ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Success of any scientific research is not dependent on an individual effort. It is a harvest of seeds sown by group of like-minded people. It is a great juncture to recall all those faces and spirits in the form of teachers, friends and dear ones.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty Lord Swaminarayan, H. H. Pramukhswami Maharaj and Mahantswami Maharaj without whose blessing it would not have been possible for all my expectations to become reality.

It's my greatest privilege to express my profuse and deepest sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my Major Guide Dr. K. L. Dobariya, Research Scientist (Groundnut), Main Oilseeds Research Station, J.A.U., Junagadh, for his valuable suggestions, guidance, inspiration, encouragement, innovative ideas and constant counsel with enthusiasm during the course of investigation. It was a great pleasure to be associated with him.

I am immensely grateful and thankful to the members of my advisory committee, Dr. C. A. Babariya, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, J.A.U., Junagadh, Dr. V. H. Kachchadiya, Assistant Research Scientist, Main Oilseeds Research Station, J.A.U., Junagadh and Dr. D. V. Patel, Associate Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Statistics, College of Agriculture, J.A.U., Junagadh for their valuable suggestions and encouragement throughout the course of my study.

I also record my sincere thanks to Dr. A. R. Pathak, Hon. Vice Chancellor, J. A. U., Junagadh, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Director of Research and P. G. Dean and Dr. B. K. Sagarka, Principal, College of Agriculture and Dr. M. A. Vaddoria, Professor & Head of Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, J. A. U., Junagadh for providing me necessary facilities during my study. I am sincerely thankful to Dr. R. B. Madariya for helping me in statistical analysis.

I am extremely thankful to all my teachers Dr. D. R. Mehta, Dr. L. J. Raval, Dr. N. B. Patel, Dr. M. H. Sapovadiya, Dr. Rajivkumar, Dr. S. B. Chaudhary, Dr. G. U. Kulkami and all the staff members of Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding J. A. U., Junagadh for their helpful suggestions, support and encouragement. They have provided an excellent studying atmosphere during course of my study.
At this juncture, I express my sincere thanks to, C. J. Rajani, U. J. Shekhda, H. D. Javia, D. S. Bavara and all the staff members of Main Oilseeds Research Station, J.A.U., Junagadh. I am thankful to all laborers, other non-teaching staff of Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Main Oilseeds Research Station for their co-operation; encouragement and help during the course of my research.

I offer my sincere thanks to C-Branch and Central Library. My special thanks to Dipakbhai (Krishna Xerox) for excellent word processing and formatting of this manuscript.

A special word of gratitude to my Mother Smt. Pravinaben, my Father Pravinbhai and Brother Akshay for their affection, encouragement, endurance, sacrifice and love bestowed upon me throughout the course of my study and research. I would also like to extend my special thanks to my Aunty Muktaben, Sisters Trushali and Riddhi who made my stay at Junagadh so spatial, pleasant and memorable.

Friends are integral part of life as the essence is with the rose. I also acknowledge my friends Surbhi, Monika, Ramya and Krupali who’s fond of memories in my mind keep me refreshing all the time and for their spontaneous and penetrating suggestions to me, without which I would not have had this much ease in completing the research work.

I feel my vocabulary is poor to express my heartfelt thanks to my friends Aarti, Rupa, Deep, Bhavin, Nikunj, Deepthi, Hetal, Hiral, Vishakha and my all classmates for moral support and helping hands at the course of research work. There are number of well-wishers to whom I cannot forget and I thank to one and all associated with me directly and indirectly

………..Any omission in this brief acknowledgement does not mean lack of gratitude.

Place: Junagadh
Date: 28 /05/2018 (Lunagariya Nidhi Pravinbhai)