ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is the best opportunity to express my profound sense of gratitude, indebtedness and sincere thanks to Professor M. Wajid Khan, Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for suggesting the problem, valuable suggestions, guidance, encouragement and his inexhaustible source of inspiration during the preparation of this manuscript. Indeed, it has been a proud privilege to learn from him as a research supervisor.

The consistent cooperative attitude of Professor M. Shamim Jairajpuri, Director of the Institute of Agriculture, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh is greatly appreciated. Laboratory and library facilities provided by the Chairman, Department of Botany, A.M.U., Aligarh for carrying out this work are also gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks are also due to Drs. M.R. Khan, A.A. Khan, M.J. Pasha, K. Singh and Mr. H. Siddiqui for their help and cooperation. Sincere thanks are also extended to Mr. Ananth Subramaniam for his cooperation and help for assisting in data analysis.

Heartiest respect and indebtedness are offered to my affectionate parents who have always been a source of inspiration, encouragement, patience and support during the course of my study in India. Patience and support of my in-laws are also respectfully acknowledged.

Sincere thanks are extended to my wife, whose patience and encouragement inspired and accelerated preparation of this manuscript.

SYED ABBAS HOSSEINI NEGAD