Preface

A preface is generally intended to justify the work. The major factor that has prompted me to undertake the present project is the desire to understand in the context of West Bengal the issues of agrarian relation and rural development in general and tenurial conditions in particular. In development economics the emphasis seems to be more on abstract model-building than empirical verification. The model-builders apply rigorous analysis and tend to ignore institutional issues.

The thesis is a modest attempt to correct the balance through empirical testing mostly on the basis of primary data collected over a period of three years.

The thesis is heavily burdened with debt. In the course of writing I have largely borrowed from the works of earlier economists. These have been of immense help in distilling my thoughts.

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