ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am fortunate that I have an opportunity to work under Professor Prafulla C. Sarkar, Dr. Ec. Sc. (Netherlands), Professor of Economics of the University of North Bengal, West Bengal, who has constantly guided me in collecting, compilation, tabulation and presentation of data for writing a Ph.D. dissertation in Economics on the topic entitled "The Experiments and Prospects of Rural Cooperatives in West Bengal". It was, in fact, not possible for me to present the dissertation in this form without his keen supervision. I pay my deep feelings of gratitude to him.

I am indebted to my relations, friends, colleagues and my respected teachers of the Department of Economics, North Bengal University for their encouragement and inspiration.

I wish to thank the villagers, members and staff of Balaram-Bhandarigach Samabaya Krishi Unnayan Samity Ltd (Rajganj), Barnish Samabaya Krishi Bipanan Samity Ltd (Mainaguri) of Jalpaiguri district and Sridharpur Cooperative Bank (Memari) of the district of Burdwan who helped me with records and facts that I Needed.

I express my thanks to National Cooperative Union of India (New Delhi), University Grants Commission (New Delhi), National Library (Calcutta), North Bengal University Library and North Bengal University Computer Science and Applications Centre for necessary help.

I am also thankful to Sri M. Chakraborty who has carefully and efficiently typed the dissertation.

My heartfelt thanks go to my wife Papri, who, with great patience, has encouraged me to complete the task. Finally, my deepest blessings to my son Arumoy.

And Bhuimali 12.3.1994

Anil Bhuimali