ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I acknowledge Dr. Sakiya Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Gauhati University whose constant supervision inspired me to bring this thesis into a reality. I am immensely indebted to Professor M. P. Bezbaruah, renowned economist and the Head of the Department of Economics who inspired me to do such work even for a specific product of horticulture.

I extend my gratefulness to the authorities of K.K. Handique Library (G.U.), OKDISC (Guwahati), Dibrugarh University (Dibrugarh), North Eastern Hill University (NEHU, Shillong), North Eastern Council (NEC, Shillong), National Horticulture Board (Guwahati), NEDFi (Guwahati) and Bikali College (Dhupdhara) for facilitating me to go through the study materials.

I am indebted to the authorities of the Directorate of Agriculture of Assam and the Directorate of Agriculture of Meghalaya for providing me official information relating to horticultural crops and banana. I am thankful to the officials of Goalpara District Regulated Marketing Board, Block Development Officers (BDO) of Rangjuli, Kushdhowa, Kharkhutta and Resubelpara C.D. Blocks for providing necessary information required for my work.
Dr. Abed Ali, lecturer of Mendipathar College in Meghalaya is acknowledged who helped me as an interpreter to translate the information provided by the respondents in Garo language. I am thankful to my colleagues Mr. A. Wahed, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, Mr. J Islam, lecturer in the Department of Geography and Mr. H. Kakati, lecturer Statistics, Bikali College who helped me in calculations and drawing the map. I am grateful to Mr Bipul Rabha, one of my students and research scholar in the University of Hyderabad who helped me in computer application through Microsoft Excel. Last but not the least Arshadul Haque, my youngest son is acknowledged for helping me in creating different tables and schedules. I am also grateful to all of my colleagues and the persons including my wife Arjuna Begum who always were in a ready position to help me for completing the work.

Guide

Abdul Haque Ahmed