ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my immense pleasure and gratitude that I acknowledge the guidance, support, help and encouragement extended tome by many people and institutions while completing this research work.

It gives me a great pleasure to express my sincere thanks to Dr. V. B. Jugale, my research guide and Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his valuable guidance from time to time in completing this research work. Due to his keen interest and effective supervision I could complete this research work. I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to him.

I am very much thankful to Dr. A. A. Dange, Dr. P. A. Koli, Dr. V. B. Kakade, Shri P. N. Gavade, Shri A. N. Sabale, Shri S. S. Pasare of the Department of Economics and Dr. A. B. Rajage, Principal, Raj. Shahu Arts and Commerce College, Rukadi, Dr. D. K. Patil, Dr. T. M. Bhosale, Prof. L. B. Kachare of P. V. P. College, Kavathe Mahankal and Prof. M. S. Solankurkar, Prof. Karale, Shri Shinde.

I am also grateful to my friends Padmashri, Smita, Swapna, Dakshayani, Nitin and the farmers who helped me in the field work.

I am very much thankful to the Librarians of Raj. Shahu Arts and Commerce College, Rukadi and Bar. Balasaheb Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur who extended me their hands in supplying needful information for my research work.

Prof. Mrs. Yojana Jugale gave me a great mental support, which is a source of inspiration to me. So, I am heartily thankful to her also.

I am very much grateful to my 'Aai' and my 'Mama' for encouraging and supporting me to get higher education without whom I would have been nowhere.

My gratitude at the last to Shri S. S. Pasare who has computerised the work of this dissertation timely and neatly.

V. B. Devkar