ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my revered guide Late Dr.(Mrs) K.A.Bhagwat, Reader, Department of Botany, for introducing me to this subject, under whose valuable guidance this work was initiated.

With deep sense of gratitude I sincerely pay my regards to my present guide Dr.K.S.Rao, Lecturer, Department of Botany, who guided me in completing this work successfully.

I am gratefully indebted to Dr.(Mrs) G.Sandhya, Lecturer, Department of Botany, for her esteemed guidance and creative criticisms with constant support for tentative attempts.

I am thankful to Prof.S.D.Sabnis, Ex.Pro-Vice Chancellor, M.S. University, Prof. R.P.Bhatt, Ex.Head, Department of Botany and Prof. S.J.Bedi, Head, Department of Botany, for their encouragement throughout the work.

Special thanks are extended to Director, SAC, Ahmedabad, Dr.R.R.Navalgund, Group Director, RSAG, Dr.M.M.Kimothi, Dr.A.K.Kandya and T.P.Singh LRD, SAC, for providing interpretation facilities and valuable suggestions during my research work.

I also express my sincere thanks to Head, RRSSC, Jodhpur, Rajasthan and Shri. Nagajyothi, Shri. Pathak, Scientist, with all faculty members of RRSSC, Jodhpur, for their valuable suggestions and without whose help this work would not have been completed.

Special acknowledgements are also due to Mr.U.D.Datir, Director, GERI, and Mr.P.H.Vaidya, Head, Remote Sensing Division, Mr.P.S.Dwivedi Mr.H.S.Oza, Dr.K.F.Patel, Mr.G.B.Dalwadi, Mr.S.S.Patel, Mr.V.B.Patel, and other members of this faculty for providing interpretations facilities for visual analysis and for their valuable comments during the work.

I acknowledge the timely advice and help rendered by Prof.S.J.Desai, Head, Geology Dept., Dr.M.P.Patel, Dr.Limaye and Shri. K.Gangadhar, Geology Dept., and Director, GSFC, Shri.Patel, Head, Soil division for providing instrumentation facilities for the soil analysis.

Grateful acknowledgements are also extended to Mr. Shiek, RFO and other Forest staff members of the Matar taluka for extending all necessary facilities during the field study.

I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. Anbazhagan, Quality Control Officer, MAHYCO, Hyderabad, who has been always a source of inspiration for carrying out this work.

I also thank Mrs. Tvisha Pandhya, Dr. Murugan, Dr. K.E. Mothikumar Shri. Anjaria and other colleagues of my department and other friends for their help during my research tenure.

I am very much thankful to Forest Dept. (Social Forestry Division) Vadodara, Gujarat state and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, for providing the financial support.

It gives me a great pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude towards my beloved parents and other family members for making this work a success with their external motivations and blessings.

Baroda

September, 1994

(R.Sugumaran)