ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“In the name of Allah, most gracious and merciful”

First of all, I am highly indebted and thankful the Lord of Universe (ALLAH) the most merciful and benevolent to all, who inspired man for gaining knowledge which he knew not and bestowed the men with epistemology and gave him the potential to ameliorate the same. It is His blessing, which inspired and enabled me to complete this work.

It is the blessing, light of countenance and illumination of my Peer-O-Murshid that enabled me to complete such a challenging work related to my thesis. I therefore express my deep sense of honour and reverence for him.

I feel privilege in expressing my profound and deepest sense of respect, high esteem and indebtedness to my venerable supervisor Prof. P.K. Srivastava (Chairman, Department of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology), for his excellent spirit, illuminative and precious guidance, keen interest, critical opinion and suggestions, constant useful encouragement, sympathetic attitude and technical tips, which have always been a source of inspiration during the course of preparation and formation of this thesis. He has always been kind enough in allowing me to have access to his precious time for discussion and stimulating talks, despite his busy schedules and pre-occupations.

I earnestly wish to make a special mention of Prof. Akhtar Haseeb (Dean), Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, who has been a source of encouragement and inspiration during experimental studies for completion of my thesis work.

I wish to express my special thanks to Prof. Javed Mussarat (Chairman, Ag. Microbiology) Prof. Syed Iqbal Ali (Principal, University Polytechnic) Dr. Sattar Hussain (Reader, Chemical Engineering Deptt.), and colleagues of the Deptt. And Faculty who were always helpful during entire period of completion of my thesis work.

Lastly I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks, the support and cooperation of colleagues, official staff, library staff, friends and well wishers.

(Saghir Ahmad)