

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This academic endeavor would not have been possible without the help of my supervisor Prof. Anil Bhuijali, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal. I take the opportunity of expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Bhuijali who guided the study and exercised efforts in getting the thesis completed. His encouraging guidance has always been a source of inspiration to me.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ranjan Gupta, Asst. Professor, Barasat State University for his valuable suggestions.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. Bipul Malakar, Jadabpur University for his kind cooperation and help extended to me.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Chanchal Mandal, Asst. Professor, Coochbehar B.T. and Evening College for motivation and encouragement during my study.

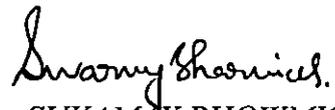
I gratefully acknowledge the help rendered by Prof. Arabinda Mitra, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya and Prof. Satyendra Sarkar, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya.

I convey my gratitude to various officials of Department of Agriculture, Government West Bengal for their help during data collection.

I accord my heartfelt thanks to all the teachers of the Department of Economics, University of North Bengal for their help extended to me.

I cannot acknowledge by name of the many villagers, farmers, members of panchyats who helped me in conducting the survey work. I wish to record my thanks to them.

At last I offer my whole hearted gratitude and respect to my beloved parents for their immense support and continuous encouragement. I feel paucity of words to acknowledge my thanks to my wife Doyel, who has been a source of inspiration to me. My blessings are with my little son Anuran who has been deprived of my association. I am thankful to all of them for their constant striving to keep me away from all disturbances to the extent possible.


SUVAMAY BHOWMICK