ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is to be a solemn duty on my part to express my deep sense of gratitude to The Department of Economics, Gauhati University for giving me the opportunity to pursue Doctor of Philosophy in this Department.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my guide Prof. Archana Sharma of the Department of Economics, Gauhati University for her guidance, critical insights, advice and sustained inspiration in completing the research work. In spite of her busy schedule, the quality time she has lent me, during the much needed period, has actually shaped the thesis into a more concrete and comprehensive one. I would like to respectfully thank the members of the Departmental Research Committee, Department of Economics, Gauhati University, for their valuable inputs and suggestions.

I wish to thank the K.K Handique Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati for extending access to the valuable books. Thanks are also due to the Library of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. I want to thank Forest Divisional Office, Santipur, Guwahati for giving some preliminary information of the Deepor Beel. I would like to express my gratitude to the Office of the Circle Officer, Azara Revenue Circle, Azara for guiding me about the adjacent villages of the Deepor Beel. I want to thank Mr Abani Borthakur, Senior Compiler, Directorate of Census Operation, Guwahati for his help in providing the population data of the adjacent villages of the Beel. I would also like to thank Mr Prasanta Baruah and Mr C. R Deka, ARSAC, ASTEC, Guwahati for providing essential information of the Deepor Beel.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Mr Sarat Ch. Das, the village headman, 33 No Azara Gaon Panchayat, Kamrup (M), for providing the vital information on Deepor Beel. I also like to thank Mr Khagen Ch Das, Secretary, Deepor Beel Paachpara Samabai Samiti Ltd, for providing information regarding fishing activities of the Deepor Beel. I would like to thank the respondents for their cooperation in completion of the survey conducted. I am grateful to the Officials of different Departments of Government of Assam for their valued co-operation in preparing the
thesis. I will fail in my duty if I do not express my heartiest gratitude to the various authors, publishers, organizations, and institutions for using their papers, journals, reports in connection with my thesis.

I am indebted to my mother, Mrs Chaya Datta and my paternal aunty, Ms Purabi Datta for their encouragement and positive gesture in completing this research work. I will always be indebted to my brother Mr Abhinandan Dutta, for his help in conducting the survey for the thesis. His constant support in completion of the research work is commendable.

I would like to express my gratitude to my loving husband Mr Mrinmoy Das, my mother-in-law Mrs Kiran Das, for their invariable support, love and understanding in completion of my research work. Special thanks to my uncle-in-law Mr Dimbeswar Bora, Assistant Agricultural Marketing Inspector, Office of District agriculture, Nagaon, for his valuable suggestion in calculation of value of paddy cultivation.

I reserve a word of appreciation and gratitude for Jyotisikha Sharma, Deepshikha Carpenter, Dr Rukchana Rahman, Rose Mary Guria, Research Scholars, Department of Women’s Studies, GU for their constant encouragement to finish the work on time.

Lastly, I reserve a word of appreciation and gratitude for all countless individuals and institutions that have made valuable contributions academically towards the completion of this research work.

Date: 25/05/2016

Jyotisikha Dutta

Place: Gauhati University