ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author takes this opportunity to express with immense pleasure, his deepest sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. S.R. Sampath, M.Sc., Ph.D., Research Officer, Animal Nutrition and In-charge of the Division of Dairy Husbandry, Southern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, for his unstinted and precious guidance, valuable suggestions, constant encouragement and kind criticism during the entire period of the execution of this piece of research work, without which it would not have been possible to complete and submit the work in its present form.

He gratefully expresses his sincere thanks to Dr. C.P. Anantakrishnan, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Cornell), F.R.I.C., A.I.I.Sc., A.M.Tech.I. (Great Britain), Officer Incharge, Southern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, for providing facilities and evincing keen interest during the course of this study, without which the present investigation could not have been undertaken.

The author wishes to express his gratefulness and conveys his sincere regards and thanks to Dr. M.N. Dastur, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Glasgow), A.I.I.Sc., former Director and to Dr. D. Sundaresan, M.Sc. (Ag), Ph.D., Director of Dairy Research, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, for their help and kind support extended by them in this work.

He expresses his gratitude to Dr. V.D. Mudgal, M.Sc. (Ag), Ph.D., former Research Officer, Animal Nutrition, Southern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute,
Bangalore, for his help in preparing the synopsis of this investigation. Thanks are due to Shri. K. N. S. Sharma, M.Sc. (Stat), for the advice given during the statistical analysis. Help and co-operation received from the staff of the Animal Nutrition and Dairy Husbandry Section in conducting this work is gratefully acknowledged.

Sincere thanks are also due to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the award of Senior Research Fellowship during the tenure of which the present study was completed.

He is also indebted to the Mahatma Phule and Konkan Krishi Vidhyapeeth of Maharashtra State for the nomination to this course of studies at this research station.

Last but not least, the author is very much grateful to all those who have lent a hand in the realization of this piece of research work, and to his wife for her forbearance and constant encouragement during the course of investigation.