Acknowledgements

This piece of work will never be accomplished without our God Almighty as His blessings and power that work within me that boosted me during my odd times and keeping be not so pretentious enough during good times.

When I started working on this topic, I often dreamt of the moment when I would get to this part: when the manuscript would be written, the final stress would be gone and I would look back at this period of my life with pleasure, nostalgia and gratitude. Finally, this moment has come. I can definitely say that the process was enjoyable. So I am glad to complete it by remembering many wonderful people who have contributed to it in various ways.

My first thanks go to my supervisors, Prof. K.C.Patel and Prof. R.B. Subramanian. I was enrolled in a joint PhD program. The contribution of both the supervisor is immeasurable. It is impossible to reference the knowledge and insights gained from ongoing conversations with them. Life blessed me with the opportunity to meet my both supervisors and this thesis is a small tribute to an exceptional persons from a student still anxious to learn from them. My guide Prof. K.C.Patel expanded my interests, shaped my thinking and teached me how to inscribe such an important document in words. Prof. Subramanian helped me a lot with the experimental part of the thesis, teaching me not only how to analyze, but also how to I could analyse and present the results of my work. They always tried to make my task easier and it would not have been possible without both of them. The good advice and support of my supervisors has been invaluable on both an academic and a personal level, for which I am extremely grateful. I extend my indebtedness and virtual admiration to Dr. Ujjval Trivedi for his constant support and efforts that made this day possible for me. His valuable and familiar suggestions have helped me to grow at each step during my tenure.

Also I thank Late. Dr. Diwakar Patel for suggesting this interesting problem to me that raised my interest in subject of plant pathology.
I would like to thank, Prof. Kiran Kalia, Head of B R D School of Biosciences and Prof K.S. Rao, Former Head, B R D School of Biosciences for providing me with necessary facility to carry out my entire PhD program work.

During my tenure I met some wonderful people and this wouldn’t be possible until I have not joined here as a research student. The time I have spent here is one of the most memorable part of my life and I thank all of them with immense gratitude.

I would also like to thank Dr. Haresh Keharia, Dr M Nataraj, Dr. V R Thakkar, Dr. Amita Shah, Dr. Datta madamwar, Dr. Acharya, Dr. Sujata Bhatt, Dr. Mohan, Dr. Reddy for their direct or indirect help that has been very helpful for this study. I also thankful to Mr. Nitin Solanki, Mr Hitesh Patel and all the teaching and non teaching staff of B R D School of Biosciences, who has helped me in either way in completing my whole work.

Apart from that, I depend on other people’s enthusiasm, and my dearest friend Deval was a truly inexhaustible source of it. She played an important role in making PhD studies challenging and enjoyable. This place is too short to acknowledge her in true manner. I would like to thank for her kindness, friendship and support and most importantly for becoming a lifelong friend. Her friendship is irreplaceable.

With great pleasure I would like to thank my seniors for their constant support and elderly suggestion starting from Dr. Rachana Bhatt, Dr. Sushma Deepthi, Dr. Kiran Sinh Rajput, Dr. B. Kavita, Dr. Khyati Pathak and Dr. Hardik Bhatt and Mr. Umang Bharucha. It was most memorable experience to work with them and to learn many new things from them. Also I thank my lab members of both labs. I would intialilize my gratitudeness with Miss. Anjali Bose for friendly nature and very eager to solve my problems related to any new software, Mr. Vimal Prajapat and Mr. Gopal Yadav for providing friendly environment and always keen to help me. Special thanks to my friends Mr. Sanket and Miss Honey for helping me to come out in my difficult times and they were always there to support me and help me, lastly Ajit Sir for providing friendly environment in the lab. I thank my friend Vilas for her immense support in either way during my tenure.
Furthermore I extend this gratitude to Pritesh bhai who helped from the beginning till the end of my tenure along with Ankit and Bhaumik who respected me, helped me whenever I needed something from the lab, reminded me whenever I was wrong, tussled with me in odd times and always tried to solve my problems in true manner. I thank all my friends for all that they bestowed to me in the form of care, warmth of love and everlasting support in all my endeavors.

How can I forget to thanks those helping hands who made my job easier during my tenure. I was very lucky in this manner to get very adorable dissertation students. My hearty thanks to my dissertation students Jalpa, Ketan and Viral for their kind support during my programme. I always depended on Ketan, who sincerely helped me to check the presence of Sir in the cabin.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Nehadidi, Purveshbhai, Dhananjay, Pramod, Sunitha madam, Digant, Kunal, Avinash, Dhirajbhai, Pinakini madam, Ravi for their direct or indirect support during my entire tenure.

I would fail in my duties if I forget to my family members. I wish to express my deep gratitude to my beloved my parents Mrs Pallavi Trivedi and Dipak Trivedi who always supported me in my depressed time and appreciated me for my achievements when I began this journey till the final shaping of this thesis. My special thanks to my brother Chintan and Manan for not letting me down by creating humorous environment around me. I am grateful to my parents-in-law Mrs Daxaben Oza and Mr Pravinchadra Oza along with my grandmother in law for their sacrifices which made my work easier after my marriage. I am greatly thankful to my grandparents and my whole family for unequivocal support, warmth, love and care throughout, as always, for which my mere expression of thanks likewise does not suffice.

I am very much thankful to my dear husband Dr. Vishal Oza who encouraged me in different ways. He helped me through his personal support and great patience at all times. His unconditional love motivated me right from the beginning of my work till the final shape up of this thesis. It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without his helping hand. He was always there when I needed someone to talk to
me and accompany me during my journey. He provided decisive and energetic support during the write-up stage. Many thanks to him along with Deval, Sanket, Vilas and Honey whose editing suggestions and precise sense of subject contributed to the final copy.

I would like to acknowledge the financial, academic and technical support of the BRD School of Biosciences and all the staff members for direct or indirect support. The library facilities and computer facilities of the Department have been indispensable.

I would express my sincere gratitude to CSIR for selecting me for SRF award and UGC for my selection as meritorious research fellowship that provided the necessary financial support for this research.

I am most grateful to Mr. Bhavesh Gajera and Mr. Alpesh Patel of Anand Agriculture University for providing me the necessary things required for my research. I disturbed them during their working time but they always rendered me all possible help without getting annoyed.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped me in either way during my entire work and they will always be remembered during my entire life. There are always people that I might have forgotten. My humblest apologies to those entire if I’ve inadvertently omitted them and to whom this acknowledgement is due. As it is expected, the inaccuracies and discrepancy remains my own which I take absolute responsibility, hoping that the knowledge I have gained here will be enough for changing my vision into the promising field of plant biotechnology.

Place: Vallabh Vidyanagar
Date:          (Shraddha D. Trivedi)