I hereby state that the thesis entitled “PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THROUGH REGULATED MARKETS IN VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT” submitted to the Madurai Kamaraj University for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Commerce is based on my original research work done under the guidance of Dr. N. M. Ganesan, M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor, (Retd.) Department of Commerce (DDE), Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai and that it has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship, fellowship or any other similar title of any other University or Institution.

Place : Sivakasi
Date : (S. ELANGOVAN)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor and research guide Dr. N. M. GANESAN, Professor, (Retd.,) Department of Commerce (DDE), Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai for his scholarly guidance and valuable suggestions to shape this academic endeavour into a piece of research work.

I am bound to thank and remember the contributions of Sri. P. AYYANADAR (late), Smt. JANAKI AMMAL (late) founders and Sri A.GRAHADURAI (late) former President in making the institution – Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi magnificent by their munificence.
Let me place on record my profound sense of gratitude to Thiru. A. VAIRAPRAKASAM, former Secretary, Thiru. A. SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE, Correspondent, Thiru. A. RAMAMOORTHY, President, Thiru. V. AYYAN KODISWARAN, Member, Thiru. G. ATHIPATHY, Member, Thiru. G. ABIRUBEN, Secretary, College Management Committee for their constant encouragement, peerless governance and research ambience, provided in our premier Institution of higher education.

I extend my hearty thanks to Dr. S. BASKARAN, Principal, ANJA College, Sivakasi for his words of appreciation of our humble efforts towards academic excellence, the Council of Heads, Functionaries of Autonomy and the administrative staff of the college.

I bow in respect of Dr. A. POWNRAJA, Dr. G. SIVASUBRAMANIAN and Dr. S. SEVAGAPANDIAN, former Principals for their stewardship in maneuvering this ANJAC vessel to have a smooth sail.

I owe a lot to Prof. K. PARAMANANDHAM, Head, (Retd.,) Department of Zoology, ANJA College, Sivakasi for his valuable contributions in the completion of this work.

I would like to thank Dr. M. S. K. N. NAGENDRAN, Prof. E.GORDON, Prof. S. MARIAPPAN, Dr. V. MADASAMY, Dr. P. NATESAN and Prof. N. ARJUNAN the renowned retired Professors of Commerce for their untiring efforts in elevating the Department into a research centre.
I am indebted to Prof. R. JAYARAM, Dr. C. VINAYAGASUNDARAM, Dr. R. MANOHAR, Prof. M. S. MURUGAIYAN, Dr. A. JOSEPH XAVIER and Dr. M. SELVAKUMAR Faculty Members, Department of Commerce, ANJA College, Sivakasi for their valuable suggestions for the enrichment of the thesis.

I am obliged to thank Dr. V. ALAGAPPAN and Dr. R. VARADHARAJAN Professors of Commerce, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai and the Commerce Faculty Members of the University for providing me with research articles for reference.

My parents Sri. D. Swaminathan (late) - Smt. N. Thaiyalnayaki and my brother in law Thiru. B.Sekar, Supervisor, Erode Market Committee have been a source inspiration and I thank them wholeheartedly. My wife Mrs. E. Uma, daughter E.Nandhadevi Sivagnanagurunathan, son E.Raajarajan@Gowtham, deserve a word of thanks here since they are interested in my personal and professional development.

I thank the Chairman, Secretary / Special Officer, Superintendent and Staff of Virudhunagar Market Committee, Virudhunagar for their spontaneous help in making available the required secondary data in the form of various reports, records and returns.

My special thanks are due to 350 farmers and 175 traders, the sample respondents for having provided me the necessary details, forming part of primary data. With due regards, let me thank Dr. R. NEELAMEGAM, Dr. S. MANICKAVEL and Dr. N. SUNDARAPANDIYAN of VHNSN College, Virudhunagar for their help in the fruition of this treatise.
I thank Mr. N. Murugesan, Sri Balaji Computers, Madurai for the neat execution of typing work.

Above all, I would like to thank the God Almighty for showering the boundless blessings on me. In fine, I would like to thank my friends, well-wishers, alumni of ANJAC, students and the vibrant team of research scholars, near and far.

S. ELANGOVAN.