

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my research supervisor **Dr. B.D. Ranjitha Kumari**, Professor, Dept. of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for her valuable guidance and sustained interest during the course of investigation. She always gave me the necessary freedom to pursue my scientific interests and consistently supported me with her invaluable advice during my research period.

With immense gratitude I wish to thank Dr **.S.Muthukrishnan**, Kansas State University, USA for providing me a Rice Chitinase construct for my research work.

I am very grateful to **Prof. Vasanthi Nachiappan**, Doctoral Committee Member, Dept. of Biochemistry, Bharathidasan University for her constructive suggestions and critical comments during the study.

My Sincere thanks to **Dr. Veluthambi**, Madurai Kamraj University, for providing me the strain LBA 4404 for my research work.

My thanks to **Prof. N. Jayabalan**, former Head and **Prof. M.V.Rao**, present Head, Dept. of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University for their encouragement and support for my study.

My Sincere thanks to **Prof. M. Krishnan**, Head, Dept. of Environmental Biotechnology, for his valuable suggestions and help to carryout Southern Blot analysis during the study.

I am grateful to **Dr. R.D. Prasad**, Senior Scientist, Directorate of Oil Seed Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad for providing *Alternaria Carthami* fungal strain for this study.

I express my sincere thanks to **Dr.Raja Mohan Rao**, Director, Centre for Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Kajamalai campus, for his valuable suggestion and as a well wishes during my study.

I specially thank **Prof.A.S.Rao**, Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, BDU, for his valuable suggestions and motivation during the study.

I am very grateful to **Dr. Vrijendra Singh**, Safflower Breeder, Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute, Maharashtra for providing seeds (cv. NARI-6) and his suggestions for my research.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance I received from my senior research scholars **Dr.M.D.Saravanamoorthy**, Assistant Professor in Botany,

A.A.Government Arts College, Musiri, **Dr.S.Anitha**, Assistant Professor, Government Arts College, Salem, **Dr.S.Nandagopal**, **Dr. J. Vijayakumar**, **Dr. G. Sujatha**, Assistant Professor, Government Women's College, Pudukottai, **Dr.P.Arun Mozhi Varman**, **Dr. R. Radhakrishnan**, **G. Raja**, and Junior research scholars **P.Ananthi**, **M.Prathap**, **Alagesan**, **M.Nimmi**, **Abhishek Raj** and **C. Janani**.

I wish to thank my dear friends **Dr. Karthik Raja** (Biotechnology), **Mr.N.Ramesh** (Microbiology), **Mr.Rudravelu** (Geography), **Mr.C.Bharathiraja** (Eco-Biotechnology), **Dr.P.Vijayaraj**, **Dr.K.Muthukumar**, **Mr.J.Sabarirajan** (Biochemistry), **Mr.S.Vinod Kannan**, **Mr. Dandapani** (IARI), **Father. Roy John**, **Mr.A. Raja**, **Mr.Guru Sarvanan**, **Mr.S.Vinoth**, **Mr.Siva**, **Dr. M.Chandrasekaran** (Plant Science), **Mr.Arun**, **Mr.S.Karthikayan**, **Mr.Mayavan** (Biotechnology), and **Dr.Gopinath** (NFMC) for their help rendered. I specially thank all my friends for their prayers, criticism and moral support to fulfil this thesis peacefully.

I finally express my sincere thanks to DBT and UGC funding agencies for providing financial support during my research.

The valuable help and kind co-operation extended by the staff members and research scholars of the School of Life Sciences at various stages of the study are gratefully acknowledged.

For all my confidence, the motivation behind, I express my thanks to my parents and wife **Nithya Devi**.

I thank the almighty for having blessed me with such wonderful peoples remaining throughout my life.

S.Pradeep Kumar