Acknowledgements

In the course of this study I have accumulated many debts of gratitude. First of all, I acknowledge my profound indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Pravat Kumar Kuri, for his valuable guidelines and continuous inspiration throughout the preparation of the study. There are simply no words by which I can express my gratitude to him. I am very much grateful to my parents for the mental support they provided during the tenure of preparation of this dissertation. I convey special thanks to my brother, Koushik and sister, Bebi for providing me continuous encouragements. I also express my sincere gratitude to all my teachers in the Department of Economics, Burdwan University, for their help and support throughout the course of my work; The author is also indebted to his fellow research scholars and staffs of the department for the support and co-operation they have provided during the course of my research works. Any empirical study ultimately depends on the access to the data. The present study on the agriculture of West Bengal is based on both secondary data and primary data. For collecting the secondary data, I have consulted many libraries e.g. Central Library of Burdwan University, Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, (Kolkata head office and Burdwan district office), Directorate of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, Bhawanipur, Kolkata and Central Library of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. I express my sincere thanks to the authorities and staffs of all these institutions for their active help and co-operation in collecting and consulting relevant data and research reports. One point should be mentioned in this connection that though our study covers the period 1970-71 to 2005-06, but due to
non-publication of the final official data in time (for the year 2005-06) we have restricted the time series analysis covering the period 1970-71 to 2004-05. However, the primary data which is another important source of data for the study were collected for the agricultural year 2005-2006. For conducting the primary filed survey I thank to my friends Ramkrishna and Nitu for their extreme support and cooperation during the collection of data from field survey. I also thank to all the respondents whom I have interviewed for the field survey. I also convey gratitude to my Arindam Laha, Debashish Batabyal and Tirthankar Mandal for providing valuable support whenever needed. I am also thankful to Dhar Brothers, Kolkata for printing and binding work of the dissertation. However, I would like to take the whole responsibility for any error remaining in the study.

Bidyut Kumar Ghosh

Department of Economics
The University of Burdwan