

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The study would not have been possible without the support, belief and love I received from a number of persons belonging to varied spectrums of my life. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Debabrata Das, who has been a constant source of inspiration, encouragement and support. I am especially grateful for the autonomy allowed during research, his patient listening to arguments and his critical suggestions and guidance.

I also express my gratitude to the members of my Doctoral Committee, Prof. Chandana Goswami and Prof. Mrinmoy Kumar Sarma who gave me valuable suggestions during the entire period of my research. I gratefully acknowledge the valuable comments and suggestions I received at my Ph.D progress seminars from faculty members of the Department of Business Administration. My sincere thanks to Department of Business Administration which allowed enlightening company of Research Scholars and access to quality study materials through Tezpur University's well equipped library.

I am thankful to the respondents who answered the queries of primary survey and also to the participants of PRA exercises who spared their valuable time. My friends Abraham Teron, Paresh Kalita, Lakhiram Timung, Andrew Kro, and Peterson Rongphar had helped immensely while organising PRA exercises. Without their interpretation-support, drawing quality information would not have been possible.

I am also thankful to North Eastern Community Resource Management Society for allowing me to carry out my study in both the hill districts of Assam, as a Part-time Research Scholar.

I am grateful to my parents and extended family members for their love and moral support during the study. Thanks to my daughters Aabriti and Tanishka who were too little to bother about what I was studying. Special thanks to my wife Anindita whose belief in me was so strong that I could take a bold decision to carry out my research, abandoning an altogether different career. Their sacrifice and forbearance saw me through the study period.

Date:

Place: Tezpur

(Bitupan Bora)