ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I thank to Almighty God who gave me the power, chance and confidence to carry out this research work. The feeling of gratitude when expressed in words is not enough. This acknowledgement expression is an effort to produce my overwhelming sense of gratitude, devotion and regards to all those persons who helped me during my course of research. There are many people who deserve to be acknowledged for their support and continued encouragement in making this endeavor a reality. This is an opportunity to express my most humble appreciation and gratitude to every one of them. It is rather difficult to express in words my sincere and deep sense of reverence for my supervisor, Prof. P.K. Sharma, Professor & Head, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding (Formerly, Act. Head Dept. of Microbiology) and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut, for his benevolent guidance, inspiring suggestions and providing all possible help for the completion of thesis. I am extremely thankful to him for endless hours of toil over editing, directing, encouraging, and with consistent reminders for patience. His experience in paying attention to minute details in writing was a great asset in keeping me focused on the final products and helped me a lot in thesis writing and going through it, despite of his busy schedule. I am also grateful to him for providing all necessary facilities in Department for carrying out the present task.

I would like to pay special thanks to Dr. S. K. Shahi (Ex. Faculty, Department of Microbiology, C.C.S.U., Meerut) for giving me all possible help and suggestions in experiment design. I also pay regards to Dr. D. K. Sharma, Dr. D. C. Sharma, Dr. Anjali Malik, Dr. Dilshad Ali, Mr. Ajay Shukla and Mr. Devanand Prakash, for their nice cooperation and help.

I proudly acknowledge gratitude to my dear friend and senior Dr. Devendra Chaudhary, IARI, PUSA, New Delhi for his inspiration and direction in taking my work to this stage. I am really indebted to him for sharing his scientific endeavors of excellence with me throughout my entire research work. I also express a lot of thanks to Dr. Sudhir Sexana who provided me help in microscopic identification of our isolates. How can I forget to pay my sincere regards to Prof. M. U. Charaya,
Department of Botany, C.C.S.U., Meerut who allowed me to take micrographs of our isolates in his lab.

I should express feeling of gratitude to Mr. Rahul Sharma and Mr. Pradip Kumar Sharma for their sincere help related to statistical analysis of data and computer techniques. I would like to thank Mr. Prasant Sharma, Mr. Jameel and Mr. Rajesh of the Department and other non-teaching staff for their helpfulness during this research.

I also acknowledge my thanks to my loving friends Mr. Gajindra Singh, Mr. Jitendra Kumar, Dr. Samar Pal, Mr. Arvind Malik, Ms. Neha Khagwal Mrs. Sarita Singh, Ashu Tyagi and Harish Bhati who always encouraged me and showed me the right direction.

I express my heartiest gratitude to my sister in law Mrs. Komal Bargujar and brother in law Mr. Ajit Singh Bagri, who helped me in every possible aspect.

I have no words to express regards to my parents who took pain to bring me to this stage and for their enormous help and healthy suggestions. I am extremely grateful to all family members and relatives whose constant inspiration, patience, support and loving emotions helped me invisibly.

Last but not the least, my special and deep gratitude goes to my wife Mrs. Ritu Bargujar and daughter ‘Pranjli Bargujar for their sacrifice and patience, and who lost my lovely support and care during the period of this research work.

(PARVEEN KUMAR)