ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is the outcome of my research carried out over the past few years. In this long journey, I have received enormous cooperation, support from many people who in turn raised my analytical capability and quality of my work.

First and foremost, I am extremely grateful to my supervisor Professor Buddhadeb Chandra, Associate Professor (W.B.E.S.), Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah, Hooghly, The University of Burdwan who has always been a constant source of inspiration, support and freedom of work. It has really been a distinct privilege to get an opportunity to work under him. I extend my sincere thanks to Professor Santanu Ghosh, professor of Economics (W.B.S.E.S.), department of Economics of Maulana Azad College, Calcutta University for his invaluable academic and personal support during this period. I would like to thank Professor Asis Kumar Banerjee, Honorary Professor of Economics, IDSK & former Vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, who made me familiar with several mathematical techniques including game theory, bargaining theory and other economic theories related with my study. I owe a lot to him for his unbounded support and guidance related with Economic theories, mathematical techniques and checking my papers several times that have brought the perfection. It was my privilege to be associated with him. I have enjoyed his guidance, which made me, and my work enriched.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Prasanta K. Pattanaik, Professor of the Graduate Division, Department of Economics, University of California, Riverside, U.S.A., for his guidance and encouragement and it was like cherished dream for me to be associated with him. I have gained lots of confidence by checking my work from him and I followed his recommendations related with my work.
I would also like to thank Professor Arup Kumar Chattopadhyay, Professor of Economics, department of Economics, University of Burdwan for his advice at the early stage of my work related with my research area and technique.

I also would like to extend my gratitude to Professor Arindam Laha, Professor of Economics, department of Commerce, University of Burdwan for his guidance related with data analysis.

I owe a lot to Professor Debasish Sur, Professor of Finance, department of Commerce, University of Burdwan for his enormous guidance and support from the initial days and without his help, I would not be able to complete my work.

I am profusely indebted to Professor Pravat Kumar Kuri, Professor of Economics, department of Economics, University of Burdwan for giving me an opportunity to be attached with his team for survey related with my work.

I would like to give special thank to the Directorate of Agricultural Marketing Government of West Bengal for helping me out in all possible way I could ask for.

I gained enormously from the comments made by the faculties on my papers presented in the seminar at the department of Commerce, The University of Burdwan and of other different institutions. I am thankful to all the staff of the central library of The University of Burdwan from whom I have got enormous help.

Last but not the least I must say the contribution of my parents who have always stood by me through their all effort. They have always given me the much needed support and encouragement to work hard and do something meaningful in life and society.

DIPANKAR DAS