

Geographical indications (GI) registration in India: Present status and future prospects

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A geographical indication (GI) is assigned to product/commodity which have originated from specific geographical location and quality and/or reputation of the product/commodity is solely due to its place of origin. GI aims to preserve the quality, reputation and other characteristics of such goods which are mainly attributed to its geographical origin. The geographical domain can be a territory of a country or a region or locality within the territory. For example, Basmati rice grown in North Indian states such as Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir has a specific aroma, which we do not get when same Basmati rice variety is grown in other parts of India. Hence, Basmati grown in these North Indian states have been awarded GI tag. GI indicates the origin as well as quality of the product for which consumer is willing to pay premium price which in turn leads to growth of regional economy. There is no originality or discovery involved in GI and depends on traditional knowledge for product development or on the talent of craftsmen and such GI can be used by all those who produce that product in that given area. Geographical indications are a part of Intellectual property rights (IPRs) covered under Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; and Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

Key words: Agricultural commodities, Geographical indications, Handicrafts, India, Registration

GEOGRAPHICAL indications are the legal protection against a commodity originating from a particular location, where a given quality, reputation and other characteristics of such goods are mainly attributed to its geographical origin. The GI tag given to the products helps producers and traders to differentiate their products from other competing products in the market and empowers them to build an impeccable reputation about their products, which in turn fetches a premium price. Till March 2019, a total of 343 commodities have been registered under the GI registry of India. Out of which 329 are of Indian origin and 14 commodities are from

other countries. The GI tags awarded to different products under four main categories of which, handicrafts constituted the major chunk of GI registrations (61%) followed by agricultural commodities (31%) whereas food stuff and manufactured goods constituted only 4% each respectively. Karnataka state tops the list of GI registrations followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, whereas Jharkhand, Lakshadweep islands, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are yet to register any geographical indications. Currently, a limited number of commodities have been registered under GI and many more products belonging to different states have the

potential to get the GI tag. There is an urgent need to provide awareness about the potential products with regard to process of registration and importance of GI.

India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from 15 September 2003. GI act was enacted to register and protect goods relating to geographical indications. It was enacted by parliament in the fiftieth year of republic of India. GI registrations in India are being carried out by the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks

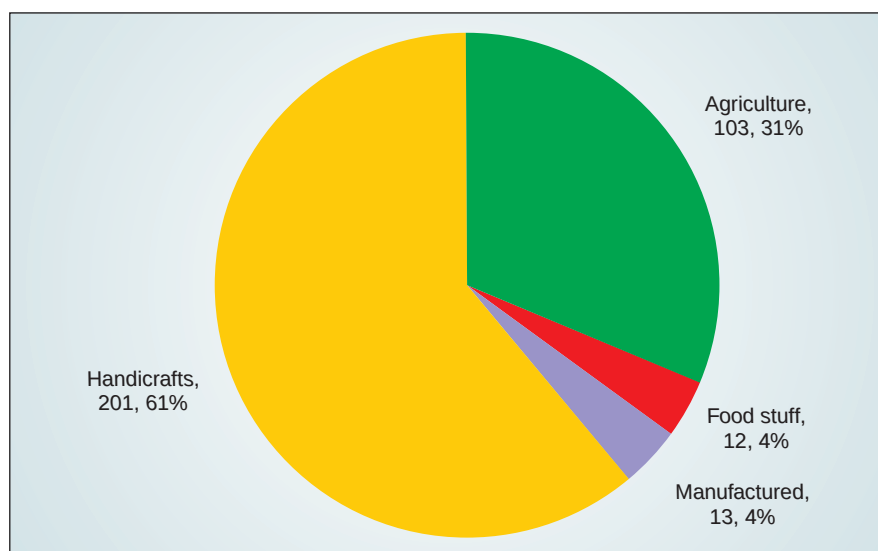
(CGPDT), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The CGPDT directs and supervises the functioning of the Geographical Indications Registry and any queries or complaints against GI registration can be made at Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) at Chennai, India. The GI registration is valid for a period of ten years and the same can be renewed further periods of 10 years each thereafter.

