ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I place on record my independence and gratitude, to my research Supervisor Dr. N. D. Mani, Head, Department of Rural Development, GRI, for his guidance, inspiration, suggestion, criticism and encouragement.

I thank Dr. S. Senthilvel, Professor of soil and water Conservation, Horticultural College, Periyakulam, TNAU, who also guide me as a Member of the Doctoral Committee.

I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. M. Sundarmani, Reader, Faculty of Agriculture, GRI, for his guidance in applying the relevant statistical tools.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. P. Arumukham, Rtd., Professor of Rural Development, GRI, Dr. N. Lalitha, Reader, and Dr. P. Anandharajakumar, Senior Lecturer, Department of Rural Development, GRI, for their encouragement.

I express my gratitude to Dr. R. S. Deshpande, Professor and Head, APRT Unit, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), and Mr. Ravi M. Tirulapur, Lecture, Department of Economics, Bangalore University, For their timely suggestions and support.

I place on record my thanks to various institutions/universities viz., National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, Institute of Social and Economic Change, University, Bangalore, Coimbatore Agricultural University.
Coimbatore, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Madurai, and Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, for having provided subject specific documents.

I am thankful to Dr. S. Saravanan, Associate Lecturer, Department of Extension, Central University or Agricultural Sciences, Arunachal Pradesh, for his help.

I sincerely thank Dr. M. A. Jeyaraju, Professor of English, GUI, for correcting and shaping my thesis.

I place on record my deepest gratitude to my parents, brother and sister, whose continuous encouragement and affectionate interest in my progress has been a source of inspiration all through my studies.

I thank Mr. K. Gansan, Assistant Evaluation and Research Officer, DPAP Cell, Dindigul, and Mr. Moses, training Co-ordinator, MYRADA, for their kind help during the data collection.

I thank the GRI project staff Mr. P. Gubendran, Ms. C. Prabhavathy, Mr. D. Sehwn Daniel, Mr. P. Gunasekaran, Mr. G. Pitchaikumar, Mr. V. Sunda ramoorthi, Mr. R. Saravanan, Mr. V. Kuppurathinam and Mr. P. Mumgan, who helped directly or indirectly during the data collection and the processing of the data.

Place: Gandhigram
Date: (M. SENAPATHY)