ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby record my profound and sincere gratitude to Dr. D. RAJASENAN, Professor, Department of Applied Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kalamassery for his guidance, supervision and encouragement throughout the course of this research work. I am extremely thankful for the support he extended to me all through these years to carry out this study to completion.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Meera Bai, Head, Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT and Dr. P. Arunachalam, Professor, Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT and Dr. S. Harikumar Professor, Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT for providing me with all the facilities in the Department for conducting this study.

I place on record my sincere gratitude to Dr. N. Bhasi, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Management Studies, CUSAT for the unending help and cooperation provided throughout the course of study.

Thanks are due to the University Grants Commission for having given me an opportunity under the Faculty Improvement Programme (TFS), for a period of two years to complete this research work.

I express my sincere thanks to the Librarians & Staff of the Department of Applied Economics, CUSAT and the Central Library of CUSAT, Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Kochi and Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram for providing me with the documents necessary for research.
I am extremely grateful to Rev. Dr. Fr. Francis Fernandez, Manager, Aquinas College, Edakochi for kindly permitting me to pursue research in Economics.

I record my sincere thanks to the Principal & Staff of Aquinas College, Edakochi for the cooperation extended to me in this regard.

Heartiest thanks are due to my parents Prof. E. A. George and Prof. Ritamma P. M, Former Professors, Fatima Mata National College, Kollam, for their constant encouragement and prayers. Thanks are due to my husband Dr. Anil Thomas Kaimathuruthy for his untiring support. My son Roshan and daughter Reshma deserve special thanks for their sacrifices, forbearance and cooperation.

I express my gratitude to all my Well-wishers and Friends who helped me through the course of this study.

Above all I thank God Almighty, before whom I place my life with a bouquet of thanks for showering me strength in the completion of this work.

Bindu George