Preface

In the last three and half decades, the Himalayas, one of the youngest and most tectonically active mountain ranges, has become the focus of intense interest and research. Here, faulty land use practices, unregulated construction of roads and encroachment of forestland for creation of arable land has caused an adverse impact in the Himalayan range. The Ryang basin in the Darjiling Himalayas can be taken as an example of such a problem where indiscriminate deforestation and irrational land use has taken place leading to environmental catastrophes and jeopardising sustainable development. The Cinchona industry, in the past, has rendered a great and a glorious service to the cause of mankind, and particularly, to the cause of suffering humanity around this part of the globe. Unfortunately, today it is a sick industry. In the recent years Cinchona is making space in the global market as the synthetic drugs are showing different side effects and in some cases the natural resources are the only remedies for Malignant Malaria.

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to my guide, Professor Dr Subhas Ranjan Basu and am indebted to him for his constant support, guidance and encouragement. He motivated and coaxed me to take up this project and I must say it was a remarkable experience.

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This work would not have been possible without the help and support of many who are directly and indirectly associated with the subject or the industry on which this thesis is written.

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Finally, this thesis is dedicated to the people involved with the Cinchona industry, people who have gone through the good and bad times in this industry, people who even now dream of a bright and brilliant future for themselves in this industry. I hope my work will be of some significance as this...
glorious industry from the past, starts moving once again bringing in well being and prosperity to the people of Mungpoo and to the general society at large as it fights the battle against Malaria with one of the most effective and economical medicine derived and processed from Cinchona.

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Department of Geography,
University of Calcutta
Registration No.:4023
Kolkata