ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With great humility, I thank God – The almighty for bestowing me with such affectionate parents, whose love, dedication and inspiration encouraged me to go through this juncture.

I feel privileged to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Akhilesh Sharma, Professor, Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture, CSK HPKV, Palampur, the chairman of my advisory Committee for his impeccable guidance, ever present help, incessant encouragement, indescribable humanitarian and swift executions during the study period and in the completion of the manuscript.

This memorable occasion also provides me an opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Viveka Katoch, Dr. D. K. Banyal, Dr. Swarn Lata and Dr. V. K. Sharma, the esteemed members of my advisory committee for their inspiration, suggestions and timely help.

I avail myself of this rare opportunity to express my ecstatic thanks to Dr. Yudhvir Singh Professor and Head of Department and all the teachers of the Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture for their kind cooperation and impeccable guidance during the courses of the study. I also express my thanks to field and official staff of the Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture for their timely and sincere help during the course of experimentation.

I am availing this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Dean, Postgraduate Studies, CSK HPKV, Palampur and university authorities for providing necessary facilities as and when required.

The words at my command are not adequate in form or spirit to meet the ends of justice in the matter of expression of the deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R.P. Kaushik, Dr. S. R. Khushwah and Dr. B. R. Ranwah for helping in my data analysis. Thanks are due to Dr. Bhupinder Singh Mankotia, Associate Director at HAREC Kukumseri for his kind support to conduct experimental trial. Special thanks to Ravi Kumar for recording the disease screening data at Kukumseri.

Among the galaxy of my friends, Chhavi, Nikhil, Gunjan, Rajni, Dr. Suresh, Shilpa, Sharmistha, Gajanand, and Ravinder who helped me at various stages of this study in different ways. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sandeep Kumar for ever cherishing affection, inspiration and unending encouragement. Words in lexicon would be few exiguous to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my lovely younger brothers Akshay and Hanish and my sister anchal for their constant inspiration in achieving goal.

All the words in the lexicon will be futile and less meaningful, If I fail to express my heartily sentiments towards my gracious grandmother Smt. Simrta Devi, respected father Sh. Shashi Sukhwal, affectionate mother Smt. Kalpana Sukhwal for their constant moral encouragement, lively sentiments benevolence and affection which led me to accomplish the task with Earnest efforts.

I am also thankful to Mr. Ajay Walia for giving final shape to my thesis.

I owe entire responsibility for errors and omissions.

Place: Palampur
Dated: 14th July 2016

(Kumari Shiwani)