

P R E F A C E

The present study was initiated by Prof. Dr. Rābindra Nath Sen, M.Sc., D.Sc., FIIST., Head Ergonomics Laboratory, Department of Physiology, Calcutta University, at the stage of my Post-Graduate specialisation in Ergonomics. The work embodied in this thesis was carried out under his continuous guidance and direct supervision, ^{for} which I ^{am} very much indebted to him. *

Indian Tea Research Association, Jorhat, Assam, invited Dr. R.N. Sen in 1979, to act as the Principal Investigator and to conduct a Pilot Ergonomics Study on Tea Leaf Plucking Operation restricted to female tea pluckers, in their tea gardens. The author is thankful to Dr. Sen for including him as one of the team members. The author extends his thanks to Sarba Shree G.G. Roy, Amitava De, and Anindya Ganguli, the co-workers for technical assistance for the study on tea-pluckers.

We like to express our gratefulness to the workers of the Hatijuri Division of Hunwal Tea Estate and the Experimental Garden of the Tea Research Association, Jorhat, as well as staff and management, for their wholehearted co-operation in the study and also to Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, the medical Officer who helped us in the clinical studies.

A part of the present study was based on the work done in the U.G.C. Project entitled "Ergonomic Study of Different Tasks Performed by Indian Agricultural Workers for Improvement of Productivity", under Prof. Dr. R.N. Sen, the Principal Investigator of the above project in which the author worked as one of the Junior Research Fellows.

We wish to thank Sri K.P. Mishra of Maninathpur, Sri P.C. Bera of Nachinda; Sri S.S. Adak of Panichiari; Sri B. Bhattacharjee of Durmuth; Sri N.Giri of Kalindi; Sri N. Maity and O. Maity of Egra, Manager Egra Government Seed Farm, Egra and A.E.O., Block-Egra, District Midnapur, West Bengal, for giving us facilities to work in their firms. We are very much grateful to the workers who acted as volunteers in the present study without whose help the study could not have been undertaken.