ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my heartiest gratitude to Professor Tara Gopaldas, Dean, Faculty of Home Science, M S University of Baroda for her unstinted and invaluable guidance throughout the course of this study. Her patience and constant encouragement which enabled me to complete my doctoral research successfully are deeply appreciated.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr Ira Pant, Lecturer, Department of Foods and Nutrition for her invaluable guidance and co-operation for almost the entire course of this study.

My deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks go to Professor S Gujral, Retd Professor, Department of Foods and Nutrition, M S University of Baroda for her constructive criticism and valuable suggestions.

I am grateful to Dr BK Chakraborty, Professor and Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, M 5 University of Baroda for providing me the institutional support and the facilities required for the study.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Management of the different types of tea plantations in Assam for permitting me to conduct this study. Thanks are also due to the medical personnel; and the labourers and their families of the study plantations who were extremely co-operative throughout the study.

I am extremely grateful to the Assam Agricultural University administration for the study leave and the fellowship offered to me for completion of my Ph D programme.

I wish to thank Mr KK Bansal of Information Systems, Baroda for the computer analysis of data.

A very special thanks are extended here to my friends and colleagues for their help and encouragement.

My special thanks also go to my sons: Chandan and Champak, and my niece, Manu, for patiently and silently bearing with me.

Mr Rangwala, Mr Nandkumar and Mr Davis are acknowledged here with gratitude for the excellent typing of this thesis.

It gives me great pleasure to express my profound sense of gratitude to my parents, sisters, brothers, in-laws and other family members for helping me to complete this work and for their blessings and constant encouragement.

Last but not the least, thanks are due to Ms Rita Abbi for her help with the statistical analysis of my data.

-MADHURIMA CHALIHA KALITA-
