WORKSHOP
ON
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GIS)
OF NORTH-WESTERN HIMALAYAS
JANUARY 4-5, 2023

Organized by:
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell, Directorate of Research
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, Chatha
In collaboration with
Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory
ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Geographical Indication (GI) tag, an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) tag, identifies a product as originating in a particular territory with special quality or reputation attributable to its geographical origin. Apart from conveying a product’s quality and distinctiveness, that helps the producers and consumers to differentiate from competitors, it generates a premium brand price for the product internationally. Furthermore, it provides legal protection to the registered product and their producers. Geographical Indications Tag or more popularly known as GI Tag for any product is an assured guarantee of uniqueness, purity and of course a key for worldwide business. In India, the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods (Regulation and Protection) Act was passed in the 1999 to facilitate registration and protection of intellectual property in relation to goods such as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating or manufactured in the territory of a country or a region or locality in that territory.

North Western Himalayan region of India is bestowed with unique flora, fauna and other products. Many of these products have already been tagged under GIs. Jammu and Kashmir might boast of many unique products from its indigenous pool, however, in reality, only few of them carry the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag. It is really a matter of pride that Kashmir saffron has been brought under GI Tag. It will give big boost to export of saffron and a clear edge over rival Iran. Saffron growers of Pulwama, Budgam and Srinagar region will be immensely benefitted in getting spurious saffron out of market and growers will get required market value of their Jammu-Kashmir saffron. It’s a matter of pride for all people of Jammu and Kashmir for GI Tag of Bhaderwah Rajmah (Kidney Beans), Gucchi, Basoli Pashmina, Rajouri Chikhri, Anardana, etc. to name a few are items from Jammu Division which should also be now pushed for GI Tag.

The protection of Geographical Indications will create a robust image and reputation of the product in the mind of the consumers and rewarding the producers with incentives and a means to exchange cultural values. Farmers are being awared about the GIs of their products and the government is robustly working on marketing and promotion of the product with the GI tag. GI tag will not only enhance the farmer's incomes but also provide sustainable and secure income generation sources for them. For this, the issue needs to be addressed urgently and jointly. To develop an action oriented road map on “Geographical Indications (GIs) of North-Western
Himalayas”, using scientific knowledge and practical skills of experts, two day brainstorming workshop is being organised by SKUAST of Jammu and Agriculture Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. The workshop would focus upon the identification of specific issues and will make concrete short and long term recommendations with respect to Geographical Indications (GIs).

Agricultural institutions such as the SAUs, ICAR stations, state departments, etc., need to play a coordinated role to resolve the issues related to Geographical Indications (GI). Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare jointly takes this opportunity to organize two day workshop to bring together the scientists and stakeholders in the region on a common platform to have threadbare discussions so as to highlight the issues arising out of Geographical Indications (GI) and suggest plausible solutions or remedial measures for the same.

The deliberations during the workshop will focus on:

- Identification of more crops, agriculture products, natural products, manufactured items, textiles, handicrafts, foodstuffs, etc. of North Western Himalayas for the GI tag approval.
- To address the basic challenges faced by Geographical Indication (GI) products of North Western Himalayas for registration and taking them into overseas markets.
- Strategies to chalk-out constraints and opportunities from the farmer's perspective.
- Discussions on the lessons learned from the rural communities and a possible way forward to further assist them in promoting their products through geographical indications and related techniques

The workshop will invite Officers/Officials from Geographical Indications (GI) Registry office, VPKAS Almora (Uttarakhand), DRDO, ICAR/Institutes/IHBT Palampur, SKUAST-Kashmir, Departments such as Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Department of Horticulture, J&K Department of Science & Technology, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Forest, Environment and Ecology Department, Industries & Commerce Department, Science and Technology Department, Skill Development Department, Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Department of Culture, Academicians/Scientists, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), Jammu, etc. for participation. A group of 100 delegates will hold discussion led by speakers of repute on Geographical Indications (GI) related issues of NWH. There will be a lead/introductory lecture under each of the themes followed by a panel discussion. Problems and solutions related to geographical indications will be invited from the house for discussion.

**Venue:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, Chatha, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir -180009
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE / GUEST SPEAKERS

Padma Bushan Dr. Anil P. Joshi, Founder, HESCO, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Padma Shri Dr. Dinesh Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Univ. & Vice Chairman, HEC
Padma Shri Dr Rajani Kant, National IP Awardee, Working on IPR/GIs, Varanasi
Padma Shri Dr V.P. Singh, Former Principal Scientist and Programme Leader (Rice), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Chairman, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Auth., New Delhi
Dr. K. Srinivas, ADG (IPR & Technology Management), ICAR, New Delhi
Dr. R.S. Chandel, Vice Chancellor, Dr YSP University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, H.P.
Dr. H.K. Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor, CSKHPKV, Palampur, HP
Sh. V.K. Vidyarthi, General Manager, Export Analysis, Promotion of GI Products, APEDA
Dr. Om Prakash Chaurasia, Director, Defense Institute of High-Altitude Res. (DIHAR), Leh
Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, IHBT, Palampur
Dr. Veena Gupta, Division of Germplasm Conservation, NBPG, New Delhi
Dr. Lakshmi Kant, Director, ICAR-VPKAS, Almora, Uttarakhand
Dr. Ajay Sood, CGM, NABARD, Jammu and Kashmir
Dr. Sudershan Kumar, Former, Director General, DRDO, New Delhi
Dr. Om Chand Sharma, Director, Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar
Dr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, PPV&FRA, Govt. of India
Dr. O.P. Vidyarthi, Retired PCCF J&K
Sh. Sachin Dhaniya, Dy Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI, New Delhi
Er. Manik Gupta, Director (Operation) & Patent Facilitator, Jammu
Adv. Arun Singh Manhas, Trademark Attorney, J&K High Court, Jammu
Dr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Auth., GOI, New Delhi
Dr. R.K. Goyal, OIC, CAZRI Regional Research Station, Leh
Dr. Vipin Kumar, Director, Chief Innovation Officer, NIF, New-Delhi

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Sh Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal, Director Agriculture, Kashmir
Dr. Vikas Gupta, Director, Handicraft and Handloom, J&K Govt.
Sh Vikas Sharma (JKAS), Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing
S Rajinder Singh Tara (JKAS), Director, Command Area Development Jammu
Sh Tassaduq Hussain Mir, Director, Command Area Development Kashmir
Sh Manzoor Ahmad Qadiri, Director, Sericulture Development Department
Sh Bhawani Rackwal, Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Deve. Corporation Ltd
Sh Ram Savak, Director Horticulture Jammu
Sh Ghulam Rasool Mir, Director Horticulture Kashmir
Ms Shubhra Sharma, Director, Animal Husbandry Department
Ms Purnima Mittal, Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir
Mr Krishan Lal, Director Department of Sheep Husbandry Jammu
Dr Abdul Salam Mir, Director, Department of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir

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