Acknowledgement

It is a great opportunity for me to express my heartiest gratitude to all who have extended their hands of co-operation and encouraged me constantly throughout the study period. In this respect I extend my regards to the Head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, University of Calcutta for allowing me to carry on major parts of my research work in their laboratories. I am also indebted to the Head of the Department of Microbiology, University of Calcutta for allowing me to conduct some experiments of molecular biology in their department.

I feel highly honoured to express my deep sense of gratitude and respect to my honourable teachers and guides Dr. Kalyan Chakrabarti, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, University of Calcutta, and Dr. Sagarmoy Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, University of Calcutta for their in-depth guidance and constant encouragement during the course of this study.

I would like to convey my regards to Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Pro-Vice Chancellor for academic affairs, University of Calcutta for providing instrumental facilities and affectionate inspirations.

I will be failing in my duties if I fail to express my sincere gratitude, regards and indebtedness to Dr. Ashis Chakraborty, Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya for his valuable suggestions and constant encouragement throughout.

Constant encouragement, moral support and help from Dr. Sudipta Tripathi, Farm Manager, Agricultural Experimental Farm, Baruipur, University of Calcutta is gratefully acknowledged.
I implore my feelings and gratitude to Dr. H. Sen, Ex-Director and Dr. M.N. Saha, Ex-Principal Scientist, Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore for their help and encouragement during the course of work. Thanks are also due to the authorities of National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology, Calcutta for their assistance in evaluating jute fibre quality.

I am also thankful to the staff members of Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, University of Calcutta for their timely assistance.

My utmost thanks are due to Indian Council of Agricultural Research as well as University Grant Commission for their interest of this work and also financial assistance.

My thanks are due to my seniors Dr. Shilajit Barua, Dr. Avhik Bishnu, Dr. Joydeep Banja Chowdhury, Dibyajnan Chakraborty, Dipika Roy, Sambit Dutta and Moumit Roy Goswami for their constant moral support.

I also acknowledge the help and cooperation from my friends Ms. Amrita Chakraborty, Subhadip Mukherjee and Avishek Kundu during the present work.

Last but not the least, no word is sufficient to recall the priceless inspiration and support that I got from my beloved parents. But for their help, it would not have been possible to complete this present piece of work.

Date: 31.05.2013

(Biswa Priya Das)