Acknowledgement

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my respected and beloved teacher and guide Dr. (Smt.) S. G. Purohit Department of Studies in Economics, Nehru Arts, Science and Commerce College, Hubli, whose supervision and guidance have done so much to make this study a success. I was lucky enough to carry out this work under her guidance. Her constant encouragement, continuous motivation and suggestions were of immense help to maintain a high level of confidence throughout the conduct of the study. Her kind and sympathetic attitude and tireless fact finding zeal was a perennial source of inspiration to me. Without her guidance and encouragement at every step, it would have been impossible to complete this thesis. Therefore once again I am very much grateful to my guide.

Thanks to Prof./Chairman Dr. Mundinamani and other faculty members of Department of Economics, K.U.D for their guidance, encouragement and co-operation.

Honourable acknowledgement goes to Dr. L. K. Wader, Professor Department of Agricultural Marketing, Co-operation and Agribusiness Management, College of Agriculture, U.A.S. Dharwad who is exalted, grand and sublime in creating congenial climate for the peaceful research work. He has been instrumental in my research work and writing this thesis.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. H. Basavaraj, Dr. S.B.Mahajanshetti and C. Murthy and S. B. Dabali U. A.S., Dharwad.

I am indebted to Karnatak University Library, Librarians and other staff and that of the University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad. I thank Dr. Saibala Debi, CMDR for her suggestions during my study. I also extend my thanks to the Librarian and entire staff of C.M.D. R. Dharwad.

Affectionately I salute my Father Shri. Kallappa R. Koulagi, my Mother Smt. Channamma K. Koulagi, my Grand Mother Parvatamma, my Brothers Sangamesh Koulagi and Subhashachandra Koulagi, my Sisters Shakuntala, Smt. Kasturibai S.
Surapur and her children Ashvini, Sachin and my Brother-in-law Sangamesh S. Surapur.

I express my sincere thanks to several institutions of Bijapur District, Tahasil Office, District Statistical Office for having helped me in providing valuable data related to my research work. I am also thankful to all respondents of my study area, who co-operated with me by providing the information required for my study.

I owe special thanks to Population Horticultural Office, Bijapur for providing needful information related to my research work. I also thank my friends, Nagaraj Muggur, D. R. Myageri (Research Scholar, CMDR), K. R. Lamani, Kumar Honakeri, Arvind, Malleshi and Gani for their timely help and valuable suggestions at various stages of this research.

I am also thankful to Shri. Mahaganapati Computers for neat typing and timely printing the thesis.

I thank every one who directly and indirectly helped me in my work.

Dharwad
/08/2005

Ashok K. Koulagi