ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to place a debt of gratitude to my mentor and distinguished supervisor Dr. Gian Kaur, Professor (Retd.) of Economics, Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for her valuable guidance and willing cooperation in carrying out this work. Her intellect and ingenious guidance have been a constant source of encouragement at every stage of the study. I have discovered in her a scholar and a committed researcher and a guide.

I am also grateful to Dr. Paramjit Nanda, Professor and Head, and other Senior Faculty members of Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for their advice and encouragement for this work from time to time.

I am grateful and indebted to Prof. (Dr.) Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Registrar, Guru Nanak Dev University for his valuable advice and unflinching help rendered from time to time.

My gratitude to the University Grants Commission for the financial help provided for purchasing the necessary books and journals and contingency for the minor research project sanctioned which proved to be a stepping stone for my research.

My deepest gratitude to the Principal, Khalsa College, Amritsar and the Faculty of Agriculture for the cooperation rendered. My sincere thanks to Dr. A.S. Saini, Professor in Agricultural Economics, H.P Agriculture University, Palampur for his sincere advice and help. My special thanks to my colleagues in the department, Prof. Gurdev Singh, Dr. Narinder Deep Singh and Dr. Lavleen Kaur. My thanks are also due to the staff of Bhai Gurdas Library and Library of Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

This research work could not have been possible without the support of my husband, Harkirat Singh and daughters, Seerat and Armaan as well as my mother-in-law Mrs Baldev Kaur. This research work carries the love and affection of my father, the late Sardar Gurmaiz Singh.

Last but not the least, I am also obliged to M/s Subhash Computers, Amritsar for typing this work diligently and proficiently.

Above all I am extremely thankful to ‘Almighty God’ who gave me the strength to complete this academic endeavour.

Dated: (Randeep Bal)