ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My mentor and guide, I would extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. G. Venkateswaran, Scientist & Deputy Director, Food Microbiology Department, CFTRI, Mysore-20 for his constant, invaluable and meticulous guidance, keen interest and for enabling me to grow with the freedom of thoughts and expression throughout my tenure.

My sincere thanks goes to Dr. V. Prakash, Director, CFTRI, Mysore for permitting me to work for my Ph.D programme at Food Microbiology Department, CFTRI, Mysore.

I am immensely thankful to Dr. S. Umesh Kumar, Deputy Director & Head, Food Microbiology Department, CFTRI, Mysore for his constant support and encouragement throughout the course.

I am grateful to University of Mysore, RGNF (UGC) and CSIR, New Delhi for providing me the research fellowships which rendered me to carry out this work very successfully.

I am thankful to Prof. S. Shankar Bhat, Prof, K.A Raveesha, Prof, G.A. Shivamurthy, the then Chairmen, Department of studies in Botany/Microbiology, Manasagangotri, Mysore Dr. Ravishankar Rai, Chairman, Department of Microbiology and all administrative staff for their kind help and co-operation that helped me in getting my financial aid from the University of Mysore.

I immensely thank Dr. M.C. Varadaraj, Head, HR Dept. for his kind help during my tenure.

I am immensely thankful to Dr. Praksh M Halami, for guidance to carry Molecular work in his lab and all his kind helpful suggestions, constructive criticism and constant support through out my tenure.

I thank all the staff of Central Instrumentation Facilities & Services for helping me in carrying out all analyses related to fatty acid profile studies and others.

My sincere thanks also goes to Dr. S.P. MuthuKumar, Scientist, Biochemistry and Nutrition, (Animal house facility), CFTRI, Mysore, for his assistance in carryout animal experiments.

My sincere thanks also goes to Mr. Ravi R, Sensory Science CFTRI, Mysore for his assistance in statistical analysis.
I would like to extend my thanks to all the scientific & non-scientific staff of Food Microbiology Department, CFTRI, Mysore for extending their helping hand in one or the other way which helped me a lot in completing my Ph.D work successfully.

I thank Dr. (Mrs). Girija Bai R for her help in statistical analyses, useful suggestions on various aspects and constant support pertaining to my research works.

I extend my sincere thanks to the staff of CFTRI, Library for their help. My sincere thanks goes to Mr. L. Jesuraj and My aunt Mrs. Kamakshi A.R., and staff of Electrical & Mechanical Maintenance and all the departments for their constant help.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all my friends, Dr. (Mrs.) Gunashree, B.S., Ms. A. Nisha, Mrs. H.P. Mohana Kumari, Dr.(Ms.) P. Shobha Rani, Ms. M. Snigdha, Ms. D.V. Prathibha, Mrs. Divyashree, Mrs. Usha Rani, Dr. (Mrs) Jayalakshmi K, Mrs. Manjulatha, Mr. T. V. Logaraj, Mr. Badrinath V, Mr. Raghavendra P., Mr. Suryachandra rao, Dr. Kumaresan, Mr. Anbarasu, Mr. Deepak, Mr. Devaraju and for all others who created a healthy and joyful environment for me to complete my Ph.D work with a great success.

My special thanks are due to Mr. Khayoum, PS, and Mr. Gurusiddaiah, Food Microbiology Department for their encouragement, support and various help during my tenure

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Somanayak, S., for his constant support and encouragement through my tenure.

I express my deep sense gratitude to Sri Pathanjali Yoga Shikshana Samithi and its instructors for providing a good health fit during my tenure.

I extend my sincere thanks to all my aunts, uncles and cousins, for their constant support and encouragement through my Ph.D. tenure.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our house owner family for their constant support and encouragement through my stay and Mr. Krishna, I-café Browsing centre, Saraswathipuram, Mysore, for their help to complete this thesis.

Last but not the least my sincere gratitude also goes to my Grand-Parents, Parents, Brother AnanthaRamu S.S., Sisters, Brother in law, Sister in law and two kids for the fun, criticism, their constant encouragement and boosting up confidence in me.

Mamatha S.S.