ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If words are considered as symbols of approval and token of acknowledgement, then let the words play the heralding role of expressing my gratitude. First and foremost, I praise the God almighty for the grace he showered on me during my studies.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude and enormous respect to my beloved supervising teacher Dr. S. Venugopal (Former Head of the Research and Post Graduate Department of Commerce), The Cochin College, Kochi for his precious guidance, sincere support and constant encouragement at every stage of my study.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Joji Mathew, Assistant Director Development, Spices Board, Kochi, for his invaluable advice and timely help during the course of my research work.

I would very much appreciate and sincerely acknowledge the Manager and other members of the Management of St. Mary’s College Manarcadu, who provided me with the vital facilities required for the study. I gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance extended to me by the Principal, St. Mary’s College, my colleagues especially those in the Department of Commerce and English, administrative staff as well as St. Mary’s College community as a whole.

I am very much obliged to the Principal and all the members of the Department of Commerce, The Cochin College, Kochi for the amenities provided, support and invaluable advice which enabled me to successfully complete this work.

I also wish to express my gratitude to Sri. Roy Joseph, Assistant Director Statistics, Spices Board and Sri. K. A Josekutty, Library Information Officer, Spices Board, Kochi, Dr. Senthil Kumar, Library Information Officer, Spices Board Myladumpara, Dr. T.N Sugathan (Statistician), Director, CSRMS (Centre for Survey
Research and Management Studies, Kochi who provided me with vital information for the successful completion of the study.

I am thankful to the officials of IPSTA, Kochi, library officials of Kerala Agriculture University Manoothy Trissur, M.G University Kottayam, CUSAT Kochi, Calicut University Calicut, Kerala University Thiruvananthapuram and the Cochin College Kochi for the co-operation extended to me during the collection of important data.

I am also indebted to Mr. A. T. Devasia, President, Cardamom growers Association, Vadanmedu and Mr. O. F. Varkey, president, small scale spices growers association, Idukki for the valuable information given by them for the study. My study would not have been completed without the whole hearted support and co-operation extended by the farmers at Idukki and Wyanad districts and the exporters in the state. I place on record with gratitude the invaluable assistance given by them.

I also express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Vimala Anna Jacob, Department of English, St. Mary's College, Manarcadu for going through the manuscript and for valuable suggestions. Special thanks to Petcots Computer Centre, Ernakulam for the neat DTP work and speedy service.

Finally I would like to extend my cordial appreciation to my parents, husband Adv. K. M. Kurian, children, friends and relatives who have supported and helped me in some way or the other in this venture.

Mary P.U