ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The voluminous work in the research undertaken by me has become a reality with ardent support and co-operation lent to me by many personalities.

First and foremost, I express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. D. Rathnasamy, M.A., Ph.D., Principal of Kurinji College, Manapparai, for his unstinted attention and meticulous guidance in the work at all its stages. My sincere thanks to him, for his suggestions, constructive criticisms and scholarly remarks in shaping this scholarly work.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the valuable services of Dr. S. Varadarajan, M.Sc. (Ag) Professor of Agricultural Economics, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and Dr. Ayyam Perumal, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for having lent their valuable services from the beginning till the end of this endeavour.

My sincere thanks are also due to Rev. Fr. Dr. S. John Britto, S.J., Principal, St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchirapalli for having helped me in all possible ways and also for his deep concern and interest in my academic progress.

I express my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Dr. M. Sebastian, S.J., M.A., Ph.D., A. Susai Raj, Head of the Department of Economics of St. Joseph’s College and to my colleagues, for valuable help rendered by them at several stages in my research work.
I am grateful to the Research Scholars of Bharathidasan University, Mr. A. Arul Raj and A. Jayakumar for having lent their valuable time in collecting the primary data.

I place my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Almamater Periyar EVR Government Arts College, Tiruchirapalli for having admitted me in this Ph.D., programme. I owe special thanks to the Head of the Department of Economics and other members in the faculty. I express my sincere thanks to A. Singaraj, M.A., M.Phil., for having spent his valuable time in correcting this work.

I sincerely thank my student friends, Arul Selvam, A. Prince, F. Jeyapaul, G. Prakash Raj and others who were very useful in formulating the tables of this thesis.

The general assistance rendered by the Personnel of the Collectorate of Thanjavur and the Department of Statistics of Thanjavur District is greatly acknowledged.

On a personal note, I wish to thank my family members for the excellent standard of home management, which spared much of my time for the research work. Particularly my wife’s encouragement, forbearance and understanding helped me a good deal in completing this research work.

I bow my head and thank the God Trinity for having helped me to complete this work successfully.

Place : Tiruchirapalli.
Date : 14/12/97

M. JEYABAL.