ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor Professor M V Nadkarni for initiating, guiding, constantly helping and encouraging me during the course of this research work. Most of the times he had to go out of his way to help me in visualising several facets of this study. But for his constant proddings, continued interest and clarifications it would not have been possible for me to complete this work.

Work on this thesis was undertaken as a Research Student at Department of Economics, Marathwada University. I am grateful to the University authorities for awarding me research fellowship in the initial years of the study. I must mention with gratitude the encouragement received from Professor V V Borkar and Professor G S Kalyankar in this endeavour.

At the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, I have received help as well as encouragement beyond normal expectations from all the staff and faculty. Professor V M Rao has been a guiding force in all my academic ventures. His encouragement kept me continuously on toes in completion of this work. I always had a free access to discuss with him many of my basic doubts. I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude for his interest in this work.
Professor G Thimmaiah, Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change has always extended a helping hand during the course of my work. He not only asked me to accord top priority to this work but always enquired about the progress of the work. I am grateful to him for his interest and encouragement.

My friend late Professor V G Rao had shown a lot of interest in my work. He was keen that I should complete the work at the earliest. During his stay at ISEC he was helpful in clarifying certain issues. I will fail in my duties if I do not put on record the help received from him.

Dr K N Ninan, Assistant Professor, ISEC, has spared his time to go through initial drafts of the thesis and helped in editing and stylistic improvements. Mr H Chandrashekar, Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture, Dharwad, has helped in many aspects of the work. Mr R Krishnachandran helped me in checking the type proof of the stencils. I am deeply indebted to all of them.

I am grateful to Dr Akhtar Shaikh, Associate Professor, Kuwait University who has helped me in processing some of the data. I am thankful to Mr B G Kulkarni, Assistant Professor, ISEC for helping me with the maps presented in the thesis.
During the course of the study I have visited quite a few places for library work. I am thankful to the library staff of Marathwada University, Aurangabad; Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore; University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, and Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore; for their cooperation.

Since the work was based on secondary data I had to visit, Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Pune, for quite a few times. I must put on record the help received from the staff, Department of Agriculture. They were helpful beyond the normal call of the duty, not only in allowing access to unpublished sources of data but also in clarifying doubts during the data collection.

Mr. H. K. Govinda Rao has typed the drafts and stencilled the manuscript neatly unmindful of the eleventh hour corrections. Mr. S. A. Prakash carefully took the stencilled copies despite some technical snag. I am grateful to both of them.

My friends Dr. Prakash Papdiwal, Prof. Ashok Deogirikar, Dr. Kanchan Dreghmukh, Dr. M. G. Chandrakanth, Mr. D. Nagaraj, Mr. Jose, Mr. Purshottam, Mr. Reddy, Mr. T. S. Surash, Mr. Suryavanshi and Mr. D. G. Wadkar had been helpful in more than one ways.
I shall fail in my duties if I do not put on record the help derived from them.

My mother has always been a source of inspiration for me. She was taking additional care while I was busy in drafting the thesis. My wife has been continuously helping me during the course of this work. But for her help, cooperation and encouragement, it would have been difficult for me to complete this work. I am at loss of words to express my gratitude to both of them.

R S DESHPANDE