ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For allowing me to fulfill my long-cherished desire of pursuing academic interests through a doctoral research work, and for providing practical experience of having worked in several related departments, I would first like to thank the Government of Gujarat. Though there was always pressure of office work and anxieties resulting from the myriad office-related activities, yet one could always take out a few hours per day for research pursuit.

I thank my colleagues in the Gujarat Electricity Board and in the power sector where I served for almost five years. The past Chairperson of the GEB, Dr. Manjula Subramanyam, IAS, and the present Chairperson Mrs. Vijaylaxmi Joshi, IAS, discussed several related issues, so did the past Members (Finance) Dr. P. K. Mishra, IAS, and Sri M. M. Srivastava, IAS. My thanks are also due to Members (Technical) Sri H. A. Shah and Sri P. H. Rana, Members (Administration) Mrs. Vilasini Ramchandran, IAS and Mr. L. Chuango, IAS who also helped in several ways. My thanks also to Sri I.P. Gautam, IAS, who besides serving in the power sector for long, was also the Secretary to the then Chief Minister Sri Keshubhai Patel. He helped me in seeing the entire politico-economic issue of agricultural power subsidy differently. I would also thank Sri M.K.Iyer, Sr. CGM of GETCO, who was very solicitous in gathering information and exchanging notes.

In the irrigation sector, I would especially thank Sri M. S. Patel, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Gujarat, and Sri R. G. Bhatt, Officer on Special Duty, both of whom gave fresh insights to the energy-irrigation nexus, but from the perspective of an irrigation sector administration, whose views were often different from that of the power sector managers and administrators.

The entire focus of this research study is the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and it is through the prism of the BKS that we endeavor to analyze the entire problem. For helping me to capture this perspective and to see their viewpoint, empathetically and yet objectively, I would sincerely thank the top rung of the BKS of Gujarat, namely Sri Jeevanbhai (Dada) Patel, Sri Maganbhai Patel, Sri Prafulbhai Senjalia and Sri Bababhai Patel, among countless others. They shared with me all the documents and the correspondence that they had with the State Government and the GEB, as also arranged for me several meetings, interviews and
focused group discussions with their field level members. They would not show rancor even when I differed from their point of view; yet they gamely endeavored to make a ‘convert’ out of me.

The study would never have seen the light of the day but for the constant prodding and reminders by my research guide Prof. Anand P. Mavalankar, Head of the Department of Political Science in the M.S. University. He gave valuable insights during the discussions that we had, suggested how to improve the presentation of the various chapters, as also encouraged me to complete the work fast, but without any compromise on research quality.

I would also thank my friend Dr. Shailendra Thakur, who as the then Assistant Registrar of the University helped me in completing all the legal and official formalities.

My wife Meena has been a source of constant encouragement and firmness during this entire exercise. She ensured that I finish this work before the deadline, and but for her love and encouragement this work might not have been completed. My sons Aditya and Siddharth gleefully enjoyed their father ‘studying’, while my father, himself a Ph.D., always encouraged me to join his ‘club’. I would acknowledge the affectionate smiles of my parents who saw their son back to study table once again.

I would also thank my colleagues in the Department of Science & Technology, where I am presently serving as Secretary to the Government of Gujarat, for their unstinted support. In particular, Sri Shiju Pillai deserves my special thanks for helping me in the entire secretarial exercise.

JAGADIP NARAYAN SINGH
Gandhinagar – 382 010
Gujarat State, INDIA.