

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

It is a pleasure to record my feelings of gratitude to those, who encouraged and ~~by~~ helped me at various stages of this research work.

I cannot find befitting words to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my kind hearted teacher Dr. A.D. Tawade, Geography Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur. I am indeed thankful to him for having made the enlightened and valuable suggestions without which this research work would not have been upto mark. His able guidance unfolded for me new horizon in Geography.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Shri. Deshmukh, Shri. Vasantrao Patil and all the staff of Rashtriya Chemical fertilizer Laboratory at Kolhapur, for providing facilities for collection of data and to carry out the experiments on^y soil analysis. I am also thankful to Shri. S. B. Rakhunde, Agricultural Officer, Department of Agriculture at Poona and Shri. Hasbnis of Government soil testing laboratory at Sangli for providing facilities for collection of data and for their valuable suggestions.

I am thankful to Principal Shri. P.K. Deshmukh, Shankarrao Mohite Mahavidyalaya, Akluj ~~for~~ for providing necessary facilities in the college during the course of this research work.

II

The owe a special word of thanks to Prof. P. B. Pardeshi, Prof. Miss. K.V. Shah, Prof. A.M. Navale, Prof. B.N. Ghorpeade, Shri Arun Jagtap for their sincere help and suggestions in the completion of this work. I appreciate their help in the actual preparation of the manuscript.

My friends Shri. J.S.Mohite-Patil, Prof.M.S.Shaikh, Shri.V.T.Mane, Shri. J.K.Dhumal, Shri. Lawhale always made inquiries about the progress of the research work. I record my deep gratitude for their affectionate encouragement.

My thanks are to our Librarian Shri. N.B. Mane, typist Shri. S.H.Dasa, Shri. B.M. Riswadkar, Shri. Hari Taralkar, and other officials, non-officials, students of B.A.III class who have helped me in this reseach work.

The contribution to this work by my wife Squ.Ujwala cannot be exaggerated. Her patience and self sacrifice during these years have sustained me, her optimism and good cheer have encouraged me. I also appreciate her assistance in the actual preparation of manuscript. I would also like to mention my son Minad (Nikhil) whose arrival encouraged me to complete this work.

(J. P. JAGTAP)