Acknowledgement

Development perspectives are undergoing unfathomable changes and fresh paradigms are being accepted globally. The Neo-liberal paradigm of development, often trumpeted as the panacea for all the development puzzles of the third world, has, in fact, opened up floodgates of opportunities for the fortunate few, while for the majority of the people, it has ended up as a Pandora's box, opened untimely. The integration of the economies into a global world has left the poor, the wage earners, the farmers, the unorganized labor, and even the most sophisticated skilled labor in a world of untold miseries. Hardly one can find a group, functional, sectoral or even in any other counts, which the consequences have bypassed. Obviously, the intensity of the impact is evidently varied for each group. Perhaps, or more certainly, farmers are one of the worst affected groups and, no doubt, farmer suicides have now touched the heights to be a developmental issue, globally. It is quite normal that due to my tradition as a farmer, coupled with my academic interests, I was necessarily hooked into such a burning issue of the current era. No doubt, my first hand experiences have enriched my fervor and flamed my passion toward this work.

This work, like the proverbial Indian peasant, is born heavily in debt.

Dr. C. Krishnan, my supervising teacher and a dedicated researcher, was especially encouraging and resourceful whenever I had discourses with him. The friendship and cool dispositions exercised by him throughout the 'research journey together' deserve highlight at this opportune moment.

I would like to state that, quite unlike the customary remarks of all young researchers, never could I have completed this work without the encouragement of Dr. M. J. Mani, the Principal of the College. He has been a source of inspiration throughout the work.

My colleagues in the Dept. of Economics, in particular, Dr. T.K. Sebastian and Dr. N.J. Saleena were of much help to me. Prof. Accamma George, my senior colleague and the Head of the Department, was instrumental in enkindling my investigative and research spirits, whenever they sagged. I can hardly express my gratitude to them in black and white.

I am also deeply grateful to Dr. K. Muralidevan, Directorate of Research, University of Calicut, for the expert comments and scholarly interventions made by him at appropriate times.
My friends and fellow teachers at Nirmalagiri viz. John P.K, John Joseph, Georgekutty P.Kuriakose, Vincent P.Thomas and Dr. Baby Joseph were of much encouragement, which I cannot express verbally.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Sudha, Head, Kannur University Central Library and Research Centre, Mr. Manoj and the other staff members for the genuine support towards the completion of this work. My wife and daughters were eager to support me all through the research work. I owe them for their bounty.

The precursor to this endeavor, the Minor Research Project, was funded by the U.G.C. Had it not been for the same, the thesis would not have been done at the speed achieved. I am grateful to the University Grants Commission for the timely support they have extended.

I always had my deep faith in the power almighty who did lead me whenever I did not know as to which path I should tread on. In the present instance too, he did come to my proximate refuge. Thanks are due to the totality of powers that did bear the torch in my path. Life is short but the will is strong and abiding.

Finally, a word of prayer for the 'poor farmers', that, they do not suffer the predicament that they are now putting up with, any time in the future, anywhere.

JOHN T.A