

Acknowledgements

It gives me immense pleasure to note that the thesis "Investigations on the Potentialities of Crop-Livestock-Fish Integrated Farming System for the Marginal Farmers in Terai Region of West Bengal, India." is being successfully completed with the blessing and guidance of my supervisor Dr. Sudip Barat, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal. Over my six years of experience I always found him very composed with full of new ideas which helped me to get a proper direction. I have developed a deep respect for his support and also his affectionate judgements on my merits and demerits. Today, I reminded his words 'Soma don't get impatient, keep yourself cool so that you can work more efficiently'. Really, I feel lucky that he has guided me very patiently so that I can complete my work meaningfully.

I will be biased if I do not mention that formal and informal discussions during my study period with the Faculty Members of Zoology Department, University of North Bengal, Prof. Ananda Mukherjee, Prof. Joydeb Pal, Prof. Tapas Kumar Chaudhuri, Prof. Min Bahadur, Dr. Soumen Bhattacharjee, Mr. Dhiraj Saha and Mr. Tilak Saha, who had enormously enriched me and helped me to carry out my research work. The help of earlier and present Heads of Zoology Department, University of North Bengal, namely, Prof. Ananda Mukherjee, Prof. Sudip Barat and Prof. Min Bahadur, cannot be under estimated and I solely thanks them for their support.

I am grateful to the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of North Bengal, for allowing me to pursue my research work under this University.

I also thank Librarian of University of North Bengal, for extending me all the necessary facilities throughout the research work.

Most of my field study would not have been completed without the help of small farmers of the Belacoba village and I thank the NGO (Drosta), Jalpaiguri to have introduced me to the farmers and motivating them to participate in my research study. The NGO also helped me to follow up the work over four years properly.

I am also grateful to Mr. Kripan Sarkar, owner of Rainbow Ornamental Fish Farm, Raninagar, Jalpaiguri, for providing me the fingerlings required for the study. His sharing of different valuable experience of profitable fish farming over the four years of my study with the farmers indirectly encouraged them to pursue the fish farming as a profit making business.

Today, I could remember that, over the past six years how my daughter, Miss Sristi Banerjee, co-operated with me for my research work. She was only six years old when I started my study. A child always wants an undivided attention from their mother but, my little daughter understood the importance of my work and helped me by becoming less demanding. Her contribution cannot be under estimated and I wish her all the best.

Mentioning the help of all the research scholar of the Department of Zoology, University of North Bengal, who co-operated with me in my laboratory work, I was very lucky to be introduced with Ruksa Nur, Research Scholar, Department of Zoology, who sincerely helped me to overcome many logistic problems during my study. She had played a vital role as a younger sister in my life and morally supported me. I wish her all the success and may God help her to achieve her goal. I also thank Assist. Prof. Mr. Manik Acharjee, Kalimpong College, for his help regarding the Biodiversity and Evenness study of zooplankton during my research work.

The Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Director of Research, Extension and Farm (DREF) of West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), Belgachia gave me the permission to pursue my research work along with my present job in Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ramsai, Jalpaiguri, as Subject Matter Specialist (Extension Education) and I am grateful to them. I am also grateful to the Librarian, WBUAFS, to provide me necessary literatures regarding the study.

Thanks are also extended to Prof. A.K Samanta, Animal Production Management (A.P.M.) Department, WBUAFS, for his informal and valuable advice and support. I feel proud about Dr. Syamsunder Keshi, Assist. Prof. WBUAFS, who co-operated with me in every aspect during my study and stay in Kolkata, he played the role of a younger brother and I pray to God for

his success. Dr Debraj Nandi from Department of Animal Resource Development, West Bengal, has extremely helped me to analyse the raw data of my thesis and I cannot forget his patience regarding the same without which I would not have come to the conclusion of my work. I thank him for his sincere help.

I am very fortunate to work with all my KVK colleagues who always tried to contribute beyond their limits and cooperated to make my working place peaceful so that I can also concentrate on my research work. I want to thank specially, Dr. Jyotirmay Karforma, SMS (Agronomy), for sharing his perception and experience regarding field scenario of agriculture in the Jalpaiguri District. Mr. Soumendra Das, Stenographer as he typed electronically most of this thesis chapters during his off time which helped me a lot to save my time and complete the writing part of the thesis. I also thank Mr. Chiradip Majumdar Computer Programmer for his support I remember the contribution of my ex-colleague Dr U. Roy, SMS (Horticulture), Dr. Arun Hui, SMS (Animal Science), and thank him who shared his experience of turmeric cultivation and animal rearing in the Jalpaiguri District.

It is well known that behind every successful man there is a woman behind, but in my case, there were two friends Mr. M. Jha and Mr. S.N. Chaudury who stood behind me like two strong pillars and unconditionally helped me to get out of all the crisis I underwent socially, mentally and physically during my six years of study period. I must say that very few people in this world have the luck to get true friend and I am one of them.

I am thankful to all of them who directly and indirectly helped me for the thesis over past six years.

Last but not the least, I thank the Almighty to shower his blessings on me.

Dated: 19.7.13



Place: University of North Bengal

Soma Banerjee, M.V.Sc.(APM)