ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a great honour to acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Dr. C. Sudhakar, Reader in Rural Development, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for his invaluable guidance, ready help and constant encouragement in the preparation of this thesis.

I wish to express my indebtedness to the Late Dr. B. Nagabhushanam, Former Reader in Rural Development and my earlier Research Supervisor who was a source of great inspiration for my work.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. N.V. Narayana, Professor of Economics, and Chairman, Board of Studies in Economics, S.V. University, Tirupati, who helped me to collect literature on my topic from various universities and institutions.

I express my special debt and gratitude to Prof. V.T. Naidu, seniormost Professor of Rural Development and Rector, S.K. University, Anantapur, for his valuable suggestions, scholarly advice and encouragement in my research work.
It gives me an immense pleasure to acknowledge my deep sense of thankfulness to Prof. Ch. Umamohan, Professor of Sociology & Chairman, Board of Studies in Sociology, S.K. University, Anantapur, for his inspiring comments and valuable advice. He is a veritable friend, philosopher and guide who has underscored the value of hardwork. Words are inadequate for communicating the depth of my gratefulness to him for his ceaseless effort to shape me.

A special debt of gratitude is due to Prof. P. Muralidharudu, Professor of Rural Development and Chairman, Board of Studies in Rural Development, for his suggestions and encouragement.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the help and advice from Dr. V. Reddappa Reddy, Dr. G. Sreedhar, Dr. K. Bhaskar, Dr. G. Satyanarayana, Dr. R. Vijayakrishna Naidu, Dr. Amarnath R. Das, Dr. K. Govindappa, Dr. D. Chenna Reddy, Sri. G. Venkataramana and Smt. R. Suguna Kumari, faculty members, S.K. University, Anantapur; and D. H. K. Subramanyam, Lecturer, Nandyal, Kumari Nagapavani, Sri. N. G. Tulasi Ram, Sri. K. Ramagopal Reddy, Sri. A. Prasad for their encouragement and hospitality during the progress of this thesis.
I am beholden to the library authorities of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur; Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati; National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad; Osmania University, Hyderabad; Sivaji University, Kolhapur; Poona University, Pune, for their kind co-operation and immediate supply of the necessary material.

My sincere thanks are due to the Managing Director, Chief Agricultural Officer and other authorities of Nandyal Co-operative Sugars Ltd., Nandyal for permitting me to collect the data for the present study and for providing me with the necessary facilities.

I express my thanks to Sri. P.P.Nagi Reddy, Chairman, Zilla Praja Parishad, Kurnool, Sri Trilingeswara Reddy of Ayyaluru, Sri. Bangaru Reddy of Chabolu who have helped me sincerely in data collection from respondents.

Last but not the least, I thank my wife, Smt. N.Sree Lakshmi Devi, and my beloved son, Chi.Kamatham Meeravali Naga Sai Sreenivas Rayalu, for their patience, consideration, and moral support in the completion of my study.

My thanks are also due to Sri. P.Lokanna, for his neat typing of the thesis in time.
Although I have received assistance from various individuals mentioned above, the responsibility for any shortcomings in the analysis, interpretation, and conclusion is my own.

JAGANNATH KAMATHAM