GI registration in India has many benefits which include, legal protection in India, prevents unauthorized use of a registered GI by others. It helps to increase Indian GI exports, it promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory and it also enables seeking legal protection in other member countries of WTO. GI registrations started in India from April 2004 and commodities are registered under four categories i.e. 1. Agricultural, 2. Foodstuff, 3. Handicrafts and 4. Manufactured goods. Darjeeling Tea was the first commodity to be awarded GI tag in India under Agricultural goods.

Status of Geographical Indications in India

Until March 2019, totally 343 commodities have been awarded GI tags (list released by the registrar of geographical indications, Chennai, <http://www.ipindia.nic.in/registered-gis.htm>), out of which 329 are of Indian origin and 14 commodities are from other countries and are listed in Table 1. Out of 329 there were 11 commodities with GI tags shared by multiple states and such commodities are listed in Table 2. Graphical representation of 'GI tags' awarded to different products under four main categories. Handicrafts constitute major chunk of GI registrations (61%) followed by Agricultural commodities (31%) whereas food stuff and manufactured goods constitute only 4% each respectively.

Among 103 agricultural commodities (Table 3), fruits (40) topped the list, followed by spices and condiments (21), cereals (17),



GI tags awarded to different products under four main categories

Table 1. Commodities of foreign origin registered with Geographical indications in India

Category	Commodity	Country
Food Stuff	Prosciutto di Parma	Italy
	Asiago	Italy
Manufactured	Champagne	France
	Cognac	France
	Parmigiano Reggiano	Italy
	Prosecco	Italy
	Grana Padano	Italy
	Tequila	Mexico
	Peruvian Pisco	Peru
	Porto	Portugal
	Douro	Portugal
	Scotch Whisky	United Kingdom
	Napa Valley	United States of America
Handicrafts	Lamphun Brocade Thai Silk	Thailand

beverages (11), flowers (5), processed products (4), vegetables (2), pulses (2) and forest products (1) and none of the oilseed crop is registered. Out of 17 cereals, 15 are for rice and one each for wheat and jowar. The famous rice's which carry GI tag

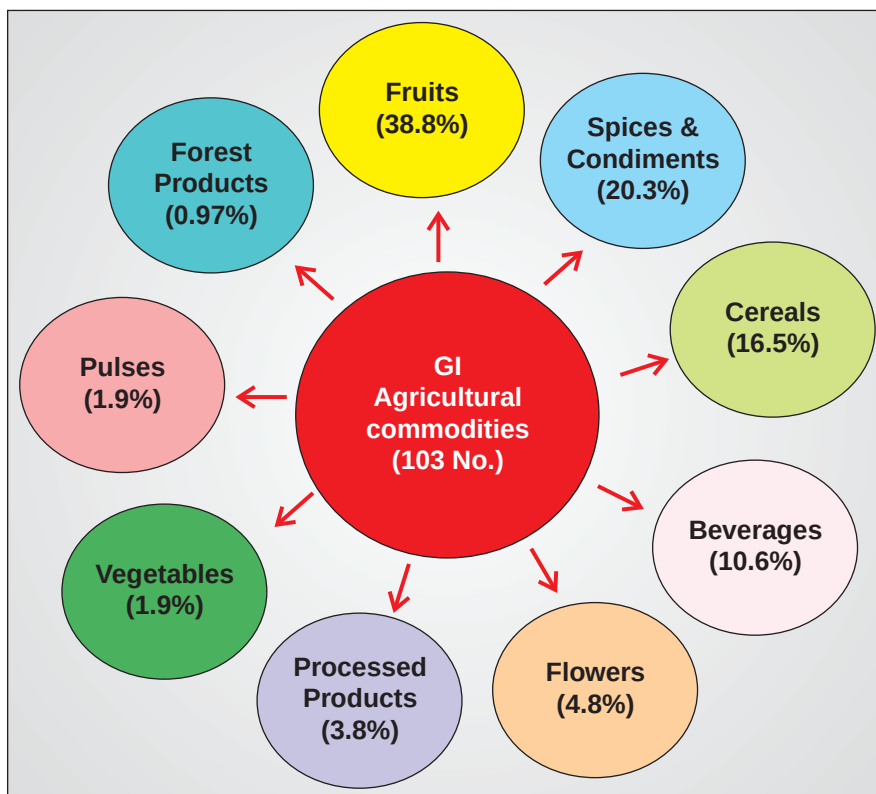
include Basmati, Navara, Joha, Pokkali, Kalanamak, Boka Chaul, Katarni, Kaipad, Palakkadan Matta, Ajara Ghansal, Ambemohar, Gobidobhog, Tulapanji, Wayanad's Gandhakasala and Jeerakasala rice. These rice varieties are from Assam,

