ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With full honour and ecstasy of delight, I express my heartfelt and sincere thanks to my affectionate and honourable advisor Dr. R. R. Viradia, Professor, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agriculture University, Junagadh for his keen interest, valuable guidance, judicial supervision and constructive criticism throughout the course of investigation and preparation of this manuscript.

This memorable occasion provide me unique privilege to thank the members of my advisory committee Dr. J. V. Polara, Professor, Department of Agriculture Chemistry and Soil Science, J.A.U Junagadh, Dr. D. R. Kanzaria, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, J.A.U Junagadh, Dr. D. V. Patel, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture Statistics, J.A.U Junagadh for their constant attention, formulation of curriculam and offering valuable suggestions throughout the period of investigation.

The author is gratified to record her sincere thanks to Dr. A. R. Pathak, Vice-chancellor, J.A.U., Junagadh, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Director of Research and P. G. Dean, J.A.U., Junagadh, Dr. B. K. Sagarka Principal, College of Agriculture, Junagadh and Dr. R. S. Chovatia, Professor & Head, Department of Horticulture, J.A.U., Junagadh for providing necessary facilities for conducting the research work and library staff for necessary help and co-operation to me during the period of study.

I wish to convey my special thanks to my teachers Dr. D. K. Varu, Dr. K. M. Karetha and Dr. S. K. Bhuva, Department of Horticulture J.A.U., Junagadh and all other staff members of Horticulture Department.

The financial support provided by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), New Delhi, in the form of ICAR-PGS for the postgraduate degree programme is sincerely acknowledged.

I express my deepest sense of gratitude to my beloved parents George Kutty Sebastian and Molly George, My siblings Thomas George and Chinju George and my husband Anvin Dominic George for their prayers, unconditional love, patience,
sacrifices, continued encouragement and inspiration throughout the period of my study without which this study would not have been a reality.

I am really grateful to my dear friends Deepthi, Rose, Remya, Kitty, Athi, Raju, Nikunj, Harshitha, Hetvi, Farheen, my beloved seniors Amritha, Viral, Samir and Venu and my Juniors Nikhil, Mariya, Amala, Hridya, Vidya, Sruthy and Anjana for their timely help and kind cooperation during the course of my study and field work.

Lastly but not least, I thank to Jesus and Mother Mary for their powerful intercession, richest grace and mercy, which motivated and inspired me to overcome all crisis I faced during the accomplishment of this thesis.

....any omission in this small manuscript does not mean lack of gratitude.

Place : Junagadh
Date  : 21/05/2018 (Manju George)