Preface.

Agriculture has been a way of life of our rural people. Various plans and programmes framed by our National Government are being carried into action in all the districts of Assam. Execution of the agricultural plans and programmes has started from the First Five Year Plan of India, 1951. There has been some agricultural development here and there in the various regions of India as in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. But in this eastern part of the country, there has not been any significant development in agriculture. I have, therefore, tried to sort out the causes of such variations in the agricultural sector. Although a number of organisations and agencies such as Cooperative Societies, Community Development Blocks, banks etc. have been equally distributed over all the parts of our vast country for the growth of agricultural sector and Indian village economy, the impact of those is differently felt in different regions. In Assam for example, the impact of these has not been strong.

The purpose of the present study is to find out and sort out the causes of this developmental lag in Assam. I have selected Goalpara district of Assam for my investigation and study of the problems and prospects of resource mobilisation for agricultural development of the district during the period from 1951 to 1978.

As I have assumed that the agricultural development
is not independent of the socio-economic conditions of the people of the region under investigation, I have studied in detail the agrarian socio-economic conditions of the district.

Although various Government and semi-Government organisations, institutions and agencies have been set up in the district for agricultural growth and economic development, agriculture in the district remains stagnated. I have concentrated upon the problems and prospects for agricultural development of the district on the availability of infrastructural facilities and activities of those organisations and agencies. I have also taken into consideration the social attitude of the farmers of the district. Mainly, I have found lack of coordination between the various organisations and the cultivators. My investigation was carried out on the basis of available socio-economic and agricultural data of the district and the State of Assam.

I am very much indebted to my guide Dr. Sambhu Nath Guhathakurta, M.A., Ph.D., Reader and Head, Department of Economics of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, who advised and helped me in all respects. He wanted my thesis to be of the best quality, but on account of various constraints such as non-availability of data, heterogeneous characteristics of soils and farmers etc., I could not make my work as good as he wanted it to be. However, I tried my best to locate and identify the real problems of the agricultural development of the district and suggest their solutions.
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