ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. V. R. Devaraj, for his untiring efforts in encouraging and guiding me throughout the course of this study. I truly appreciate that he has given me the foundation and the opportunity to broaden my knowledge in plant stress physiology. Personally he has been an epitome of principles, kindness and inspiration to me; I am deeply indebted to him.

I am grateful to Prof. N. H. Manjunath, Chairman of Biochemistry, Central College, Bangalore University, for providing necessary research facilities, timely advice, valuable suggestions and support during the course of my study. My sincere thanks to the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry, Prof. N. Ramachandra Swamy, Dr. C.S. Karigar, Dr. K.R. Siddalinga Murty and Dr. H.D. Ramachandran for their interest in my research work, useful discussions and voluntary help at the time of need.

I am grateful for the financial support provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi in the form of fellowship, which enabled me to carry out this research work smoothly. I am also thankful to the library authorities of Bangalore University and IISc; and the National Seed Project, GKVK for providing seeds of Field bean.

I am indebted to the scientist at Aristogen Bioscience Pvt. Ltd especially Dr. Vasudha and Mrs. Sudha Devaraj, without whose help this work would not have been a complete piece.

I thank my lab mates, past and present, Dr. Khalid, Dr. Manjula, Kokila, Siddappa, Nirjala, Shlinit, Abdul, Thiligavati, Prathiba and Padmashree for their friendship, camaraderie and lively lab discussions. These friendships contributed significantly to my professional education, broadened my understanding of biochemistry, and enriched my life. I cannot imagine having a better time while working.

Finally, I thank my husband and family for their forbearance during my absences and for being my hope, support and inspiration throughout my academic career.