## Acknowledgements

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My very first gratitude goes to God Almighty, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ for giving me life, strength and the enablement to carry out this work.

I am indeed grateful to my supervisor, Prof. AJ Afolayan for his immense contribution, guidance, support and constructive criticism throughout the course of this programme. You and your family have been so wonderful.

Appreciation also goes to my co-supervisor Dr PO Adebola for supporting me and for taking the pains to get all the required cocoyam samples needed for this work.

I also thank Prof. DS Grierson, though not my supervisor, but you were always ready to assist whenever I approached you.

I specially appreciate Mrs Seyi Aboyade and Joice Ndlovu for giving me the encouragement and support I needed to carry on with the research project when the going became very tough. Mrs Badmus, Mrs Wintola, Dr Yakubu, Mrs Okoh, Bro. Sunday and my other graduating colleagues, you are well appreciated.

Also, thanks to the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa for funding this research.

With deep sense of gratitude, I acknowledge my loving parents Mr and Mrs GO Busari for being there for me and for their immeasurable love for education. I really thank God for keeping you alive to see your daughter attain a height you were not able to attain academically. To my siblings, I love you so much. Thank you for believing in me. My grandmother, you have been so wonderful. Thanks a lot for your prayers.

My darling husband, Bayo, thank you for standing by me. You have been a good support and pillar during the course of this work. I appreciate you a lot for your assistance, encouragement and love. You believed I could do it and 'am happy I did not let you down. I have no regrets marrying you.

To my little prince (Gerrard Oluwatoyin) and princess (Stephanie Oluwafemi) as I always call you, you have been a source of inspiration to me. Rather than slowing me down, you have actually put me on my toes. Your little contribution one way or the other to this research project, though seemed meaningless to you, meant a great deal to me and is highly appreciated.

Finally, I give Jesus Christ the praise for making my dream a reality. Holy Spirit, I adore you for standing by me and for giving me divine guidance and inspiration to complete this programme.