

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my gratitude and deep appreciation to several people that supported me to accomplish this thesis.

First of all, I owe my deepest gratitude to Associate Professor Dr. Siriporn Wajjawalku, who has been the advisor for this thesis. Her advice, recommendations and kind encouragement have been the greatest support for doing my thesis. I am also grateful to the thesis committee, Associate Professor Dr. Corrine Phuangkasem and Dr. Khemarat Talerngsri.

I am grateful to Thai officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BOI and Japanese scholars who provided me their knowledge through the interview.

Finally, I owe my gratitude to my parents, brother and friends who have supported and encouraged me to keep going to accomplish my goal.

Rungnapa Lakkanapornwisit

August 2008