Acknowledgements

This book is an important result of a collaborative effort. The contributions presented here were discussed at a seminar held in Rio de Janeiro in September 2000. It provided a forum for discussing the preliminary findings with researchers and policy makers. We are grateful to the seminar participants for their constructive criticism.

The research project as a whole had some key inputs, which deserve special mention. We owe special thanks to Marina Szapiro, Arlindo Villaschi Neto, Renato Campos and Cristina Lemos who coordinated the empirical research in the first half of 2000. Leticia Teixeira provided administrative and secretarial support throughout the project. Jucira Oliveira de Souza also gave secretarial assistance from 1999 to early 2001. Fabiane da Costa Morais and Tatiane da Costa Morais helped in editing activities. Max Hubert dos Santos gave the network the technical backing in information and communication technologies.

None of this work would have been possible without financial support. The field research for various chapters was carried out with grants from CNPq – the National Science and Technology Development Council, Finep – the Agency for Financing Studies and Projects, and BNDES – the National Economic and Social Development Bank, in Brazil. We would like to thank collectively all members of their staff and directing bodies who participated in discussing the different parts of the research project.

Finally, two people at CNPq deserve particular mention. Carmen Arroyo has continuously supported our network, and a special note of gratitude is due to the late Eduardo Bastos. In 1994, he became enthusiastic about our idea of setting up the network and encouraged us to present a research proposal, even if the issues discussed in this book were far from fashionable then. Without his commitment and competence, we probably would not have been able to set up the network and none of this would have happened.

José E. Cassiolato
Helena M.M. Lastres
Maria Lucia Maciel