ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge the immense help, cooperation, and guidance that I have received from various persons and institutions during the course of my study.

First and foremost, my sincere gratitude and indebtedness goes to my supervisor Prof. M. P. Bezbaruah who has been relentlessly guiding and inspiring me since I began the study. He has always been generous to me in giving his invaluable time in discussion, offering useful tips and ideas and checking the details of the study.

During the course of the study, I visited several libraries for collecting materials. I take this opportunity to thank the staff of the libraries of Gauhati University, Rajiv Gandhi University, Assam Agricultural University, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).

The secondary data were collected from the offices of different departments of Government of Assam such as Directorate of Agriculture, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Irrigation Department and Water Resource Department. I offer my sincere thanks to the officers and staff of these departments for lending their helping hands in the process of secondary data collection. In this connection I would also like to thank the staff of District Agricultural Offices of Dhubri, Morigaon, Dibrugarh and Cachar for providing me useful insights regarding the background of sample areas which guided me in the process of primary data collection.

Moreover, I am especially thankful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi for awarding me Short Term Doctoral Fellowship which helped me complete my field survey and make the thesis ready for submission.
I am also thankful to the persons, who helped me in different ways in different stages of my study. I would like to thank Mr. Ratan Mandal, Mr. Amiya Sarma, Md. Intaz Ali, Mr. Sanjib Chetri, Mr. Prashanta Deka, Mr. Anuj Das, Mr. Binoj Goswami, Mr. Surajit Saikia, Mr. Binod Gogoi, Md. Mozharul Islam Akond, Md. Javed Hasan Choudhury, Mr. Pradip Kurmi, Miss Jyoti Upadyay, Miss Charu Joshi, Dr. Saswati Choudhury, Mr. Avishek Deb, Mr. Sujoy Das, Mr. Partha Chakraborty and Mr. Montosh Nath in this regard.

I am also thankful to Mr. Chandan Kr. Goyal for his encouragement and logistic support from time to time during the entire course of the study. I am thankful to my colleagues of Assam University and faculty members of Gauhati University for their useful comments and encouragement.

Finally I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to all my family members and especially my parents.

(RAJU MANDAL)