Table 2. Commodities with GI tags shared by multiple states

Commodity	States
Agricultural products	
Araku Valley Arabica Coffee	Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee	Karnataka and Kerala
Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee	Karnataka and Kerala
Alleppey Green Cardamom	Kerala and Tamil Nadu
Malabar Pepper	Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
Nagpur Orange	Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
Basmati	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir
Banaganapalle Mangoes	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
Handicrafts	
Warli Painting	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Dadara and Nagar Haveli, Daman Diu
Kolhapuri Chappal	Karnataka and Maharashtra
Phulkari	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan

Table 3. The total agricultural commodities awarded with GI tags in India from 2004-2019

S.No. Fruit	State(s)	S.No. Cereals	State(s)
1. Gir Kesar Mango	Gujarat	1. Boka Chaul	Assam
2. Banaganapalle Mangoes	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	2. Joha Rice of Assam	Assam
3. Appemidi Mango	Karnataka	3. Katarni Rice	Bihar
4. Marathwada Kesar Mango	Maharashtra	4. Basmati	Punjab/Haryana/Himachal Pradesh/Delhi/Uttarakhand/Uttar Pradesh/Jammu & Kashmir
5. Malda Fazli Mango	West Bengal	5. Kaipad Rice	Kerala
6. Malda Khirsapati (Himsagar) Mango	West Bengal	6. Navara Rice	Kerala
7. Malda Laxman Bhog Mango	West Bengal	7. Palakkadan Matta Rice	Kerala
8. Mango Malihabadi Dusseheri	Uttar Pradesh	8. Pokkali Rice (Logo)	Kerala
9. Alphonso	Maharashtra	9. Wayanad Gandhakasala Rice	Kerala
10. Bhagalpuri Zardalu	Bihar	10. Wayanad Jeerakasala Rice	Kerala
11. Arunachal Orange	Arunachal Pradesh	11. Ajara Ghansal Rice	Maharashtra
12. Nagpur Orange	Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh	12. Ambemohar Rice	Maharashtra
13. Coorg Orange	Karnataka	13. Kalanamak Rice	Uttar Pradesh
14. Jalna Sweet Orange	Maharashtra	14. Gobindobhog Rice	West Bengal
15. Memong Narang	Meghalaya	15. Tulapanji Rice	West Bengal
16. Kamalapur Red Banana	Karnataka	16. Bhalia Wheat	Gujarat
17. Nanjanagud Banana	Karnataka	17. Mangalwedha Jowar	Maharashtra
18. Chengalikodan Nendran Banana	Kerala	Beverages	
19. Jalgaon Banana	Maharashtra	1. Assam (Orthodox)	Assam
20. Sirumalai Hill Banana	Tamil Nadu	2. Kangra Tea	Himachal Pradesh
21. Virupakshi Hill Banana	Tamil Nadu	3. Darjeeling Tea (word & logo)	West Bengal
22. Tezpur Litchi	Assam	4. Nilgiri (Orthodox)	Tamil Nadu
23. Shahi Litchi of Bihar	Bihar	5. Araku Valley Arabica Coffee	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
24. Vazhakulam Pineapple	Kerala	6. Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee	Karnataka & Kerala
25. Tripura Queen Pineapple	Tripura	7. Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee	Karnataka & Kerala
26. Bangalore Blue Grapes	Karnataka	8. Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee	Karnataka
27. Nashik Grapes	Maharashtra	9. Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee	Karnataka
28. Devanahalli Pomello	Karnataka	10. Coorg Arabica Coffee	Karnataka
29. Beed Custard Apple	Maharashtra	11. Wayanaad Robusta Coffee	Kerala
30. Dahanu Gholvad Chikoo	Maharashtra	Spices and Condiments	
31. Mahabaleshwar Strawberry	Maharashtra	1. Guntur Sannam Chilli	Andhra Pradesh
32. Purandar Fig	Maharashtra	2. Byadagi Chilli	Karnataka
33. Solapur Pomegranate	Maharashtra	3. Bhiwapur Chilli	Maharashtra
34. Vengurla Cashew	Maharashtra	4. Mizo Chilli	Mizoram
35. Kachai Lemon	Manipur	5. Naga Mircha	Nagaland
36. Khasi Mandarin	Meghalaya	6. Sangli Turmeric	Maharashtra
37. Allahabad Surkha Guava	Uttar Pradesh	7. Waigaon Turmeric	Maharashtra
38. Naga Tree Tomato	Nagaland	8. Erode Manjal (Erode Turmeric)	Tamil Nadu
39. Eathomozhy Tall Coconut	Tamil Nadu	9. Assam Karbi Anglong ginger	Assam
40. Sindhudurg & Ratnagiri Kokum	Maharashtra	10. Jeeraphool	Chhattisgarh
Flowers		11. Himachali Kala Zeera	Himachal Pradesh
1. Hadagali Malligae	Karnataka	12. Alleppey Green Cardamom	Kerala & Tamilnadu
2. Mysore Malligae	Karnataka	13. Coorg Green Cardamom	Karnataka
3. Udupi Malligae	Karnataka	14. Sikkim Large Cardamom	Sikkim
4. Madurai Malli	Tamil Nadu	15. Malabar Pepper	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu
5. Ganjam Kewda Flower	Odisha	16. Bangalore Rose Onion	Karnataka
Processed Products		17. Lasalgaon Onion	Maharashtra
1. Central Travancore Jaggery	Kerala	18. Uttarakhand Tejpat	Uttarakhand
2. Marayoor Jaggery (Marayoor Sharkara)	Kerala	19. Magahi Paan	Bihar
3. Kolhapur Jaggery	Maharashtra	20. Mysore Betel leaf	Karnataka
4. Sangli Raisins	Maharashtra	21. Sirsi Supari	Karnataka
Forest Products		Pulses	
1. Nilambur Teak	Kerala	1. Navapur Tur Dal	Maharashtra
Vegetables		2. Waghya Ghevada	Maharashtra
1. Udupi Mattu Gulla Brinjal	Karnataka		
2. Jalgaon Bharit Brinjal	Maharashtra		



Agricultural commodities registered with geographical indications in India

Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra and West Bengal. In India enormous diversity of rice is present in other states such as Chhattisgarh, Orissa, North eastern states etc., but none of the rice varieties are registered from these states. It may be due to lack of awareness about the GI in these states.

