ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to bow my head in the dignity of almighty ALLAH SUBHANTALA who bestowed me with immense patience and favorable circumstance to achieve this feat.

I owe my deep sense of gratitude, indebtedness and heartfelt thanks to my guide Dr. S.C.Tiwari (Associate Professor), Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University) Bilaspur (C.G.) for his keen interest and inspiring guidance, constructive criticism, sustained encouragement throughout this research.

I extend my thanks to Prof. S.S.Singh (H.O.D) Dr. Rashmi Agarwal (Associate Professor), Dr. S.S. Dhuria (Associate Professor) Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, School of studies (Natural resources) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University) Bilaspur for their generous help and encouragement.

I am also grateful to Prof. N.P. Todaria, Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttrakhand, India for his help and encouragement during my research by providing me various relevant references, literatures and help.

To my family, particularly my patronizing uncle Jenab Ghulam Ah. Bhat, wife Hadisa and all those who care for me. I owe a continuing debt of gratitude for their constant support, inspiration and forbearance during my studies.

I am also thankful to INDIAN FARM FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATIVE Ltd. for the permission to pursue this research and my colleagues there for their support.