

CONTENTS

Page No.

	Certificate	
	Declaration	
	Acknowledgements	
	Abbreviations	
Chapter 1	Introduction.....	1-7
Chapter 2	Review of Literature.....	8-57
2.10	<i>Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana)</i> as a model plant.....	8
2.20	Classification.....	8
2.30	What is seed.....	8-25
2.3.1	Seed development: associated key events.....	9
2.3.1.1	Embryogenesis.....	9-10
2.3.1.1.1	Cell elongation phase.....	10-11
2.3.1.2	Seed maturation phase.....	11
2.3.2	Genes involved in seed development process.....	12-18
2.3.2.1	<i>ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA MERISTEM LAYER1(ATML1)</i>	13
2.3.2.2	<i>WUSCHEL RELATED HOMEobox2 and 8 (WOX2, WOX8)</i>	13
2.3.2.3	<i>PIN-FORMED1, 3, 4, 7 (PIN1, 3, 4 and 7)</i>	13-14
2.3.2.4	<i>MITOGEN-ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASE (MAP Kinase)</i>	14
2.3.2.5	<i>DICER-LIKE1 (DCL1)</i>	14
2.3.2.6	<i>HYPONASTIC LEAVES1 (HYL1)</i>	14-15
2.3.2.7	<i>SERRATE (SE)</i>	15
2.3.2.8	<i>HUA-ENHANCER 1(HEN1)</i>	15

2.3.2.9	<i>ARGONAUTE 1(AGO1)</i>	15-16
2.3.2.10	<i>LEAFY COTYLEDON (LEC) and FUSCA3 (FUS3)</i>	16-17
2.3.2.10.1	<i>LEC1</i>	16-17
2.3.2.10.2	<i>LEC2</i>	17
2.3.2.10.3	<i>FUS3</i>	17
2.3.2.11	<i>ASIL1, ASIL2, HDA6/SIL1</i>	17-18
2.3.3	What is seed germination.....	18-23
2.3.3.1	Water uptake (imbibitions) and the Metabolism Resumption.....	19-20
2.3.3.2	Translation during germination.....	20-21
2.3.3.3	Radicle Extension and the Completion of Germination.....	21-23
2.3.4	Dormancy and its biological roles.....	23-25
2.3.4.1	Metabolism of Dormancy Maintenance and Termination.....	24-25
2.40	miRNA regulates different phyto hormones, that are essential in seed germination and seed developments.....	25-26
2.50	Biogenesis of miRNA.....	27-28
2.60	Biogenesis of ta-siRNA.....	28-30
2.70	The Role of sRNA in plant growth and developmental separation....	30-37
2.7.1	Hormone biosynthesis and signalling.....	30-31
2.7.2	Boundary formation/organ separation.....	31-32
2.7.3	Organ polarity.....	32-34
2.7.4	Developmental transitions.....	34-36
2.7.5	Floral organ identity and reproductive development.....	36
2.7.6	Leaf growth.....	36-37
2.80	Hormonal interactions during seed dormancy release and germination.....	38-52

2.8.1	Abscisic acid (ABA).....	38-40
2.8.1.1	ABA biosynthesis and signalling.....	39-40
2.8.2	Gibberellins (GAs).....	41-43
2.8.2.1	GA biosynthesis and signalling.....	43-45
2.8.3	Ethylene (ET).....	47-48
2.8.3.1	Ethylene biosynthesis and signalling.....	48
2.8.4	Brassinosteroids(BRs).....	48-49
2.8.4.1	BRs biosynthesis and signalling.....	49
2.8.5	Auxin(IAA).....	49-51
2.8.5.1	Auxin biosynthesis and signalling.....	50-51
2.8.6	Cytokinin.....	51-52
2.8.6.1	Cytokinin biosynthesis and signalling.....	52
2.9	Molecular crosstalk of miRNAs, hormones and abiotic stresses in Seed Germination and Dormancy.....	52-55
2.10	Future Perspective.....	57
Chapter 3	Materials and Methods.....	58-78
3.10	Materials.....	58-66
3.1.1	Plant materials.....	58
3.1.2	Bacterial Strains.....	58
3.1.3	Plasmids and vectors.....	58
3.1.4	Concentrations of various antibiotics.....	59
3.1.5	General Chemicals and other materials.....	59-60
3.1.6	Enzymes.....	60
3.1.7	Plastic wares and Glasswares	61
3.1.8	Buffers and solutions -as described in (Sambrook et al, 1989).....	61-63

3.1.8.1	pH buffers.....	61
3.1.8.2	TE buffer.....	61
3.1.8.3	Tris-Cl (1M).....	61
3.1.8.4	EDTA (0.5M, pH 8.0).....	61
3.1.8.5	SDS (20%).....	61
3.1.8.6	Sodium acetate (3M, pH 5.2).....	62
3.1.8.7	Ethidium Bromide (EtBr) (10mg/mL).....	62
3.1.8.8	Extraction buffers for DNA mini preparation.....	62
3.1.8.8.1	Alkaline lysis solution I.....	62
3.1.8.8.2	Alkaline lysis solution II.....	62
3.1.8.8.3	Alkaline lysis solution III.....	62
3.1.8.9	Gel loading buffers.....	62-63
3.1.8.9.1	Tris-Acetate EDTA buffer (50X).....	63
3.1.8.9.2	MOPS [3-(N-morpholino) propanesulfonic acid] buffer (10X).....	63
3.1.8.10	Loading Dyes.....	63-64
3.1.8.10.1	6X gel loading buffer (DNA).....	63
3.1.8.10.2	1.5X RNA loading dye.....	63-64
3.1.8.11	Extraction buffer and GH-buffer for isolation of RNA from seeds.....	64
3.1.8.11.1	Extraction buffer.....	64
3.1.8.11.2	GH-buffer.....	64
3.1.9	Growth medium.....	64-65
3.1.9.1	MS medium for plant growth (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) (1000 mL).....	65
3.1.9.2	Luria Bertini (LB) medium for bacterial growth.....	65
3.1.10	List of software used for <i>in silico</i> analysis.....	65-66
3.20	Methods.....	67-78

