ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present thesis embodies the research investigations carried out by the author in the Acharya P.C. Ray Research Laboratory, Agricultural Chemistry Wing, University College of Agriculture, Calcutta University.

The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude to Prof. B.B. Roy, Acharya P.C. Ray Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and Head and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Calcutta, for his continued interest and encouragement and valuable guidance, throughout the course of investigation.

The author is also indebted to Dr. S. Mukherjee, Reader in Geology, Calcutta University; Dr. D.R. Das Gupta, Head of the Division of Mineral Physics, Geological Survey of India, Calcutta; Dr. R.K. Chatterjee, Physical Chemist, I.A.R.I., New Delhi; Prof. S.C. Das, Head of the Division of Soil Science, BCKV, Kalyani; Dr. S.K. Pal, Pool Officer, University College of Agriculture, Calcutta University for their indispensable help and cooperation.

He again thanks Dr. Kunal Ghosh, Lecturer, Calcutta University; Dr. B.K. Dey, Reader in Soil Science, BCKV, Kalyani; Dr. S.K. Gupta, Reader in Soil Science, Calcutta University for their valuable suggestions during the investigation.

Thanks are also due to friends and colleagues without whose inspiring activities this work may not have been possible.