ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My deep sense of gratitude to the almighty for the helping hand driving me towards the positive approach, for providing good health to complete the study.

I take this opportunity to thank my Research guide Dr.S.K.Sarangi, Professor & Chairman, Department of Microbiology & Biotechnology for picking me up as a student at the critical stage of my Ph.D. I would like to express my heart felt gratitude for his guidance, patience, motivation, enthusiasm and unwavering support throughout the course of research study.

I feel immense pleasure to thank my Research Co-guide Dr.N.Nandini, Associate Professor & Chairman, Department of Environmental Science for constant guidance, able supervision, compassionate encouragement throughout the study and I believe it will stay with me through the passage of time. I always feel honoured to be the follower of this sincere teacher.

My grateful thanks and gratitude to Dr.A.N.Yellappa Reddy and Mr. Kailash Murthy, renowned Environmentalists who had evinced keen interest in the research and for accompanying me to the Awareness programmes conducted for the farmers.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr.Chandrashekar J., Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Karnataka State Open University, Mysore and Dr.Suresh K.P from PDAMS, Bangalore for the assistance in Statistical analysis carried out for the study.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all the Staff and Research Scholars from Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology and Department of Environmental Science, Bangalore University, Bangalore for their help and encouragement.

I am forever indebted and thankful to Professors, Research Scholars and Laboratory staff from Department of Environmental Science and Forestry and Department of Soil Science from GKV, Bangalore for their invaluable support, kindness and guidance during the study.

I would like to thank Laboratory staff from various Laboratories from Bangalore and Cochin for providing laboratory assistance during the course of the study. I also express my gratitude to the well-wishers and supporters from CPCB during the study.

My special heartfelt thanks to my In-laws for their sacrifice and valuable support rendered throughout the course of the study; my husband for instilling confidence in me and a drive for pursuing my Ph.D and who always stood by me at tough times of my research study and my little daughter Sanvi who bore all the burnt of my staying away for the Ph.D work.

On this auspicious moment, I seek the blessings of my Grand Parents, Parents, Siblings, Parents-Inlaw and elders in my family, without their exemplary patience and support, completing Ph.D would have remained only a day dream. At the culmination of a phase of journey, my heart is filled with submission and indebtedness and I dedicate this work to my Father, Mother, Parents-Inlaw, my beloved Husband and Daughter.

B.S ANUPAMA