ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I seize this opportunity to express my profound regards and deep sense of gratitude to my Internal Guide Dr. O. D. Sharma, Rtd. Principal & Head (Horticulture), G. M. V. Rampur Manihar, Saharanpur and External Guide Dr. Bijendra Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, S.V.B.P. University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram, Meerut (Former Asstt. Breeder/Asstt. Professor (Vegetable), Department of Vegetable Science, C.S.A.U.A.&T., Kanpur) for his meticulous guidance, persistent encouragement and critical suggestions throughout the course of this investigation.

I am thankful to all faculty members, Department of vegetable Science, C. S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, Department of Horticulture, S.V.B.P. Uni. Of Agric. & Tech. Meerut and Department of Horticulture, G. M. V. Rampur Manihar, Saharanpur.

I am also grateful to Dr. S. P. Singh, Scientist, (Genetics & Plant Breeding), Regional Agriculture Research Station, Bharari, Jhansi (C. S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur) for his critical and helpful reading of this manuscript in infect vastly improved due to his constructive comments and ample discussion.

My cordial thanks are also due to my friends and colleagues for their untiring help in the research work and brotherly affection.

I express my profound regard and reverence to my parents, brothers and sisters and my in-Lawas for their love, affection, encouragement and moral support during my study period.

22/12/07
Dated:

Shazia Ali
(Shazia Ali)