APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY-NAGA TERMS

Dobashi: A judicial personnel to adjudicate cases relating to customary laws at the area, or division or district level, appointed by the government. He is dressed in red coats, symbolizing his office.

Gaonbura: A village headman/ elder of the village or of a ‘khel’. He is draped in red shawls as a symbol of his office.

Genna: A non-working day observed by the community. It is an Assamese word for Kenna meaning forbidden. It is for the propitiation of the spirits. It is one of the functions of village priest to announce the genna. Gennas are also observed for the benefit of everybody.

Jhuming: It is also known sometimes as ‘slash-and-burn’ or ‘shifting’ cultivation. Jhum cultivation is a method in which a piece of land is cleared of all trees and grasses; burnt and then a variety crops are planted.

Khel: An Assamese word for exogamous group among the Naga tribes. People belonging to khel live separately in a fixed territory in the village.

Mithun: The scientific name is Bos Frontalis, a semi-domesticated cattle found in the North Eastern states.

Morung: Bachelor’s dormitory, where young men, in some tribes women, stayed during young adulthood, and learned knowledge on customary laws and were trained in arts, war and wrestling.