PREFACE

As agricultural geography deals with agronomic Spatial Variations in their multilateral context, its scope and relevance can hardly be overstressed. It is exceedingly getting important in contemporary economic planning. The data provided by the agrographist provides even significant feed-back to the administrator and strategist. In view of the same, the developed countries have undertaken an extensive surveys of their agricultural potential in order to provide corrective infrastructural measures for enhancing the production and thereby arrive at a higher levels of economic development and political stability. Asian countries have yet to fully analyse their agrographic data. The pressing needs of development demand that such data based research be provided and streamlined with a view to foster economic growth.

The present work analyses the levels of agricultural productivity as well as the growth characteristics in terms of existing Variations both in space and time within the context of Syria. Since the yield level is not uniform and it varies from one region to another, therefore the magnitude of regional Imbalances has also been studied. The regional variations in foodgrain production along with unequal distribution of land are the different dimensions of the problem. In order to solve these problems the growth in area production and yield,
the relationship between output and input levels, the surplus marginal areas of food production, the productivity relationships of food availability have also been studied in a cross regional framework. The environmental technological and institutional factors are deemed to be mainly responsible for the emergence of regional variations and imbalances in agricultural output.

A full acknowledgement of all that one owes to one's benefactors is an impossible task. However a few words would be in order:

It will be presumptuous on my part to try to find words expressing my feelings and sentiments towards my revered teacher and supervisor of this thesis, Dr. Ali Mohammad, Reader, Centre of West Asian Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. His geographical scholarship and methodological perespectivism have crucially contributed to the formulation of this thesis. However his concern for me has transcended the limits of mere academic relationship. His humane approach has been even more inspiring and encouraging. In such a situation silence rather than eloquence is a more appropriate response. I am beholden to him from the deeps of my heart.

I also acknowledge my thanks to Prof. M.A. Saleem Khan, Director, Centre of West Asian Studies, Prof. S. Maqbul Ahmad, Prof. Mahmudul Haq, Prof. M.R.K. Nadwi, Dr. Hasan Askari Kazmi and other teachers of the Centre for their encouragement and unfailing guidance.
My grandfather Syed Mohammad Shafi provided me moral and spiritual guidance during the formative years of my life and my parents have continuously and constantly helped me throughout my academic pursuit. But for their love and blessings I simply could not have continued my studies. My brothers and sisters have unfailingly showered their affection and love on me. I obediently and dutifully offer my sincere gratitude to these benefactors of mine.

My friends have always been kind and cooperative. They deserve my thanks unreservedly.

Lastly I am thankful to Mr. S.M. Ali for his quick and impeccable typing.

Allah alone is besought for help and on Him alone we depend.

ABDUL RAUF SHAH