1) INTRODUCTION :-

In India 80% of the farmers are small and marginal and nearly 30% of the rural landless and Agricultural labour. Drying is an important source of subsidiary to these small marginal farmers and agriculture labour.

Modern agriculture is highly technical and capital oriented such as dairy farming are the important subsidiary occupation in rural areas. The irrigation and co-operative sector as well as different financial sources help to the technological development in agriculture. The resent research conducted reveled the fact that dairy farming can help the development of socio-economic condition of the rural small and marginal farmers unlike the cultivation the crops and progressive dairies but also increases income of the small farmer and landless labours.

The manure from animals provides a good soures of organic matter for improving soil fertility and crop yields. The Gober gas from the dung is used as fuel for domestic purposes as also for running engines for drawing water from well. The surplus fodder and agriculture by product are gainfully utilized for feeding the animals. Almost all drought power for farm operation and transportation is supplied by bullocks. Since Agriculture is mostly seasonal, there is a possibility of finding employment throughout the year for many persons through dairy
farming. Thus, dairy also provides employment throughout the year. The main beneficiaries of dairy programmers are small/marginal markers and landless laboures.

In Maharashtra Dairy farming is developed with the help of co-operative movement the main intention of the co-operative dairy in Maharashtra was to provide and attractive and alternative means of development to wast majority of farmers including large and small farmers as well as to the land less labourers. The shifting strategy in early sixties from dairying as an interprise in a colony to a farm footing in rural development of Maharashtra. In 1960-61. There are four hundred fifty milk societies in Maharashtra, which are increased 31294 in 1990-91 during the same period 36 milk co-operative projects in the state and 112 chilling plant.

At present co-operative dairy farming gives more potential and subsidiary income sources as about 50 lack person in Maharashtra State Sangli is one of the important district in dairy farming. There are three Major milk co-operative projects in Sangli district as well as one government project and three private milk project in village level. There are three to four milk collecting centers. In each village Co-operative movement diffuses all over district and it helps to the development of dairy farming in Sangli districts.
The present research work is attempts to the geographical analysis of development of dairy farming in Sangli district of Maharashtra.