ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to pay my homage to THE ALMIGHTY GOD “THE WONDERFUL CHEMIST” of this lovely world, whose blessings have made this venture successful. By His grace I am lucky enough to find a real mentor and philosopher Dr. P. H. Parsania - Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Saurashtra University, Rajkot. It is my immense pleasure and privilege to express my profound gratitudes to him for his never ending guidance and perseverance. His keen interest, patience and constant encouragement during my research work have enabled me to put my work in the form of the thesis. Association with him has been a life time achievement for me.

The way to my Ph.D. started from early days of my research tenure in one of the leading polymer industry- EPP COMPOSITES (P) LTD, Rajkot. I take this opportunity to say heartfelt thanks to EPP COMPOSITES (P) LTD for providing me very good platform of research in Polymer composites, providing materials, testing facilities and building confidence in me to start my work on Natural fiber composites. It’s my fortune to gratefully acknowledge the support of some special individual. Words fail me to express my appreciation to Mr. Jayraj S. Shah (Managing Director EPP COMPOSITES (P) LTD) for his support, generous care and the homely feeling at EPP Composites (P) Ltd. He was always beside me during the happy and hard moments to push me and motivate me. Thank you doesn’t seem sufficient but it is said with appreciation and respect to him for their support, encouragement, care and understanding.

I take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the TIPCO INDUSTRIES LTD, Valsad for providing financial and moral support as a R & D Officer, which buttressed me to perform my work comfortably. I am highly inspired and blessed by Shri Nirmal B. Thakkar, Chairman TIPCO INDUSTRIES LTD, Thakkar family and the director desk.

I am also thankful to all faculty members: Dr. A. K. Shah, Dr. V. H. Shah, Dr. H. S. Joshi, Dr. S. Baluja, Dr. M. K. Shah, Dr. Y. T. Naliapara, Dr. U. C. Bhoya, Dr. R. C. Khunt, Dr. F. D. Karia and administrative staff for their encouragement during my research work.
I am much indebted to Dr. Pankaj Mer, Dr. Jignesh Patel, Dr. Bharat Bhuva, Dr. Suresh Koradiya, Dr. Urvish Pathak, Dr. Sandip Matariya, Dr. Pooja Adroja, Jignesh Patel, Dr. Leena Joshi, Rizwan Ghumara, Chirag Patel, Bhavin Dhaduk, Chintan Jani, Jabal Thanki and Ashish Raichura for their valuable support in my work, spending their precious time to complete my Ph.D. and gave their valuable suggestions. It is also a pleasure to mention my good friends, Vallabh Virani and, Jignesh Varnapriya for their moral support.

I express my deepest thanks to Mrs. Vijayaben, Jignesh, Dr. Pooja and Maulik Parsania for the hospitality extended to me during prolonged research discussion at their home during this work.

I pay my respect and devote emotions to “My Parents” without whose blessing this task would not have been accomplished. I bow my head with utter respect to my beloved mother Smt. Bhavnaben for her continuous source of inspiration, motivation and devotion to me, and my father Shri Dinesh Bhai for the uncompromising principles that guided my life. I never forget my Grandparents late Shri Mangal Bhatt and late Shri Shardaben Bhatt without their blessings, I would not have been reached to my goal of the life.

I can never forget my younger brother & sister Kartik and Unnati, my brother-in-law Bhavesh Jani and my nephew “Dax”. I assure him to be worthy of whatever he has done for me. I would like to reserve a special line for my wife Krupa, for her unwavering love, understanding and constant support which have made my life a beautiful experience to live, her continuous support encouraged me to be the best that I can be. I doubt that I will ever be able to convey my appreciation fully, but I owe her my eternal gratitude.

I am also thankful to my father-in-law Shri D. P. Mehta and mother-in-law Shri Sudhaben Mehta for their immense support and motivation during this endeavour, and also thankful to my brother-in-law Devang. Last but not least, I would like to thank each and every one of them who helped me directly or indirectly during this research program and lots of experience gaining journey. I once again bow my head before Almighty to facilitate me at any stage of my dream to accomplish this task.

RITESH D. BHATT