

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge my PhD supervisor **Prof. Bharat B. Chattoo** for introducing me to the world of molecular biology and providing the excellent infrastructure to pursue my research work. I feel inspired by his knowledge and enthusiasm for scientific research.

I should also acknowledge **Dr. Didier Tharreau** for his help and support during my work in CIRAD, Montpellier, France. Also, thanks to **Dr. Thomas Kroj**, **Joelle Milazzo** and **Henri Adreit** for helping me whenever I needed it.

Also, thanks to the members of my PhD advisory committee **Prof. Archana Gayatri** and **Dr. Johannes Manjrekar** for their critical analysis of my work.

I am indebted to my M. Sc teachers especially **Prof. A M Shah**, **Prof. K I Andrabi**, **Prof. B A Ganai** and **Prof. M A Zargar** for teaching us wholeheartedly.

I would like to thank my seniors **Dr. Sanjay Jha**, **Dr. Bishun Deo Prasad**, and **Dr. Harsukh Tank** for their help and support.

Many thanks to my colleagues **Divya Purohit**, **Hashim Reza**, **Akhil Thaker**, **Chandra Prakash**, **Khyati Mehta** and **Hiral Shah** for their support in the lab.

I would like to thank the non teaching staff of our department especially **Mr. J K Nair**, **Mr. A. Verghese** and **Mr. Nitesh Bhatt** for their help. Special thanks to **Girish Bhai** and **Ramesh Bhai** for their assistance.

I am grateful to my friends **Willayat**, **Karishma**, **Ansarullah**, **Asif**, **Iftikhar** and **Mashkoor** who made my life easier during the difficult times in Baroda.

I would like to thank **Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India** for providing the financial assistance for this research work.

My sincere thanks to the **European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)** for awarding me the short term fellowship.

I appreciate my family especially my brothers **Dr. Feroz** and **Moosa Hayat** for being there for me. I am most grateful to my parents for showing the immense patience with me during these long years outside my home.

Suhail Muzaffar