## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide Dr. A. Bhattacharjee, Reader in Botany, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, under whose guidance the present work was carried out. I am greatly indebted to him for his constant guidance, advice and various sorts of academic help throughout my research work. I also owe an earnest gratitude to my co-guide Dr. P.K. Basu, Professor of Botany, North Bengal University, for his valuable guidance and advices.

I acknowledge my gratefulness to Dr. B. Dasgupta, Ex-Principal, Darjeeling Government College, Dr. G.S. Yonzone, Principal, Kalimpong College, Dr. K.K. Tamang, Head of the Department of Botany, Darjeeling Government College, for all the help, invaluable advices and encouragement on my work.

I can never forget the help I received from Dr. Ritwik Dasgupta, Mr. Dorjee Lama, Mr. Dhaniraj Chhetri, and Mr. Projjwal Lama who were always ready to spare their time to help in every step of my work at Darjeeling Government College, I express my sincere gratitude to all of them. I would also like to thank all the non-teaching staff of the P.G. Dept. of Botany, Darjeeling Government College, specially to Mr. Phurba Lama, Late Bhim Chettri, Mr. Prem Tamang and Ganesh Chettri who were always available in time of need and helped me at my laboratory works. My special thanks to Sri Goutam Dutta, Ex-Librarian of Botany Seminar Library, Darjeeling Government College, for his kind assistance on my reference works.

I am very much grateful to Dr. R. Maag Ltd. Dielsdorf, Switzerland for generous supply of Na-dikegulac, the key chemical used in my experiment, and to the Director, Oil Seeds & Pulses Research Station, Government of West Bengal, for making quality seeds available to me for my experiments.

I would like to thank Hill Affairs Branch Secretariat, Government of West Bengal, for financial assistance provided to me in the form of a research project.

Finally, I would like to express my immense depth of gratitude to my parents, in-laws, other family memebrs, all my relatives and well wishers for their constant encouragements during the period of my research work specially to my dad, mum and my husband who had always been a source of inspiration to me.

Last but not the least I express my hearty thanks to Mr. Sukanta Kanji of M/S DYNACOMP, 36A, Satish Mukherjee Road, Calcutta-700 026, who took all the pains in compiling my thesis with much care and attention.

Amu Sheela Rai

(ANU SHEELA RAI)

St. Paul's School

Darjeeling