The Kangsabati basin is situated in the southwestern part of West Bengal. The basin has become a conspicuous geomorphic unit and consists of variegated landscape pattern. The river in many ways influences the life of people as well as decides the economy and cultural set-up of the area. Devastating floods almost in every year in the lower part of the basin and successive droughts in the upper, middle and to some extent in the lower parts of the basin have attracted the attention of the author. So, a geo-economic investigation has been made which involves an organised interdisciplinary approach on the geo-ecological, environmental and cultural aspects of the basin.

With its varied types of landscape, the Kangsabati basin has attracted the attention of eminent geographers and geomorphologists for a long time. Many geographers studied the physiography and geomorphology of this part of West Bengal, drained by the river Kangsabati. But, the economic conditions and also the geo-ecological problems of the Kangsabati basin received little attention from geographers. The backwardness of the region and abysmal poverty of the people with no immediate signs of improvement demand a detailed geo-economic study of the area. So, the researcher has made a sincere endeavour to study the geo-economic condition of the basin with particular reference to water resource utilisation and agriculture.

The present work has been done on the basis of data and information collected from various published and official sources. The sources include the topographical sheets published by the Survey of India, the Annual Action Plan on Agriculture published by district agricultural offices, district census handbooks of
different districts, meteorological tables, published data on marketing and credit facilities collected from the districts concerned, information collected from the Soil Survey of India and many other sources. Intensive field work has been carried out by the author, especially for gathering detailed information and evidences relating to the micro-level study.

For the present study, the researcher consulted many books, journals, published reports etc. available in different libraries. These include the libraries of the Survey of India, the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, the Forest Survey of India, the All India Soil and Land Use Survey, the Land Records’ office, the National Library, the Geographical Society of India, the Institute of Landscape, the Ecology and Ekistics, Presidency College and above all, the Library of the Department of Geography, Calcutta University.