

Acknowledgements

With deep gratitude I express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Dr. Brijesh Srivastava, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Food Engineering and Technology, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam for his diligence, adept guidance and untiring efforts that helped me in completing the thesis. I am also grateful to him for all the concern and valuable suggestions right from the formulation of the project till its successful completion. It has been a great experience to work under him. I am deeply thankful to them for channelizing my research in a systematic manner.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Vinod Kumar Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam for providing the opportunity to carry out the thesis work.

I am also grateful to Prof. Charu Lata Mahanta (Dean, School of Engineering) and Dr. Lakhi Boral, Controller of Examinations for their constant support throughout the thesis work.

With a sense of gratitude and great pleasure, my thanks goes to the esteemed member of my Doctoral Committee, Dr. Manabendra Bhuyan, Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Tezpur University, Dr. Manuj Kumar Hazarika, Associate Professor, Department of Food Engineering and Technology, Tezpur University and Dr. Bipul Sarma, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University for their valuable suggestions and encouragement at various stages of investigation and thesis writing. Heartfelt thanks are due to the members of Departmental Research Committee for extending all sorts of help and guidance whole throughout my research work.

I also acknowledge all the faculty from the Department of Food Engineering and Technology for their help and support.

I owe my deep gratitude to Prof. Suvendu Bhattacharya, Department of Food Engineering and Technology for his guidance and encouragement during the whole research work. I also heartily thank my friend Mr. Pramod Prabahkar, Assistant Professor, NIFTEM for his suggestions during this work.

I sincerely acknowledge the whole-hearted cooperation extended by Prof. A.K. Mukherjee, Department of MBBT, Tezpur University, Dr. Pabitra Nath, Associate Professor,

Department of Physics, Tezpur University and Dr. Chattopadhyay, Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur, Assam for carrying out my experimental works as and when needed.

With deep sense of gratitude, I express my thanks to the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India for providing senior research fellowship (SRF) to carry out this piece of work.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to my friends and juniors who supported me and provided much needed encouragement during my research work. Thanks are due to the technical staff of the Department for providing the necessary help and assistance in carrying out my research work in the Department of Food Engineering and Technology, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam.

I express my thanks to all, whose names have not been mentioned individually but have helped me directly or indirectly in this work.

Finally, I express my appreciation of the unspoken contribution of my mother and my father along with my brother and husband whose constant love and encouragement have motivated me during this entire time period.

Above all, I am thankful to “The Almighty” who has showered his blessings on me to complete my thesis.

Dipsikha Kalita

Date: 16-05-2018

Place: Tezpur