ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was begun under the guidance, first of Dr. P.N. Awasthi, Reader in the Department of Chemistry and, after his sad demise, it proceeded under the supervision of Dr. M.K. Dixit, Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar. But as ill-luck would have it, I was left in distress again on his sad demise in the last session. I wish to record here my respectful gratitude to both of them for all that I have received from them by way of guidance and encouragement.

These unfortunate interruptions to the work would have been very serious obstacles to the progress of this research work but for the ready kindness of Professor Y.C. Kher, former Head of the Chemistry Department and Dr. M.C. Saxena, Reader in the Department of Chemistry in this University, in agreeing to help me through this research work. Without their able guidance and encouragement, I would not have been able to complete the work, and I am more grateful to them than I can express in words.

I owe thanks to Professor M.R. Siddiqui, Head, Seed-Technology Division, I.A.R.I., New Delhi, to Dr. S.K. Kavimandan, Division of Soil-Microbiology, I.A.R.I., New Delhi and to Dr. A.D. Adoni, Reader in Botany, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for their helpful discussions and valuable help during the course of the present work.
I wish also to record here my deep gratitude and indebtedness to my late respected parents who had always encouraged me to march ahead in life. The help and cooperation extended by my wife Smt. Anita Mishra and, kids Sachin and Durva at various stages of my study have been invaluable to me.

My friends, particularly Dr. S.C. Lavale, Dr. V.K. Chitale, Dr. S.N. Limaye, Mr. S.N. Dikshit and Mr. H.G. Chaurasia have always willingly helped me and I remember their help with gratitude.

In the last but not the least, I am thankful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for the award of a Teacher Fellowship and to Government of Madhya Pradesh for sanctioning the necessary study leave.

(Pramod Kumar Mishra)