ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This volume is the embodiment of the author's thought as a research worker in the Human Ecology Section of Anthropological Survey of India. During her fieldwork in the district of Hooghly she came across the variegated impacts of the urban areas on the agro-economy of the countryside. This led her to the idea of studying an elongated small area that flanked from the Hooghly industrial belt. Thus, she found changes in the agro-economy, spatial and temporal, in the subdivision of Serampore.

The author wishes to express her deep sense of gratitude to her teacher Dr. Rabindranath Bhattacharyya, Reader, Department of Geography, University of Calcutta, for his sincere and able guidance. He took the pain of going through her dissertation and has given valuable suggestions to give the final shape of the volume.

The author is grateful to the authority of Anthropological Survey of India for allowing her to use data collected by her during fieldwork of the Survey. The author is thankful to Dr. Saradindu Bose, Senior Ecologist of Anthropological Survey of India for his valuable suggestions on methodology. The author expresses her thanks to Dr. Debkumar Bose, Professor of Indian Statistical Institute for his suggestions for statistical analysis of data. Her sincere thanks are due to Smt. Asha Das, Smt. Lalita Bose and Sri M. P. Basu, Assistant Anthropologists for their
inspirations and Sri D. P. Mukherjee, Radiologist and Sri Alok Sen for their kind help during statistical computation of data.

The author is immensely indebted to Dr. Nirmal Bhattacharya for his continuous encouragement in her work. He has taken special interest in designing and preparing maps. The author is also thankful to Sri B. B. Pradhan and Sri D. K. Ghosh Dastidar for their co-operation. All of them belong to National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation.

The author would like to express her thanks and appreciation to the officers of different Panchayet Samitis, Settlement Offices, Subdivision Office of Serampore and District Office of Chinsurah for their generous help. Her thanks also go to the people of the Subdivision of Serampore who have provided her with food, shelter and information.

Sri Sujit Kumar Rakshit and Sri Ashim Kumar Chakravorty took the pain of typing this dissertation. Sri Tapan Kumar Maitra assisted her to get the photographs. The author is thankful to all of them.

The author also extends her thanks to Sri Subodh Datta and Dr. Subimal Datta, her brother-in-laws for their continuous inspiration to complete the work. She is also indebted to Gargi and Amitava, her daughter and son who silently suffered a lot of negligence during this work.
Last but not least is author's obligation to Dr. Subhash Datta, her husband for his guidance and criticism to give the work a final shape. Being a mother of two children as well as have been a working lady it would quite impossible for the author to carry out this herculean job to an end if he was not by the side of her with his continuous inspiration. Without his help the completion of work would remain a dream to the author.