ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The key to everything is patience; you get the chicken by hatching it, not by smashing it.

(Arnold Glasgow)

Over and above the entire substance, I firmly and solemnly offer thanks to the Almighty Allah, who blessed me to over-come all concurrent hardships and tests in the accomplishment of the study and this manuscript. All praises be to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), the city of knowledge, the illuminating torch and rescuer of humanity from going astray, whose teachings enlightened my soul and flourished my thoughts.

Today I am immensely pleased and feel elated on successful completion of my research work. It was an honor for me to have Prof (Dr) S.D Tyagi as my supervisor. His continuous motivation, kind supervision, judicious guidance, criticism, sincere advice, patience, fatherly approach, loving attitude and ever patronage, during the research and completion of dissertation improved the quality of work. I found him a commanding supervisor with extra ordinary research skills, vast knowledge, amazing determinations, loving behavior and love for nature, sciences and technology. I am grateful to him for his interest shown in the development, promptness and thoroughness in reviewing my thesis in a very short period of time. I express my sincere gratitude to him for giving me many opportunities to interact with many renowned scientists of the country.

I would like to thank Professor (Dr) G. S. Sanghera, Associate Professor-cum-Senior Scientist, Section of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops, SKUAST-K, Khudwani Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir for permitting me to complete a part of my research work there. His guidance, encouragement, and affectionate treatment during the course of the study, deepened my thirst for further research work. Special thanks go to Prof. (Dr) Ali Anwar, Senior Scientist Plant Pathology, SKUAST-K, Shalimar Srinagar for his valuable advice on the many aspects of my study.

I am especially thankful to Principal Kisan Post Graduate College Simbhaoli, Hapur Prof (Dr) N. A. Chaudhary for uninterrupted support in various aspects of my studies.

I wish to express my deepest sense of gratitude to the noble and sympathetic attitude, untiring advice and humble benevolence of Dr Tejbeer Singh, Head Department of Agricultural Botany. His expert supervision and excellent caliber graced me with an unparallel boon in achieving the dignified goal.

I also offer special thanks to all the staff members of the department viz. Dr S. P. S. Sirihoi and Dr Sanjay Malik for their due support and encouragement during the period of research. I am also thankful to D. B. Singh, accountant and other non teaching staff of the college for their help and coordination.

I offer obligations to Prof. (Dr) S. S. Gaurav, Coordinator, Department of Seed Science and Technology, Ch Charan Singh University, Meerut for his technical guidance,

constructive criticism, valuable suggestions and kind cooperation during the tenure of my study.

I am especially grateful to Dr Deepak Kumar Bahuguna, Lecturer, Department of Seed Science and Technology, Ch Charan Singh University, Meerut for his kind cooperation and helping attitude throughout my study. I am also thankful to Mr. Ashok Kumar and Mr. Rahul of the same Department for their fulltime support during the course of study.

I wish to express my appreciation to Shri Sita Ram Kushwa, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa New Delhi for his collaboration in statistical analysis of my data. My statistical analysis work would not have been completed without timeless support and understanding of my friend Mr. Vikrant Tyagi, Research Scholar Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, to whom I owe a deep depth of gratitude.

At the outset, I intend to place on record my deep sense of gratitude and respect to Dr. N. K. Gautum, Senior Scientist, Division of Germplasm Collection and Exploration, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources Pusa, New Delhi, for his guidance and advice during the course of this investigation. I am also thankful to Dr Arjun Lal, Head Division of Germplasm Conservation and Evaluation, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources Pusa, New Delhi and other respected scientists there especially Dr Satesh Kumar Verma and Dr Nidhi Mohan Verma, for helping me during the collection of pea germplasm. I feel privileged to specially thank to Prof. (Dr) M. Sultan Sheikh, Senior Scientist, NBPGR-Kashmir Srinagar and Prof (Dr) Feroz Ahmed Shah Junior Scientist SKUAST-K, for their help and cooperation. I am also thankful to Mr. B. R. Chaudhary, NBPGR Old Campus, Pusa New Delhi for his help and support.

I am also grateful to Prof. A. R. Najar, Coordinator Department of Seed Technology, and Prof. Sabzar Ahmed Sheikh, Department of Botany, Govt. Degree College (Boys) Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir for their support in many invisible ways during the course of investigation.

I also thank the library staff of Ch Charan Singh University, Meerut; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa New Delhi and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar Srinagar for their cooperation and support during the collection of literature.

I express my deep thanks to Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India for offering financial support and assistance (INSPIRE Fellowship) throughout my study. I am also thankful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for selecting me in Maulana Azad National Fellowship for PhD.

I cherish with appreciation the joyful and cheerful company of my colleagues and friends namely Mr. Waheed-U-Zaman Mir (Lecturer Seed Technology), Mr. Irshad A. Mir (Lecturer Computer Science), Mr. M. Abbas Dar (Seed Technology), Mr. Ganaie Haroon, Mr. M. Amin (Lecturer Computer Science), Mr. Tahir A. Shah, Dr M. Shafi (Lecturer Pol. Science), Mrs. Jyoti Tyagi (Research Scholar), Ms. Priyanka Chaudary, Mrs. Nandita

Kesarwani, Mrs. Meenakshi Singh, Mr. Bhupendra Singh, Mr. Prabhat Kumar, (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of India), Sajad A. Dar, Mr. Mudasir A. Itoo, Mr. Ayaz A. Khanday, Mr. Sajid Ali (B.Tech), and Mr. Zeeyawul-Haq (BCA) who helped in many invisible ways to me during the course of study. I present my special thanks from core of my heart to Ms. Ruby Jan (Deptt. of Sericulture, Kashmir) who always shared the burden of my work, cheered me in the moments of despair and made the things much smoother.

The words are not worthy to mention the love and affectionate support of my beloved parents Shri. Gull Mohd Lone and Rashida Bano, my lovely sister, Kudsia Jan, humble brother, Mr. Irfan A. Lone and my kind grandfather Haji G. Ahmed Lone; they remained pillars of source and constant inspiration for me in stepping up educational career and molding my life. I will never ever forget their sacrifices, patience, prayers, love and devotion to me and the comfort I get from them. Many many thanks go directly to all my family relatives back home at Bragam Dooru Shahabad for their moral support, sacrifices, and understanding.

Last but not least, I would to thank Mr. Neeraj Chaudhary, Meerut for his cooperation during the typing f this manuscript.

Place: Meerut (ISHRAT AHMED LONE)

Date: March, 2013