Acknowledgement

It is my great pleasure to express my sincere gratitude and indebtedness to my guide Dr. H.P. Deka Boruah, Principal Scientist, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, 785006, Assam for giving me the kind opportunity to execute this research work in the Biotechnology division, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam and also for his valuable guidance, constant encouragement during the course of my investigation and providing all the facilities made available for the research work carried out by me.

My heartfelt gratitude and everlasting indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Ajit K. Tamuli, Head, Associate Professor, Department of Life Science and Bioinformatics, Diphu campus, 782460, Assam University, Assam for the completion of this research work. The success of this research work is the result of his wisdom, matchless supervision and kind support.

I thankfully acknowledge Dr. T. C. Borah, Head, Biotechnology, NEIST, Jorhat 785006, Assam for his kind cooperation and help during the course of my research work.

I offer my sincere thanks to Director, North-East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat for providing all the facilities made available for my research work.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to get immense help from Dr. Neelima Saikia, Scientist (Retd.), Biotechnology Division, NEIST, Jorhat for giving me valuable guidance, valuable advice and suggestions related to my work which can never be described in words.

I gratefully acknowledge Dr. Anil K. Singh, Biotechnology Division, NEIST, Jorhat, Assam for his kind words of encouragement.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to ONGCL, Sivasagar, Assam for their help and cooperation for providing their site for my research purpose.
I offer my sincere thanks to technical and non-technical staff of the Biotechnology Division, NEI ST, Jorhat, Assam and department of Life Science and Bioinformatics, Diphu Campus, Life Science Department, Assam University, Silchar, Assam and for their assistance.

I am also grateful to my colleague research scholars Himadri Das, Mridusmita Mishra, Maina Borah, Reshita Baruah, Jiten Mech and Pallabi Saikia for their help and cooperation through the research period.

Finally, from the core of my heart, I thank my parents, younger sister Nerzy, younger brother Albert, elder sister Daisy Lahkar, brother-in-law Dr. P.J. Lahkar and Riya for giving me invaluable moral support. I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Abhijit Sarma Roy for his encouraging words as well as practical and moral support during this important phase of my life. Heartfelt thanks to all of them for their countless sacrifices during the entire research period.

Lastly, this work would have been impossible without the blessing of the Almighty and so a special thank to him.

Place

Date