Potential commodities for GI tag

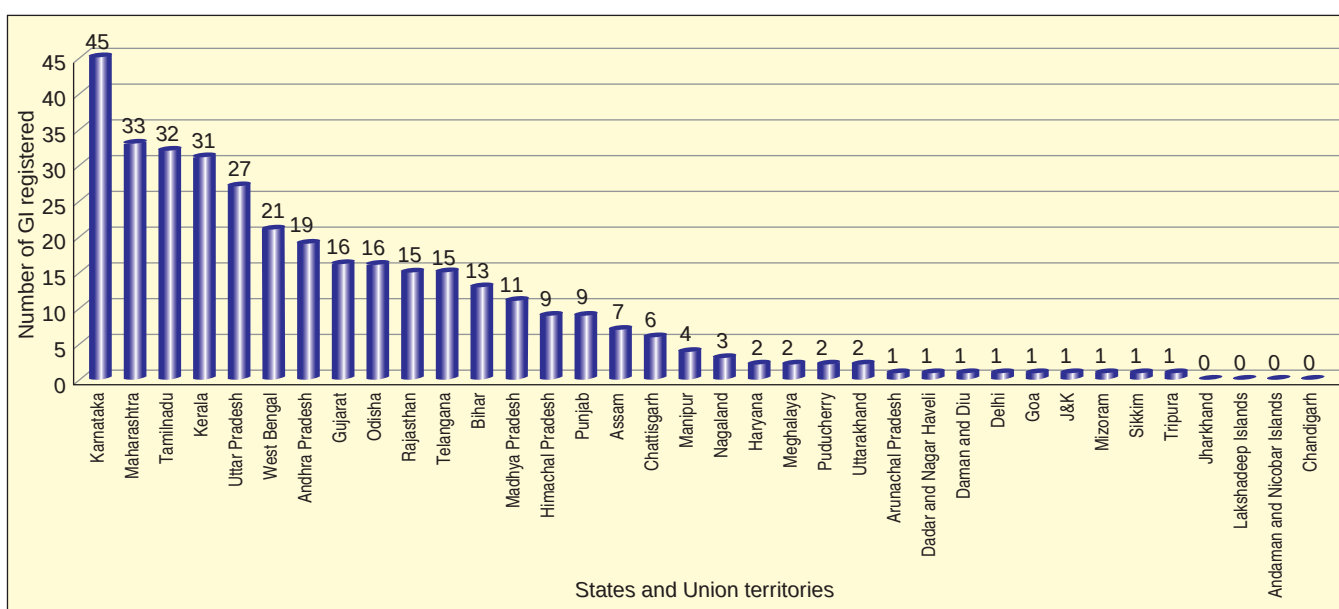
A total of 329 Indian origin commodities under different categories were registered, many other products which have potential to be registered as GI are Kakinada Khaja and Pootarekulu from Andhra Pradesh; Mysore Pak, Mysore Masala Dosa, Davanagere Benne Dosa, Maddur Vada and Bannur sheep meat from Karnataka; Hyderabad Biryani from Telangana; Ghevar from

Rajasthan; Dhokla from Gujarat; Vada Pav from Maharashtra; Saffron from Jammu and Kashmir; Muruku from Tamil Nadu; Big sized Brinjal from Assam, Bihar and West Bengal; Banana and Birds eye chilli from North eastern states; Black rice from Manipur, Red Sandalwood from southern states etc.

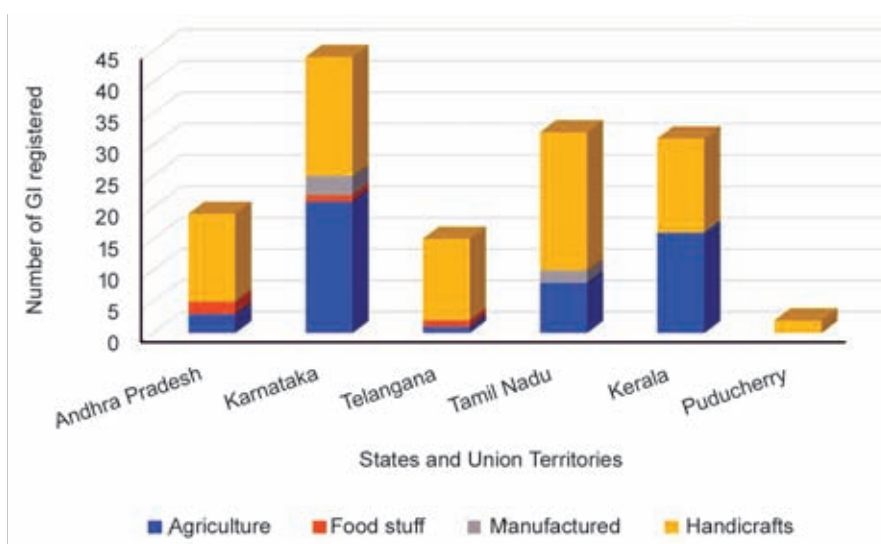
GI registrations from different states/union territories

