ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is an extended work from the Minor Research Project funded by University Grant Commission, Eastern Regional Office, Kolkata. I am highly obliged for their financial support. I would like to thanks Prof. Subhas Mukhopadhyay, UGC Emeritus in Geography, Calcutta University for proposing the idea of this project. I pay my high gratitude to Dr. Harsha Dasgupta, retd. Principal UCTC, Berhampore, Murshidabad for teaching me about satellite imageries used in this thesis.

In wish my indebtedness to Prof. Parbati Nandi and Prof. Uma Sankar Malik for their continuous suggestions for the improvement of this work. I express my earnest respect to Dr. Priyanath Haldar, my ex-colleague, philosopher and guide. My heartfelt thanks to Shaymal Majumdar, PAO, Berhampore, Murshidabad and NGOs of Hariharpada block and Beldanga –II block and all the local respondent of the sampled area of field survey.

I have no appropriate words to express my indebtedness to my mother-in-law, my father and my husband who have always been my pillars and aspirations of work. Above all I thanks for the sacrifices done for me by my mother who is the light of this world for me and my son who is the divine gift that God gave me.

Berhampore: May, 2013.  Indira Halder