ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Suresh B. Zodage, Associate Professor and Research Guide, Department of Geography, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara for his valuable guidance in shaping and completing this thesis. His sound and extreme knowledge of subject and great skills in various experimental and computer techniques helped me in successfully carrying out this Thesis. I owe to him so much that would like to remain indebted to him. I thank him for spending valuable time in the supervision of the work. I would ever remember the valuable moment enjoyed in his company. It is my privilege that I had the opportunity of working under of such a perfectionist and kind person.

I am very thankful to Shivaji University, Kolhapur for rendering me an opportunity for doing this invaluable work and Dr. K.C. Ramotra (Professor and Head), Dr. Gophane B. N. (BOS Chairman and MC Member, Shivaji University, Kolhapur), Dr. D. H. Pawar, Dr. Meena Potdar, Dr. Suresh Vadiyar, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

I am also thankful to Dr. J. G. Jadhav (Principal), Mr. R. A. Unde (Vice-Principal and Head), Dr. A. S. Patil, Mr. Mane-Deshmukh R. S., Mr. Karande S. V. Department of Geography, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara for their valuable guidance.

I also extend my thanks to, Mr. Changdeo Bagal, Mr. Vijay Mayankar, Mr. Santoshkumar Barkade (Agriculture development officer) Mr. Anil Kale, Mr. Vinod Nalawade (Agricultural Officer), Mr. A. M. Chopade (Assistant Registrar), Mr. Gaikwad A.B. (Agriculture office, Wai), Mr. D. F. Dharu and
Mr. A. S. Nalawade, Mrs. Pawar, Mr. S. P. Nikam (M.D. and Executives of Satara DCC Bank) for their kind cooperation.

My sincere thanks to respected, Dr. (Mrs.) Sunita Gharge, (Department of English), Dr. (Mrs.) Pratibha Gaikwad, Dr. Anilkumar Wavre, (Economics), Mr. D. C. Jadhav, Mr. Vikas Tate-Deshmukh (Chh. Shivaji College, Satara), Mr. S. V. Nevase (Bopegaon), Mr. Nilesh Padalkar (A’ Nagar), Dr. Subhash Kothawale, (Ex. BOS and Head, Kavathe-Mahankal College), Mr. Mahadeo Gurav (Netaji Jr. College, Mohol), Miss. Sarika Shinde (Karad) for their constant encouragement and help which enabled me to complete this work.

I owe my gratitude to the Librarians of the Libraries of Babasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Manasgangotri University, Mysore (Karnataka), Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri, Dist. Ahmadnagar, Jaykar Library, Pune University, Pune, Agriculture College Pune, Gokhale Institute, Pune, Chhatrapati Shivaji College, Satara, Dapoli Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Chief Officers of District Soil testing laboratories, Satara, National Bureau of soil survey, Nagpur and Maharashtra Remote Application Corporation (MRAC).

I also thankful to all the proprietors of Agro service Centres in Satara District for giving me all information about their shops and cooperation

I wish to thankful Mrs. Manisha, Shreyash and Samrudhi Zodage for their source of encouragement. I wish to thankful to Mr. Pradip Nikam and Mr. Sanjay Shaha helped me in making available all the information, books and references from various offices and places always being with me.
I am equally grateful to my father in law Shri. Shrirang Shinde, brother in laws Mr.Jalindhar and Ashwini Shinde, Mr.Sampat And Mrs.Sadhana Shinde, Mr.Rajkumar and Mrs Madhavi Shinde,Late Mr.Sanjay and Smt.Chandani Shinde, Mr.Atul Babar, Mr.Shreyash Gade, My wife Ms.Rani Shinde (Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, S. K. College, Shirval), Daughter Kshitija Son Anurag and my Sister Mahadevi Wagh (Anjani) helped more than one way in completion of the present work.

Finally I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have helped me directly and indirectly in the completion of this work.

Place: Satara
Date: 31/12/2012

Mr.Arjun Shivaji Wagh
Research Scholar.