ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To begin with, I like to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Ratneswar Barman, Professor of Geography, Gauhati University for giving me valuable time as a guide and supervisor throughout my work. Next to him I must extend my sincere thanks to Dr. M.M. Das, Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, G.U. for providing me with accommodation, laboratory facilities and necessary help and co-operation.

I am grateful to Dr. Ranjan Saikia, Department of Geography, Cotton College, Guwahati for his initiative to my research work. Along with him my sincere thanks are due to Sri Narayan Chetry, Rtd. Prof. Suren Talukder and the P.G. students of Cotton College for their immense help during my field work.

My thanks must go to Professor M. Taher, Professor H.N. Sharma, Dr. L. Datta, Dr. A.K. Bora, Dr. A.K. Bhagabati, Dr. B.K. Kar of Geography department, Gauhati University for their valuable help and suggestions towards the success of my work.

My thanks are also due to Dr. B. Roy Choudhury, Ex. Joint Secretary, U.G.C. for his kind and valuable help in my work. My thanks go to respected Munin Bora, Lecturer, Geography Department, Moran College for his encouragement towards my success in the work.

It is my proud privilege to acknowledge my mother for her constant encouragement and sacrifice towards attaining the goal of research work of mine. I like to give special thanks to my father who supports me mentally as well as financially throughout the work without whose help and kind interest I would not been in a position to complete the work.

I like to convey my thanks to Jitu Sharma and his family for extending valuable help to me during my field work.
My sincere thanks are due to Kalicharan Das, Prasanta Bhattacharyya, Tanmoy Choudhury, Dipen Barua and B. Ali for their generous help and other helping hands of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University.

I am indebted to the officials of different departments of the Government of Assam, who helped me by providing with relevant information and data necessary for my work.

I like to thank Kamalesh Kalita for his persistent support and encouragement all the time of my work.

Last but not the least, I am also thankful to Martinet Computer for nicely typing the thesis and also to Anjan Talukdar for kindly preparing maps, diagrams etc.

Date: 28.6.2002.

Mouchumi Gogoi