ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. (Mrs). Ch. Sasikala, Environmental Microbial Biotechnology Laboratory, Centre for Environment, IPGS&R, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad for accepting my candidature as Ph.D. student and for her valuable guidance, constant help and encouragement throughout my research work.

I thank Dr. Ch. Venkata Ramana for his guidance in addition to being a source of inspiration to me throughout the work.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. Y. Anjaneyulu, Head, Centre for Environment, IPGS&R, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad for providing facilities.

I also thank Prof. P. Ramanjaneyulu, former Head, Department of Microbiology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur for his suggestion to join as Junior Research Fellow in Osmania University, Hyderabad.

I thank my life partner, Ms. Nanda for her encouragement, patience and sustained interest evinced during every phase of the present research work.

Help received from my sister Mrs. Uma Venugopal, Environmental Microbial Biotechnology Laboratory, Centre for Environment is greatly acknowledged.

My thanks to Vijayalaxmi, Archana & Arunasri, Environmental Microbial Biotechnology Laboratory, Centre for Environment, JNTU for their co-operation.

Support, co-operation and encouragement received from my Grand mother, father, mother, in-laws, mama, aunts and my brothers N. Rajagopal and N. Rajanand is priceless.

Rajasekhar Neeli