Acknowledgements

I thank the Almighty for giving me the strength to complete the Ph.D thesis entitled ‘Economic and Environmental Dimensions of Backwater Resources in Kerala – A study with special reference to Kuttanad Region’. I am much indebted and grateful to Dr. R.V. Jose, my supervising guide for his valuable guidance and encouragement throughout the period of my research. I am grateful to Dr. Ashok Alex Philip, Principal, Peet Memorial Training College, Mavelikara for his valuable encouragement and support.

I extend my gratitude to Smt. Leelamma Thomas, Principal of Government College, Kottayam, and also to Sri. M.J. Sunil, Head of the PG Department of Economics and Research Centre of the same college.

I extend my gratitude to all my colleagues, well wishers, relatives, friends, natives of Kuttanad region, teachers, experts in this field and to all who gave their mite so that I could complete my thesis successfully.

I express my gratitude to Sri. J. Krishnan, the manager of S.D. College and all the officials of the management of S.D. College, Alappuzha.

I would like to thank Binoy, Sharon, Sojan and Viju for their valuable support.

I am indebted to everyone in my family particularly my mother Saramma Chacko, my wife Gigi, children Sara and Mirium.

I thank Minitek Computers, Athirampuzha for the meticulous DTP work and printing.

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved father Late T. C. Chacko.

Jacob Chandy