

Acknowledgments

First of all, I give thanks to God for giving me strength and support from the beginning till the end especially during the hard times to carry out this work. I am grateful to almighty by whose benign blessings I have been able to clear another phase of my life.

I am particularly indebted to my promoter *Prof. M. Krishnappa* for encouraging and accepting me to do my Ph.D. research under his guidance, which I consider as the best opportunity in my life. He suggested the possible strategies for understanding the bacterial wilt disease and without his full support in supervision, valuable advice, enormous help and fruitful discussions this work would not have been possible. I feel deeply thankful for providing the financial support by joining me as a lab assistant under his DST Major Research Project on Bacterial canker of tomato. He helped me in every step of my research and especially with the experimental set up and in the writing stage. Finally, I am grateful to his kindness and concern and his readiness to discuss matters of the topic anytime and his kindly invitation for me and the friends for lunch many times at his home.

I am also grateful to Prof. M.B. Shivanna, Chairman of the department who provided me the permissions to use all the facilities available in the department laboratory, required for my research work. I will not forget his concern, hospitality and support to me during the course of my study.

I am very thankful to Dr. Y.L. Krishnamurthy, Dr. Raja Nayak, Dr. S.R. Krishnamurthy, Dr. Somashekar G. Malammanavar, Lecturers in the department for their valuable support and kind help during the course of my study period giving their suggestions and experience. I learned a lot from them.

I express my heartfelt thanks due to Dr. B. Thippeswamy and family, Dr. Sathisha, A.M. and family, Dr. G.E. Mallikarjuna Swamy and family, Dr. R. Deepak, Dr. A. Nanda, Dr. H.M. Prakasha and family, Dr. B. Shankar Naik, Dr. J. Shashikala, Dr. C.N. Chakravarthy, Dr. B.H. Ramesh for giving me a lot of support and encouragement especially when I felt dissappointed. I appreciate the nice times we shared. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. N. Rajeshwari, Dr. Ramesh Babu and Dr. Nataraj, Lecturers, Sahyadri Science College, Shimoga for their constant help and advice.

I appreciate the precious help from All India Co-ordinated Research Project on potato (AICRP) at Hassan especially to Dr. Venkatesh, Senior Scientist and Dr. Ramesh, Research Associate who taught me in the laboratories. Thanks are also due to Prof. Mahabaleshwar, Agricultural College, Hassan. Thanks for your advice and your answers to my multiple questions and concerns during my visits.

I am also thankful to several other organizations that gave me permissions to collect primary and secondary data and use many of their books, journals and offered to send me related articles that I might need. They include the librarians of Indian Institute of Science (IISc, Bangalore), Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra (GKVK, Bangalore), Department of Horticultural Crops of Karnataka Government (Lalbagh, Bangalore), Osmania University (Hyderabad) and I would like to thank Miss. Kavitha, Mrs. Vanitha S. Chandrashekar and Dr. M.N. Prasanna, Research scholars at University of Mysore, for their kind help and suggestions. I thank Dr. M. Venkatachalappa, Retd. Professor, Central College, Bangalore for his kind support and encouragement.

I am equally thankful to every one who participated and helped during my field visits for sample collection especially, to the farmers and the seed agencies at various places in Karnataka for productive useful discussions and I will miss you all!

Many thanks are due to Dr. N.B. Thippeswamy, Coordinator, DOS in Microbiology, Dr. H.M. Kumara Swamy, Lecturer, DOS in Biotechnology, Dr. Vijaya Kumar, Lecturer, Department of Wildlife and Management, Dr. G.S. Sathish and Dr. Yogeshwar Neelgunda, Lecturers, Department of Biochemistry for their valuable advice, help in various ways and constant encouragement.

I am grateful to my colleagues and friends Mr. N. Rajakumar, Dr. O. Nagaraja, Miss. N.M. Nagarathna, Mr. Syed Abrar, Miss. S. Swapna, Mr. K.S. Vinayaka, Mrs. Asha B. Manjunath, Dr. M.M. Vasantha Kumari, Mr. K.G. Somashekara Achar, Mr. T.R. Parashurama and family, Miss. Jyothi S. Uppar, Mrs. P. Sarala, Mrs. D. Reena Roy, Mrs. B.R. Nagashree, Mrs. V. Roopa, Mr. G.H. Raju, Mr. H.R. Suresh, Mr. Dayananda Nejkar, Mr. D. Prasad, Mr. Chandrashekar, Mr. M. Ramachandra Naik, Miss. R. Meghalatha, who kindly helped me by offering their valuable suggestions and advice. I appreciate their understanding and cooperation during the course of my study.

