

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	iii
Declaration	vi
Certificate	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Table of Contents	x
List of Figures	xiv
List of Tables	xvi
Abbreviations	xvii
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Introduction to nanotechnology and nanomaterials.....	1
1.2 Classification of nanomaterials.....	2
1.2.1 Classification based on dimensionality.....	2
1.2.2 Classification based on morphology and state.....	3
1.2.3 Classification based on chemical composition.....	3
1.3 Introduction to nanocomposite.....	4
1.3.1 Classification of nanocomposites.....	5
1.4 Introduction to graphene and its derivatives.....	7
1.4.1 Graphene oxide.....	8
1.4.2 Reduced graphene oxide.....	9
1.4.3 Application of graphene and its derivatives.....	9
1.5 Introduction to packaging.....	10
1.5.1 Biopolymer.....	13
1.5.1.1 Polyvinyl alcohol.....	14
1.5.1.2 Carboxymethyl cellulose.....	14
1.5.2 Additives used in biopolymer-based composites in packaging.....	15
1.5.3 Graphene-based polymer nanocomposite packaging films.....	16
1.5.4 Methods for fabricating filler/polymer nanocomposites.....	17
1.6 Polymer nanocomposites characterization techniques.....	19
1.7 Motivation and research objectives.....	22
1.8 Thesis Outline.....	23

Bibliography.....	24
Chapter 2 Literature review.....	30
2.1 Literature survey on mechanical properties of GO based polymer nanocomposites.....	30
2.2 Literature survey on thermal and barrier properties of GO based polymer nanocomposites.....	31
2.3 Literature survey on antimicrobial and degradation properties of GO based polymer nanocomposite.....	33
2.4 Literature survey on electrospinning and nanofiber.....	35
2.5 Scope of the present study.....	38
Bibliography.....	39
Chapter 3 Materials and methodology.....	46
3.1 Materials.....	46
3.2 Experimental techniques/methodology for analysing film properties.....	46
3.2.1 Film thickness	46
3.2.2 Mechanical properties.....	47
3.2.3 Morphology.....	47
3.2.4 Water contact angle.....	47
3.2.5 Conductivity and viscosity.....	47
3.2.6 Rheology.....	47
3.2.7 Water vapor permeability.....	48
3.2.8 Moisture retention capacity, water solubility, and swelling ratio.....	48
3.2.9 Color, light absorbance, and film opacity.....	49
3.2.10 Thermal properties.....	49
3.2.11 Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy.....	49
3.2.12 Antimicrobial.....	50
3.2.13 Biodegradation analysis.....	50
3.2.14 Statistical analysis.....	51
Bibliography.....	51
Chapter 4 Development, characterization and potential perspective of poly (vinyl alcohol)/graphene oxide nanocomposite films.....	54
4.1. Introduction.....	54
4.2 Experimental procedure.....	55
4.2.1 Development of PVA and PVA/GO films.....	55

4.3 Results and discussion.....	57
4.3.1 Determination of film's thickness, tensile properties, and morphological study.....	57
4.3.2 Film's color, UV-Vis light absorbance, and opacity.....	59
4.3.3 Thermal analysis.....	60
4.3.4 Moisture retention capacity, water vapor permeability, solubility and swelling.....	64
4.3.5 FTIR analysis.....	65
4.3.6 Antimicrobial properties.....	66
4.3.7 Biodegradation analysis.....	68
4.3.7.1 Microbial.....	68
4.3.7.2 Soil burial	69
4.4 Conclusions.....	71
Bibliography.....	72
Chapter 5 Development and characterization of biodegradable poly(vinyl alcohol)/carboxymethyl cellulose composite films.....	78
5.1 Introduction.....	78
5.2 Experimental procedure.....	79
5.2.1 Development of PVA and PVA/CMC films.....	79
5.3 Results and discussion.....	80
5.3.1 Assessment of thickness, tensile properties, and SEM analysis.....	81
5.3.2 Water vapor permeability and moisture retention capacity.....	82
5.3.3 Determination of thermal property.....	83
5.3.4 Determination of film's color, absorbance, and opacity.....	85
5.3.5 FTIR.....	86
5.3.6 Antimicrobial analysis.....	88
5.3.7. Soil and microbial degradation.....	88
5.4 Conclusions.....	92
Bibliography.....	93
Chapter 6 Synergistic effect of graphene oxide on the properties of poly (vinyl alcohol)/carboxymethyl cellulose electro spun nanofiber mats.....	98
6.1 Introduction.....	98
6.2 Preparation of polymer solutions for electrospinning.....	99
6.3 Fabrication of nanofiber mats.....	100

6.4 Results and discussion.....	102
6.4.1 Conductivity and viscosity.....	102
6.4.2. Rheology analysis.....	104
6.4.2.1. Storage modulus and loss modulus	
vs angular frequency.....	104
6.4.2.2 Viscosity vs shear rate.....	105
6.4.2.3 Shear stress vs shear rate.....	107
6.4.3 Morphology analysis.....	108
6.4.4 Thickness and tensile properties.....	111
6.4.5 Thermal analysis.....	112
6.4.6 Water contact angle, water vapor permeability and moisture	
retention capacity.....	114
6.4.7 FTIR.....	116
6.5 Conclusions.....	118
Bibliography.....	119
Chapter 7 Conclusions and scope of future work.....	125
7.1 Conclusions.....	125
7.2. Scope of future work.....	130
List of publications.....	131