## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

After a long journey of my research work, time has come to look back again and remember all those without whom this journey would have been impossible. Nothing comes worthwhile in life without struggle and these are the people who, in their own ways, have helped me to overcome the difficult situations. It is because of some special people that I have reached to a wonderful destination.

I am indebted to my mentor Prof. G.Sandhya Kiran, Head, Dept. of Botany, for allowing me to work under her guidance. Her belief in me strengthened and stabilized my mind during all ups and downs I faced in my research. I thank you Mam for providing me an endless freedom to work in the direction I wanted. It was because of your patience that I could find a path out of the fog. I thank you from bottom of my heart.

I sincerely acknowledge The Registrar, GCU, (Academic Section), for University Research Fellowship.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr.B.F.Sindhi (Silviculture Division, Rajpipla) for providing me the project assistantship.

I am thankful to Mr. S.D. Jani (then D.C.F. Godhara), for giving me the permission to work in the forest area. I sincerely thank Mr. N.D.Patel (D.C.F., Godhara) for his extended help whenever required during my field visits.

I wish to thank Mr. Raghuvir Jadeja (then R.F.O.,Halol), and other officials of Halol Range like Mr. Charanbhai, Mr. Katarabhai for their humble help which made my field visits very enjoyable.

I am very thankful to Mr. Chetan Pandya, (Sr. Scientist, Soil Testing Laboratory, Anand Agriculture University) for helping me in soil analysis.

I am thankful to Dr. Yogesh Manohar and Mr. Abhinav Mehta for their timely help and suggestions.

It was a wonderful experience working with labmets Preeti, Shivaji, Leena, Usha, Ashwini, Ramandeep, Kinnary and Deepika. I am glad to have colleagues and friends like you. I specially thank Ramandeep and Preeti for their timely help during this research studies and moral support. I thank you all from bottom of my heart for everything you guys have given to me. I cannot imagine my journey of research without you all. I thank you all for providing fun working environment and joyful lunch hours.

I would like to thank Mr. Vihang Thite for all his support and timely help.

I would like to thank dissertation students Niharika, Riddhi and Ashok for their help during this study. I wish to thank my juniors, Mukti, Jayraj & Pradeep for creating an enthusiastic wonderful work environment. Thank You guys!!

It is worthwhile expressing gratitude for Mr. Sharma who handled the accounts of my University Research project and cleared all my bills in time. Thank you Sharmaji!

I am grateful to God for giving me a wonderful husband Vrushal. It was your emotional support, endless help and motivating ideas that enabled me to reach such a beautiful destination. Thank You for always being with me.

Life is miserable without parents and beloved ones. I cannot forget the pain that my parents, my sisters and my children, Pranjali and Shashwat have taken throughout my studies. It was only because of their support, constant encouragement, prayers that I could overcome all frustrations and failures. I dedicate this thesis to them.

I am forever thankful to Almighty God.

## Alpana V. Revdandekar