Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my guide Dr. M. Krishnappa. Professor, Department of Applied Botany, Jnana sahyadri, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, for his valuable guidance, constant support and encouragement throughout the studied period to complete the work successfully.

I express my gratitude to Dr. M.B. Shivanna, Chairman, Department of Applied Botany, Jnana sahyadri, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, for his constant support and encouragement.

I express my gratitude to my beloved teachers Dr. Y.L. Krishnamurthy, & Dr. Raja Naik, Department of Applied Botany, Jnana sahyadri, Kuvempu University, for creating interest in the field of Mycology and Plant Pathology and making me to enter into this field and thanks for their constant support and encouragement.

I am grateful to my beloved Sir, Dr. H.N. Ramesh Babu, Coordinator, Department of Botany and Seed Technology, Sahyadri Science College, Shimoga, Kuvempu University, for his valuable guidance, constant support and encouragement throughout the studied period to complete the work successfully.

I also express my gratitude to Prof. T.S. Hooviaha Gowda, Principal, Sahyadri Science College, Shimoga, Kuvempu University, Prof. M.S. Pushpalatha, Prof. H.B. Kamalakara, and staff of the Department of Botany and Seed Technology, Sahyadri Science College Shimoga, Kuvempu University, for providing Seed Technology and Botany Laboratories to carry out some part of the experiments successfully.

I extend my sincere thanks to my beloved Sir, Prof. E.T. Puttiah, Chairman Deptt. of Water management and Water harvest, Jnana sahyadri, Kuvempu University. I also extend my thanks to Dr.S. Nataraja, Dr. N.Rajeshwari, Dr. B.H. Ramesh, Mr. R. Deepak, Dr. Vijaya Kumar, Ms Parinitha Mahishi, Mr.K. Rajanna, Dr.K.R. Maruthi, Dr. Y.P.Nagaraj and Dr.B.Thippeswamy.

I also thank the departmental research scholars, Mr. G.E. Mallikarjuna swamy, Ms. M.M. Vasantha Kumari, Mr.A.M. Satisha, Mr.B. Shankar Naik, Miss. J.Shashikala, Mr.A. Nanda, Mr, Vasanth Kumar, Ms, Jyothi. S. U. I thank Mr. Joseph, Mr. Putte Gowda and Mr. Jnanesh, Non-teaching staff of the department for their constant support. I sincerely extend my thanks to Dr.T. Prameela Devi, Senior Scientist, ITCC, Deptt. of Plant pathology, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi-110012, for the identification of cultures. I thank farmers of Tarikere taluk and also for those who helped me with whole heartedly.

I specially thank my family members, My father Sreerangappa, Mother Soubhagya, brother Skanda Hasa and my wife Sahana, with their constant support both morally and financially has made this work successfully.