ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take the opportunity to express my deep gratitude and acknowledgement to my supervisor Dr. Hiambok Jones Syiemlieh, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, who induce me to pursue the present research problem. I am thankful for his uninhibited guidance and encouragement and constant monitoring of the progress of my work and his untiring help in preparation and completion of this manuscript.

I deem it great privilege to express my deep sense of indebtedness and gratitude to Prof. Surendra Singh, Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong for his untiring and ardent interest, constructive criticism and genuine concern shown in the progress of my study.

My, special thanks go to Prof. Zahid Hussain Qureshi, Head, Department of Geography, North Eastern Hill University who has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to me.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes to the Principal Mr. Anil Kakoty and all the staff members of the Kherajkhat Junior College and Mr. H.C. Goswami, principal of Kherajkhat College for rendering me with all the help and support needed for the completion of this work. I also thank Dr. Niranjan Das for his valuable suggestions and untiring corporation, Bidyadhar Deori and Dilwar Hussain for helping me in collecting the necessary field data, Kalyanjit Sarma, Eahya Al Huda, Pritam Sarma & Imnarenla Aier for preparing the necessary maps, graphs, figures and diagrams. I also acknowledge all the employees of Narayanpur and Bihpuria Revenue Circle, Water Resource and Agriculture Department Government of Assam and Brahmaputra Board.
Thanks are also due to Dr. S. Sarma, Bring Blessing L. Rytathiang, James M. Lyngdoh, Danny M. Synnah, Dr. Prasenjit Das and Dr. Debraj Sarma for their support and physical efforts at the time of cartographic works.

Formal statement of acknowledgement will hardly meet the ends of justice without expressing my gratitude to my father Sri Isheswar Bhuyan and mother Smt. Parul Bhuyan of Rongati, Pathali Pahar (Lakhimpur) who have always been my backbone throughout my struggle and inspired me to go ahead and reach my goal. I am also thankful to Mahendra Bhuyan and Prasanta Dutta for their immense support during my entire course of study.

I am delighted to place on record and express my deepest gratitude to all the teachers and staff of the Department of Geography, NEHU and elder brother Sri Krishna Bhuyan, younger brother Sri Karun Bhuyan, who have been the supreme support and foundation of encouragement in every respect to me. My cordial gratitude goes to Uncle Mr. Kesha Bhuyan and Mr. Tulsi Bhuyan for their constructive encouragement during my research.

Last but not the least, my deep gratitude to my wife Rinjumoni Bhuyan for her cooperation and help rendered during the course of the research and my daughter Kashmiri (Sumunu) whose boundless queries and honest search for her immediate surrounding inspired me immensely to go ahead with the work.

Above all I would like to thank God for the blessings and patience without which I would not be able to achieve what I had endeavoured.

GAJEN BHUYAN
Research Scholar
Department of Geography
NEHU, Shillong-793022