ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I kindly offer my humble salutations at the feet of Almighty who kindly imbibed the energy and enthusiasm through ramifying paths of thick and thin of my efforts.

I wish to avail this opportunity and evoke on record the ineffable personal indebtedness, deep sense of graduate and sincere thanks for the kindness of my chairman, Dr. K. Rajendran, Professor Agronomy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for his explicit instructions, meticulous guidance, incessant inspiration, sustained encouragement, expert counseling, constructive criticism, affectionate advices and unaccountable help rendered throughout my study and the tenure of this investigation.

It is privilege to express my sincere regards to the members of the advisory committee, Dr. M. Mohamed Amanullah, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. V.M. Duraisamy, Professor (AMRC), and Dr. N. Chandra Sekaran, Professor (SS & AC), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, for their ingenious suggestions and immeasurable guidance which were very much essential for strengthening the present research.

I express my profound thanks to Dr. P. Devasenapathy, Professor & Head, Department of Agronomy for his constant encouragement and extending the official help whenever needed. I am ineffably happy to place on record my sense of gratitude and thanks to PG coordinator, Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Professor of Agronomy for the guidance evinced all through my study period.

I humbly express my wholehearted thanks to Dr. N. Asokaraja, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. P. Santhi, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. R. Venkitaswamy, Professor (Agronomy) Dr. R. Kavitha, Professor (AMRC) and Dr. M.R. Duraisamy, Professor and Head (Ps and IT) for
their eminent guidance, affectionate advice, moral support and unaccountable help which were very much essential for strengthening the research work.

I accost my gratitude towards Dr. R. Karthikeyan, Farm manager (Eastern block) and Dr. D. Raj kumar, Farm manager (Central Farm) for their timely help in conducting the field experiment successfully.

I place my sincere and profound thanks to Dr. G. Guru, Asst. Professor (Agronomy) and all staffs, lab technician, labourers for extending their timely help in the course of my research work.

Deepest from heart, special thanks for my friends Bharathi, Suruthi, Jayanthi, Prami, Adlin and Rohini Srinivasan for their help, mellifluous love, care and mental support above all the care and affection showed on me during the study.

I am indeed indebted to my class mate friends Ashok, Deiveegan, John, Jeyajothi, Maruthu anna, Murali anna and Ramadoss and my junior friends Suresh, Mari, Ravi sir, Hari, Saran, Meena Kavitha, Rajapriya and Karthika for their timely help, good companionship, creative inspiration and uninhibited help rendered during the course of my study.

Words cannot express what I owe to my beloved father Mr. M. Murugesan, mother Mrs. M. Thanakodi, uncle Mr. R. Manavalan, sister Mrs. M. Ajitha, brother Mr. M. Anbarasan, sister-in-law Mrs. A. Anushalakshmi and my faithful well wishers, sister Anuma and beloved Arun who sparkled the spirit of love, enthusiasm and modeled me into the present position.

I express my adorable thanks to Mrs. Banu, Mrs. Radha and Mrs. Sindhu for their continuous assistance for the completion of work. I acknowledge with thanks to AMRC for their timely help in
arrangement of machines and I thank labours of eastern block and central farm for their timely help at the time of experimental field work.

I also acknowledge with thanks to M/s. Jain Irrigation System Ltd for their help in provision of drip system for research work.

I assert the expertise of Sree Kumaran Computers for the neat execution of this manuscript.

Finally, I acknowledge all those who are directly and indirectly helpful in bringing out this crux.

(M.Anbarasi)