ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I consider it my privilege in expressing deep admiration and immense gratitude to Dr. J.L. Bharadwaj, Professor, School of Studies in Economics and Director, College Development Council, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur and supervisor for his meticulous guidance, calm endurance, constant encouragement and sustained support on each and every aspect of this investigation.

I gratefully acknowledge the constant encouragement and unending benevolence of Dr. Dinesh K. Marothia, Professor and Head, Dr. A.K. Koshta, Senior Scientist, Department of Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics, IGAU, Raipur, whose diligent support could lead to timely completion of this work.

I am equally grateful to the Dr. (Capt.) G.K. Shrivastava, Senior Scientist, Department of Agronomy, IGAU, Raipur for his full-fledged co-operation, able guidance and valuable suggestion.

I am thankful to Dr. L.P. Chaturvedi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Pt. R.S.U., Raipur and Dr. K.K. Chandrakar, Registrar, Dr. B.P. Sahu and Shri Victor Ekka, Deputy Registrars, Pt. R.S.U., Raipur for providing necessary facilities during the course of investigation.

My special thanks to Dr. Usha Dubey, Professor & Head; Dr. A.K. Pandey, Dr. R. Prashad, Dr. R.K. Bramhe, Professors and Dr. V.L. Sonekar, Lecturer, School of Studies in Economics, Pt. R.S.U., Raipur for their encouragement, timely advice and full fledged cooperation at all the stages of Ph.D. programme.

I also express my thanks to Mr. Punendra Kashyap, Mr. Dhani Ram Verma and Mr. A. Patel, staff members of District Central Cooperative Bank, Raipur and all the staff members of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Mandir hasaud, Arang and Dharshiwa; Land Record Office; Office of the District Planning and Statistics, Raipur; NABARD, Raipur and Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agricultural, Government of India, for their immense help in providing the relevant information.

I take this privilege to express my sincere thanks to Dr. K.N.S. Banafar, Dr. Ajay Gouraha, Dr. Vijay Choudhary, Dr. S.P. Gupta, Dr. B.C. Jain, Associate Professors and Mr. Hulash Pathak, Mr. M.R. Chandrakar and Mr. Ajay Tegar, Assistant Professors, Department of Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics, IGAU, Raipur for their co-operation, valuable suggestions and encouragement during the course of study.
I am extremely indebted to Dr. Bhagwant Singh, Reader, Department of Philosophy, Pt. Ravishankar University, Raipur who provided me the superfluous guidance and steadfast inspiration for this research work.

A special vote of thanks goes to my dear Prasant Pandey, Arun Rai, Pradeep (Tallu), Vivek, Puneet, Vandana, Aditi and Anupam who have always encouraged me throughout the study period.

I am highly indebted to my father & mother-in-law Shri Ramagya Singh and Smt. Kanti Singh and dear sister-in-law Rooma Singh, whose filial affection, encouragement, sincere prayer, timely query about progress of work, sacrifice and blessings have always been a source of inspiration during the course of investigation.

A special vote of thanks goes to my beloved parents, mother Smt. Chandrakala Singh, father Shri Dush Nath Singh and brothers Dr. P.K. Singh, Dr. K.K. Singh, Shri A.K. Singh (Advocate) and Dr. Vijay Bahadur Singh, to my sister Smt. Premlata Singh to my bhabhis Smt. Uma Singh, Smt. Usha Singh, Smt. Chandraprabha Singh and Smt. Manju Singh and to my dear nephew Shivaji and his wife Smt. Preeti, Sandeep and Chandan, nieces Dr. Suman, Alka, Mohini, Anamika, Ankita, Beauty, Miss. Sandhya and Neetu, whose filial affection encouragement, love and blessings have been a beacon of light for the successful completion of Ph.D. thesis achievement.

The completion of this work is impossible without family support and I am lucky to enjoy this at all stages. I have no words to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wife Reema and beloved daughter Pankhudi for their love, patience, obstinate sacrifices, support and understanding me a lot to complete this endeavor.

I am also thankful to Mr. P.L. Patle for his painstaking efforts in typing the manuscript magnificently. His patience and efficiency deserve encomiums.

I am thankful to all those, whose name is not mentioned here but they are attached to me directly or indirectly and extended their co-operation and help.

Above all, my humble and devoted prostration to God Almighty with soulful respect I bow my head to him, who enlighten and lead me in right way, with his blessing I reach at this stage.

Place : Raipur
Date :

(Akhtleash Kumar Singh)