Acknowledgements

I owe my deepest gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. Chandra Shekhar Jha, scientist 'SG', Forestry & Ecology Division, NRSC, for his continuous encouragement, guidance and support in every issue and detail from initial to the final level of my study.

I am grateful to Dr. M.S.R.Murthy, Head, FED, NRSC for his technical support and co-operation.

I am heartily thankful to Dr. P.S.Roy, the then DD (RS & GIS-AA) and Now Dean, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing and Associate Director (Capacity Building), NRSC, for his technical guidance and support.

I am thankful to Dr. V. Jayaraman, Director, NRSC, for permitting me to carry out my Ph.D. at NRSC and his continuous support during the entire tenure.

I am thankful to the colleagues of forestry and ecology division, NRSC for their technical support.

Financial assistance in terms of fellowship and project work from Radar Imaging–Joint Experiment Programme (RISAT-JEP) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore is gratefully acknowledged.

I would like to show my gratitude to Dr.Lalji Singh of Department of forestry, College of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya,
Raipur and his team for helping in generating ground biomass data of Bilaspur study site.

Thanks are due to State Forest Departments of Gujarat, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh for the excellent logistic support provided during the field work.

I would like to thank Prof. D.N. Reddy, Honorable Vice Chancellor, JNTU, Hyderabad, Dr. M. Anji Reddy, Director, Directorate of University Foreign Relations, JNTU and Sri J. Venkatesh, Head, SIT, JNTU for their guidance in the processing of synopsis and thesis.

Finally, I am forever indebted to my parents and family for their understanding, endless patience, encouragement and support when it was most required.