ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have immense pleasure in expressing deep sense of gratitude and profound indebtedness to Dr. Amarjeet Singh, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for his sterling guidance, invaluable suggestions and criticisms, encouragement and of taking keen interest throughout the course of this investigation.

I am most grateful to Professor Santosh Kumari (Ex-Head), Professor R.C. Gupta (Ex-Head) and Professor N. S. Atri, Head, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for providing all essential laboratory and library facilities.

I wish to record my gratitude to Dr. Sunil Pabbi, Principal Scientist, Centre for Conservation and Utilisation of Blue Green Algae, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for his incessant advice, constant encouragement, invaluable suggestions and help in providing several facilities in his esteemed institution.

I gratefully acknowledge the suggestions and criticism by Professor M.I.S. Saggoo, Professor J. I. S. Khattar and Dr. D. P. Singh, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala throughout the course of this investigation. I am also grateful to all my teachers of this department who have become a beacon of light to me throughout my career. I am extremely thankful to Mr. Manish Kapoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for
facilitating me to work in Tropical house and Conservatory of Botanic Gardens, Punjabi University, Patiala.

I extend my thanks to Dr. S. R. Kushwaha, Technical Officer, Department of Plant Physiology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for statistical analysis and Dr. Charanjit Singh, Scientific Officer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala for his help in analysis of industrial effluents.

I would like to convey my warm thanks to Dr. Shailza, Mr. Yadwinder, Miss Kavita and Mr. Rajdeep Dhaliwal, Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala for their constant encouragement and co-operation during research tenure.

I would like to convey my warm thanks to Dr. Dalbir Singh Dhillon, Chairman, Punjab School Education Board, Mohali; Smt. Pritpal Kaur Sidhu, District Education Officer, Patiala; Dr. Hans Raj, Eye-Surgeon, Civil Hospital, Samana; S. Sukhjit Singh Sandhu (former Principal), Shri S. C. Pahuja (former Principal), S. Kuldeep Singh Ugani, (Former Principal), S. Harpal Singh Randhawa, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School Mohinderganj, Rajpura; Mr. Shiv Kapoor, late S. Harinder Singh Sahi, Dr. J. S. Bhatia, Art Executive, Department of Gurmat Sangeet, Punjabi University, Patiala and S. Karamjeet Singh, Fisheries Extension Officer, Patiala who helped me in several ways.
I am heartily thankful to Mrs. Rajkanwal Kaur, wife of my Supervisor, Professor Amarjeet Singh, for her ever warm hospitality and encouragement during the entire course of this investigation.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my father and mother (late), brothers and sisters who have always showered blessings, love and encouragement in giving shape to my career right from my childhood. I am immensely grateful to my father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law for their constant support, co-operation and inspiration for achieving this goal.

The smiles and cheerfulness of my daughter, Khyati and my son Chinmay have added extra enthusiasm in research tenure. The active participation of both of them in preparing this manuscript encouraged me a lot.

Finally, it gives me a great pleasure to record my deep sense of appreciation to my life-mate, Dr. Vibha Goyal, who by virtue of her incessant inspiration, attachment and forbearance has stimulated me to compile this work to the present form.

Date: 10·8·2011

(BHUSHAN KUMAR)