Preface

It is heartening to note that agriculture has lately begun to attract attention of not only those who are directly interested in farming but also our academicians, planners and the government. That it should be so is but natural, because agriculture is the most important sector in our national economy. As such the Central as well as provincial governments have been trying their utmost to plan the entire agricultural sector and to reconstruct it. Since agriculture happens to be a corner-stone of Indian economy, a relatively greater emphasis has been laid on this sector in the preceding five year plans. The task of the national planners has been to review agricultural problems of the country in all their perspective and suggest effective measures to remedy them and to lift agriculture from its present rudimentary stage.

However, the records of the achievements of the past three five year plans show great lapses in the sphere of proper implementation of these plans in this sector as a result of which the Nation could not achieve self-sufficiency in food and other agricultural produce. Apart from the fact that the policy makers did not take due cognisance of several
bottle-necks in agricultural productions, the seasons have also laid bare the truth that mere paper and pen type of planning would not be of any great use in agriculture. Geographical factors, which are of basic importance, will have to be duly recognised in different parts of the country and suitable measures for planning agriculture on the regional basis will have to be emphasised and adopted.

In the present study, the author undertook the study of Bundelkhand agriculture from the geographical point of view.

The results of this study are contained in the following chapters which cover all aspects of agriculture of the region under study.

It is difficult, yet irresistible, for me to express in a few words my deep sense of gratitude to my learned supervisor, Shri S.M. Ali, M.Sc., Ph.D. (London), F.N.I., late Professor and Head of the Department of General and Applied Geography, Sagar University, Sagar (M.P.) for guiding at every stage of this doctoral thesis. I know it for certain that without his continued inspiration, thorough technical guidance, constant supervision and constructive criticism, this work could not have been completed in the stipulated time.
(iii)

It is, however, unfortunate that when typing of this work was in progress, he suddenly passed away on 30th December 1966 leaving me in great mental distress. The work is now being submitted as a piece of dedication of my sincerest regards to his scholarship and stalwartship which I had the pleasure to enjoy and benefit therefrom.

I also take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks to Principal Dr. S.N. Mehrotra, formerly Professor of Geography, Mahakoshal Arts Mahavidyalaya, Jabalpur, for not only suggesting me this topic for research but also for taking active interest in its continued progress. He helped me in more than one way. He was kind enough to permit me to keep and make use of all the topographical sheets of the region which were under his official control. He also took the trouble of thorough reading of the manuscript and making valuable suggestions which were duly incorporated.

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(iv)

To Dr. N.P. Aiyer, Reader in Geography, Saugor University, Sagar, my thanks are due for suggesting me various statistical approaches which are generally applied in the study of agricultural geography. He explained me in details the Weaver's formula of Crop combination regions. He also gave valuable suggestions on certain technical aspects on the preparation of village maps.

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Sagar,
March 21, 1967. (Jitendra Prasad Saxena)