ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I acknowledge with a grateful heart my indebtedness to Dr. P.C. Jain, Reader, Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology Laboratory, Department of Botany, Faculty of Life Sciences, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for his invaluable inspiring guidance and his encouraging attitude throughout the period of these investigations.

I am grateful to Prof. K.M. Vyas, Head of the Department of Botany, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar for providing laboratory facilities. I am under deep obligation of Dr. J. Lacey, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Herpenden, Herts, England U.K. for identification of some of the fungal cultures and Prof. S.C. Agrawal for constant encouragements in many ways.

My grateful thanks are due to Dr. S.K. Yadav, Reader and my other teachers for their interest and encouragements during the course of these studies.

I am grateful to the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India, for the award of Junior Research Fellowship and to M.P. State Rajya Beej Evam Farm Vikas Nigam, Sagar for providing certified seed grains.

I heartfully acknowledge the co-operation received from the all my research colleagues for their timely help in various ways.

Personal debts are the most difficult to acknowledge, I wish to record the blessing received from my parents and the co-operation and encouragements from my husband Dr. Dinesh Jain.

SAGAR

Date: Nivedita Jain