

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*It gives me immense pleasure in expressing my deepest sense of gratitude and profound regards to Major (Dr.) Triveni Dutt, Reader, Department of Agricultural Extension, A. S. (P.G.) College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr, (U.P.) who conceived and shaped the research problem and provided needed timely guidance with keen interest and insight. His constant encouragement during the entire period made this research work possible.*

*Words fail to express my deep sense of gratitude to External Supervisor Dr. J. P. Sharma, In-Charge, ATIC, IARI, New Delhi who provided valuable suggestions and useful guidance in completing this research project.*

*I am grateful to Dr. Bhoopal Singh, Principal, Amar Singh College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr and Dr. M.S. Tyagi, Ex-Head and Dr. R.B. Tripathi, Head of the Department of Agricultural Extension of the college, for their active support during my Ph. D. work.*

*I feel quite proud, being an alumnus of A. S. College, for having associated again for my doctoral programme. I take this opportunity to fondly thank all my teachers and seniors who had helped me in shaping up my career and advancement in life.*

*I am quite indebted to Mr. Naseem Ahmad, formerly Director (Horticulture), NDMC, New Delhi for providing me the formal permission from the department for doing Ph.D. work. I here in place on record my thanks to Mr. Rais Ali, Technical Assistant in the department of Horticulture of NDMC, New Delhi for his help in compilation of certain important information.*

*Sh. Devendra Kumar, Head of Office, Office of the Director (Hort.), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, was kind enough to provide information required for the study. Staffs of CD blocks of Mehrauli, Najafgarh, Nangloi and Alipur and the farmers deserve special thanks for extending their help in data collection.*

*This thesis is dedicated to my beloved father late Sh. Rameshwar Singh Pradhanji who always had an ambition of his children's highest academic achievements in higher education and would be happy today.*

*This research work would not have been even started, and now accomplished, without the constant encouragement, regular inspiration and untiring support of my wife Dr. (Mrs.) Vidya Pradhan. I acknowledge the active and adequate support provided by Dr. C. B. Singh and Dr. D. U. M. Rao at all levels of execution of this thesis work. Special thanks are also due to research scholars: Mr. Arun, Ms. Vineeta and Ms. Mohini, for their timely help in completing this thesis. They have done the data tabulation, map tracing and proof reading. A word of appreciation is due to Sh. Dinesh Kumar for typing the thesis neatly and correctly.*

*I cherish the happy moments I share every day with my loving daughters Neha and Megha, who showered their love and affection on me, when I became a student like them once again. Thanks are due to Ms. Kamlesh, my younger sister, Ms. Sunita, my sister-in-law and her husband Mr. Surendra for their moral support.*

*I extend my thanks to every person who supported me directly or indirectly in carrying out the research work. Yet I may have inadvertently missed acknowledging some helping hands and I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all and leave none.*

Department of Agricultural Extension  
A. S. (P. G.) College, Lakhaoti  
Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2005

  
(Nawab Singh Pradhan)