Civilization of India is founded on the faith in
almighty nature and its components like animals, vege-
tation etc. It reveals the tenacious bond of brotherhood,
and trust amongst neighbours and other fellow human
beings. The Indian community does not view agriculture as
mere means of earning one's living. From times immemorial,
it have nurtured a devotional outlook and spiritual love
towards it, instead. The great ancient poet Kalidas in
his famous drama 'SHAKUNTALAM', expresses his deep felt
gratitude towards the creation by saying: "अस्ति में
स्तोवर सैंहूडो पैं तेषु".

In the Vedantas, gratefulness towards the creation
is expressed through matchless devotion to and worship
of the five major cosmic elements, viz., Earth, Ether,
Light, Wind and Water. The present study is an attempt to
investigate this dependence of agriculture and to assess
its incidence in the present context. Hence, agriculture
has to depend on forces largely beyond the control of man.

The present investigation titled 'The Nature,
Significance and Measurement of Risk in Agriculture' was
carried out under the guidance of Dr. A.S. Patel, Department of Economics, Sardar Patel University. An attempt is made in the pages that follow to evaluate the uncertainties caused by natural forces like rains, temperature, sun-light, clouds, humidities etc. It would not have materialized without his constant guidance.

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I hope this effort will prove useful for all those policy-makers who are called upon to ascertain and assess the risk elements involved in this activity which would constitute a genuine for the effort.

Vallabh Vidyanagar, 11-9-1995. - K. A. PATEL