I would like to give special thanks and appreciations to Dr. J. Jayaraju, Department of Industrial Chemistry; Dr. Khaleel Department of English; Dr. H. Kandagal Hanumanthappa, Dr. T. Rajendra, Dr. Thimmappa, Dr. M. Ravi Naik, Mr. Shivarudrappa, Mr. Preetham and Miss. Prema, G.K. Department of Kannada; Dr. G.Y. Dayananda and Mr. M.V. Tejaswi Kumar, Department of Applied Zoology; Dr. D. Basavaraj, Dr. Naveen, Mr. Pancheshwar, Mr. K. Prakash, Mr. Girish Janney, Mr. Veeresh, Department of Environmental Science and Water Management; Dr. Ravi (History); Mr. Sujan Ganapathi, Mr. Gautham and Mr. Sudeep, Department of Biotechnology; Mr. M.N. Harisha, Mr. Pramod Kumar and Miss. Rajeshwari, Department of Wildlife and Management; Mr. Shivakumar Banakar, Mr. Thirumala and Mr. Shivakumar, Department of Microbiology; Mr. Sandeep Telkar, Mr. Bharath and Mr. Rajashekar, Department of Bioinformatics for their kind and helpfulness in many ways, during the time we shared in the University. All of them responded positively and I am very thankful to all of them.

I would also like to thank Mr. B.N. Vageesh (Bukkambudhi), Mr. P.B. Prasanna (Malekumblur), Mr. S. Gururaju (Adivala), Mr. Dinesh (Kudligere), Mr. N.V. Lokesh (Nagabhovanahalli), Dr. H. Rajanaik (IISc., Bangalore), Mr. L. Shivu (Baggavalli) Mrs. K. Hemavathi (Bhadravathi), Mrs. Sreelakshmi (Bhadravathi), Mrs. Rashmi (Bhadravathi), Miss. Deepa (Bhadravathi), Mrs. N. Theja (Bangalore), Mr. K. Nagaraj (Chitradurga), Mr. C.N. Anilkumar (Shimoga), Mr. P. Suresh (Karkala), Mr. M.N. Prasanna (Mudigere), Mr. Govindaraju (Bangalore), Mr. Ramachandra (Shimoga), Mr. Hanumanthappa (Holalkere), Mr. Pradeep (Holalkere) and Mr. Parameshwarappa (Shikaripura) for their friendship, constant support and encouragement during my study period.

I am particularly thankful to Mr. Dinesh, M.C. and his family for their friendship, concern, hospitality and cooperation. They have helped me in many ways and my work was not been complete without their ever lasting efforts and patience in typing, repeated corrections, neat alignment and printing in their SGS Computers at Shankaraghatta. And thanks are also due to Mr. Kashi, Ganga Book Binders, Shankaraghatta for their efforts to neat binding of this book.

I would also express my sincere gratitude to Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri, Shankaraghatta for providing me an opportunity of research in the Department of Applied Botany and to providing the necessary facilities to stay and research with the fellowships (for two years). I cherish with appreciation to the peaceful library and scenic nature of the campus during the stay in the University.

I would also like to thank Mr. Joseph, Mr. Nagaraj (Health Centre), Mr. Madhu and Mr. Mahesh who helped in various ways for my research work in the Department of Applied Botany.

Words alone cannot describe the immeasurable debt I owe to my father Sri Y. Kenchappa Maskal, my mother Smt. Shivalingamma Kenchappa, brothers Mr. K. Rajakumar, Mr. K. Ramesh and Mr. K. Vijaya Sagar, sister-in-law Smt. Saraswathi Ramesh, lovely Pooja, my wife Smt. Kavitha Vasanthakumar and in-laws for their endurance, unfailing enthusiasm and support during the course of my study. I will be always grateful to my family for their courage and the love they provided to me all the time I have been far from home in Hiriyur and to all my friends that have been always around supporting me so that my dream became reality.

Finally, I cherish with appreciation the joyful and cheerful company of so many people who always shared the burden of my work, cheered me in the moments of despair and made the things much smoother to make this venture a success. Everybody must have not been mentioned but none is forgotten.

(Vasantha Kumar, K.)