

## G.I. Certification of Fruit Crops in India

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### Abstract

Geographical Indication (GI) is one of the most significant pieces of legislation in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) that uses a G.I. tag to protect a product's distinctive geographical origin. The Indian climate is ideal for the cultivation of many fruit crops, making India the world's second-largest producer of fruits. Fruit crops registered under GI include Nanjanagud banana, Coorg orange, Devanahalli pumello, Appemidi mango, Kamalapur Red banana and Bangalore blue grapes in Karnataka; Laxmanbhog mango, Khirsapati (Himsagar) mango and Fazli mango in West Bengal; Virupakshi Hill banana and Sirumalai Hill banana in Tamil Nadu; Malihabadi Dusseheri mango and Allahabad Surkha guava in Uttar Pradesh; Mahabaleshwar Strawberry and Nashik Grapes in Maharashtra; Vazhakulam pineapple in Kerala and Gir Kesar mango in Gujarat state and many more are recognised in India for their particular flavour and aroma, which derives from their distinctive producing region. In India, a total of 417 goods were registered with GI, with 129 of them being agricultural products. There are twelve GI-recognised mango varieties and some in other fruit crops. Because of their local and worldwide demand, GI-certified products offer the potential for rural development. This article focuses on the varieties of fruit crops with Geographical Indication certification in India and the qualities and distinctiveness of each recognised variety.

**Keywords:** Geographical indication, fruit crops, varieties, India

### Introduction:

A geographical indication (GI) is a legal term for traditional and natural goods with a specific geographical origin and certain

exceptional features, such as exotic traits, originality, or a reputation owing to geographical origin. GI is a significant Intellectual Property Rights regulation that

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protects a product's belongingness to a certain geographical origin. GI gives legal protection for a product having a certain origin, protecting both the manufacturer and the consumer from fraudulent and misleading information. For agricultural items, GI assists producers and growers in increasing the value of their products and obtaining remunerative rates based on their uniqueness in comparison to other products from other sources. The initial length of protection for a product through GI is ten years, and it can be renewed at any time. It is especially important for fruit crops because they are grown in a wide range of climates of the country. Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property covered GI as an aspect of Intellectual Property Rights. The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Convention on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights governs GI on a worldwide basis. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India adopted the GI of Goods (Registration and Protection Act, 1999) which went into force on September 15, 2003.

To operate as a GI, a sign must identify the goods coming from a certain region as well as the product's attributes, features, or reputation being mostly related to the location of origin. Because the geographical site of production determines the product's distinctive qualities, there is a clear relationship between

the product and its place of origin (WIPO). "Goods" comprise agricultural, natural, and manufactured products, as well as handicraft and industrial commodities, according to Section 2 (f) of the GIG Act 1999.

India boasts a diverse range of horticultural crops including fruits. Fruit production is an important part of our economy. It contributes to the increased food supply, employment creation, and foreign exchange earnings. Different types of fruit crops are grown in India under diverse agro-climatic conditions. Mango, banana, citrus, guava, grape, papaya, pineapple and apple are the major fruit crops cultivated commercially in different climatic conditions of India. Apart from these, sapota, annona, jackfruit, ber, pomegranate, phalsa, etc. are produced in tropical and subtropical places, whereas peach, pear, almond, apricot and strawberry are grown in temperate areas. The distinct sort of environment is responsible for a variety of fruit crops obtaining certain acceptable unique traits which leads to wide scope in world markets. Alphonso variety of mango in Konkan region, Kesar variety of mango in Gujarat, Banganapalli 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. are

some examples of fruit crop varieties that are grown under specific climate. So, it is necessary to study the fruit cultivars that have already gained popularity in their native country and have been recognised under the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 with specific geographical designations.

### Benefits of G.I in fruit crops

- G.I. protects registered fruit growers and authorized persons from unauthorised use.
- G.I. of fruits fetches premium prices, increasing producers' profits, promoting economic prosperity, and expanding activities.
- G.I. promotes fruit brand building.
- Fruit enthusiasts benefit from G.I. certification for consistency and quality.
- G.I. certification boosts fruit exports, ensures market security and prevents fraud.

