INTRODUCTION

The international institute of Agriculture Rome attempted Agriculture Census on a global scale in 1924. At the beginning the response was not satisfactory. The unit of enumeration was also different in different countries. When useful information was found then decided to have Agriculture Census after every ten years. Agriculture is an art of raising plant life from the soil for the use of mankind. Agriculture and human civilization are co-related to each other. Agriculture is the back-bone of the human civilization. The real development of human being has rooted in the Agriculture. Due to Agriculture man has settled at one place. Agriculture is one of the oldest and prime activities of the human being. It has remained an important source of the land. Fifty percent working population still involved in agriculture.

The present exposition has an attempt to study the Sangli District for the better planning and development of Agriculture, Agriculture land use is an important indicator of an appropriate use of misuse of land. To denote the intensity and status farming in an area the analysis of general land use Agriculture regionalization and cropping pattern helps proper way. Here undertaken the study of changing pattern of Agriculture land use in Sangli district. It related to geographical analysis and an empirical micro study of Agriculture land use and changing pattern of it. From Agriculture point of view any researcher has not be studied in depth. This region remains still untouched of land use planning and development. The overall review of literature on the aspects of land use and changing pattern of Agriculture land use cropping pattern reveals that there is no empirical study has been done based on secondary data related to Sangli District. Geographically, Sangli District has unique features to study just as the wide range of variable like change in Agricultural land use. Sangli District has selected as a base study. The researcher has been working in agricultural field, he has an Agriculture background since long he has involved in this study. His working experience will help him to know the changing patterns of Agriculture land use in the study region.

Study Region:-

Agriculture is one of the oldest and important activities of the human being it has carried under the control of natural environment agriculture is an important source of food in spite of growing industrialization and urbanization in the world agriculture sector has been a major
sources of employed and income in developing countries. Agriculture is a backbone of Indian economy in India new about 64% of the total population and 90% of rural population has engaged in agriculture. In spite of technological development, environmental factors play key role in the development of agriculture in the region. Socio – economic factors also support for the growth of agriculture. This is necessary to focus on the physical and socio – economic factors of the study region to understand the agricultural scenario of the region.

**Brief History of the District:**

The district derives its name from its headquarters town Sangli, which was worth while princely state, and now forms a part of the district. The district forms a part of Deccan plateau. Sangli district was formed in 1949 by the transfer of Tasgaon, Khanapur (Vita), Walwa and Shirala Tahsils from old Satara district. Two more talukas of Miraj and Jath have formed out of the parts of erstwhile Indian states and merged in the new district. After this merger it has named as South Satara district. In 1991 the state has 30 districts in 2010 the State has 35 districts spread over 6 divisions. The district Sangli comes under Pune division. The following statement indicates the changes which occurred after 1981 in the number of villages, towns in each tahsil and also the reasons for variation in brief. For administrative purpose the district has divided into
subdivisions of Walwa, Miraj and ten tahsils. The district collector along with the District Judge,
superintendent of Police, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad and other senior officer’s of
the state Government look after the development and regulatory functions in the district. At the
tahsil level the Tahsildar, Block Development Officer, Judicial Magistrate Deputy Engineers and
other officers look after their respective departments for development and regulatory functions.

LOCATION, SIZE, RELIEF DRAINAGE AND CROPPING PATTERN

Sangli district is one of the southern districts of Maharashtra and is a part of famous
Deccan plateau, district Sangli. It lies between 16°45’ to 17°33’ North latitude and 73°42’ to
75°40’ East longitude. It is surrounded by Satara and Solapur districts to the north, Karnataka
state Bijapur in the east and Belgaum in the South, Kolhapur district to the South – West and it
also has a small boundary with Ratnagiri district in the West. The area of the district is 8,572 km²
and it has a population of 2820575 as per the 2011 census. The density of population is 329
persons per km² which is slightly higher to compared 257 persons per km² for the state as a
whole. It ranks 21st in terms of area and 15th in terms of population among the 35 districts of the
state Sangli is one of the better developed, urbanized and industrialized district in the state.

The headquarters of the district is at Sangli, a city with a population of 226510. It is well
connected by road as well as by rail. Broadly the physiography of the district may be grouped
into 3 parts i.e.

1) The Sahyadri hill: The Sahyadri hill and the spur of Mahadev range which are situated in
the extreme western part of the district. These hills have a height of between 700 to 1,100
metres and are densely covered by forests.

2) The Plateau : These are situated in the eastern part of the district and to make the water
divided between Krishna and Bhima basins. These are mainly the Khanapur plateau and
the Jath plateau. The plateau, in general have a height of between 600 and 800 metres and
have small patches of forests.

3) The Basins : The two main basins are the Krishna and main ( a tributoary of river Bhima)
which are relatively low lying. They have a height of between 500 to 600 meters. The
Krishna basin has well developed urbanized and industrialized part of the district.
CLIMATE

The average annual rainfall in the district is 692.4 mm. In general, the rainfall decreases from west to east. The western part of the district gets over 2,000 mm of rain, while in the eastern part the rainfall is only about 500mm. The rainfall at individual stations show considerable variation from year to year. Most of the annual rainfall received during the south west monsoon season although a considerable amount (about 20 percent) has received in the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season. Some rainfall in the form of thunder showers occurs in May. In the western parts the climate is cool and healthy in the hot season but gets chilly during the rainy season.

SOIL AND CROPPING PATTERN

Geologically, the entire district has comprised of Deccan Trap with inter – trapping beds. The traps are more or less uniform in composition corresponding to dolerite or basalt and are dark grey or greenish grey in color. The Deccan lava flows are usually found in the form of horizontally bedded sheets. At places a gentle dip of about 5 degrees to the west in noticed. The soils of the district are essentially derived from the underlying basalt and under different climatic conditions show variations in texture and structure. They vary from deep black soils in the river valleys to shallow Murom red or grey in the hilly areas. Deep black soils of the Krishna Valley occur particularly in areas having assured rainfall. They have good physical condition, clayey texture and granular to crumb structure. These are fertile soils, highly retentive of moisture and yield bumper crops. Medium deep soils occur in the areas of the district where the rainfall is low. It is reddish brown in color and clayey texture and granular to blocky structure.

LAND UTILISATION – LAND USE PATTERN

The ministry of Food and Agriculture Government of India, has recommended the state Governments the standard pattern of land use classification for the maintenance of records.

Forest

This includes all land classified as forest under any legal enactment dealing with forests or administered as forests, whether. State – owned or private and whether wooded or
simply maintained as forest land. Within the forest area itself there may by occasionally cultivated patches or grazing lands, but such areas have shown under column 14 as forests. The process of regularization of land grants and effecting relevant changes in the basic records of survey and settlement are somewhat protracted and time consuming. Therefore the information has based on records is in some cases at least, likely to be different when compared with the actual field situation.

**Irrigated and Unirrigated Land :-**

The irrigated area in the district has distributed into 567 villages out of 723 inhabited villages accounting for 90.87 percent. In 55 villages, irrigation is done by well only. The area is irrigated by ‘river’ and ‘well’ with electricity account for 38.08 percent and 50.16 percent respectively. The other sources wise well (7.48%) private canal (0.24%) tube well (0.02%), tank (0.04%), government canal (3.98%) are also used for irrigation.