

Acknowledgements

Receiving the spirit from “His Highness Power”, I am thankful to God for making me as a part of this wonderful world and giving me an opportunity to spend a bit of my life in this prestigious Institution.

*I express my profound gratitude to **Dr. James Jacob**, Director (Research) RRII, Kottayam, for permitting me to conduct this doctoral research at Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam and his encouragement and support throughout my work,*

*I am deeply indebted to **Dr. M.B. Mohamed Sathik**, Senior Scientist (Botany), Crop Physiology Division, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam, for the efficient guidance, encouragement and keen observation rendered during my study. His personal involvement and enthusiasm has been a constant inspiration to me.*

*It is of great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to **Dr. Shaji Philip**, Scientist C, Molecular Plant Pathology Division, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam, for his valuable comments and help throughout the work,*

*I express my special thanks to **Dr. P. Venkatchalam**, Reader, Biotechnology Department, Periyar University, Salem for his timely help during my registration and further suggestions and comments during the progress of my work,*

*I convey my thanks to **Dr. R. Krishnakumar**, (Joint Director Crop Physiology) and **Dr. K. Annamalinathan** (Deputy Director) Crop Physiology Division, RRII, Kottayam, for their valuable and timely suggestions and providing all the facilities during the course of my work,*

*My deep acknowledgement to **Dr. M.A. Nazeer** (Joint Director, Project Management), RRII, Kottayam, for his valuable suggestions and support during the course of my work,*

*I owe my thanks to **Dr. Thulaseedharan**, Deputy Director, Biotechnology Division, and all the staff and students of Biotechnology Division, RRII, Kottayam for their wholehearted support.*

*I wish to thank **Dr.MollyThomas, Dr.N.Geetha, Dr.Jayasree ,Dr.Sreelatha and Dr. Sheela.P.Simon, Dr.Sumesh, Dr. D.Bhuvanachandran Nair** of Crop Physiology Division, RRII, Kottayam for their timely advices during my study.*

*I wish to express my gratitude to **Dr.Bindu Roy, Dr. Thakur Das Saha, Dr. K.U. Thomas** for their support and help during the work and **Dr.R.G.Kala** for her timely help and suggestions during my thesis preparation.*

*I express my special gratitude to **Dr. Wolfgang Schumann**, Germany, for his timely suggestions on transformation protocols and his advices during my research.*

*My special thanks to my dear friends **Rani, Ambily, Lisha, Linu, Satheshh, Pramod, Nasnim, Supriya, Suni, Amith, Rejitha and Anu** for their constant help and support during my work,*

*I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my **friends** and all **other staff** of Crop Physiology Division and other Divisions of RRII, Kottayam.*

*I cannot express in words my gratitude to my "**Life's most precious gift of God**"- my beloved parents (**P.B. Musthapha and Sareena Musthapha**) brother and sister in-law (**Midhunsha and Shabeena**) for the moral support, encouragement and caring during each step in my study.*

*I express my sincere thanks to my better half, my husband, **Mr. Ramanalukkal Mohamed Abdul Naseer** for his support and encouragement for my thesis preparation and submission. I express my gratitude to our niece, **R. Nimmi Nihala** for her help rendered to me for my thesis preparation.*

*I am very much grateful to my **relatives and well-wishers**, especially **Suresh uncle** for remembering me in their prayers and rendering me valuable support.*

*Finally and formost I bestow upon **God Almighty** for the blessings and grace, he is showering on me in each and every moment of my life. On my way of darkness, that everlasting light of kindness leads me to the correct decisions.*

Mrudula.P.Musthapha