GI registrations from different states and Union territories of India are represented in the figure. Karnataka tops the list of GI registrations followed equally by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, whereas Jharkhand, Lakshadweep islands, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are yet to register any geographical indications. Zone wise GI registrations indicate that southern zone is leading in GI registrations with 137 out of 329 GIs followed by western zone whereas central zone has least GI registrations. GI registrations from southern zone is two times that of western zone.

GI registrations from southern states under four categories, which also include GIs which are common for multiple states. Karnataka has the highest number of GI registrations for both handicrafts and agricultural products, followed by Kerala whereas Tamil Nadu has the highest number of GI registrations for handicrafts. Karnataka is the only state which has



Total GI's registered from different states and union territories from 2004-2019



GI's registered from southern states of India under different categories

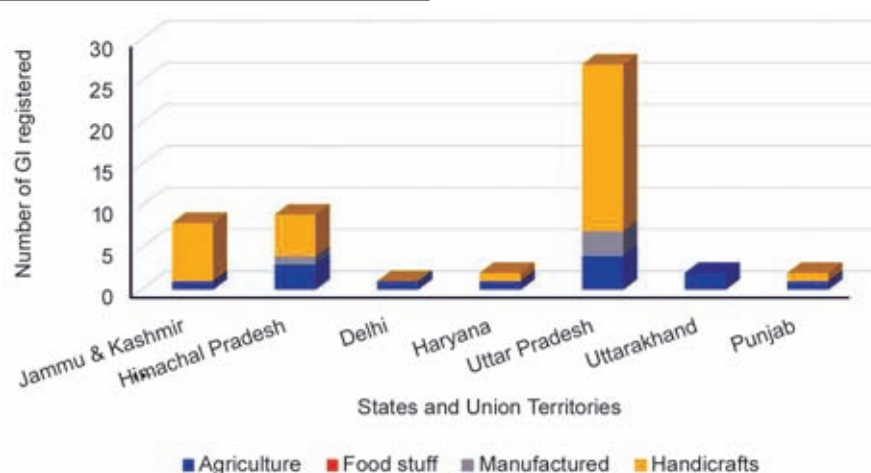
Table 4. Zone wise Geographical indicators of Indian origin registered under four different categories

Zone	Agricultural	Food	Manufactured	Handicrafts	Total
North	7	0	4	33	44
North east	14	0	0	6	20
East	11	5	1	32	49
West	27	1	3	32	63
Central	1	2	0	13	16
South	43	4	5	85	137
Total	103	12	13	201	329

