Faculty of feeling in human nature has ever been beyond description. The valuable help and guidance that various persons have extended to me will ever be beyond my dictionary.

I express my deep sense of gratitude with reverence to DR. M. Z. ABDIN, my supervisor for his sagacious guidance and intellectual stimulation throughout the present study. His scholarly suggestions, immense interest, ungreeding help and affectionate behaviour have been a fountain of great inspiration to me. I have been infected with "work culture" during a short span of association. So, I am highly indebted to him. Moreover, his personal charm and warmth could be a source of inspiration and pleasure to anybody who is lucky enough to interact with him. I enjoyed my association with him to the extent that I consider this period a fortunate and unparrallear event in my life.

I esteemed it a privilege to record my profound sense of gratitude to PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD Iqbal, Head, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Hamdard University, New Delhi, but my vocabulary falls short. His insightful guidance, love and affection have gave a long way in preparing this manuscript. I have been fortunate to be inspired by his affectionate behaviour and dynamic innovative nature throughout the period of my study.

I place on record my gratitude to PROFESSOR Y. P. ABROL, National Fellow and Emeritus Scientist for going through the manuscript, and rendering valuable suggestions and interpretation.

I candidly feel that the words will hardly register the message of my indebtedness originating from the core of my heart to all Faculty members, particularly PROFESSOR M. ATHAR, PROFESSOR S. K. JAIN, PROFESSOR P. S. SRIVASTAVA, DR. JAVED AHMAD, DR. M. P. SHARMA, DR. T. O. SIDDQUI and DR. MAHMOODUZZAFAAR for their encouragement and academic support during the course of my research work.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to DR. R. K. KATIVAR, Senior Scientist, National Centre for Biotechnology, IARI, New Delhi, for providing the seeds of rapeseed-mustard and valuable suggestions rendered to me during the course of this research work.
In this scientific pursuit helping hands and moral boosting words of my beloved senior, Dr. G. Abraham and my bosom friend, Dr. Nisha Bharti had a significant role. I extend my sincere thanks to them for their ever ready gesture to help and constant encouragement throughout.

My earnest gratitude goes to Mrs. Shalini, Ms. Neeru, Mr. D. V. Singh, Ms. Arshi, Mr. Israr, Mr. Hasrat Ali, Mrs. Farah, Ms. Tarannum, Ms. Rama, Ms. Rubina, Mr. Rasheed, Mrs. Malini, Ms. Bhupinder, Ms. Bushra, Mrs. Samedha and Ms. Preeti whose affectionate help and everwilling company made my stay memorable.

It is a pleasure to thank my seniors and friends in Tissue Culture Lab Dr. (Mrs.) M. Purohit, Dr. (Ms) D. Pandey, Dr. Gayoor Ali, Mr. M. Haseeb Mughal, Ms. Saba, Ms. Alka and Mr. Sajeev who extended their co-operation on various occasions.

I appreciate the assistance and painstaking help rendered by Mr. Noor Mohammad, Mr. Phool Mohammad, Mr. Anwar, Late (Mr.) Purossottum, Mr. Meerajuddin Chacha, Mr. Idrees, Mr. Abdul, Mr. Satish, Mr. Waheed and Mr. Saleem in carrying out the field experiment.

This acknowledgement would be incomplete without the mention of the constant encouragement and co-operation provided by my friends, Mr. Shahid Mian, Mr. Nadir, Mr. Pervez Alam, Mr. Mohd. Pervez, Mr. G.V. Mishra and Mr. Abdul Illah.

I place on record my gratitude to the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (CSIR) for financial assistance received in the form of JRF during my study.

Diction is not enough to express my unboundable gratitude to my beloved parents, sisters and brother for their love, blessings and inspiration which make it possible for me to reach this level.

Lastly, but everlastingly, I thank the ‘ALMIGHTY’, the Allah.

(ALTAFAHMAD)