ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds. I may be given credit for having blazed the trait but when I look at the subsequent developments I feel credit is due to others rather than myself.

- Alexander Graham Bell

And so comes the time to look back, on the path traversed during this endeavor and to remember the faces with spirit behind the action with a sense of gratitude.

Every author owes a debt to his teachers. Therefore, I seize this opportunity to express my deep sense of indebtedness and profound gratitude to my major advisor Dr. L. F. Akbari, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh for his keen interest, scientific guidance, constructive criticism and inspiration during the course of investigation and preparation of this dissertation.

The revelation of concealed facts in an investigation needs a co-operative approach. Hence, I acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation, the ready assistance, involvement and critical suggestions of the member of my advisory committee Dr. N. G. Mayani, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, Dr. V. R. Virani, Professor (Ento.), College of Agriculture, JAU, Amreli and Dr. D. V. Patel, Associate Professor, Department of Agril. Statistic, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh for at various stages of the present study.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. A. R. Pathak, Hon. Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Director of Research and P. G. Dean, JAU, Junagadh and Dr. A. V. Barad, Principal and Dean, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh and all the professors and staff members of Department of Plant Pathology for the facilities provided for research work.

I would like to express special thanks to Mr. C. M. Bhaliya, Dr. J. R. Talaviya, Dr. K. K. Kanzariya, Ms. Shila Gevariya and other staff members of Department of Plant Pathology for their continues and ultimate support, guidance and help during the entire course of research work.
I am grateful to my seniors Mr. Vishal Savaliya, Ankit Khunt, Dr. Pritesh Sabara, Nirav Delvadiya, Deep Vekariya and Jasmin Kheni for their encouragement and helpful suggestions during work.

Though thanks is taboo in friendship, my conscience do not permit to refrain myself from expressing my heartfelt feeling towards my beloved friends, Mehul, Chirag, Vivek, Ghanshyam, Jitendra and Hardik who infused in me lot of stamina which fetch fruitful results for this I do a owe them abundance of gratitude. I am equally thankful to my dearest batch mates for giving joyful company Harshil, Sandip, Hardik, Rakesh, Mona, Niha, Nagratna, Ekta and my entire junior throughout my master degree.

The real credit of being the sole backbone to this work goes to my beloved Father Shri. Bhimjibhai Golakiya, mother Smt. Urmilaben Golakiya, sister Mrs. Nilesha C. Gabani, uncle Dr. B. A. Golakiya and aunty Smt. Hansaben Golakiya for their unselfish help, constant encouragement, blessing and everlasting love throughout my educational career without which it would have remained a sweet dream for me to receive this higher education. I find no words to express my heartfelt gratitude and love affection to my brothers Nishith, Mahesh and Manoj, my sister Jhanvi and all other my family members for their selfless love and moral support influence me immensely in realizing my goal.

Last but not least, I thank the Almighty who showed me the path to do this task and made every job a success for me.

All are not mentioned, but none is forgotten.

Place : Junagadh
Date : 16 June, 2017

(Golakiya Bhargavkumar B.)