PREFACE

The present thesis is the synthesis of my Mycological / Pathological studies since over a period of half and three years. My academic endeavours did indeed, find a very inspiring atmosphere at this School chaired by Professor Emeritus M. N. Kamat, President, Mycological Society of India; Head, Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology of this Institution.

As I had observed, "no science can fully develop or serve Society unless its intricacies are evaluated." Therefore, there can be no 'elite' sciences. "Any scientific endeavour must be primarily meant to serve human beings" (In Times of India, Sept. 9, 1973). As was thus, my ambition was fulfilled when I was assigned problems of both applied and fundamental relevance.

Nearly 25% of our fruits and vegetables get spoiilt before they actually reach the consumer. India produce about 12 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables, but the industry utilizes just only 0.5% of the production. Out of a total production of 52,274 tonnes of processed fruits and vegetables, our export for a year amounts to about 10,041 tonnes, valued at Rs. 2.9 crores. Over 75% of this consisted of mango alone. As has been rightly pointed out (Editorial: Indian Farming, February, 1975) our attempts ought to centralize on efficient and economic systems of post-harvest technology, particularly around packing, transport and scientific storage.
The entire thesis consists of 2 Parts; Parts divided into Sections; and Sections into Chapters. At the end of both the parts, Summary of the respective part has been provided.

Relevant literature have been cited. I have taken every care to illustrate discussions on symptoms and morphology in most cases. Legends to illustrations are given on separate page facing each plate. Figures or illustrations have been referred to in the text at appropriate places by a Numerical-alphabet System where the number refers to the Plate Number and the alphabet to the Figure indicated. Number without alphabet denotes lone figures. Numbers are Arabic numerals.

Latin diagnosis have been provided for new taxa described, in accordance with the Rules of Botanical Nomenclature together with a brief English description.

I have been throughout interested, sincere and objective to experimental results, keeping in mind what Prof. V. R. Potter, President, American Cancer Research Society, Wisconsin, said of "men' who think they are machines should keep a great degree of objectivity to bear on with their problems than machines who think they are men" (Bioethics: Bridge to the Future, 1971).

Like 'Man and Machine' I could have been prone to mistakes, although I have taken every care. For any mistakes, I ought to blame myself and look forward for years of understanding Mycology and Plant Pathology further.