ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my proud privilege to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Dipak Sarkar, Principal Scientist & Head, National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (ICAR), Regional Centre, Kolkata, for his constant encouragement, judicious and precious advice, concrete suggestions, constructive criticism, throughout the course of investigation and preparation of the manuscript.

I convey profound gratitude to Prof. Shyamal Kumar Gupta, Ex-Professor, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, Institute of Agricultural Science, University of Calcutta for his inspiring guidance, precious advice and immense help in every critical part of my work.

I feel immense pleasure to convey my profound gratitude to Dr. S. N. Das, Chief Soil Survey Officer, AIS&LUS (Govt. of India), New Delhi for giving me departmental permission for starting the research work.

I also convey my sincere gratitude to Dr. D. Konar, Director and Ex-officio Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal for giving me permission for continuation of research work and submission of thesis.

I feel immense pleasure to convey my heartfelt respect to Prof. Saroj Kumar Sanyal, Director of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal, whose blessing, affection and encouragement has always been a treasure for me.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Abhijit Haldar, NBSS & LUP (ICAR), Salt Lake, Kolkata, for his active cooperation and valuable advice endowed during the course of my research work and final preparation of thesis.

I deem it to be humble privilege to express my sincere thanks to Dr. T. H. Das, Sr. Scientist, NBSS&LUP (ICAR), Jorhat, Assam for his kind gesture and candid help during the field observations.

I avail this opportunity to thank Dr. D. S. Singh, Dr. D. C. Nayak, Dr. Krishnendu Das, Dr. S. K. Gangopadhyay Dr. A. K. Sahoo and Mrs. Tapati Banerjee, National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (ICAR), Salt Lake, Kolkata for their kind help and suggestion during the research work.
My heartfelt thanks are due to Mr. Alok Mazumdar, Mrs. Rituparna Basu, Dr. P.P. Pal and Dr. P. Bhattacharya, National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning, Salt Lake, Kolkata, for their valuable technical assistance.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr. B.K. Saha, National Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning, Salt Lake, Kolkata for his generous help towards word processing of the manuscript.

I deem it to be my humble privilege to express my sincere thanks Dr. S. Rudra, Dr. T. K. Deb, Dr. A. K. Sen and Dr. S. K. Roychoudhury for their kind help at the time of need.

Steady patience, constant encompassing love and affection bestowed on me by Shri Bibhu Prasad Mandal (father), Smt. Smriti Rekha Mandal (mother), Smt. Aneeta Modak, Shri Sukumar Modak and all other relatives bring me to this pursuit of studies. Their eternal fountain of blessings, never ending sacrifice and constant backup kept me enthusiastic throughout my educational career.

The warm blessings, constant support and inspiration of Shri Fatik Chandra Nag (father in law), Smt. Geeta Nag (mother in law), Shri Debasish Nag (brother in law), Smt. Mou Nag worth a lot for me without which I should have not been able to climb this point.

The endless love, sacrifice and perpetual source of encouragement from wife, Debjani, my two sons, Debjyoti and Debaditya who has been my morale booster to reach the footsteps of my long cherished aspiration.

(DEBASHIS MANDAL)