ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I feel it is my proud privilege to express my heartfelt, kudos and deep sense of gratitude which, I owe to my advisor Dr. T.R. Sahu, Professor, Department of Botany, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for his able supervision, enthusiastic interest, needful suggestions, constant encouragement and timely help during the course of investigation and preparation of the manuscript.

I am extremely obliged to Dr. S. Shrivastava, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar and Dr. D. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, J.N. Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur, for according kind permission to undertake this investigation and also providing necessary facilities.

My gratitude is extended to the authorities of the J.N. Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur, Dr. R.K. Gupta, Director Research Services, Dr. V.S. Tomar, Director of Instructions and Dean faculty, Dr. Agrawal, Dean, College of Agriculture, Sehore, Dr. V.K. Agrawal, Head, Department of Agricultural Botany and Crop Physiology for providing permission for conducting field work as well as laboratory experiments.

I feel great pleasure in expressing my profound sense of gratitude to Dr. Adoni, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for his guidance, advise and help in getting the approval of my research programme.

I wish to express my profound greatfulness to Dr. K.K. Shrivastava, Principal Scientist and Dr. S.K. Jain Senior Scientist (Retd) for providing necessary facilities and help during the course of present investigation.
I also wish to thank to Dy. Registrar; all the staff members of Botany Department and official staff of Dr. H.S. Gour V.V. Sagar and all the staff members of R.A.R.S. Sagar for their valuable suggestions and kind cooperation in this regards.

My most affable and cordial thanks are due to Dr. J.P. Tiwari Dean, college of Agriculture, Mandasaur, Dr. V.K. Sonakia, Dr. S.K. Dwivedi, Dr. R.S. Patel, Dr. S. Tiwari, Dr. Smt. S. Rao and Dr. Ajay Khare, Department of Agricultural Botany and Crop Physiology, College of Agriculture, Jabalpur (M.P.) whose constant inspiration supported me in completion of the present academic endeavour.

I also thank Dr. R.K. Pathak, Dr. S.K. Madaria, Dr. Patidar, Dr. R.K. Saraf, Dr. M.P. Dubey, Dr. J.P. Khare, Dr. U.K. Tiwari, Dr. R.K. Samaiya, Dr. S.M. Kurmvanshi, Dr. R.K. Jain, Shri S.K. Tripathi, Shri Dinesh Singh, Dr. Smt. Neelu Vishwakarma, Shri S.K. Pandey, Dr. Silakari, and other seniors and friends for their help and cooperation to achieve the goal.

I shall be failed in my duties if, I do not put on record my sincere regards to Dr. Bhalia for calculation of data. I am equally thankful to Shri Sunil Gupta for computer typing and graphs with in a very short span of time.

Lastly, I wish to eulogise my brothers Bipin, Sharad, Umesh, bhai sahab; Pradeep and Dilip Shukla, my brother inlaw Sanjay Dixit; nephews; Bhabbies; Santosh and Kailash and Ku. Vandana Adhave who gave me strength and help in completing the study. Words fail to express my intense feelings for my wife Namrata and son Suyash, who helped me in lessening the responsibilities of the household burdens and keeping full patience without which this could have not seen the light of the day.

(Keshav Chandra Shukla)