ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am much delighted to place on records my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my learned guide and supervisor Dr. M. Muhamed Mustafa, MA., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Human Resource Development, School Of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-21 for all the inspiring advice and enlightened instructions. His intellectual eminence enabled the successful completion of research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to Dr. M. Chinnadurai, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam who readily responded to my earnest request for his expert advice. He helped me with all his heart and never once hesitated to help me to deal with the varied problems that cropped up during the course of the research process. Inspite of his heavy work schedule, he found time and patience to offer constructive suggestions and his assistance went a long way in helping me to complete my theses.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. E. Thirumalai Kumarasamy, MA., M.Phil., Ph.D., Reader and Head of the Department of Economics (Retd) who stood with me throughout this work.

I am immensely thankful to Dr. C. N. Chidambaranathan, MA., M.Phil., Ph.D., Principal, Ganapathi Seethai Ammal College, Raja Kambeeram,
Manamadurai, for valuable suggestions and help rendered during the course this study.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. A. Paramasivan, MA., M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Economics, M.D.T Hindu College, Tirunelveli for his sincere and active assistance at every stage of this work.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Mr. S. Gowrinathan, M.Sc., M.Phil., P.G.D.C.A., Lecturer (Selection Grade) in Mathematics and Dr. A. Subramanian, M.Sc., M.Phil., P.B.D.C.S.A., Ph.D., Reader in Mathematics, M.D.T Hindu College, Tirunelveli for their help in shaping this work.

I wish to thank my colleague Mrs. T. Mangaiyarkarasi, MA., M.Phil., Lecturer in English, M.D.T Hindu College, Tirunelveli for her timely help during the final stage of my work.

I am highly thankful to the Secretary, all the esteemed members of our college committee and the able officials of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

I wish to express my thanks to all the members of my beloved family, colleagues and well wishers who have encouraged and helped me in this effort.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. N. Murugesan, Sri Balaji Computers, Palkalai Nagar, Madurai-21 for the excellent typing work.

R. BALASUBRAMANIAN.