ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great privilege and express my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed major supervisor, Prof. R.K. Sharma of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSRD), School of Social Sciences (SSS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), under whose invaluable supervision and guidance, I accomplished the task of completing the thesis. I have no language in acknowledging the help and encouragement that I received from him at every stage of my work. In fact, it would not have been possible for me to complete the work but for his immense interest in the project and erudite guidance.

I also owe a profound sense of gratitude to my revered co-supervisor Prof. Ramesh Chand of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), for his guidance without which this thesis could not have taken shape. I am extremely grateful to him for sparing his precious time to guide me in clearing the statistical concepts, whenever I needed it. He guided me in this task with an untiring effort and interest with meticulous care till I completed the project.

I also humbly express my gratitude to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for granting me the Institutional Doctoral Fellowship through the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), which helped me immensely to focus on my research work. In this connection I express my sincerest thanks to Prof. B.B. Bhattacharya (erstwhile Director, IEG, presently Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)), for providing me the ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship and other facilities at the Institute for completing my thesis. I am also thankful to Prof. Kusum Chopra, Director of IEG, for the help and support at the Institute.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the valuable help and guidance given by Dr. Sucharita Sen, Prof. Ravi Srivastava, Prof. P.M. Kulkarni, Dr. Anuradha Banerjee, Prof. B.S. Butola, Prof. Saraswati Raju and other faculty members of CSRD/SSS/JNU. I profoundly thank Dr. Parmod Kumar of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for his constructive suggestions and help.

My sincerest thanks are due to Mr. V.K. Kaul (Staff Officer to Chairman, Cereals Division, Agriculture and Processed Food Exports Development Authority (APEDA)), for sparing his precious time to help me understand and clarify various issues pertaining to my work.
I am also thankful to Dr. Smita Sirohi of National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal who extended all possible support and help including hostel accommodation at the Institute during my field survey in Haryana.

I wish to convey my thanks to officials of the Directorate of Agriculture of Punjab and Haryana who provided me with basic know-how related to Basmati cultivation, besides helping me in identifying Basmati cultivating regions.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not gratefully acknowledge the help and assistance received from the farmers surveyed. They had shown keen interest in my work, spared their precious time to attend to my questionnaires and engaged in friendly discussions. I remain indebted to them. The help received from the staff of various grain markets and rice export houses are also gratefully acknowledged.

I am personally thankful to the staff of the libraries of JNU, NCAP, IEG, NCAER and APEDA, for providing me access to their libraries.

I am also grateful to Mr. Varghese and Mrs. Sis Kaur for helping me with data processing in the Computer Centre of the School of Social Sciences, JNU.

Among my several friends, who have helped and encouraged me in this work, in many a personal ways and to whom I am thankful, Dr. K. Elumalai and Mr. Rajnish Kumar deserve special mention and thanks.

I am extremely grateful to my family especially my mother Smt. Meera Mukherjee who not only encouraged me in my work but also accompanied me during the field surveys in Punjab and Haryana. I am also grateful to my husband Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharya who gave me all possible support and guidance wholeheartedly and also helped me with editing the thesis. I also wish to thank the rest of my family members whose good wishes and support have been a source of strength and inspiration in my entire endeavour.

(Mondira Mukherjee)

New Delhi