## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely grateful to Prof. A. R. Mehta, former Head, Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda for the excellent guidance, critical evaluation and encouragement during the course of this investigation. His supervision and constructive criticism have enriched the quality of scientific and methodological components of the present investigation.

Valuable assistance and encouragement received from Dr. (Mrs) D. M. Barve, Research Associate and Dr. P. N. Bhatt, former Reader in Department of Botany, M. S. University of Baroda, are thankfully appreciated.

My heartful thanks are due to Research Scientist (pulses), Shri D. B. Patel, Shri J. A. Patel and other staff members of Pulse Research Station, Model Farm, Baroda, for useful help and kind co-operation during the period of present study.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. R. R. Shah, Associate Professor (Botany), N. M. College of Agriculture, GAU, Navsari for his keen interest, valuable thought provoking and constructive suggestions in the preparation of this manuscript.

My sincere appreciation also goes to Dr. Yogesh Jasrai, Dr. Badri Narayan, Dr. Kutty, Dr. Unikrishnan and other colleagues and friends in the Tissue Culture Laboratory for the help rendered from time to time during the investigation.

Thanks are also due to all the staff members of the Department of Plant Breeding and Cenetics, B. A. College of Agriculture, GAU, Anand, for the help rendered.

I extend my thanks to Mr. R. P. Dindorkar for assistance in photography and Mr. Bhailalbhai R. Patel for his excellent typing of the manuscript.

Author owes grateful thanks to the authorities of Gujarat Agricultural University for providing deputation for training under Faculty Improvement Programme.

I am grateful to my parents, brother and sisters who have been a source of inspiration and encouragement in completing this thesis.

Finally, I feel highly indebted to my wife, Chandrika for personal sacrifices she made and also to my sons Mital and Kinjal for any inconveniences suffered during the course of my research and shouldering the family responsibilities.

.

Baroda,

( DILIP B. PATEL )