Acknowledgement

Il The creator Himself acts, and cause all to act Il
Il He Himself places us on the path Il

(Sri Guru Granth Sahib, pp. 1132)

On this day of early autumn, I fondly reflect back and recollect the enriching journey of doctoral research. Today when I sat down to acknowledge all those who have played a crucial and significant role in this journey, it dawned upon me that it was by the grace and will of Almighty that I began and culminated this journey. He bestowed me with strength and empathy to convert obstacles into opportunities.

According to many holy scriptures the Guru (teacher) is placed before God, as it is he who helps us reach our destination. I most humbly describe my Supervisor, Professor R.K.Kohli, as my Guru and mentor. His scientific expertise, excellent analytical abilities and unending guidance at every step, gave research a definite direction. His motivation and encouragement played an instrumental role during the course of research.

I feel very fortunate, that I had the best of the experts to guide me throughout. My co-supervisor Professor P.S.Jaswal transcended his legal expertise to the research. He has unmatched dedication towards work, which I always try to learn and imbibe from him. I am grateful to him for his words of wisdom and support through the course of work. I extend special word of thanks to Prof. Daisy R. Batish for her guidance during experimentation. Head of the Dept. of Environment Studies, Dr. Harminder pal Singh is also thanked for motivating research aptitude in students and providing conducive atmosphere for research in the department.

The multifaceted research involving field surveys could not have been possible without the help of farmers of Punjab and Rajasthan visited during the course of study, especially Mr. Shiv Charan Singh Brar, an educated farmer with scientific background. I also extend special thanks to all the gardeners of Botanical garden of Panjab University campus for their help in growing and maintaining cotton planted for experiments. I am extremely thankful to all the scientists, experts and activists interviewed as well as stakeholders surveyed, for their valuable contribution to the research work as well as all others who did not participate. A special thanks is due to Mr. Lalit Dhiman for helping in acquiring secondary data in the digi-lab of the department. I would also take this opportunity to thank Jasbir kaur Taak (Jassi), for
being a true friend in every sense of the word. Her help in GIS mapping is duly acknowledged.

This piece of work would not have been possible without the unending support of my in-laws. I thank them for the same. My better half, Jaspreet Singh has been my pillar of strength. He supported me unconditionally always. I specially appreciate and look up to his computation skills which played an important part in compilation of this thesis. I have always been so proud of my little sister Manveen Kaur for what she has achieved in life. She is my biggest critic, and a best friend. I thank her for being there in my life.

Ishrat Kaur my beloved daughter is the focal point of my life. There are no words to thank her for the love, hugs and kisses she always showers on me, which keeps me going through thick and thin. This work could not have been possible without two people, my mom and dad; Gurpreet Singh and Indermohan Kaur who have given me this identity. They inculcated and taught us to be good human beings above all. I owe to them whatever, wherever I am today.

Antanpreet Kaur
September 30, 2013