ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis in its present form would not have been a reality without the support and encouragement received from many scholars. I express my heartiest and sincere thanks to all of them, who helped me to make it happen.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr.L. Rathakrishnan, Reader, Department of Rural Industries and Management, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram and my research supervisor and guide for his patient and able guidance during the preparation of this thesis. His valuable comments and sincere encouragement during the course of my study stimulated my interest in industrial ecology, which enabled me to complete this thesis creditably. I am grateful to him but the debt I owe him will remain forever unpaid.

I am extremely thankful to the member of my Doctoral Committee Dr.S.V. Hariharan, Professor in International Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for his valuable and continuous support in preparation of my thesis.

I thankfully acknowledge the kind support extended by the office of the Vice - Chancellor, The Registrar, Deputy Registrar - Academic, Controller of Examination, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram for giving me an opportunity to do my research and providing me with all facilities for smooth completion of this work.

I also thank Dr.M. Soundrapandian, Professor and Head, and all the teaching and non-teaching faculty of the Department of Rural Industries and Management, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, for their co-operation and encouragement.

It is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the valuable comments I received during the preparation of my thesis Professor Paul P Appasamy, V.C., Karanya University, Coimbatore; and Professor U. Sankar, Madras School of Economics, Chennai; Professor N. Rajalakshmi, Department of Economics, University of
Madras, Chennai; Professor S.Rajendran, Head in Economics, Periyar University, Salem; Professor G.S.Sasthry, and Professor Aziz from Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore; Professor Venkatachalam, MIDS, Chennai; Professor Eswarappa, Department of Geography, Bangalore University, Bangalore; Mr.Ramapadam Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Madurai; Mr.S.Balaji, M.E, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai; Mr. Vijay Baskaran, District Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Madurai; and Mr.G.Govardhan, Administrator, Bangalore Environmental Trust, Bangalore. All these three eminent scholars gave me useful guidance in understanding the subject and analysing the waste management in food processing units. I consider myself lucky having met many such dignitaries personally.

Mention must be made of the help extended to me by various research institutions like Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore University, Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Indian Institute of Management (IIMB), and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bangalore; Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) and Mysore University in Mysore; Mangalore University, Managalore, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi; Madras School of Economics, Anna University, University of Madras, Indian Institute of Technology (IITM), Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, and C.P.Ramasamy Iyer Foundation in Chennai; and Non - Governmental Organisations like EXNORA International, Chennai and Swabimana, Bangalore. I am under obligation to acknowledge gratefully the kind co-operation of all these institution for allowing me to use their libraries and consulting with experts in the field.

I express my sincere thanks to the officials of District Industries Centre, Madurai and Dindigul for providing addresses of SSIs in select district. I am equally thankful to the respondent small-scale food processing industrial units for their co-operation and help in providing with the relevant data and information.
I also thank my friend Mr. A. Sateesh Babu and my fellow researchers, Mr. V. P. Sriraman, Mrs. P. Uma, Mr. G. Paneer Selvam and Mr. B. Prabalolane for their moral support.

It is my duty to acknowledge the kind help received from Professor S. Lakshmi, Faculty of English and Foreign Language, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram for proof reading my thesis. I owe my sincere thanks to her.

I deem it a pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R. Vthayakumar, Reader, Department of Mathematics, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram for his invaluable comments on application of statistical tools for my thesis.

I extend my profound thanks to Sri. P. Jayachandran, office clerk, Sri. R. Subramanian, Attender and Mr. S. Govindaraj, who have rendered great official help in the course of my Ph.D. work in the department of Rural Industries & Management, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram.

My abundant gratitude is due for Mr. R. A. Rajaraman, Altech Computers, Gandhigram who undertook the neat execution of my manuscript typing.

At last, I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my parents, my sister and my brother who not only financed my research work, but also gave me all possible encouragement and shared my hours of weal and woe.

There are many others who also helped me indirectly without whose cooperation and support this work could not have been completed, I thank them all.

(A.SARA VANANNAIDU)