ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, at the very outset I would like to thank the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent almighty for the strength it inculcated in me to windup my research work.

I feel great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my Supervisor Dr. Deepak Vyas, Ph.D. (B.H.U.), Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar (M.P.) for his able guidance, continuous encouragement, unfailing interest and constant help during the study. He has given his valuable time and suggestions, without which the present task could not have reached its final destination.

I wish to pay my venerable regards and sincere thanks to my Co-supervisor, Prof. K.M. Vyas, Retired Professor and Former Head of Botany Department, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar. His specialty in understanding, patience and liberality has inspired me a lot. His readily available guidance despite his busy schedule was always available to me and without his precious help and suggestion this work would never have been completed.

I express my profound gratitude to Prof. T.R. Sahu, Head, Department of Botany, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar (M.P.) for his keen interest in academics endeavor and for providing necessary laboratory facilities.

I owe my gratefulness to faculty members Prof. A.D. Adoni, Prof. S.P. Bajpai, Prof. N.K. Soni, Prof. P. Mehta, Prof. A.K. Kandya, Prof. D.C. Atri, Dr. A.S. Mishra, Dr. S.K. Yadav, Dr. (Mrs.) J.S. Dubey, Dr. N.P. Bhalla, Dr. P.K. Khare, Dr. A.N. Rai, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Mehta for their encouragement and help in various ways.
I would also like to acknowledge my sincere thanks and regard to Prof. Mahalingeshwara Bhat, Food Materials Science Division, Institute of Food Research, Norwich Research Park, Colney, Norwich, England for providing valuable research material and helpful suggestions.

I also thank from the core of my heart to Late Dr. S.K. Saxena, Lecturer, Department of Botany, Bipin Bihari (P.G.) College, Jhansi who has always been a source of inspiration for me.

Thanks are also due to my teachers at my graduate and post graduate level Dr. M.C. Kanchan, Dr. V.P. Varshney, Dr. S.R. Gupta, Dr. J.P. Tripathi, Dr. M.Z. Siddiqui, Dr. D.P. Mishra, Dr. M.M. Pandey and Dr. F.D. Yadav, in Department of Botany, Bipin Bihari (P.G.) College, Jhansi (U.P).

I am highly obliged to Prof. R.K. Jain, Senior Scientist and Curator, Microbial Type Culture Collection and Gene Bank (MTCC) and Prof. Mayil Raj, Scientist, Institute of Microbial Technology, (IMTECH) Chandigarh and Dr. Anjana Sharma, Reader, Department of Biological Sciences, Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur (M.P.) for extending valuable help in the identification of some of the bacterial strains.

Special thanks are also due to the staff of Jawahar Lal Nehru Library, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar, Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Central Library, Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur for their enormous help during the survey of relevant literature.
I would be failing in my duties if I don't express my thanks to Mrs. Urmila Vyas, Mrs. Nisha Vyas and Ms. Bharti Vyas for often providing the welcome and homely environment during the entire course of research work.

I am also grateful to my seniors Mr. G.M Basedia, Dr. Sindhu Ferozh, Noopur Singh, Dr. Rajesh Yadav, Dr. O.P. Dwivedi and Lab mates Ashish Jain, Anuradha Soni and Archana Dubey for their immense help during time of experimentation and creating cordial, conducive, healthy and jovial environ for ideal place of work.

Thank also goes to Mr. K.K. Dixit, Mr. J.P. Chaubey, Mr. A. Rana, Mr. Sarad Soni, Mr. Ram Prasad and Mr. S. Katare for various helps.

I am grateful to my parents Smt. Shashi Kiran Vyas and Dr. Bharat Vyas and to my brothers Mr. Atul Vyas and Mr. Abhishek Vyas for their sustained support for this endeavor. I also offer my thanks to respected Late Dr. Sitaram Dantre for being a source of inspiration all the way since my childhood.

Last but not the least; thanks are also due to Mr. Alok Sen, Asian Computers, Sagar who meticulously typed the manuscript with fine sense of style and meaning. A special thank also goes to Mr. Nafis for the preparation of photographs artistically.

(Ashish Vyas)