



Geographical indications in fruit crops - A review

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ABSTRACT

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin. Names of the fruit crops registered under GI include Nanjanagud Banana, Coorg Orange, Devanahalli Pomello, Appemidi Mango, Kamalapur Red Banana and Bangalore blue grapes in Karnataka, Laxman Bhog Mango, Khirsapati (Himsagar) Mango and Fazli Mango in West Bengal, Virupakshi Hill Banana and Sirumalai Hill Banana in Tamil Nadu, Mango Malihabadi Dusseheri and Allahabad Surkha in Uttar Pradesh, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry and Nashik Grapes in Maharashtra, Vazhakulam Pineapple in Kerala and Gir Kesar Mango in Gujarat state.

Keywords : Geographical indication, Trade mark

Introduction:-

A large variety of fruits grown in India, of which mango, banana, citrus, guava, grape, pineapple, and apple are the major ones. Apart from these, fruits like papaya, sapota, annona, phalsa, jackfruit, ber, pomegranate in tropical and subtropical areas and peach, pear, almond, apricot and strawberry in the temperate region are also grown in a sizeable area. In India many varieties of different fruit crops growing under specific climate and in a specific zone of climate. This specific type of climate responsible for the acquiring some unique characteristics to that particular variety of fruit crop. Some examples of varieties of fruit crops which are grown under specific climate includes Alphonso variety of mango in konkan region, Kesar variety of mango in Gujarat, Banginpalli variety of mango in Vishakhapatnam region of Andhra Pradesh, Shahi variety of litchi in Bihar, Nagpur mandarin of citrus in Nagpur region of Maharashtra, Kinnow variety of citrus in Punjab, Khasi mandarin in khasi hills, etc.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin. The use of a GI may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, or enjoys a certain reputation, essentially attributable to their geographical origin. It is mainly used to identify the agricultural, handicraft, manufacturing goods from the particular territory which has built up a good will in the market due to the special characteristics like temperature, humidity, soil etc. linked with the territory that are unique. The geographical indication is generally possessed by a community which belongs to that particular location. A Geographical Indications Registry with all India jurisdictions operates, as per the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999. A total of 193 products were registered under GI tag up to March 31st 2013.

Benefit of registration of geographical indications

- ✓ Prevents unauthorized use of a registered geographical indication by others.
- ✓ It offers legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports.
- ✓ It advances economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

Term of registration and location

The registration of a geographical indication is for a 10-year period, and is renewable, indefinitely. The Indian GI Office is currently situated in Chennai

GIs that cannot be registered in India

1. Things which are determined to be generic names or indications of goods.
2. Things which contain any matter probably to hurt the religious susceptibilities of any class or section of the citizens of India
3. Things which would otherwise be disentitled to protection in a court
4. The use of which would be likely to cause confusion
5. The use of which would be contrary to any law for the time being in force
6. Things which contain obscene matter

Difference between GI and trade mark

Trade mark	GI
A trade mark is a sign which is used in the course of trade and it differentiates goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises	A geographical indication is an indication used to describe goods having special characteristics developing from a definite geographical territory.

Fruit crops registered under GI tag in India

S.No	Fruit	State
1	Nanjanagud Banana	Karnataka
2	Coorg Orange	Karnataka
3	Devanahalli Pomello	Karnataka
4	Appemidi Mango	Karnataka
5	Kamalapur Red Banana	Karnataka
6	Laxman Bhog Mango	West Bengal
7	Khirsapati (Himsagar) Mango	West Bengal
8	Fazli Mango	West Bengal
9	Virupakshi Hill Banana	Tamil Nadu
10	Sirumalai Hill Banana	Tamil Nadu
11	Mango Malihabadi Dusseheri	Uttar Pradesh

12	Allahabad Surkha	Uttar Pradesh
13	Vazhakulam Pineapple	Kerala
14	Mahabaleshwar Strawberry	Maharashtra
15	Nashik Grapes	Maharashtra
16	Gir Kesar Mango	Gujarat
17	Banglore blue grapes	Karnataka

Conclusion

Geographical Indications is a rising field of Intellectual property. India is endowed with diverse agroclimatic conditions, which have encouraged the growing of a large number of fruit crops. Most of the fruit crops growing in India had special characters which are distinct from the fruits growing in other countries. These special characters facilitates the registration of fruit crops under GI but the number of registered crops under GI was very low in number than the crops actually eligible for registration. So, there is an urgent need to aware about the community/farmers about the importance of GI.

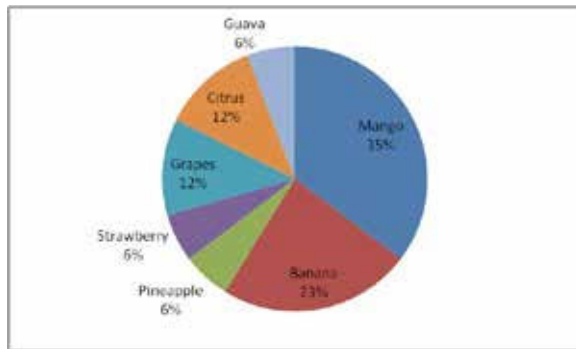


Fig - 1 Crop wise distribution of registered GIs (Source: GI Registry Office, Chennai; as on March, 2013)

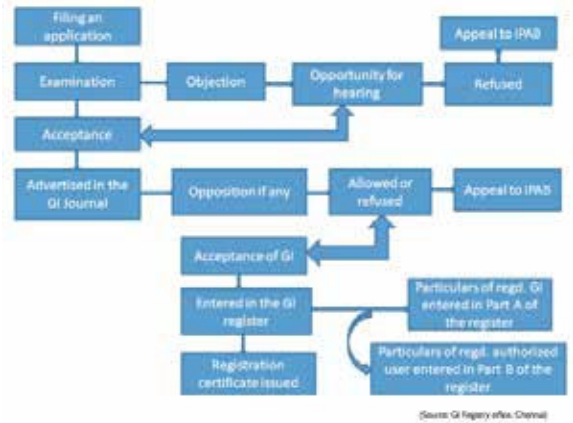


Fig-2 GI registration process in India

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