ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my advisor **Prof. Sunil Kumar Singh** for the continuous support of my Ph.D. study and related research, for his motivation and immense knowledge. His guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D. study.

Besides my advisor, I would like to thank **Prof. N.S.R. Krishnayya**, HOD, Dept. of Botany, The M. S. University of Baroda. I also want to thanks **Prof. H. R. Kataria**, Dean, Faculty of Science for his continuous support. I would like also extend my acknowledgement to **Dr. K.S. Rajput** and **Dr. Nagesh Chirumamilla** for their help and guidance during this work.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to **Prof. Rajesh Singh**, Dept. of Biochemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda, for providing lab space and instruments to excel in my Ph.D.

I thank my fellow labmates **Mr. Manoj Patel** and **Dr. Manisha Farsodia** for helping and guiding in the initial learning phase. **Mr. Vishal Vyas** for inspiring me one or other ways and specially to **Ms. Payal Mavadiya** and **Ms. Krishna Tandel** for all the happy hours we were working together, and for all the fun we have had in between. There'll always be unforgettable memories with all of you.

I escalate the help of administrative and support staff of Department of Botany, MSU, for their timely help and support.

I acknowledge Funding agency to support this work by two **DST-SERB** (Science and Engineering Research Board) projects. 1. Title: **Functional Characterization of metacaspase gene family I Solanum lycopersicum** [Ref: SERB/SR/SO/PS/53/2012] for JRF fellowship and 2. Title: **Study the role of tomato metacaspase during oxidative stress** [Ref: EMR/2017/000043] for SRF fellowship.

Finally, I must express my very profound gratitude to my family and other relatives who always understood that it takes time accomplish work like this and provided strength in pursuing this work. Specially to my sister for being always there as helping hand and my two lovely niece kavya and dhimahi for making my life joyful.

Maitri Trivedi