ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An extensive field study of this kind would not have been possible without the efforts of many combining to provide assistance, encouragement and direction.

My greatest debt is to Professor K.C. Pandey. His ability to phrase questions which serve to direct, criticize, and inspire all at the same time has provided the motivation to continue the arduous undertaking. I am also thankful to Drs. P.K. Rajagopalan, C.F. Curtis and G.D. Brooks for their valuable guidance. I am grateful to Dr. R.N. Raizada and Dr. (Mrs.) Usha Raizada for motivating me to undertake the study and providing me all necessary help. My thanks are also due to Prof. Islam Ahmed for his guidance. Sincere appreciation is also expressed to Mrs. S. Ravindran for her assistance and guidance in the technical aspects of programming, and statistical analysis of the data.

I will be failing my duty if I do not thank Mr. Hameed Razik, Mr. S. Ramaswamy and Mr. Rajadurai for their help in typing the manuscript.

Special appreciation must be expressed to my wife for providing the encouragement and support, who bore most of the burden of looking after our family during this time.