APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY OF SELECT LOCAL TERMS

**Bangsa:** a social grouping constituted of a few families consanguineously related to each other

**Bar ghar:** place where socio-religious ceremonies specific to a particular clan are performed, usually located in the house of the *bar zela*

**Bar Zela:** head of the clan

**Beel:** a water source created by changes in water channels

**Bichar:** justice

**Bigha:** a unit of land measurement; one *bigha* is made of five *kathas*, one *katha* = 0.066116 acres

**Charkari Gaonburha:** village headman appointed by the government (district authorities)

**Deori:** priest in the traditional Tiwa religion

**Gaonburha:** village headman

**Gaon Sabha:** village council among the Hill Tiwas.

**Gobha Raja:** the king of the Tiwa kingdom of Gobha

**Gobhia:** Customary practice where the husband goes to reside in the wife’s parental house after marriage

**Hatham:** area designated for individual clans in the cremation/burial ground.

**Jhum:** shifting cultivation

**Ju:** locally brewed rice beer

**Ju-lao:** container made of the shell of bottle gourd used to serve *ju*
Katha: a unit of land measurement
Kecha dai: a category of offences perceived as lesser offences
Khel: social grouping composed of members of two or more bangsa or khutā
Khul: clan; same as kul
Khutā: same as bangsa
Kul: clan
Maharsa: a cluster of clans among the Hill Tiwas, the members of which consider themselves matrilineally consanguineous
Mahila Samiti: local level women’s organisation.
Mangkhorsaal: cremation/ burial ground
Manthra: incantation or spell
Mel: village council among the Tiwas of the plains; also used to denote an assembly of persons (usually the village council) come together to decide questions
Namghar: village prayer hall associated with Assamese Vaishnavism
Pathak: priest among the followers of Assamese Vaishnavism
Phitri: ancestors; also used to denote the souls of ancestors
Pucca dai: a category of very serious offences which are supposed to have divine retribution.
Raja: king
Sadiya: the youngest daughter in a Hill Tiwa family who inherits all the property through the rule of ultimoginiture.
Samadi: bachelors’ dormitory, or organisation of bachelors
Than: centre of religious worship, associated with the traditional Tiwa religion, usually surrounded by a patch of forest.
Zela: expert in tribal folklore, rituals and traditions