ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is the proud privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my guide Dr. V. S. Kothekar, Professor, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for his valuable guidance, constructive criticism and talented suggestions during the course of this investigation. I am extremely grateful to him for his keen interest, constant encouragement and enthusiasm which infused me to undertake this research work.

I am very thankful to Shri. S. O. Agrawal, Managing Director, Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna for allowing me to work in Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory and providing necessary facilities. I am also thankful to Shri. K. O. Zunzunwala (Director), Shri. S. S. Agrawal (Director), Shri. A. D. Nirkhee (Head, R & D), Martin (Director, R & D India) and all the staff of Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Jalna for their valuable help during the course of this investigation. I take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to Professor D. S. Mukadam Head, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University for providing me all facilities required to undertake the present research work.

I find immense pleasure in expressing my profound sense of gratefulness to Dr. Mrs. A. V. Kothekar for her active help and continuous motivation throughout the present work. I also thankful to Dr S. N. Sandikar Sir (Ex-Principal), Dr. R. S. Awasthi Sir (Principal) and all the other staff and students of B. R. Barwale Mahavidyalaya, Jalna for their immense interest in my work.

I wish to place on record thanks to my friend Dr. Nikhil Gaikwad for his help and co-operation, who really motivated me to initiate the present research work. I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to all my friends for their excellent co-operation.

I express my immense love and sincere gratitude to my parents, sisters, brothers and wife who helped me to build up my educational career.

I am very thankful to Mr. Milind and Manoj Kulkarni for their valuable help and timely co-operation for excellent computer typing of this thesis within a short time and with excellent accuracy.

Aurangabad        V. P. Kale
Dated: 01.12.2005