ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I take the pleasure to express my gratitude, indebtedness and sincere regards to Professor Dulal Chandra Goswami (Retired), Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University for his constant guidance, constructive criticisms and continuous encouragement during the course of the research and preparation of this manuscript.

I extend my sincere gratitude and regard to Dr. S. Kalita, Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University and Dr. H.P. Sharma, Reader, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University for their valuable suggestions. I also wish to offer my sincere thanks to other members of teaching faculty and staff, department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, for their kind help and suggestions.

I wish to offer my gratitude and regard to Dr. D.N. Chakravarty, former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat for his kind help during soil profile study and subsequent laboratory analysis of soil samples.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to C. R. Dekada, Pankajda, Prasannada, Utpalda, Ranjit, Ramen, Shankar, Runjun, Abhijit, Jagadish, and other officers and staff, Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre, ASTEC, Guwahati for their help whenever needed.

I convey my sincere thanks to Officers and Staff, Central Water Commission, Guwahati namely Arjun Singh, Samay Singh, S. D. Sharma, B.P. Sonowal, A.S. Rao, Bhuban
Borah, B. K. Hazarika, Sachin Das, Pahar Ali, Haren Das, Rahman, Kumar, Chaudhury, Boro, Manjula, Padmini, Hazarika, Thakuria, Borah and many others for their help in preparation of this manuscript.

I sincerely acknowledge the help rendered by Milon Ch. Rabha, Officer Surveyor, Survey of India, Guwahati, Dr. S.S. Singh, Hydrogeologist, Central Groundwater Board, Guwahati, K. Majumdar, Geologist, Geological Survey of India, Guwahati, D. K. Baruah, B.K Das, A.C Kalita and Nitul Dutta, Directorate of Census Operations, Guwahati along with my friends Baneswar, Mitali, Debnath, Minakshi, Ramchary, Baglari, Kalyan, Binoy, Barman, Chinmoyee, Nurul, Santanuda and many others.

Finally, I want to express my deepest sense of indebtedness to my wife Sum, respected dada, dangar and maju bow, Jagat, Maina, Aijoni, Bumon, Janjan, Jumon, Lisha, Babu, Chowali and other family members for their inspiration, affectionate blessing and well wishes during the course of this study.

Date: 27/05/2010

Place: Guwahati

(Diganta Goswami)