ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me to bringing out this thesis successfully.

I am obliged to Dr. M. Ravichandran, Reader, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for his guidance, valuable suggestions towards producing the quality of thesis and constant encouragement right from the selection of the problem. In fact, I would not have completed this thesis without his constant support in each and every stage.

I am thankful to Dr. V. B. Athreya, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University for his valuable comments and offering great encouragement. My sincere thanks to Dr. C. Thangamuthu, professor, Dr. S. Lakshmi, Dr. S.Iyyampillai, Dr. N. Manimekalai and Dr. V. Backiyavathy, faculty members of Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, for their valuable comments and suggestions which have enriched the thesis.

I express my sincere thank to Dr. V. Ratna Reddy, Professor of Economics, CESS, Hydrabad, for having given the valuable suggestions and I have learnt regression model from him. My special thank are due to Prof. Sanmugavadivel, Department of Statistics, St. Joseph College, Tiruchirappalli for his help to complete statistical analysis.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. C. Balasundaram, Department of Zoology, Bharathidasan University, for his suggestions.

I am extremely grateful to the ‘World Bank aided India: Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistant project’ implemented by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, for the financial support.

I am thankful to Mr. Susanta Kumar Shaha, Research Scholars, Department of microbiology, Mr. A. Sambantham and Mr. A. Kannan, Department of Economics and Mr. V. Kumaresan and Mr. T. Goudhaman Research Scholars, Botany Department for their unstinted support and help. A words special to thank Sambantham and Saha for their extending financial support whenever required.
I am thankful to Mr. Manimohan, and Mr. K. Karunakaran, and other Research Scholars, in the Department of Economics for sharing their research ideas and comments, which helped me in great deal of my thesis work. My special thanks are also due to Ramalingam, Mr. D. Kathirvel, and T. Sudakar unforgettable help and moral support.

The Officials of Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board and the Ground Water Board, Tiruchirappalli, were kind enough to furnish necessary information from their end. I am grateful to them. I wholeheartedly thank the local body officials of the select village panchayats and the respondents, rural households for having shared information and experiences with me.

Let me record my deep appreciation of the help rendered by Mr. Alagesan, Mr. Perumal and Mr. Manoharan of the office of the Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University. My profound thanks are due to Mr. Padmanaban and Mr. Selvaraju in helping me in the learning of computer applications.

I am thankful to Mr. Neelakandan, Librarian, and other librarians, Bharathidasan University for their extended services.

S. Boopathi