ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratefulness to Lord Shiva for the guidance and help, who is imparted me the strength to complete this study. I know that I am here and that I am able to write all of this for a reason. I will do my best in never forgetting what a great fortune I have had in just being here, and that it comes with a lesson and a responsibility.

The work presented in this manuscript was accomplished under the sympathetic attitude, animate directions, observant pursuit, scholarly criticism, cheering perspective and enlightened supervision of my honourable Major Guide Dr. M. A. Shekh, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh. I am grateful to his ever inspiring guidance, constant encouragement, keen interest and scholarly comments and constructive suggestions throughout the course of my studies and investigation. It was a great pleasure and privilege for me to be associated with him and I find no words to express my sincere thanks for all his kindness.

It gives me great pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the members of my advisory committee, Dr. M. S. Solanki, Research scientist, Department of Agril. Chem. & Soil Science, Dr. R. M. Solanki, Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, and Dr. S. M. Upadhyay, Professor & Head, Department of Agril. Statistics, JAU, Junagadh for their useful suggestions, constant attention and help throughout the period of investigation.

I am grateful to Dr. A. R. Pathak, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Director of Research & Dean PG Studies and Dr. B. K. Sagarka, Principal & Dean, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh for providing necessary facilities during this study.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. B. K. Sagarka, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, Dr. P. K. Chovatia, Dr. R. K. Mathukia, Dr. B. B. Ramani, Prof. M. C. Chopada, Prof. R. L. Davaria, Prof. D. M. Panara and all the staff members of Department of Agronomy for providing guidance and necessary help during period of study and research activity.

I wouldn’t have been able to reach my destiny without the sincere cooperation and kind help of Dr. M. A. Shekh. I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and heartfelt thanks for guidance and genuine counseling in making my efforts focused towards the pursuit of this study.

I acknowledge the willing help & generous cooperation provided by Dr. N. B. Babaria, Professor & Head, Dr. A. V. Rajani, Dr. H. L. Sakarvadia, Dr. K. B. Parmar, Dr. L. C. Vakariya and Prof. P. B. Bunsa, Department of Agril. Chemistry & Soil Science.
The importance of library and role of its staff can never be underestimated. I extend my heartfelt thanks to staff members of Central Library, ‘C’ branch of Principal office and Examination branch of Registrar office for their cooperation during my study.

I am highly thankful to all my classmates and my seniors, Shwetha C., Madhurani, Chandana devi Rodda, Nayana, Shrusti, Ranjitha, Manisha, Vennila and Nandini. I am also thankful to my lovely junior especially Aditi M. V. I would like to convey my cordial thanks to all those who helped me directly or indirectly to fulfill my dream.

I cannot find word to express gratitude appreciation to my revered parents Somappa and Annapurna my siblings Hanumanth and Roopa are GOD’s gift to me, who are behind everything I have achieved. They are the reason I thrive to be better. Their pride in me is my main goal in life. They have instilled in me a positive approach towards life and motivated me to give my best. The love and affection showered on me by my friend Shwetha C. has strengthened me through harsh times that cannot be captured in words.

Last but not least, I bow before The Almighty, who provided me the strength to make this venture, a successful one. All are not mentioned, but none is forgotten.

A million thanks to lard “Shiva, Shri ganesha, durgadevi, chamundeshwari, sai baba and basavanna” the almighty and my great care taker, had always been there with me for showing his blessing and compassion everlasting, whose grace is always to motivate and inspiring to me for every movement of my work and have brought boundless joy in my life. Last, but not least, I offer my reverential obeisance to God for their grace, which help me to complete this work.

Now, as I carry this in my hand, I carry with me memories that will enrich my nostalgia.

Place: Junagadh
Date: 29/05/2018

(Sumangala S Maravalli)