ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I must confess that, without the co-operation, guidance and help of the Directorate of Panchayat and Community Development Department, Government of Assam, and their official staffs I could not have successfully completed my research project. I shall fail in my duty if I do not offer my best compliments to the authorities of Rampur, Rani and Dimoria Development Blocks for the assistance they offered to me in my field work. While searching for information and data at block level the various District and Sub-divisional level offices of the Government departments like Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Fishery, Industry, Medical, Co-operative, Economics and Statistics, I was helped immensely. I gratefully acknowledge their valuable services done to me.

Special appreciation is due to my guide, Dr. M. Barthakur, Professor and Head of the Geography Department, Gauhati University, for his valuable advice and encouragement throughout my research work. Besides the staff members of the Geography Department, Gauhati University, Professor Md. Taher, Dr. N.N. Bhattacharyya, Reader, who encouraged me in every step of my work and offered all help and guidance; and for these acts I shall remain indebted to them. I received encouragement in profusion from Dr. P.D. Deka. Small Industrial Extension
Training Institute, Gauhati, who taught me the quantitative part of the analysis which I have successfully incorporated in the Thesis. I am specially grateful to him.

While preparing the Thesis I received constant encouragement from Mrs. K.K. Das, my wife, who relieved me from the household obligations for a pretty long time for which she deserves a word of appreciation from me. I must not fail to thank Mr. D.K. Barua, Dr. H. Thakuria, Mr. A. Bora, Miss. M. Begum for their help and encouragement. Sri N.K. Thakuria who copied the maps and diagrams and worked for me relentlessly for completion of the Thesis, I express my heartfelt love to him. Last but not the least the name of Mr. M. Lahkar and Mr. K.C. Das, deserves special mention because it was they who prepared the photographs and typed the Thesis respectively and completed the work in record time, deserve a word of thanks from me.

February, 1984
Gauhati University.

Bhagadatta Kumar Das
(Bhagadatta Kumar Das)