ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge my sincere thanks to Professor H.S. Shergill, my respected supervisor, who put in his valuable 'social necessary labour-time', in guiding me in the development of the ideas presented in this thesis. Without his constant vigilance and help, this thesis would not have been completed at all.

Just words cannot express my indebtedness to the village respondents (peasant households) of Haryana, who provided the necessary primary information that has been used in this study.

The co-operation of the staff of the Department of Land Revenue Administration (Haryana) Chandigarh, District Land Revenue Offices ('Kanungo Sadar'), Tehsil offices, and village Record Keepers ('Patwaris'), in permitting me to have access to the relevant land records and material for research, is also thankfully acknowledged.

Sh. S.K. Mahindru, Consultant, Centre for Computer Science and Applications, Panjab University Chandigarh, helped in the execution and operation of computer program (FORTRAN based) for data analysis. Sh. Swaran Singh (Research Assistant), Centre for Population Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, also helped in the processing of statistical data. I am thankful to them for their help.

I also wish to thank the University Grants Commission (UGC) for their grant, which enabled me to carry on this work, particularly the field survey that was fairly cost intensive.

I am grateful to Professor B.R. Kandoi, the then Chairman, Department of Economics, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for his selfless efforts and enthusiasm for providing better research facilities and communitarian social milieu for Research Scholars in the Department. A word of thanks is also due to Professor Sham Lal Kansra, Current Chairman, Department of Economics, for his help. The co-operation of the teaching staff of the Department of Economics is appreciatively recalled.

My special thanks are due to the workmanship and assistance of the library and non-teaching staff members of the Department of Economics (notably Sh. Ram Sewak, Sh. Chunchal Gupta and Sh. Ajmer Singh).

This is probably too small a word to express my feelings for my parents and wife Deepika.

I would also like to thank my friends Manoj, Varinder, Jasbir, Jai Chander and Rajiv (Research Scholars) for their co-operation and encouragement throughout the course of this work.

This thesis would not have appeared in its present form without the dedicated labour of Sh. Amrik Singh in the type setting and laser printing of the manuscript.

Mohinder Kumar

21-6-99

(Mohinder Kumar)