

Unveiling the Latest GI Tagged Vegetables: India's Agricultural Evolution

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SUMMARY

As India continues to embrace sustainable farming practices and promote its agricultural treasures, the importance of GI tagged vegetables cannot be overstated. Moving forward, it is imperative for stakeholders to work collaboratively to address challenges such as enforcement issues and awareness gaps, while expanding the GI tagging system to encompass a wider range of agricultural products. By doing so, India can further elevate its position as a global leader in agricultural diversity, innovation, and quality assurance, ensuring a prosperous future for both farmers and consumers alike. Several examples of GI tagged vegetables are provided, showcasing the diversity and richness of India's agricultural heritage. From the aromatic Malabar pepper of Kerala to the vibrant Nagaland Tree Tomato, each GI tagged vegetable represents a unique story of tradition, culture, and agricultural expertise.

INTRODUCTION

In India, the concept of Geographical Indication (GI) tags has gained significant attention, particularly in the agricultural sector. GI tags serve as a certification that a product possesses qualities, reputation, or characteristics unique to a specific geographical location. Geographical Indications of Goods are defined as the aspect of industrial property that refers to a geographical indicator relating to a country or a location within that country as the product's country or place of origin. Typically, such a name offers a sense of quality and individuality that is mostly due to its origin in that specific geographical location, region, or country. Geographic indicators are protected as an element of intellectual property rights under Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. They are also covered by Articles 22–24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which was part of the Agreements ending the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

The Registration of a Geographical Indication is for a period of ten Years. Renewal is possible for further periods of 10 years each. If a Registered geographical indication is not renewed, it is liable to be removed from the register

Latest GI Tagged vegetables in India

Nagaland Naga Cucumber:

It has got GI tag in 2021, Naga cucumbers are known for their sweetness and distinctive green colour. Cucumbers from Naga are juicy, soft, and sweet. They are grown entirely in an organic manner. They are low in calories but high in potassium and contain a lot of water, so they can be used instead of sports drinks.



Ramnathapuram Mundu Chilli:

Received GI tag in 2023, Length of 2 to 4 cm dark reddish shiny and thick skin fruits. It has SHU between 30,000 – 50,000 SHU

Vellore Spiny Brinjal:

Vellore Spiny Brinjal, known as Elavambadi Mullu Kathirikai in Tamil, Received GI tag in 2023. It is a rare, thorny native breed grown in Vellore district. The vegetable is oval and has a glossy shade of violet mixed with pink colour with a tinge of green in the distal end. Spiny Brinjals are rich in protein (2%) and vitamin C content (10.5mg/100gm). It has a unique power to resist pest and disease attacks. The thorns present in all parts of the brinjal plant, except the fruit, make the crop highly distinctive and recognizable. The fruit is soft and fleshy and it is a cluster-bearing variety that yields about 40-45 tonnes per hectare in a duration



of 140-150 days.

Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal):

A winter crop, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal) from the Varanasi district is prized for its flavor, quality, smoothness, color, weight, and size. It has received GI tag in 2023. The bhanta's color progressively shifts from green to yellow. The local farmers use the yellow color ones for the seed purpose as traditional seed. The Ramnagar Bhanta is high in nutrients and rich in minerals and vitamins. It is a perennial plant or sub-shrub that grows to a height of 100 to 150 cm. It is prostrate, semi-upright or erect, and has many branches. It is grown as an annual crop even though it has a perennial habit.



Kanteimundi Brinjal:

The famous Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal of Odisha received the geographical indication (GI) tag in 2024. Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal is a tasty vegetable with several thorny thorns throughout the plant. It is green, spherical, and contains more seeds than other genotypes. The 'Nayagarh Kanteimundi Brinjal' is well-known for its distinct flavour and faster cooking time than other brinjal species. The plant is resistant to most insects, pests, and illnesses. This crop is cultivated both throughout the Kharif and Rabi seasons.



Warangal Chatpata Chilli:

Chapata got Geographical Indication or GI tag in September 2022. Chapata chilli is one of the Sweetest Chilli of Indian Origin and could be one of the sweetest chilli in the world. Chapata chilli have a unique sweet fragrance and rich taste, it has rich deep red colour pods. The heat value between 4000 SHU to 6000 SHU.



Goa Khola Chilli:

got Geographical Indication or GI tag in September 2019. Khola chillies are attractive brilliant red and long. It is moderately pungent. The skin of the chillies is thick, hence there is a reduced chance of breakage, giving the chilli a longer shelf-life. SHU 17,100 units



Almora Lakhori Mirchi

It has received Geographical Indication or GI tag in November 2023. Yellow chilli is native to Uttar Pradesh, known for its uniquely pungent flavor. Lakhori mirch has more seeds than other varieties and more powder is obtained after grinding. It has high levels of vitamin C. Dried chillies have high levels of vitamin A too. It is also an effective agent against cancer.



Alibag White Onion:

The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2021. The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion, which has medicinal qualities, unique sweet taste, no tear factor, low pyruvic acid, high protein, fat and fiber with high antioxidant properties.



Benefits of GI Tagging

For producers: GI tags provide recognition, protection from imitations, and opportunities for market differentiation, ultimately leading to increased income and livelihood sustainability. Consumers: on the other hand, benefit from assurance of quality, authenticity, and traceability when purchasing GI tagged vegetables.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of vegetables in India serves as a testament to the country's rich agricultural diversity and heritage. Through this system, unique vegetables cultivated in specific regions are not only protected but also celebrated for their distinct qualities, traditional cultivation methods, and cultural significance. GI tags offer numerous benefits, including recognition, protection from imitation, and enhanced market opportunities for farmers, while providing consumers with assurance of quality and authenticity.

REFERENCES

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