I would like to convey my deep appreciation to my supervisor Dr. Raza Rafiqul Hoque for his continuous guidance and support over the years. This work was a long run in my academic life and his moral support was very encouraging in hard times. He always motivated me to enlarge my scientific vision. He always provided us with enough space to work independently and a pleasant work environment. For all the time and energy he shared with me, I am really thankful.

I would like to thank sincerely to Dr. Amit Prakash for his valuable suggestions and discussions. I have learned a lot from him about atmospheric modelling.

I would like to thank PhD doctoral Committee members; Prof. Kali Prasad Sarma and Dr. Apurba Kumar Das, Department of Environmental Science and Dr. Ruli Bora, Department of Chemical Sciences for their suggestions and advices. I would also like to convey my gratitude to Prof. Nasreen S. Islam and Dr. Mukesh Saikia for their timely support and suggestions.

I would like to thank Tezpur University, Napam, Tezpur for laboratory facility and other logistics provided during my research work. I would like to thank University Grant Commission (UGC), Government of India for the financial grant in the form of Maulana Azad National Fellowship to carry out my research. I would also like to thank Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India sponsored project entitled “Physico-chemical Characterisation of aerosol and source apportionment in mid-Brahmaputra plain in Assam: A modelling Approach” (No. MoES/16/16/10-RDEAS) for equipment and other support during chemical analysis. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Defence Research Laboratory (DRL), Tezpur for providing facility for soil microwave extraction.

I would like to thank all my friends in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Group, Rebecca Daimari, Pratibha Deka, Pranamika Bhuyan, Nivedita Barman, Sahijahan Ali, Jayanta Bora and Warisha Rahman and ex-
members Param Jyoti Borah and Rajesh Rajbongshi for their helps during sample preparation.

Special thanks go to brother Yasir Bashir for his moral support and suggestions. I would also like to thank Arup Chakrabarty and Ruprekha Saikia for their kind help during sample analysis. My thanks extended to Dhrubajyoti Talukdar and Vijay Kumar Das, research group of Dr. Ashim J. Thakur, Department of Chemical Sciences for their help during sample preparation.

I would like to thank the library staff of Tezpur University, Tezpur, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Northeast Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati for their kind support during my literature survey.

I would like to thank all the members of Environmental Science Department for their valuable supports throughout my study.

My heartiest thanks go to the family of late Khaagen Das, Ms. Majida Begum, Ms. Sanghita Dutta, Mr. Nabajit Hazarika and the department of Computer Science, Gauhati University for providing me adequate space to house the bulk deposition samplers.

My thanks go to my parents for teaching me how important education is. My humble thanks go to all the members of my family including my brother and in-laws for their continuous support during my work.

A very special thanks go to my husband, Mirzanur Rahman who always stood by me in good and bad times in my life. He was always with me during my sampling. This work would be very hard without his support.

(Karishma Hussain)