Acknowledgement

Out of great pleasure I express my profound regards to my supervisor Dr. Debasish Sarkar, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Statistics (EES), Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Visva-Bharati and my co-supervisor Dr. Debasis Bhattacharya, Professor of Agricultural Statistics, and Head Department of EES, Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Visva-Bharati for their valuable guidance, sustained encouragement and effective criticism which have stand me in good stead throughout the work and could finally see the light at the end of dark tunnel.

I extend my regards to Dr. Partha Sarathi Munsi, Professor of Horticulture and Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Visva-Bharati for his kind help and cooperation during the course of this work.

I extend my regards and gratitude to Dr. Kazi MB Rahim, Professor of Agricultural Economics; Dr. Sarthak Chowdhury, Professor of Agricultural Extension; Dr. Souvik Ghosh, Professor of Agricultural Extension; Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics; Dr. Siddhartha Dev Mukhopadhyay, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Extension; Dr. (Mrs.) Anindita Saha, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Extension; Dr. D. S. Dhakre, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Statistics; Sri Bitan Mondal, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics for their fruitful help. I am really grateful to all of them and to other scholars and office staff members of the department of EES, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati who assisted me during the course of this investigation.

The work could not be completed without the help of the distinguished persons namely Deputy Registrar (Academic and Research), Assistant Registrar (Academic and Research), and the staff members of Academic and Research Section, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. I extend my deep sense of gratitude to all of them.

I also avail this opportunity to acknowledge the help and assistance received from various quarters and persons like staff members of Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati; officials of Central Library, Visva-Bharati; Block officials of Bolpur-Srinketan, Suri-I and Rampurhat; my friend and colleague Sri Debsankar Das, the villagers and the Krishi Prajukt Sahayak (KPS) of these blocks. I also acknowledge the support either direct or indirect received from various corners whose name might not have appeared here owing to space constraint. I beg apology for not mentioning the names of all those persons.

The family always remains ones source of encouragement. I feel that my spouse Smt. Dola Karmakar and my son Master Snehadeep Karmakar not only

3
encouraged me to take up the assignment of research work but at times helped me in whatever manner possible besides inspiring me to ensure that the work is completed.

Date: 23 / 09 / 2013
Place: Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan.

(Snehasish Karmakar)