- GI identifies the precise area and the actual producers.

### Present scenario of GI-tagged fruit varieties in India

It has been found that a particular variety of a fruit crop may be native to a particular location or state and performs well with respect of different traits. However, its performance may not be well in other areas or states having different agro-climatic conditions. It means the performance of that variety is location-specific. Based on that few varieties of different fruit crops like mango, citrus, banana, guava, grape, pineapple, litchi, pomegranate, strawberry, custard apple, fig and sapota have got GI in India.

The list of GI-tagged fruits with specific areas and states, application numbers and specific features are listed in the following table:-

Table 1. G.I. tagged fruit varieties from different geographical regions of India with their uniqueness					
Sl.No.	G.I. Tagged	Specific G.I. Area	State	Appl. No.	Features of Variety
<b>Mango</b>					
1.	Alphanso	The Konkan region comprising Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts	Maharashtra	139	Orange-yellow color, firm, melting, soft texture, good acid-sweet blend, pleasant flavor.
2.	Appimidi	Shimoga, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Hassan, Chikmagalur and Udupi regions	Karnataka	132	Pickling mango variety with fragile, low-fiber fruits, sour taste, and strong latex aroma.
3.	Fazli	Malda	West Bengal	113	Sweet, firm flesh with a pleasant flavor.

4.	Gir Kesar	Junagadh (Around Gir Forest)	Gujarat	185	Thrives in ideal climatic and soil conditions, natural organoleptic characteristics like taste, aroma, pulp color, and mouth feel when combine with improved agro techniques.
5.	Rataul	Baghpat	Uttar Pradesh	206	The yellow mango variety, sweet, fibreless, and is called mini powerhouse.
6.	Banganapalle	Banganapalli (Kurnool)	Andhra Pradesh	241	Fruits are unique in size, shape, color, taste, and flavour. Fruit has a golden yellow color with prominent lenticels. Fruit is firm, sweet and pleasant in taste.
7.	Zardalu	Bhagalpur and surroundings of Banka and Munger district	Bihar	551	Fruit quality is exceptional, with firm, soft flesh, pleasant taste, moderately abundant juice, and good bearing.
8.	LaxmanBhog	Malda	West Bengal	111	Attractive fruit skin color, pulp firm, non-fibre, excellent flavor.
9.	Malihabadi Dussehari	Lucknow (Malihabad, Mal, Kakori and Bakshi ka Talab along the banks of Gomti river	Uttar Pradesh	125	Pleasant aroma, sweet, low in fiber with good keeping quality.
10.	Marathawada Kesar	Marathwada Division (Aurangabad, Nanded, Parbhani, Latur, Beed, Hingoli, Jalna and Osmanabad)	Maharashtra	499	High TSS, similar color and taste to saffron, and yields 3-4 times higher than Alphonso mango.
11.	Himsagar (Khirsapati)	Malda	West Bengal	112	Appealing fruit skin color, pleasant taste, sweet, fewer fibers and good keeping quality.
12.	Kuttiattoor (Kuttiattoor manga)	Kuttiattoor, Kannur	Kerala	660	Orange-yellow color, excellent taste, and lack of speckles or patches make it more appealing in the market.