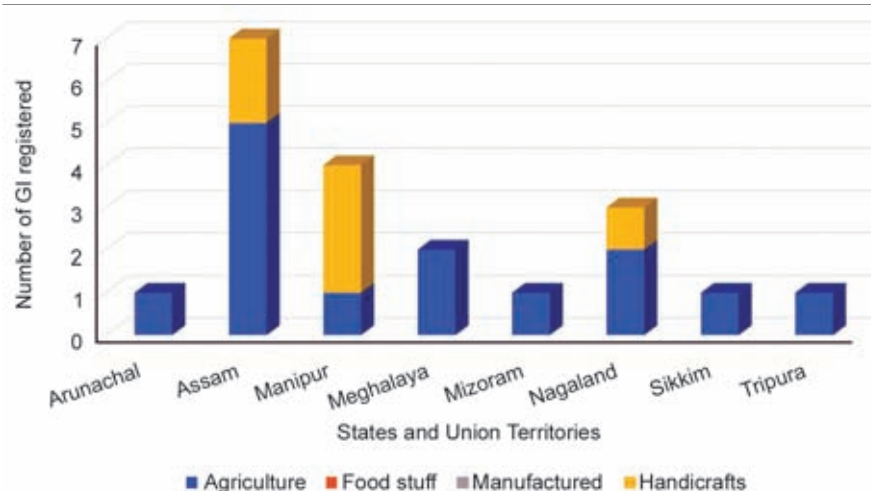
GI registrations under all 4 categories, whereas Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have GI registrations under 3 categories, Kerala under two categories whereas Puducherry has GI registration only under handicrafts.

GI registrations from Northern states under four categories is presented in figure inclusive of GIs which are common for multiple states. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of GI registrations among north Indian states, whereas, Delhi has the least. Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have registrations under three categories, whereas Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab under two categories, while Delhi under one category. GI for Basmati has been shared equally among all the northern states of India. GIs registered by North-eastern states under all four categories are presented in figure. Assam has the highest number of GI registrations under two categories, whereas Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have the least with only one registration under agricultural commodities.

