ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my respected teacher and guide Professor R.P. Singh, Department of Geography, Manipur University, Imphal for his valuable suggestions which helped me in completing this study and bringing this thesis into a final shape.

I also extend my indebtedness to Dr. N. Deva Singh, Associate Professor, and Head of the Department of Geography for providing me necessary facilities and encouragement during the course of study.

I am thankful to Dr. Kh. Pradeepkumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Manipur University, L. Ibochoubi Singh, Lecturer in Geography, Kakching Khunou College and R.K. Pritamjit Singh, Research Scholar, Department of Statistics for their kind help to complete the present research work. Indeed without their help this work would not have been completed in time.

I express my thankfulness to Smt. B.R. Chowdhury, Principal Govt. Girls' H.S. & M.P. School, Silchar for giving me the chance for completing my research work. My sincere gratitude also goes to the entire staff of the School for encouragements and helps.

I gratefully acknowledged the co-operation and help of the officials and staffs of Tea board, Silchar and Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association, Silchar, Assam.

I am grateful to all the managers and staffs of the Sample Gardens for their co-operation for providing me with the necessary informations and facilities.
I express my sincere gratitude to Shri M.P. Singh, Manager of Arcuttipore Tea Estate and his Head Asst. Shri R. Bhattacharjee for their co-operation and help for providing me the necessary information and materials about tea estate.

My sincere gratitude also goes to my friends, Ashem Ibopishak Singh, Nk. Shantikumar Singh (ACS), R.S. Ditimus for their help and Chirom Shantikumar Singh for cartographic help and encouragement towards completion of my work.

I gladly acknowledged my indebtedness to the authors of various books and articles listed in the Bibliography, whose work have helped me immensely in completing of this study.

I owe a great deal to my mother, brothers and also to my daughter Soibam Priyadarshini and her mother Smt. Soibam Binodini Singha for their good wishes and inspiration in carrying out this work smoothly amidst the congenial domestic environment.

Also, I express my sincere thanks to Shri K. Gehechandra Sharma of G.C. Computer Printers, Canchipur for his typing work of the thesis.

Lastly, I am thankful to all those whom I might have in advertently failed to mention here but have made positive contribution in successful completion of this work.

Dated/Canchipur the 27th May 2002.

Soibam Haridas Singh
(Soibam Haridas Singh)