The state of Assam has got fertile soil with sufficient rainfall. Its climatic condition is also helpful for growing of food crops. Majority of the people of the state are agriculturists in profession engaged in food crops cultivation. The state has got sufficient arable land. But in spite of all these favourable factors, the state is not self sufficient in food grains. It has also been seen that the agricultural production is not stable during consecutive years of periods.

This work is an attempt to analyse the growth as well as instability of food grains production which covers a period of fifty years beginning from 1951-52 to 1999-2000. Attempt has been made in this study to find out growth rate in area, production and productivity of food grains during the period under study. Attempt is also made to analyse the nature of instability in production and the factors responsible for this. All these analysis have been made for all the undivided districts of Assam as they were on 1971. The study is based on secondary data collected from various official reports, records, documents and publications relating to agriculture.

In conclusion some measures have been suggested with the expectation that these will help in increasing the food production and make the state self sufficient in food grains in the near future.

In this connection, I very sincerely thank and remain grateful to persons whose help and co-operation enabled me to complete this study. The details of such persons who helped me in this work in various way are included in acknowledgement. It may be that some of the names who helped me in this work may be dropped through forgetfulness and carelessness which may kindly be excused.

JUTHIKA BARMAN.