GI registrations from Eastern and

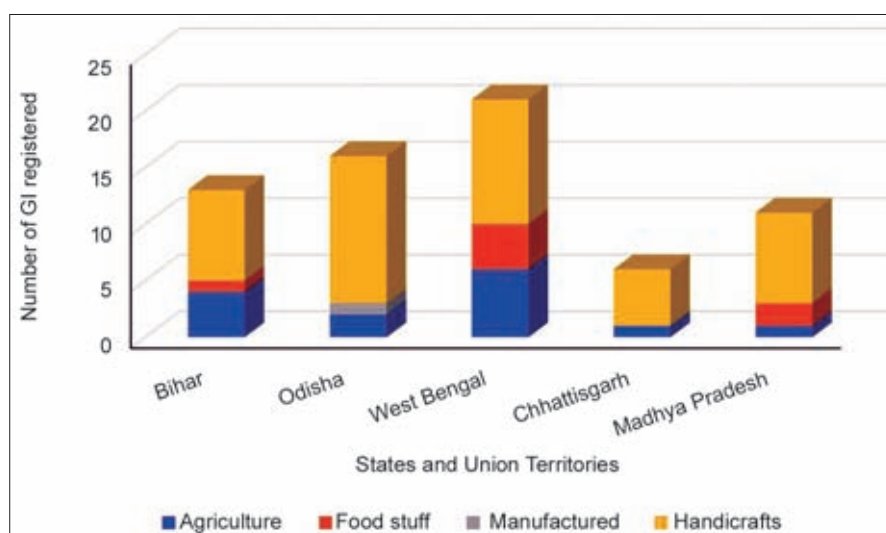


GI's registered from Northern states of India under different categories

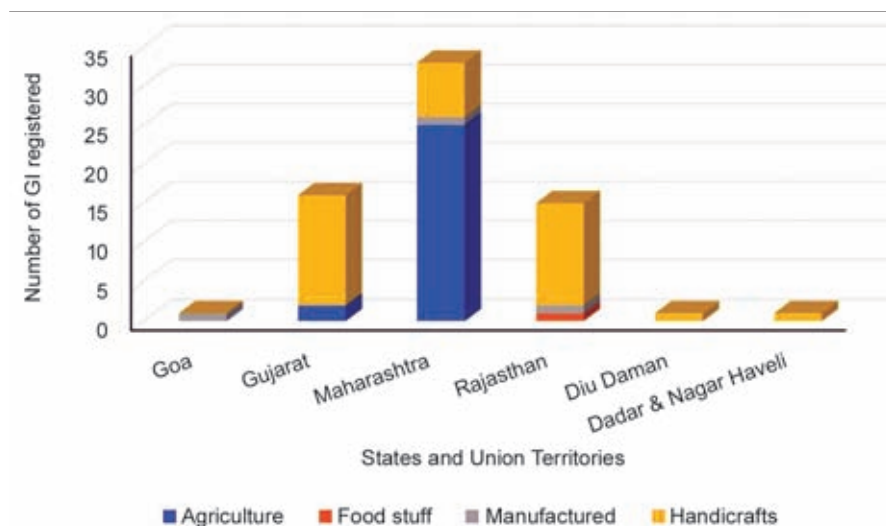


GI's registered from North-eastern states of India under different categories

Central states under four categories are presented in figure, including GIs which are common for multiple states. Among eastern states West Bengal has the highest number of GI registrations, whereas Jharkhand has no registrations. All three eastern states, i.e. Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal have GI registrations under three categories. Among the Central states Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of GI registrations under three categories, whereas Chhattisgarh has least GI registrations. GI registrations from Western states under four categories are presented in figure, including GIs which are common for multiple states. Maharashtra has the highest number of registrations with GI registrations under three categories whereas Goa, Diu and Daman and Dadar and Nagar Haveli have only one registration. Maharashtra has highest GIs under Agricultural commodities, whereas Gujarat has highest GIs under Handicrafts. GIs of



GI's registered from Eastern and Central Indian states under different categories



GI's registered from Western states of India under different categories

Diu and Daman and Dadar and Nagar Haveli are common GIs shared by Maharashtra also.

Karnataka has been leading all other states in terms of GI registrations followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Northeastern states, Andaman and

Nicobar Islands though endowed with rich agro-biodiversity and a wealth of traditional knowledge with ethnic communities are lagging behind in terms of GI registrations. Very low GI registrations in such states could be due to lack of awareness about GIs and its benefits;

people involved in production of such goods may not be able to mobilize as an association for registration and time and process involved in GI registration.

SUMMARY

