ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my introduction to the world of research in "Crop Physiology" to Dr. P.K. Mahapatra and Dr. S.C. Panda who were my supervisors for this investigation. In this connection I record my deep sense of gratitude to them for their suggestions and timely interventions during the course of my observations and writing the manuscript.

My revered teacher Dr. T. Kabi, Professor of Botany, the then Principal, Gangadhar Meher College, Sambalpur, has been the origin and source of inspiration and I acknowledge his blessings in all my academic pursuits.

I thankfully acknowledge that, Dr. S.K. De Dutta, Head, Division of Agronomy, International Rice Research Institute, Philippines and Dr. K.S. Murty, National Fellow, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, provided me with much needed books and reprints relevant to the study.

This study was carried out under the auspices of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and I express my indebtedness to the authorities especially to Dr. R.K. Rajput, Project Co-ordinator (WM) CSSRI, Karnal (Haryana) for requisite permission to work under the scheme honourably.

I am extremely thankful to Sri T.B. Nanda for having seen the script and suggested improvements despite his busy schedules.
My teachers, colleagues, friends and well wishers both inside and outside the institution have made valuable suggestions and significant assistance throughout the work. These include Sri J.M. Gullati (Sr. Agronomist), Md Taha (Sr. Sol. Chem), Sri N. Singh (Pt. Phy), Sri B. Mishra (Sr. St.), Prof. B.K. Nanda, Prof. B.K. Naik, Prof. K.M. Guru, Prof. H.P. Nanda, Dr. S.P. Pati, Dr. M.K. Raval, Dr. (Mrs) R.K. Kar, Dr. A.K. Hota, Dr. (Mrs) R. Das, Sri & Smt. S. Ghosh, Smt P.M. Deo, Ms R. Tripathy, Dr. (Mrs) M. Naik, Dr. D. Gupta, Sri K. Janamani, Sri P. Sinha, Sri Satyendra Pd. Mishra, Sri S. Barpanda and Sri M Behera (Job-typist). I express my gratitude to them all.

Lastly I sincerely acknowledge the affection and help rendered by Smt Kalpana Panda who has spared her valuable time and efforts whenever I have called at her residence in course of the studies.

(Achyuta Nanda Dash)
Demonstrator
P.G. Dept of Botany
G.M. College
Sambalpur - 768 004
Orissa - India.