ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deeply acknowledge with great pleasure the help received from various persons and institutions in the course of my study. First and foremost I am exceedingly grateful to Dr. K. Ramamurthy, Reader in Geography for his expertise and excellent guidance and Prof. V.S. Gannathan, Head of the Department of Geography for the keen interest shown in the study from time to time.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. K.R. Saha, Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Poona-5, and to the Director General of Observatories, India Meteorological Department for granting me the necessary permission to do this work and submit the same for Ph.D. and also for extending all facilities during the research programme.

I express my sincere appreciation to the Librarians and staff of the University of Poona, Agriculture College and the Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics at Poona for providing me with library facilities and to Sarvashri P.G. Bhegade and M.T. Goklaney for their excellent typing work. Thanks are due to Shri R.M. Soni for preparing the diagrams and to Shri V.S. Kulkarni and
S.S. Desai for comparison of the typed matter.

Among the various persons who helped me, special mention may be made of Dr. D.A. Mooley, Head of the Library, Information and Publication Division of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Poona-5 for his advice and to Dr. S.B. Jadhav, Professor and Head of the Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College, Poona, who furnished and explained the different crop phases of major crops in Maharashtra. I am also thankful to Sarvashri K. Raghavan and P. Rakhecha for very useful discussions.

I express my appreciation to my wife for her help in spite of her own engagement in her own Ph.D. thesis.

I cannot fail to mention my sons Dilip and Pradeep for the help they gave me in mathematical calculations.

In conclusion, once again I thank all those who helped me in research work and gave me an opportunity to submit the thesis in the Silver Jubilee Year of the Geography Department of Poona University.

POONA-5.
August, 1, 1975.

[ Y. S. GONDHALEKAR ]