ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense gratification to place on record, my profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to each and everyone of those who have helped me in this endeavour.

At the outset, I would like to express my profound gratitude and cordial thanks to my respected guide Dr. M. Devaraj, Professor of Food and Agri-Business Management, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore, Mysore, for his constant guidance, advice, constructive suggestions, co-operation, and lasting encouragement to bring out this thesis in time.

I am sincerely indebted to Prof. T. M. Mahesh, Director, all Faculty Members, Office Staff, Research Scholars and beloved friends, Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore, for their co-operation and encouragements to carry out this research work.

I am grateful to Shri. Ganapathi, Dr. Lalith Achyuth, Shri. B. M. Ramachandra Reddy, Dr. Sachindra Babu, Mr. Sridhar and Mr. Siddesh for their valuable suggestions, encouragement, and helping me during my stay in Bangalore for this research work.

I would be failing in my duty if I don’t acknowledge to special cell for SC/ST, Nagarjun Flora Tech Ltd, Dr. Sudha, IIHR, Statistical Officer, Lalbagh, Chairman APEDA, Librarian of UOM, GKV, ISEC, NHB and IIHR, for their valuable co-operation.

It would not have been possible to fiancée complete this endeavour without physical, financial and unquantifiable moral support of my revered family particularly father and mother, loving brothers and sisters, and Chandrika (fiancée), while pursuing my Ph. D. research work.

LAKSHMANA T.