TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Sl. No. | Title | Page No. |
|---------|---|------------|
| 1. | Declaration by the scholar | i |
| 2. | Certificate by Supervisor | ii |
| 3. | Certificate by Co-Supervisor | iii |
| 4. | Certificate for Plagiarism | iv-xi |
| 5. | Certificate for viva voice of Ph.D. Scholar | xii |
| 6. | Undertaking for submission of Ph.D. Thesis | xiii |
| 7. | Acknowledgements | xiv-xvi |
| 8. | List of Figures | xvii-xviii |
| 9. | List of Tables | xix-xx |
| 10. | List of Abbreviation | xxi-xxv |
| 11. | Abstract | xxvi-xxx |
| 12. | Chapter 1 – Introduction | 1-16 |
| | General Introduction: Actinobacteria | 1 |
| | Actinobacteria: Source of Natural Agents to fight against Pathogens | 1-3 |
| | Actinomycetes: Characteristics | 4-6 |
| | Actinomycetes: Life Cycle and Importance of Metabolites | 6-9 |
| | Actinomycetes: Role in Pesticides Degradation | 9-12 |
| | Hypothesis | 12-13 |
| | Key questions | 13 |
| | | |

| | Objectives | 14 |
|-----|---|-------|
| | Organisation of thesis | 15-16 |
| 13. | Chapter 2 – Review of Literature | 17-52 |
| 14. | Chapter 3- Materials and Methods | 53-63 |
| | Soil Sample Collection and Preparation | 53 |
| | Isolation of Actinomycetes | 53 |
| | Aerial Mass Colour | 54 |
| | Melanoid Pigments | 54 |
| | Reverse Side Pigment | 54 |
| | Soluble Pigments | 55 |
| | Spore Chain Morphology | 55 |
| | Reproductive Structure Surface | 55 |
| | Screening of isolates for PGPR traits | 56 |
| | IAA production | 56-57 |
| | Solubilisation of phosphate | 57 |
| | Siderophores and HCN Production | 57-58 |
| | Catalase activity | 58 |
| | Screening of actinobacterial isolates for monocrotophos pesticide degradation | 58 |
| | Primary Screening | 58 |
| | Determination of zone of clearance of pesticide degradation | 58-59 |
| | Secondary Screening | 59 |
| | Determination of pesticide degradation by culture streak technique | 59 |
| | Gene expression of potential Actinobacteria isolates within E. coli cells | 59-60 |

| | Microbial decomposition of monocrotophos pesticides | 60 |
|-----|---|----------|
| | Assessment via High-Performance Liquid Chromatography | 60-61 |
| | Actinobacterial Strain Formulations | 61 |
| | Granular Formulation Derived from Alginate-Kaolin (AL-KAO Composition) | 61-62 |
| | Granular Formulation Derived from Flour-Kaolin (FLO-KAO formulation) | 63 |
| | Formulation of a Powder Composed of Calcium Carbonate and CMC (CC-CMC powder formulation) | 63 |
| | Statistical analysis | 63 |
| 16. | Chapter 4 – Results | 64-96 |
| 17. | Chapter 5 – Discussion | 97-100 |
| 18. | Chapter 6 – Conclusions and Future Prospects | 101-106 |
| 19. | Chapter 7 – Summary | 107-111 |
| 20. | References | 112-135 |
| 21. | LIST OF PUBLICATIONS & CERTIFICATES | 136- 158 |