Acknowledgements

With sincerity and great pleasure, I acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Dr. U.P. Singh Principal Scientist (Eco. Botany), Division of Crop Improvement, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, for his inspirational guidance, invaluable involvement, noble behaviour, scholarly suggestion and healthy critical supervision throughout the pursuit of the present study.

I am also thankful to Dr. P.S. Pathak, Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi for granting me the permission for higher studies and silent support and encouragement.

I am also very thankful to Chairman and all the members H. E. C. of the institute for their continuous support and encouragement.

It gives me immense pleasure and privilege to express my sincere & deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R. N. Choubey, Head, Crop Improvement Division for providing facilities and encouragement.

I am thankful to Indian Council of Agriculture Research for providing financial support during the course of study as Research Associate.

It is also my pleasure to acknowledge the help received from the members of advisory board Dr. D. R. Malaviya, Dr. S. S. Parihar and Dr. D. K. Agarwal.

I am also grateful Dr. S.N. Zadoo, Dr. G.P. Shukla, Dr.A.K. Roy, Dr. B. Venkatesh Bhatt and Dr. Pankaj Kaushal for their help in statistical analysis and interpretations, which helped me in completion of this work.

I offer my sincere thanks to Sri Jagdish Kushwaha for the help in data recording, and Dr. D. K. Singh for his technical help during the chemical analysis.
It was impossible for me to complete my work without the help of my colleagues Dr. Reena Singh, Dr. Yachana Mishra and Mr. B.M.S. Parihar for providing moral support and ungrudging help.

I owe my thanks to my loving friends Dr. Satendra Nirala, Ms. Poornima Swami, Mrs. Himani Shukla, and Mrs. Ritu Sinha who always given me moral support in my all odds and inspired me to do work with a great vigour.

Thanks are also due to Mr. G. P. Nigam (Library) and Mr. K.P. Rao (ARIS) for their timely help.

My thanks are also due to Sri. Jagdish Prasad (Steno) for typing & formatting of the thesis.

Above all, the whole credit for the completion of the work goes to my beloved parents Shri Naresh Chand Srivas and Smt. Asha Rani who constantly supported me during the course of investigation.

My younger brothers Manoj and Alok provide me enormous strength and spare myself from domestic duties, I express my gratitude to them.

Last but not least, I must pay my thanks to all these unseen hands that cooperated in this work.

(Sanjeev Kumar Srivas)