

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author takes the opportunity to record his gratitude to Professor P.C.Sarkar of the Department of Economics, University of North Bengal for his sincere guidance and keen interest throughout the research period. He also acknowledges the University Grants Commission for providing him with financial assistance for the research project during 1993-94. The author is also obliged to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for selecting him as a research associate during 1992-93. He is indebted to The Council for Social Development, New Delhi, for inviting him as a participant in an intensive course in research methodology during 1987-88. He also acknowledges the Teachers Council and the Governing Body of Sukanta Mahavidyalaya, Dhupguri, for granting study leave for a few months. He is also indebted to the officials of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Jalpaiguri for furnishing relevant informations regarding IRDP. He is grateful to the hundreds of rural households of the block of Maynaguri for their wholehearted cooperation in course of the field survey. Finally, the author expresses his gratitude to his wife, Mrs. Soma Chakraborty for her sustained support and sacrifice.