Preface

Women are integral part of the total working force and both male and female workers of Assam participate jointly in the agricultural production works in farm families. Contribution of female workers in raising farm production and farm income is no less important than the male workers.

The nature of participation of females in farm activities varies in the plains districts and in the hills districts of Assam according to variations in farming system, production technology and cropping pattern. Demographic and sociological factors like caste and community, occupation pattern, income of the household, educational standard of females, religious beliefs, social taboos etc. affect the nature of participation of females in farm activities. The actual contribution made by women towards agricultural production and towards the supply of domestic requirements for food and clothes of the family members is much higher than shown in the employment statistics, as many activities of women in rural households are not included in such employment data.

The present study is an humble attempt to assess the nature and extent of participation of females
in agricultural works in Assam. Till now no study has been undertaken to analyse the pattern of female employment in the State.

The thesis incorporates the results and findings of the survey of ten selected villages of Cibsagar District, Assam, conducted by me with the specific objectives of assessing the nature and extent of female participation in agricultural activities. The nature of involvement of females in ancilliary agricultural activities is also analysed to give an overall picture of the employment pattern. On the basis of field data and other information, certain policy measures have been suggested for ensuring effective and rational utilization of the available female labour in rural areas.

For the purpose of expositional convenience and analytical advantage, the thesis is divided into two parts. Part one includes three Chapters to give background information on the subject. Part two contains ten Chapters and incorporates the findings of field survey conducted in the sample villages, together with the assessment of the problem and the recommendations for increasing scope for female employment.

A period of three and a half years from June 1978 to December 1981 was spent in completing this study. I must express my indebtedness and gratitude to Dr. K.C. Goswami,
Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, for his valuable guidance and supervision. His numerous insightful comments, suggestions and careful readings of my draft Chapters have helped me very much in improving the thesis.

I am also thankful to all those persons and agencies who supplied me with many published and unpublished materials. On this score I am particularly thankful to the officials of Indian Council of Social Science Research, Labour Bureau of the Government of India, Department of Economics and Statistics of the Government of Assam, Agro-Economic Research Centre For North East India in the Assam Agricultural University.

I also benefitted greatly from the discussions I had on the subject with Dr. R. Mehrotra, my teacher in the Dibrugarh University, Dr. V. Rajagopalan in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dr. U. Phookan and Dr. P.D. Saikia of Agro-Economic Research Centre, Jorhat and Dr. . . . of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management at the Assam Agricultural University. I am thankful to all of them for their valuable comments and suggestions.

I also express my thanks to my colleagues in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Assam Agricultural University, Sri Aswini Mr. Barma and
Sri Achyut Ch. Sarma, who helped me in preparing Maps and Graphs for the thesis, and to Dr. D.R. Kalita for his suggestions.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my most sincere thanks to the persons who helped me in the field collection of data by introducing me to the respondents in their respective villages. My sincere thanks are also due to the respondent females without whose cooperation and assistance it would have been difficult to collect correct information. I must also express my thanks to Sri Jagen Borah for typing this thesis both at its preliminary and final stages.

Finally, I must record my gratitude to my husband, Dr. T.N. Saikia, who inspired me throughout the period, from field investigation to final submission of the thesis, through his suggestion, company in the field, and constant encouragement to complete the work.

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3rd February, 1982.