Acknowledgements

We first of all thank our respective institutions for all their support in the implementation of the projects. This support was cardinal to the success of this endeavour. We thank the Department of Science and Technology for facilitating this research. We are grateful to Dr. B S Venkatchela, Prof. R K Varma, and Dr. H K Gupta for asking and encouraging us to think of a coordinated programme on the Thar Desert. Dr K R Gupta facilitated the implementation of this programme with his help and positive approach at all stages. The idea of a combined publication was first suggested by Dr V S Ramamurthy, Secretary DST during a SERC review of the programme and we are grateful to Dr. S R Shetye, Editor, Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences (Earth and Planetary Sciences) for providing us with this opportunity and for his patience with nearly endless delays at our end. We thank Ms. Hema Wesley and the editorial staff of the Earth and Planetary Sciences for their cooperation and patience. Prof. S Krishnaswami helped at various stages of the programme in a variety of ways. To him and to all those individuals not named specifically, we are truly indebted.