Acknowledgements

We thank Planning Commission and the Government of Assam for entrusting the task to prepare this report to Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR).

We are particularly indebted to Dr. K. Venkatasubramanian, Member, Planning Commission and Chairman of the Core Committee overseeing the preparation of the Report for his personal interest in this project and encouragement and many constructive suggestions. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Rajan Katoch of the Planning Commission for his useful advice, overall guidance and active coordination of the project, which has enabled us to bring this exercise to fruition. We also thank Ms. Somi Tandon, who helped initiate the preparation of the Report, all the members of the Core Committee and officers of the State Plans Division of the Planning Commission for their support from time to time.

We have received help, support and suggestions from many people in the Government of Assam. We thank H.S. Das, Commissioner and Secretary, Dr. Surojit Mitra, Commissioner and Secretary, Shri Pritam Saikia, Joint Secretary and all the officers of the Planning and Development Department for their enthusiastic and untiring support and all help.

The background work for different themes were mainly done by different members of the team as follows: Strategy for Assam's Development – Kirit Parikh; Prospects for Economic Growth – Manoj Panda; Reorienting Fiscal Strategies – Shikha Jha; Poverty, Health and Education – P.V. Srinivasan; Infrastructure – Kirit Parikh; Industries – Atul Sarma; Transport on the Brahmaputra – Sanjoy Hazarika and Biswajeet Saikia; Agriculture: Constraints and Policy Options – A. Ganesh Kumar; Shallow Tubewell survey – B. Sarmah; Pisciculture and Forestry – Kalyan Das; and Tourism – Abu Nasar Saied Ahmed.

We have also benefited from the many suggestions made by the participants (names listed in the Appendix) at the Workshop held in February 2002 at Guwahati to discuss the draft report. They have helped us improve the Report.

We had had discussions with many people from which we gained a lot. Their names are listed in an Appendix. We thank them all for their interest and support. They should not however be held responsible for the content of the report.

We thank the students of IGIDR who have provided research assistance, Bijan Borah, Phanindra Goyari, Sarika Kansal, Ishita Das, Ibotombi Longjam and Pramod Dabrase.

Finally, we thank Mahesh Mohan who has typed repeatedly various drafts and formatted the final report in this attractive form.

Kirit S. Parikh & Project Team