

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Completion of this thesis was not possible without the humble support of many kind people. I would like to express my sincere gratefulness to all of them from the core of my heart. First of all, I am exceptionally grateful to my research guide, Dr. Sudip kumar Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and applied geography, for providing me the opportunity to carry research under his supervision scholarly involvements and positive inspiration which I got throughout the research work. I would like to express my regards to my Sir, my supervisor, for everything beyond thesis which I have learned during this memorable period. I am expressing my deepest thanks to his family for their reception and tolerance during the discussion I had with my guide on research work and thesis preparation. The completion of thesis was possible also because of the absolute unconditional support given by Dr. Maloy Sarkar. This person constantly made himself accessible to simplify my doubts in spite of his busy schedules. I thank all the faculty and staff members of the Department of Geography and Applied Geography for all academic backing and the facilities provided to carry out the research work at this department.

I am also very grateful to all the staff members of the central library, N.B.U, as without their help it was not possible to complete this thesis. I thank Dr. Chandan Sarkar, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Govt. of West Bengal, for his unconditional help during data analysis.

I am always grateful to my parents Mr.Sankar Kar and Mrs.Shikha Kar for their love, blessings, prayers, and sacrifices for what they did to prepare me for my future. I am extremely thankful to my wife Smt. Mandira Ghosh Kar and my daughter Simontini Kar for their love, thoughtfulness, responses and support throughout this research work. I also thank my whole family for their good wishes and blessings. I also thank my brother-in-law Mr. Babua Ghosh for his regular encourages.

I am also thankful to all the employees of CWC inspection stations of Sevok, Balasan for their data support and acceptance. I am grateful to the staffs and other officials of different tea gardens for allowing me in their premises and providing me data support during my field work.

I am thankful to the office staffs of Uttorayon Township and staffs of Chandmoni Tea Estate Cooperative Society for their wholehearted support during my field data collection and providing information required for my research work.

I will be always grateful to Dipanjan Sen, Souvik Majumder and Sanjay Shome for their help during field survey and map generation and Mr. Sanjay Sarkar for his unconditional help during library work. I also express thank from the core of my heart to all the people who supported me directly or indirectly during my research work.

Finally, I admire and thank almighty God for allowing me the knowledge, health and strength to carry out this research work and empowering me to its completion.

**Shuvankar Kar**