3.2.1	Plant growth conditions.....	67
3.2.2	Sterilization protocols.....	67
3.2.3	RNA isolation.....	67-68
3.2.4	Removal of genomic DNA from RNA preparation.....	68
3.2.5	Purification of RNA.....	68-69
3.2.6	Denaturing formaldehyde gel for RNA electrophoresis.....	69
3.2.7	Stem-loop quantitative RT-PCR and semi quantitative RT-PCR.....	69-70
3.2.8	Reverse transcription (RT) PCR and semi quantitative RT PCR reaction for target genes.....	70-71
3.2.9	Genomic DNA isolation.....	71
3.2.10	Spectrophotometric estimation of nucleic acid.....	71-72
3.2.11	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).....	72
3.2.12	Agarose gel electrophoresis.....	72
3.2.13	Elution of DNA from agarose gel.....	72-73
3.2.14	Ligation reaction.....	73
3.2.15	Preparation of Escherichia coli DH5 α competent cells.....	73-74
3.2.16	Transformation in DH5 α E. coli competent cells.....	74
3.2.17	Confirmation of the presence of insert by colony PCR.....	74
3.2.18	Preparation of glycerol stocks.....	74-75
3.2.19	Plasmid DNA isolation by alkaline lysis method (Mini Prep).....	75
3.2.20	Purification of plasmid DNA by PEG precipitation.....	75
3.2.21	Sequencing and sequence analysis.....	76
3.2.22	Transformation in Agrobacterium competent cells.....	76
3.2.23	Transformation of <i>A. thaliana</i> : Floral dip method.....	76-77
3.2.24	β -glucosidase (GUS) histochemical analysis.....	77
3.2.25	miRNA microarray.....	77

3.2.26	Tetrazolium(TZ) assay.....	77-78
3.2.27	Germination assay under stress conditions.....	78
Chapter4	Results and Discussion.....	79-123
Chapter4.1	Identification of miRNAs related to seed physiology or germination.....	79-84
4.1.1	Introduction.....	79
4.1.2	Results.....	79-84
4.1.2.1	Expression of miRNAs are differentially regulated in seeds under germination conditions.....	80-84
Chapter4.2	Validation of miRNA expression, identification of targets, functional annotation and tissue specific expresion studies.....	85-104
4.2.1	Introduction.....	85
4.2.2	Results.....	85-104
4.2.2.1	Validation of expression reflects dynamic spatiotemporal regulation of miRNAs during seed germination.....	85-89
4.2.2.2	Differential expressions of miRNAs negatively regulate the expression of target transcripts during seed germination conditions.....	89-95
4.2.2.3	Expression pattern of miR390b in seeds correlates with the expression of tasiR-ARF target ARF2/3/4, and indicates its role in seed germination....	96
4.2.2.4	Expression pattern of miR160a in germinating seeds.....	96-97
4.2.2.5	Discussions.....	99-100
4.2.2.5.1	miRNAs and their targets are dynamically regulated at different conditions during germination.....	100-104
4.2.2.5.2	Expression pattern of miR390 and downstream <i>ARF2/3/4</i> indicates potential role of miRNA-tasiRNA crosstalk in seed germination process.....	104
Chapter4.3	Functional analysis of the selected small RNA pathway gene SGS3	

for role in seed germination.....	105-113
Chapter4.3.1	Introduction.....105-106
Chapter4.3.2	Results.....107-111
4.3.2.1	Tetrazolium (TZ) assay indicate altered seed viability of ta-siRNA biogenesis mutant sgs3-11.....107-108
4.3.2.2	Seed germination is affected in tasiR-ARF biogenesis pathway mutant sgs3-11.....108-111
Chapter4.3.3	Discussions.....112-113
4.3.3.1	Analysis of sgs3-11 suggests the role of ta-siRNA in viability and germination in <i>Arabidopsis</i>.....112-113
Chapter4.4	Functional analysis of the selected miRNA miR165/166 for its role in seed germination..... 114-123
4.4.1	Introduction..... 114
Chapter4.4.2	Results..... 115-123
4.4.2.1	Effect of salt stress in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166..... 115
4.4.2.2	Effect of draught stress in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166..... 116-117
4.4.2.3	Effect of heat stress in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166..... 117-118.
4.4.2.4	Effect of ABA in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166.....118-119
4.4.2.5	Effect of GA in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166.....119-121
4.4.2.6	Effect of cold stress in seed germination of eTM-miR165/166.....121-122
4.4.2.7	Seed germination of eTM-miR165/166 and control Wt Col in with out stress conditions.....122-123

Discussion-----	123
Chapter4.4.3	
Chapter5 Summary.....	124-126
Chapter6 Conclusions.....	127-128
Bibliography.....	129-149
Appendix	
List of Publications	