



EPILOGUE

A technically-sound but comprehensible monograph on drug use in Northeastern states of India has been a recognised but unaddressed need for a long time.

Since the preparation of the first draft of this monograph, the review and updating of information as it emerged from the NCB, various NGO activities as well as different research and intervention projects has proved difficult as some of this data fell into the class of grey literature and was not easily available. Such factors have delayed the publication of this monograph.

It has also not been easy to decide how much emphasis should be given to HIV vis-a-vis drug use. However, 2006 marks the beginning of the third phase of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP Phase-III) in India. The Government of India has made it explicit that the Northeastern states will receive enhanced attention under this planning. Thus the time is appropriate to take a stock of the drug use situation in this region since it is injecting drug use which has driven the HIV epidemic in the Northeast of India since the early 1990s.

What has nonetheless remained constant throughout this changing canvas of drug use patterns and their devastating impact is the positive energy, unwavering commitment and strong belief of the local NGOs, CBOs and the community at large that they will succeed in their efforts to face the challenge posed by the twin epidemics of drug use and HIV.

It is hoped that the present monograph will serve as a useful resource in their endeavours.