**Figure legends**

**Figure1** A diagrammatic representation of gene expression and abiotic stress signal perception in plants via ABA-independent and ABA-dependent pathways (Modified from Gahlaut et al., 2016; Khan et al., 2018 )

**Abiotic stress**

**Drought, High salinity, Heat, cold**

Receptors

Phytohormone

(ABA)

ROS

Calcium ion/ Cam

**CIPKs, CDCPKs, MAP kinases, PPs, SOS2, Other PKs**

Transcription factors

ABA-Dependent

ABA-independent

NAC/ ZF-HD

DREB/ CBF

WRKY

MYC/ MYB

AREB/ABF

NACR/HD/ZFR

DRE/CRT

W-box

MYCRS/ MYBRS Y

ABRE Y

Expression/Activation of target stress-activated genes

(ERD1, RD29A, RD22, RD29B)

Functional proteins

Osmolyte accumulation, membrane protection, ROS- Scavenging, Stomatal closure etc

**Abiotic stress tolerance**