ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the most pleasant parts of writing thesis is the opportunity of thanking those who have contributed to it. Unfortunately, the list of expressions of thanks-no matter how extensive-is always incomplete and inadequate. This acknowledgement is no exception.

I am deeply indebted to my research supervisor Dr. C.S. Vaidya Sr. Research Officer, Agro-Economic Research Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5, who has followed this research work stage by stage, from when it was mere idea right through its completion, giving generously from his store of knowledge and wisdom. His constant support and encouragement has been a source of great strength while his critical comment and intellectual simulation equipped me to develop clear and sharper perspective of what I was exploring. I cannot express in words the tireless efforts he put in polishing and enriching this work.

It gives utmost pleasure to express my internal gratitude and indebtedness to our learned and scholarly Professor Dalip S. Thakur, for being a constant source of encouragement and valuable suggestions during this course of this research work.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Sikander Kumar, Chairman, Department of Economics, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5 for his constant support, help and encouragement.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) Meenakshi Soodan, Shri N.S. Bist, Dr. Shyam Prasad, Dr. Aparna Negi and other staff members of the Department of Economics, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5, for their encouragement and help to complete the present research work.

It is matter of utmost pleasure to express my indebtedness and deep sense of gratitude to the various department officials and sample farmers of the selected
villages to extend their maximum help to supply accurate relevant information, without which this study was not possible.

It is also my duty to thanks and express my gratitude to Dr. Ranveer Singh, Dr. M. L. Sharma, Shri Narinder Kumar and other staff members of Agro-Economic Research Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla-5 for their constant and constructive suggestions throughout the study.

Here I would also like to express my sincere thanks to my uncle Dr. H.S. Verma, Dr. K.S. Thakur and Er. O.P. Thakur for helping, encouraging and guiding me right from my childhood and particularly during this course of study. It would be pleasant to me, to remember my brothers and sisters especially 'Little Champs' Abhinah, Akanksha, Anikate, Anmol, Anubhav, Ansh, Gungun and Adi for their frequent and innocent quarries during this course.

I express my sincere thanks to all the staff members of Himachal Pradesh University, Library, H. P. University Agro-Economic Research Centre Library, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Library, Directorate of Land Records and Department of Agriculture for their constant co-operation and help. I am also indebted to all learned authors whose work I have consulted and who have enlisted in my bibliography.

The study would not have seen the light of the day, had it not been supported by my parents, my wife and daughter Sheria Thakur. No amount of thanks can repay my debit to my parents. If there is a single individual who has contributed most in the preparation of this volume, it is my wife Mrs. Saneh Lata, who played critical role by keeping me on track, reminded me that completion of this research work was at least as important as its conception. Maintaining constant pace and sustaining the spirit required for this kind of Endeavour would not have been possible without the nurturing environment that my mother Mrs. Rattani Devi
created for me. My father’s faith in me along with blessing, material and morale support has always been source of encouragement and strength.

The words are not adequate to pay my deep hearted gratitude to my esteemed grandmother ‘Smt. Chinti Devi’ who always inspired and give me lesson of hard work and success in life.

I am also grateful to Shri Kamal Dev for typing this thesis in most efficient and shortest possible time.

Last but not least I take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all those who helped me directly and indirectly in completion of the present study.

Dated: May 19, 2010.

Pushpender Singh Thakur