Geographical indications are the legal protection for goods which have enormous significance. India is bestowed with rich heritage of culture and traditions, that are flourishing here for past several centuries. In addition to this it has enormous biodiversity and has diverse agroclimatic conditions, which lead to many geographic specific IPR products in agriculture and other sectors. The GI registration has high significance in the country like India as it has been proven in the case of Basmati rice, where foreign exports earning is about ₹ 38,443 crore. Presently a limited number of commodities have been registered under GI and many more products belonging to different states have potential to be registered. The awareness about potential products with regard to process of registration and its social and economic benefit and significance among producers and traders have to be increased to get GI tag.

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Capacity building

ICAR institutes (25) organized 48 awareness generation programs/ interface/ product-specific meets/ workshops/ seminars, wherein 3,495 scientists/ researchers/ business professionals/ farmers/ social workers benefited. These *inter-alia* included:

Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs): Beekeeping; coconut value addition; custom hiring of agricultural machinery as an enterprise; cassava-based agro-enterprises; milky mushroom cultivation; and utilizing village incubation centre etc.

Agri-business incubation (ABI): This initiative addresses the much-needed requirements of business incubation for converting agriculture technologies into an attractive commercial proposition. Accordingly, 25 ABI centers were supported/ established in various institutes. These ABIs undertaken different activities to facilitate the business environment in the ICAR institutes, which include, Entrepreneurs/Incubators admitted for incubation (377); Entrepreneurs/Incubators graduated (203); Entrepreneur/ Startups Initiated their business (161); New products/ technologies developed under incubation (78); Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDPs) organized (80); Agri-business Development/Awareness Programmes Organized (293), Meeting Organized for Negotiations/Technology Discussions (354). These ABI Centers were visited by 2,556 Technology Seekers/Inventors/Business People/VIP/VVIP/ Foreigners.