AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It gives me immense pleasure to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Prof. Arun Arya for his painstaking efforts and all possible help during the course of this investigation and preparation of the manuscript.

I am highly thankful to Head of the Department, Dr. (Mrs.) Sandhya Kiran (Botany Department) and Late Dr. Prashant Bhatt and Dr. Daksha Bhatt (Sun Agrigenetics Pvt. Ltd.) for providing infra-structure support and facilities at various levels. I owe a special word of thanks to all teachers of Botany Department of M.S. University of Baroda for their academic and material help.

I sincerely acknowledge with thanks the support provided by research scholars in the lab namely Dr. Renu, Dr. Shipra, Dr. Shraddha, Dr. Praveen, and Dr. Vijay Mane. I'm also grateful to Dr Akhilesh for laborious computer editing at the last moment of thesis preparation.

I acknowledge with thanks the services rendered by non-teaching staff especially Sharma ji, Prakash ji, Ranjeet bhai in the department. I am thankful to Mr. Vipul Field Assistant for his untiring help in the collection of plant material from for fields and providing assistance in the lab.

I am thankful to all the members of Botanical garden and ICAR-Date Palm Research Station, Mundra for providing hardening facility and also all the help in AM fungi related experiments.

I feel overwhelmed while remembering the love and affection received from my father Mr. Narayan Lal Sharma and mother Mrs. Vidhya Sharma who not only encouraged me to undertake this study but helped me also in completing the project and I am also thankful for the co-operation received from my sister Mrs. Rinku Sharma and brother Kuldeep Sharma, My father-in law and mother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Dulawat who were kind enough to bear with me with my busy schedule in the lab. I am highly grateful to them. I am at loss of words to express my gratefulness to my wife Geeta Dulawat for her co-operation and moral support.

Lastly, I thank all those helped me directly or indirectly, in smooth conduct of my research programme and have been inadvertently forgotten at this moment.

1 Show

(Vinod Kumar Sharma)