Acknowledgements

I wish to pay my deep sense of gratitude and reverence to express my sincere thanks to my esteemed supervisor Prof. Akhtar Haseeb, Chairman, Department of Plant Protection and Former Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, A.M.U., Aligarh for his inspiring and meticulous guidance, valuable suggestions, genuine concern, regular advice, immediate help, vigorous support, never failing encouragement during the course of investigation and preparation of this manuscript. I feel fortunate enough to have got myself registered for research work under his excellent supervision. I will always remain indebted to him and try to follow his footprints in future.

I wish to express my special gratitude to Prof. Javed Mussarrat, Chairman, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, OSD (Development), Former Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, A.M.U., Aligarh for his kind assistance, appreciation, never ending blessings and help.

I feel proud to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Parvez Qamar Rizvi, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, for his kind encouragement, cooperation, active and moral support throughout my research work.

I rejoice my special thanks to Dr. R.U. Khan for his constructive criticism, help and fruitful suggestions, and also for spending his day and night in the compilation of this manuscript.

With due regards and respect, I would like to pay my heartiest thanks to my teachers, Dr. M.R. Khan, Dr. M. S. Ansari and Dr. S. Ashraf for their support and advices whenever needed. I am also extremely grateful to Dr. (Mrs) Masarrat Haseeb for her constant encouragement, moral support, advice during the course of my study. Had she not spared Prof. Haseeb (Husband), it would have not been possible for me to accomplish the present task.

My regards, thanks and heartfelt respect will always been with Prof. M.M.R.K. Afridi, Former Chairman, Department of Botany, and Farmer Dean, Faculty of Science, and the loving teacher of my supervisor. My prayers for his good health shall always be with him.

During the course of study, I received help, suggestions and good wishes from Prof. H.S. Gaur, Joint Director and Dean, P.G. School, Prof. R.K. Jain, Project Coordinator, AICRP Nematodes, Division of Nematology, IARI, New Delhi and Prof. J. Kumar, Head, Department of Plant Pathology, G.B.P.U.A.&T.

Thanks are due to Dr’s. P.K. Shukla, Mahesh Pathak, Ashraf Ali and Mr’s. Tufail Ahmad, Mohammad Mahmud Khan, Haider Ali, Vishva Deepak Sharma, Saurav Dwivedi, Brij Raj Singh for their ever willing co-operation and amicable behavior throughout my research work.

I have no words to accord my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Mr. Arshad Ali, Ph.D. Scholar of my department for unending and everwilling help and giving be fitting shape to my manuscript.
I extend my heartiest thanks to Mr’s. Aman-ur-Rehman, Raghib Ali, Rashid Ali Khan, Akram Ahmad, Ifitahuddin Ahmad, Amir Khan, Akbar Ali, Syed Shariq Ali and Mrs. Nahid Anjum for adequate help during the course of investigation.

I am highly grateful to UPCAR Lucknow and ICAR, New Delhi for providing me the financial assistance during 2001-2003 and 2006-2007 in the form of Senior Research Fellow in two adhoc research projects of my supervisor Prof. A. Haseeb, Principal Investigator of the projects.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude and respect for my dear Mata ji, Pita ji, elder brothers and bhabhi ji for their love, care, support and prayers, which will always help me in successful completion of this task.

Words fail to express my indebtedness to my wife, Mrs. Chanchal Kumar for her love, care, encouragement and support during the of my research work. I would like to acknowledge the name of my daughter, Pavitra, she just completed one year of her cute life.

Finally I bow my head at the feet of my beloved sister in heaven. Time may pass but her smiling face will remain in my memories forever. I deeply missed and fondly remembered her.

Dated: 16/09/2008

Place: Aligarh

(Vipin Kumar)