ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the first place, I would like to thank Dr. Dhaval R. Kathiriya, Dean and Principal, AIT, AAU, for being generous to accept me as a PhD student. The dynamism and zeal with which Dr. Kathiriya works have always inspired me to achieve from better to best. It is because of Dr. Kathiriya that I was given access to use soil health card database which is part of soil health card scheme launched by Government of Gujarat in the year 2003. Throughout my PhD research tenure, I have been continuously motivated by Dr. Kathiriya. He showed me different ways to approach a research problem and the need to be persistent to accomplish research goals.

I also thank Dr. Apurva M. Shah (Asso. Prof., MSU) and Dr. Ramji M. Makwana (CEO, AI eSmart Solutions) for being part of my doctoral progress committee. Their valuable inputs during DPCs and open seminar helped me a lot to get into various unexplored research directions. The technical discussions during DPCs and suggestions by them have made me achieve state of the art research incorporating the latest ideas and features. I would like to thank also many eminent professors for their recommendations during the annual research week at Gujarat Technological University.

I take this opportunity to thank, staff members of College of Agricultural Information Technology, Anand, for their support whenever it needed. I would like to thank Dr. R. S. Parmar (Prof., AIT, AAU) for helping to know technical know-how of agricultural information systems and soil health card scheme.

I would like to extend my thanks to Charutar Vidya Mandal and Computer Engineering Department, A. D. Patel Institute of Technology, where I carried out my research while continuing my service. I would like to thank Er. Bhikhubhai B. Patel(Chairman, CVM) for his blessings and Dr. R. K. Jain (Principal, ADIT) for supporting on various occasions.

I would like to thank Mr. Anil Patelia for his technical assistance, Prof. Priyanka D. Puvar, (Asst. Prof., ADIT) for her scholarly interactions about the technical writing skills and Prof. Deep Trivedi for helping in proofreading.

Finally, I am very much indebted to my family, who supported me in every possible way to see the completion of this work.