ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My head bows in reverence of almighty Allah for making me able to complete my work.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Mohd. Saghir Khan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences for his supervision, valuable suggestions, guidance and constant encouragement throughout the work. Without his healthy criticisms and lively discussions this work would not have emerged in the present form.

It is a matter of pleasure to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Javed Musarrat, Chairman, Department of Agricultural Microbiology for providing all assistance during the experimental work.

I am grateful to Prof. Shamim Ahmad, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences for his kind help. I express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Iqbal Ahmad and Dr. Abdul Malik, Senior Lecturers, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences for their support and help.

My special thanks are due to Dr. Almas Zaidi without whose help and cooperation this work would not have been completed.

Coordination, support, help and encouragement I got from Shaba Aapa needs not to be mentioned.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Fazlur Rehman Khan and Rizwan Bhai for enormous help during the course of study.

I wish to acknowledge the superb assistance, affection and sustained moral support shown by my friends Mrs. Richa Jaiswal, Nazneen Bano and Asma Aleem who seem to have extraordinary sense of understanding and sharing.
It gives me pleasure, while thanking all my juniors in general and Farah, Sabina and Saquib in particular for their cooperation.

It fills my heart with joy to mention that my friends Dr. Shams Tabrez Khan, Kahkashan, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad, Dr. Ramzan Mir, Farrukh Aquil, Mrs. Nabeela Khan and Sadat have been very supportive and provided a pleasant company to me during the course of this study.

Special thanks are due to Foundation for Social Care (FSC) for providing me financial assistance during my research work.

I am also grateful to Dr. Parvaiz Qamar Rizvi and Er. Mohammad Ali Khan for their positive criticism, encouragement and kind help.

I shall ever remain grateful to Mr. Iltija Khan and his family for their endless love, affection, encouragement and blessing with whom I never felt alone in Aligarh.

I must admit that the blessing of my parents and love of my sisters, brothers, brother-in-laws, nieces and nephews stood by me. All these people are very special to me. I wish I could extend my best regards and love to them.

Last but not the least, I would like to render my special thanks to my fiancée Sabiha for her continuous patience and love for me.

In the end, I am also thankful to Mr. Kafeel Ahmad and Rais A. Khan for typing my thesis neatly and promptly.

(Mohd. Aamil)