Most of the research for this thesis was done in Madras, Kozhikode, Trivandrum and New Delhi. I am particularly grateful to the staff of the National Archives, Tamil Nadu Archives and the Kerala State Regional Archives, Kozhikode. I also thank the staff of the following libraries: Central Secretariat Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute Library (New Delhi), the Connemara and Theosophical Society Libraries (Madras), the Centre for Development Studies Library (Trivandrum) and the Vallathol Library (Edappal).

I am grateful to my supervisor, Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya for his comments.