

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Sister Avita, Professor (Retd.), Department of Botany, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam affiliated to the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam for the valuable guidance and advice offered during the course of my research work.

I am grateful to Dr. Sister Merlee Treasa, my former guide for designing the methodology, offering valuable suggestions and for going through the manuscript critically.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the Principal, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam for the encouragements and for the laboratory facilities received.

I wish to thank Dr. R. Sreekumar, former Principal, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam who was my teacher at the Govt. Brennen College Thalassery for his constant encouragements and motivation to complete the study.

I thank Dr. N. Kaliaperumal, former Principal Scientist and Scientist in Charge of Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI., for offering practical training on identification of seaweeds, extraction of phycocolloids and various utilization aspects during 1997.

I am thankful to Prof. Dr. K.J. Joseph, (Retd.) School of Marine Sciences, CUSAT., Cochin, Dr. C.P.Gopinathan, Principal Scientist (Retd), CMFRI., Cochin and Dr. Reeta Jayasankar, Principal Scientist, CMFRI, Regional Station, Visakhapatnam for their valuable suggestions and encouragements.

I gratefully acknowledge the valuable help and the skill imparted to identify seaweeds and the postharvest techniques offered by Shri. J.R. Ramalingam, Technical Officer (Retd.) and late Dr S.Kalimuthu ,Technical Officer during the training at Mandapam.

I am grateful to Dr.T.V.Sathianadan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI., Cochin and to Dr.P.K.Asokan, Principal Scientist, Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI for their valuable suggestion and timely help offered on statistical analysis and preparation of the thesis.

I owe more than words to Dr. Liza Jacob, Dr Lizy Mathew and Dr. Romely Mendez, of St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam and Dr. Rekha, St. Mary's College, Thrissur for their help and encouragements.

I wish to express my gratitude to Dr, K.K.Joshi, Dr. Tessy Paul, Dr. A. Nanadkumar and Shri. L. R. Khambadkar for their timely help and suggestions.

I am deeply obliged to Smt. Lida Jacob, IAS., former Director of Public Instruction, Govt of Kerala, Trivandrum for permitting me to register for research work on part time basis.

I fondly remember the affection, encouragements and the moral support rendered by my family members especially my husband throughout the period of my research work.

Baby Ushakiran, M.S.