute.

I am extremely grateful to my supervisor Dr. G J N Rao, Principle Scientist, Crop Improvement Division, CRRI. My diction falls short off to express my ardent reverence, obligation and deepest sense of gratitude for his elegant style of guidance, prudent advises, constant encouragement, constructive criticism and inexhaustible help during the entire period of my investigation and preparation of this manuscript for him closes supervision and support. I am deeply grateful to him for providing helpful suggestions and comments on the draft documents leading to this thesis. His ability to facilitate working conditions and sense of understanding has been key factors, when I got stuck at times. I would like to thanks him for his constructive guidance, patience and continuous support throughout my study. His truly scientific intuition has made a constant oasis of ideas and passions in science, which exceptionally inspired and enriched my growth as a research student.

It’s my immense pleasure to express my sincere and deep gratitude to Head of the Crop Improvement Division, Dr. O. N. Singh, Principle Scientist (Head- Crop Improvement Division) for providing Laboratory as well as field facilities to carry out my research work. His regular encouragement throughout my research period made me to move forward with true scientific temper.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the scientists of Crop Improvement and Biochemistry, Physiology and Environmental Science Division for their affectionate dealings, help, suggestions and cooperation throughout my research period in the department.

I take the opportunity to express my gratitude, sincere thanks to Dr. C. N. Neeraja (Principle Scientist), and Dr. Ravindra Babu (Principle Scientist), Biotechnology Department and Plant breeding, Directorate of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, and Hyderabad for giving me valuable suggestions and for inspirational guidance.

I express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Baijayanti Nayak for her active and efficient accomplishment of all chemicals requirements, maintenance instrumentation and administrative matters on time, and encouragement.
I would like to express my gratitude to Dhullaram, Jithendra, Bhagavat, Swain babu and Manima and each and everyone who helped me in various aspects in seed bed preparation, phenotypic screening, planting and for the observation of field daily and contract laborers operators to successfully complete my field research at the respective site. I duly thank all the technical staff of the division for their timely help. I sincerely thank Sri. N. Mahabot for all the administrative help during my research period.

I express my sincere thanks to respected teachers and my seniors Dr. P Koushal, Dr. Shakthivel, Dr. Nageshwar Rao, Dr. Balaji Suresh, Dr. Prasad, Dr. Nataraj Kumar, Dr. Srinivas, Dr. B P Swamy, Dr. Ravi Kumar, Dr. Arun, Dr. M. V. Ramana Rao, Dr. Bharath Kumar for their guidance, co-operation and educative suggestions during my project period. I would like to thanks to seniors of my lab, Dr. M. V. Ramana Rao, Dr. Prasad Dokku, Dr. Raj Kumar Joshi, Dr. Rukmini Mishra, Dr. Gitishree Das, Chaitanya Kumar Geda, SaiKrishna Repalli who have helped me to complete my work effectively in research activities and encouragement in every step of my research work.

I am very thankful to Mr. Gautam Kumar Das helped me in the phenotypic observation and data analysis to complete my work effectively and given encouragement and support in my research work. I would like to thanks Dr. Mohan from Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam for making the statistical data analysis and gave me the boosting and support during my research work period.

I also gratefully acknowledge my colleagues and friends Rashmita Samal, Smita Prusty, Sulagna Sulakshana, Aliza Swain, Pritesh Sunder Roy, Amit Kumar Das for their encouragement and support throughout my research period.

I would like to thanks Dr. A R Rao and his staff of Statistical Analysis Department, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute Pusa campus for all support and training programme for making more convenient for my thesis work. I gratefully acknowledge National Agriculture Innovative Project (NAIP) scholarship to support for my research work.

My gratitude goes to my dear parents (Mr. Mallaiah and Mrs. Rajeshwari), brothers (Mr. Gangader, Mr. Srinivas and Mr. Karunakar) Sister-in law (Mrs. Godavari, Mrs. Lavanya and Mrs. Shirisha) and my friends. They gave me the life, take care, support and give up my mind to face the trouble problem in my life.

I am profoundly appreciative to my wife, Meena for boundless patience. Not only has she been a source of encouragement, prayers and extraordinary moral support throughout my study period. Without exaggeration, I could not have reached this stage without her
absolute will to shoulder such a burden. I extremely appreciate her understanding of every situations, patience, strength, silence and great responsibility and seriousness of purpose. I love you forever!

Finally, I wish to express special appreciation and gratitude to all my dear friends; Mr. Shiva Chippa, Mr. Yugander Utkam, Mr. Raju Thota, Mr. Chakrapani Vemulawada, Mr. Raju Shivarathri, Mr. Madhu Chintakindi (Brother), Mr. Praveen, Mr. Mahesh, Mr. Ajay Kumar, Mr. Vasmshi, Mr. Ramaiah, Mr. Vijay, Mr. Srinivas, Mr. Kiran, Mr. Ganga Narsaiah, Mr. Narsaiah, Mr. Ganesh for their encouragement, support and constant feedbacks.

I express my sincere thanks to my uncle Mr. Billa Srinivas and my brother in law Mr. Mukesh, gave me the strength, refreshing my thoughts to make an strong base career and supporting to in all cases.

My very special thanks go to my brothers Mr. Gangader, Mr. Srinivas and Mr. Karunakar for his cheerful encouragement, considerable help and for taking care of family throughout my study period.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my respective teachers & staffs of the Institute of Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack, Odisha.

I convey my whole hearted thanks to many of my well wishers and other friends requesting their forgiveness for not mentioning them here by name.

Date: 28.01.2015
Place: CRRI, Cuttack.

(Mahender Andimalla)