Citrus					
1.	Coorg Orange	Kodagu, Hassan	Karnataka	33	<i>sweet taste, greenish color and tight skin</i>
2.	Devanahalli Pomello	Devanahalli taluk	Karnataka	131	Sweet taste and good flavour
3.	Nagpur Orange	Katol, Nagpur	Maharashtra	385	Fruiting twice in a year, unique sweet-sour flavour,
4.	Arunachal Orange	Wakro, Roing, Dambuk, Mebo etc.	Arunachal Pradesh	375	Loose skin, high amount of juice and unique taste.
5.	Khasi Mandarin	Khasi Hills	Meghalaya	465	Sweet, smooth skin, high nutritive value.
6.	Kachai Lemon	Kachai, Hoomi, Phungthar, Tora, Maichon	Manipur	466	juice 36-56 ml/fruit, high ascorbic acid, unique flavour and taste
7.	MemongNarang (Indian wild orange- <i>Citrus indica</i> )	West Garo Hills	Meghalaya	437	Unique taste, colour and pleasant flavour
8.	Jalna Sweet Orange	Jalna, Ghansavang, Badnapur, Bhokardan and Jafrabad	Maharashtra	375	The strong correlation between TSS and acidity
9.	Assam lemon (Kaji Nemu)	Tinsukia district	Assam	609	Fruiting throughout the year with unique flavour, it does not fall down from the tree for an extended period.
Banana					
1.	Nanjanagud Banana	Mysore, Chamarajanagar	Karnataka	35	Unique taste and aroma
2.	Virupakshi Hill Banana	Lower Palani Hills, Sirumalai and Kolli Hills	Tamil Nadu	124	distinctive curvature, pleasant aroma
3.	Sirumalai Hill Banana	Lower Palani hills, Sirumalai	Tamil Nadu	126	Fruit does not get spoiled even if overripe. High medicinal value and good aroma
4.	Kamalapur Red Banana	Kamalapur, Kalaburagi district	Karnataka	133	High calorific value with Vitamin C and B6, red skin colour

5.	Chengalikodan Nendran Banana	Thrissur	Kerala	479	unique taste, bunch shape and fruit colour.
6.	Jalgaon Banana	Jalgaon	Maharashtra	498	Fibre and mineral-rich
<b>Guava</b>					
1.	Allahabad Surkha	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	50	Sweet and strong flavour, rich in pectin, vitamins C and A, folic acid
<b>Grapes</b>					
1.	Nashik Grape	Nashik	Maharashtra	165	Pleasant aroma and flavour
2.	Bangalore Blue Grapes	Chickballapur and Kolar districts	Karnataka	211	Foxy flavour
<b>Pineapple</b>					
1.	Vazhakulam Pineapple	Vazhakulam	Kerala		Sweetest pineapple in India with lovely aroma and high vitamin content
2.	Tripura Queen Pineapple	Kamalpur, Bagaichari, Udaipur, Sabroom	Tripura	436	Pleasant aroma, succulent taste and light in weight
<b>Litchi</b>					
1.	Tezpur Litchi	Tezpur	Assam	438	The excellent quality juicy, red colour and pleasant aroma
2.	Shahi Litchi	Muzaffarpur, Vaisali, Samastipur and Begusarai	Bihar	552	Assurance of quality and distinctiveness
<b>Pomegranate</b>					
1.	Solapur Pomegranate	Solapur	Maharashtra	502	Soft, bold and juicy arils. high TSS, sweetness and flavour.
<b>Strawberry</b>					
1.	Mahabaleshwar Strawberry	<i>Hilly Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani belt</i>	Maharashtra	154	Extremely juicy and pulpy
<b>Custard apple</b>					
1.	Beed Custard Apple	Balaghat, Beed	Maharashtra	494	Sweet with high TSS content

Cashew					
1.	Vengurla Cashew	Sindhudurg District	Maharashtra	489	Rich in nutritional value, unsaturated fatty acid and vitamin C
Fig					
1.	Purandar Fig	Purandar	Maharashtra	500	Unique flavour and texture
Sapota					
1.	Dahanu Gholvad Chikoo	Gholvad	Maharashtra	493	Sweet and unique taste, <b>It is grown in</b> calcium rich soil of Gholvad village

### Conclusion

Geographical Indications is a new intellectual property sector. India has different agroclimatic conditions, which have promoted the cultivation of a wide range of fruit crops. The majority of the fruit crops grown in India have particular characteristics that distinguish them from fruits grown in other nations. These specific characteristics make it easier to register fruit crops under GI, although the number of registered crops under GI is far less than the number of crops that are genuinely eligible for registration. As a result, there is an urgent need to educate the community/farmers on the necessity of GI.

