ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At this golden moment, my word fails to acknowledge those unique personalities who have made a vital contribution and played a pivotal role in accomplishing the thesis work. Few decorative words can hardly do justice to express my deepest sense of indebtedness and heartfelt gratitude to all involved with me mentally and physically.

At the onset, I feel unfathomable euphoria to pronounce my heartfelt veneration and gratitude to my Chairman of Advisory Committee Dr. Snehashish Chakraborty, Astt. Professor, Department of Crop Improvement, Horticulture & Agricultural Botany, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati for his invaluable suggestions and providing inestimable inspiration.

With profound and unfading sense of indebtedness, the author avails the opportunity heartfelt thanks to Dr. P. M. Bhattacharya, Astt. Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Uttar Banga Krishi Visva vidyalaya for his constant vigil and sincere guidance as co-chairman of Advisory Committee.

The author would like to convey august to Dr. A. Pal, Head, Department of Crop Improvement, Horticulture & Agricultural Botany, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati for his valuable advice on several occasions and Dr. H. Bhatterjee, Head Department of Plantation Crops & Processing, Faculty of
Horticulture, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswa vidyalaya for his continuous co-operation for carrying out the research work in the Departmental plantation.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Soumen Maitra and Dr. Ayon Roy for their extending help in analyzing and interpretation of the data of my experiments.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to Raghunath da, Swapan and Haradhan da for extending their whole hearted co-operation in carrying out my field experiments and collection of data through out the course of investigation.

At last but not least, I am indebted to my adorable parents, kaku, Tum. Babui and Sonamoni whose incessant inspirations, constant encouragement pave the way for submission of my thesis work.

Dated: Santiniketan, Birbhum
The............January, 2012. (Partha Sarathi Medda)