ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many who in different ways contributed to my thesis and research. In particular I wish to express my gratitude to;

It’s my pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude my mentor Prof. Srinivasan for his valuable guidance, suggestion and unfailing support throughout the study. I especially appreciate the freedom he has given me in carrying out the research work on chickpea project. His ever-dynamic personality and energetic nature were an inspiration for a scientific carrier. It is one of the greatest achievements in my life to be his student. I am grateful to him for being there whenever I needed him, for listening to my ideas patiently and for encouraging me by correcting them. I owe his lots of gratitude for having me shown this way of research.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my guide, Prof. S. Mohan karuppayil for his ideas, enthusiasm, encouragement, and support throughout my PhD work. I really admired the way he handled the scientific and non-scientific things with perfection and sincerity.

I thank Dr. P.K. Jain for keeping an eye on the progress of my work, your constant encouragement and enthusiastic discussions, always have charged me up thank you for the selfless helps and suggestions. I thank Dr. R.K. Varshney, Dr. Bharadwaj and Dr. Mohar Singh for sharing the material. My gratitude is towards those who were involved in the chickpea project. I also acknowledge financial grants from the NFBSFARA and NPTC of ICAR, Government of India, New Delhi.

I would like to thank the Hon. Vice-chancellor Prof. S. B. Nimse, S. R. T. M. University Nanded, Director Prof. G. Gyananath, School of Life Sciences, S. R. T. M. University Nanded and Prof. Srinivasan, Project Director, National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi for providing all the facilities for my research. My gratitude is towards all the faculty members and non-teaching staff of School of Life Sciences, SRTM University, Nanded and NRCPB, New Delhi.

At NRCPB, I would not have felt like a second home without having a bunch of wonderful labmates. I was happy to receive help, ideas and views from Amit Deokar, Mahipal, Gunvant, Deshika, Anil, Satheesh, Pooja, Suruchi, Nimmy, Parameshwaran, Prashant tej, Revathy, Urvashi and others. I enjoyed the company of Rupesh, Humira Sonah, Ramsevak, Krishna, Venkat and others for their ever readiness to help. I also thank to all
the lab attendants at NRCPB, including Saahil, Fayaaz, Ravi, Sourabh and others for all the assistance provided by them.

My friends have always stood by my side through low patches and good times alike. I thank my dearest friends Jayant, Ravi, Suresh, Santosh, Rajendra Patil, Chandrakant deshmukh and Mukund for supporting me each step of my life. Ramesh, Jalandhar and Eshwar you have never failed to raise the spirits with the morale-boosters. Cheers to you! for all the gyan, science-wise and otherwise.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my mother and father, who has come through such a long and arduous journey. My gratitude is for my dear sister sadhana, Jijaji Ramkant, and their kids Sagar, Shradha, my brother Ganesh, brother-in-law Rajendra, Sister-in-law Sandhya and relatives for their eternal support and understanding of my goals and aspirations. Without them, I would not have been able to complete much of what I have done and become who I am. They are the light that shines my way and the drive for my ever-persistent determination. Without their enduring support and encouragement, it would not have been possible to embark upon this journey in life.

Over and above all, I thank God, Shri Gajanan Maharaj, Shegaon who saw me all through this.

Vishwajith Kondawar