ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I must acknowledge my gratefulness with humble heart to the Lord Almighty who has given me the strength, confidence and hope to accomplish this thesis.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude, to my beloved guide Dr.S.Henry Pandian M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed., PGDCA., Ph.D., Associate Professor, PG Department and Research Centre in Economics, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram, who has been the guiding light at every stage of this research work. His scholarly guidance, constant assistance, expert advice and unfailing interest has been a source of strength to complete this piece of work.

I am grateful to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for felicitating the completion of my research programme.

I should specially thank to Dr.S.D.Ponseelan, Secretary and Correspondent Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram for their encouragement and valuable assistance.

I convey my grateful thanks to Dr.A.Selvakumar., M.Com., M.B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Principal of Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram for his valuable guidance and stimulating discussions which enlightened me to complete this work successfully.

I extend my thanks to Dr.J.Jeyasingh, M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed., Ph.D., Head of the Department of Economics, Pope’s College, Sawayerpuram for his insightful comments and suggestions.
I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to all the staff members of Economics Department, Pope’s College, Sawyerpuram for their constant encouragement and co-operations to complete this research work.

I am very much thankful to Dr. V. Duraisingham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Economics, Kamarajar Government Arts College, Surandai for his learned discourses, encouragement and guidance.

My heartfelt thanks to all the paddy cultivators respondents of Thoothukudi District for their co-operation to bring out the originality in submitting this thesis work.

I also thank the Librarians of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Madras University, Chennai, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum, Kerala University, Trivandrum and Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai.

I am ever grateful to my father Mr. P. Pitchaimuthu and my husband Mr. S. Murugesan who kindled the interest in me to undertake research and stood beside me during the demanding hours of this research.

I am also grateful to Jebsa Computers, Palayamkottai for the neat typing of this thesis work.

P. PAUL THANGAM