

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

While taking full responsibility for all errors and omissions in the present dissertation, I would like to acknowledge my deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to my supervisors Dr. A. K. Pal, Associate Director of Research, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, North Bengal Campus, Cooch Behar and Prof. M. Dasgupta, Retired Professor of Economics, North Bengal University without whose encouragement, guidance and support the work would not have been possible.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Prof. Dipankar Coondoo of ISI, Calcutta and Prof. Sharmila Banerjee of the department of Economics, Calutta University for their valuable comments on this work.

I like to put on record my gratefulness to Mr. S.N.Chatterjee, former Secretary, Dooars Branch Indian Tea Association (DBITA) and Mr. U.K.Basu, former labour advisor, Indian Tea Planters' Association (ITPA) for granting me permission to collect the information by issuing circular to various tea gardens. Thanks are also due to the managers and staffs of the different tea gardens without whose cooperation it would have been difficult to get the necessary data and information regarding the industry.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Sabita Senapati, Reader, Dept. of Agricultural

Entomology, B.C.K.V., North Bengal Campus for extending computer facilities during the period of statistical analysis.

I am grateful to Debasish Majumdar, Lecturer in Agricultural Statistics, B.C.K.V., Mohanpur Campus, to Satyananda Basak, Lecturer in Agricultural Statistics, B.C.K.V., North Bengal Campus and to Himadri Sekhar Datta for Computer Programming and operation whenever needed.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my gratefulness to Dr. H.N. Dwivedi, former Statistician, Tea Board of India for his cooperation in extending me the library facility of Tea Board of India and providing me with information which helped improving the quality of the present work.

During my field investigations, I received generous support, sympathy and assistance from a number of people. But I would like to make special mention to Mustak Ahmed, Dr. Ruhul Amin, Tofael Rahaman, Rahima Khatun, Atikur Rahaman, Tapan Deb, H. Maitra, Abu Hasan and Joydeb Ghosh. I gratefully acknowledge their cooperations.

Others who deserve special mention are Mr. Rana Sen and Mr. Manik Sanyal, (Ex-MP), both prominent Trade Union leaders. While the former kindled my zeal to undertake this study by acquainting me with the environment of the tea gardens, the latter provided me with some rare books from his personal library.

My indebtedness is also to University Grant Commission which has provided me partial financial support under the F.I.P. Scheme. Equally indebted am I to the authority of my College for granting me leave enabling me to complete the work.

To Mrs. Mira Pal, I owe a special gratitude for her continuous inspiration during the entire course of this work.

The separation suffered by my wife and son during the most trying period cannot be compensated by mere words. I cannot speak of what I owe to their affection. Beyond a simple thank-you, I want them to know that I love them all very dearly.

Last, but not least, I express my esteem gratitude to my parents and uncle, Md. Kobbadi Ali of Bangladesh for setting before me an example of perseverance and energy that sustained me at my work during the period of my despair and disappointment.

Finally, I like to put on my sincere thanks to Mr. Babul Biswas, Tapas Chakraborty and SUGM Software, Cooch Behar for their excellent and swift translation of the manuscripts into type scripts.

Md. Mainur Islam

Dated, Cooch Behar

(Md. Mainur Islam)

28th May, 1999