CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

7.1 **Conclusion**

The North East India comprising eight states contributes about 8% of India's total geographical area. The region is constituted with a very diverse physiographic pattern ranging from plains, plateaus, valleys and mountains. All kinds of forest right from Grasslands to the Alpine vegetation are distributed in this region which enhances the richness of the species.

The present work was designed especially for the exploration, documentation and analysis of dicotyledonous (Angiosperm) plants occurring in the erstwhile district of Sonitpur. From the present work a total of 434 dicot taxa under 309 genera and 107 families have been enumerated. Among them 185 species are trees (42%), 107 species are herbs (25%), 85 species are shrubs (20%), 43 species are climbers (10%), 10 species are aquatic herbs (2%), 3 species are lianas (0.75 %) and epiphyte species have only 1 species (0.25%). Of which, 10 species under 9 genera are recorded as primitive species. A total of 13 species under 12 genera and 11 families were recorded as RET taxa exhibiting significant outcome of the present work. 4 taxa under 4 genera and 4 families have been identified as endemic to this region. Apart from these, new taxon has also been described from the study area i.e. *Capsicum sonitpurensis* J. Sarma & G. Dutta (Solanaceae) which is another major findings of the present study.

North East India is the centre of diverse tribal communities inhabited in varied landscape with rich ethnobotanical knowledge and associated socio-cultural practices. Another attempt was also

made to understand the ethnomedicinal wisdoms of Munda, Garo and Mishing community from the study area. A total of 98 plant species were found to be having medicinal values and used for the treatment of several human health ailments/diseases. Mishing community used highest number of medicinal plants having 62 species while Munda and Garo community used 27 and 50 medicinal plant species, respectively.

Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are the major source of livelihood for the tribal communities living in and around the forests of North East India. Mishing is one of the prominent tribal community of the present study area and therefore the NTFPs associated particularly with the Mishing community was studied. Result and discussion was made to understand the relationship between NTFPs and socio-economic and livelihoods of this community. A total of 68 dicot plant species belonging to 57 genera and 42 families are recorded which are particularly used and marketed by this community for different purposes and income generation.

7.2 Future Scope

7.2.1 As the current work deals with only dicot taxa, there is a potential scope of study for monocot taxa.

7.2.2 Sonitpur district hosts many other tribal communities other than Munda, Garo and Mishing community. Ethnobotanical studies with reference to medicinal plants of other tribal groups can be done to document their potential ethnomedicinal wisdoms.

7.2.3 Another important work to be carried out is quantification of extracted NTFPs and analysing the degree of dependency on these resources as a source of income by the community.