ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It was a rare privilege for me to have Dr.A.Meenakshi Sundararajan, Principal (Retd), S.T.Hindu College, Nagercoil, Dr.B.Rajasekaran, Head, Management Studies, M.S.University, Tirunelveli as my Supervisor. I must say that this research would not have been possible without their guidance and encouragement. In depth and range, the insight of my Guide Dr.A.Meenakshi Sundararajan & Co-guide Dr.B.Rajasekaran, in this thesis, is so profound that words and expressions are insufficient to record my debt of gratitude and thanks to them. I am ever grateful and thankful to my Guide Dr.A.Meenakshi Sundararajan & Co-guide Dr.B.Rajasekaran.

I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Er.P.Arumugam Pillai, Chairman, S.T.Hindu College, Nagercoil part time Ph.D., Research in the Economics Department.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr.S.Perumal, Principal of S.T.Hindu College, Nagercoil for his unstinted support and encouragement.

I am extremely grateful to Dr.C.Ramachandran, Head of the Department of Economics, S.T.Hindu College for providing facilities to do my research.

I wish to thank the following who have responded enthusiastically and helped me at every stage in providing relevant information pertaining to the thesis.

1. Mr.Ullasmenon - Secretary General
   UPASI, Connoor.

2. Dr.P.Kumaravadivelu - Chief Scientist & programme Co-ordinate
   UPASI, COONOOR

3. Mr.Krishnamurthy - A O - Arasu Rubber Corporation
4. Mr.Rengarajan - PRO - Arasu Rubber Corporation
5. Mr.Ramesh - Joint Director Rubber Board
6. Mr.Thomas Augustine - Vigilance officer Rubber Board
7. Mr.Nambirajan - Manager K.K.Dist Planters Association
8. Mr.S.Raghu - Chief Inspector of Plantations
9. Mr.T.T.Antony, I.A.S - Labour Commissioner Good of Kerala Trivandrum
10. Mr.Ramachandran - Vice chairman Vaihundam Plantations
11. Mr.E.Manikandan - Manager Vaikundam Agrotech Pvt Ltd Vaihundam Estate
12. Mr.Rajagopal - Rubber Board Factory Manganam
13. Association of plantations Kerala, Kochi
14. Working class living index number for the Nagercoil (K.K.Dist) Centre for the year 2000 - 2012
15. Inspector of Plantations - Estd - Register - NGL 2011

I sincerely thank to Dr.K.Josephraj, Professor of Economics, S.T.Hindu College, Nagercoil for his help during my research.

I sincerely thank my well wishers and family members for their continuous support and encouragement to complete the work successfully.

My sincere thanks to SR.DTP.Centre, Nagercoil -2, Computers for their neat typing work.

P.DEEPA