Acknowledgements

This memorable occasion provides me a unique opportunity to express my deepest gratitude, heartfelt respect and reverence to my supervisors, Dr. V. Balaji, Global Leader, Knowledge Management and Sharing, ICRISAT, Patancheru; and Prof. Sanjay Chaudhary, DAIICT, Gandhinagar, for their keen interest, invaluable guidance, inspiration, constant encouragement extended at all time during the course of this investigation. Their scholarly intellect, profile persuasiveness and insistence on reality have always been and always shall continue to be a guiding light in the darkness of my ignorance.

It is my proud privilege to unveil a hearty sense of indebtedness towards my supervisors for making ICRISAT and DAIICT to provide financial support and needed resources during the course of this research study, which in fact made me to accomplish this voyage successfully.

I cannot refrain to accord my deep sense of gratitude towards the members of my synopsis examination committee, Dr. Ganesh Devy, Professor, DAIICT; and Dr. Samaresh Chatterji, Dean of Academics, DAIICT, for their valuable inputs and constructive criticism, which indeed helped me a lot to improve the quality of this thesis work.

It is a pleasure to quote the technical guidance and co-operation rendered by Prof. Kenneth Keniston, Andrew Mellon Professor of Human Development, MIT, USA, on multiple case studies of Rural Knowledge Centres; and my sincere thanks to Dr. R. Nagarajan, CSRE, IIT, Bombay and Dr. A. V. R. Kesava Rao, ICRISAT, Patancheru for providing valuable inputs in developing micro-level drought assessment technique. My special thanks to Dr. K. Balasubramanian, for providing valuable inputs on the ICT enabled Rural knowledge centres and their role in Knowledge Management.

I feel indebted for the support and affection showered by admirable faculty members, Prof. V. P. Sinha, Prof. Anil Roy, Prof. Shiv Visvanathan, Prof. Gautam Dutta, Prof. Shashikanth Sharma, Prof. Jat Pokhar Mal, Prof. R. B. Lenin and many others at DAIICT. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. P.K. Chopra and Dr. Kumbar for their help in resolving many administration issues.

Inspiration and Navigation, in many an arena of life by my admirable senior colleagues, Dr. B. Diwakar, Dr. S. Srinivas, Dr. Surya Gunjal, Dr. Rosana Mula, Mr. Modi, Mr. Prasad Rao, Mr. Venkat, Mr. Damodar and many others at ICRISAT have paved the way with least shattering obstacles to materialize my dreams.
Acknowledgements

I had treasured immense assistance, encouragement and incomparable affection from the members of Adarsha Mahila Samaikya and farm families of Addakal during the course of the field experiments.

The affection and love I have commanded of my friends Ritesh, Srivallabh, Ramnaresh, Sreedhar, Rajni, Kiran and many others unsung, have been worthy of treasuring during the whole course of the study and ever.

I overwhelm with emotions to talk about my adorable friends Pratik, Vikram, Jakir, Guneshwar, Sunil, Ratnik, Gaurav, Abhay, Saurabh and Pankaj, merely thanking them would be little the relationship I share with them. I extend my heartfelt thanks to other current and past PhD students; and students of MSc (ICT-ARD) for making my stay at DAIICT more memorable.

My felicitousness overwhels to express my deepest sense of reverence towards my grandmother, parents, father-in-law, mother-in-law and brothers for their help as well as moral support during the entire course of the study.

My heart takes a breath when I realize the painstaking efforts taken up by my wife, Aruna, for providing me ceaseless encouragement, unconditional love and moral momentum whenever things seemed to go out of hand. My very special thanks are due to my beloved son, Santosh, who had to repeatedly sacrifice his right over my time during this entire process. I would always remember his sense of amazement at what I was typing on my laptop all the time. I solemnize to dedicate the thesis to them and offer the same to academic world as a humble tribute.

Last but far from the least, I bow head in extreme regards to Santoshimatha, whose blessings enabled me to reach this destination.