ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research comprises “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications. The very idea of this work have been completed, makes me ponder over words to thank all those who were instrumented in the completion of this important milestone of my academic journey. No work can be turned as a one-man show; it needs the close co-operation of parents, friends, colleagues and guidance of experts in the field to achieve something worthwhile and substantial. Indeed the words at my command are not adequate, either in the form of spirit, to express the depth of my humility and humbleness before almighty “GOD” without whose endless benevolence and blessings this tedious task could not have been accomplished.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and respect to my Internal-Guide Dr. Anil K. Sharma, Professor and Head Department of Biotechnology, Maharishi Markandeshwar University Mullana Ambala. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to him for steadfast inspiration, expertise and illuminating guidance, unfailing encouragement, unceasing interest, constructive criticism, scholarly suggestions in the midst of his busy occupation.

The words at my command are definitely inadequate, to describe my gratitude towards my External-Guide Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Senior Scientist, Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal, for his full pledged co-operation, guidance, continued inspiration, valuable suggestions throughout the course of the investigation.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Dr Ravish Chatrath Principal Scientist at Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal for extending necessary facilities for this
I also acknowledge Dr. Sushila Kundu, Genetic Resource Unit of Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal for providing seeds of wheat genotypes used in this study.

My huge, whole hearted thanks to Dr. Indu Sharma, Director, Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal for her support, encouragement and valuable suggestions. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to Miss Bharati Pandey who helped me to accomplish this study. I am greatly thankful to my senior G.C. Pandey, and my friends, Manbir, Krishan, Rekha Malik, Shivani and Hardeep for their constant support and encouragement during the tenure. I also owe my sincere reverence and gratitude to my parents and my lovely elder brothers.

I am truly grateful to my husband for his love, support, and patience. Without him, I would not have been able to thrive in my doctoral program or balance my research with everything else. I would like to convey my cordial thanks to the administrative staff of Maharishi Markandeshwar University Mullana, Ambala and Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal for their consistent help and those who helped me directly or indirectly to fulfill my dream comes true.

This acknowledgement would seem meaningless, if I don’t remember of my sweet and cute little nieces, Arshiya and Sejal whose faces have been a constant inspiration for me and to whom I owe all the success, I have achieved so far.

Saroj Rani