

Preface

This publication is in the fond memory of Dr. A. S. Khalathar, who died prematurely in a tragic car accident. Dr. Khalathar was a great scientist and always reflected excellence. His attitude was 'Let knowledge and noble thoughts come to us from all universe'. The faculty members and others who had interactions with Dr. Khalathar spontaneously joined to bring out this commemoration volume when it was first suggested by his wife Mrs. Sandhya Khalathar. It was decided to invite articles from eminent scientists in the field of Plant Sciences from India and abroad as well as from his colleagues and students. The response to the request was tremendous. The volume includes 32 contributed articles.

The research articles cover a wide range of recent aspects in plant Sciences. The area covered in the volume includes Plant Improvement and Genetic Engineering, Ethnobotany, Plant Pathology and Mycology, Developmental Botany, Ecological and Environmental studies and Plant Physiology. Thus, this volume has the inherent theme of creativity of nature and man. Therefore, it was decided to name it as Advance Concepts in Plant Sciences.

The compilation of this volume was possible because of the instant response from distinguished experts who contributed invited research articles/reviews in time. We are very much beholden to all of them. At the same time, we are grateful to our colleagues Dr. PB Nandkar, Dr RP Thakare and Dr. (Mrs) Alka Chaturvedi for their timely help and co-operation.

We are indebted to Late Mrs. Sandhya A. Khalathar for coming forward and financing the publication of this volume. Due to sudden demise of Mrs Sandhya Khalathar, we could not bring out the volume in time. In fact, she worked untiringly with us to give proper shape to this volume. It is so sad that she could not live to see this book in print. However, Mrs. Swapna Tarunkumar, daughter of Dr. Anil and Sandhya Khalatkar took active interest in bringing out this volume.

Our grateful appreciations are also due to Mr Vinod Nangia of M s DATSONS for his strenuous efforts for printing of the volume. We are also thankful to all those have extended their help directly or indirectly to us during the course of publication of this volume.

Dr. KH Makde
Dr SE Pawar
Dr AD Choudhary