

Geographical Indication: A current Status of Maharashtra

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Abstract-

Geographical Indication is a one of the intellectual property right to protect the right of rural people to become a beneficiary of product which originates in their vicinity which posse's specific characteristic from their locality. GI helps in upliftment of Socio-economic status of rural people for their sustainable development. GI is important tool for market capturing in 21st Century.

Keywords: Geographical Indication, Intellectual Property Rights, Sustainable Development, Biopiracy, Locality

Introduction:

GI is a sign used to protect the rights of particular goods of a particular geographical locality. To protect local goods and tradition from bio-piracy and unauthorized use, Geographical Indication of goods (registration and protection) act. 1999 has come into drive with impact from 15th Sept. 2003 in India. Geographical Indication of goods (registration and protection) Act. 1999 established by WTO.

World trade organization (WTO) defines, GIs as, "indications that identify a good as originating in the territory of a particular country, or a region, or a locality in that country, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin."

GI is mainly used to assign good belonging to different products. The products include agricultural, handicraft manufacturing and food stuffs from a particular region or place.(Govindraju 2003) Geographical indication are place based names (e.g. Muga Silk, Darjeeling Tea) that convey the geographical origin as well as the cultural and historical identity of agricultural products (Aceves et.al. 2001). Geographical indication started in India from 15th September 2003. Till today 341 products were register under the GI and simultaneously 32 products were register under the GI from Maharashtra state.

The main aim of this research paper is to assess the current status of GI registration in Maharashtra and create awareness among people about the importance of Geographical Indication. Present study highlights the current status of GI in Maharashtra.

GI Registration Scenario of India-

GI registration was started in September 2003. In the starting year of GI that is April 2004 to march 2005. Only three products were registered, namely Darjeeling tea, Aranmula Kannadi, Pochampalli Ikat. There after trend of GI registration was increased. Till 2020, 341 products were registered. The year wise number of registered products given in figure.1

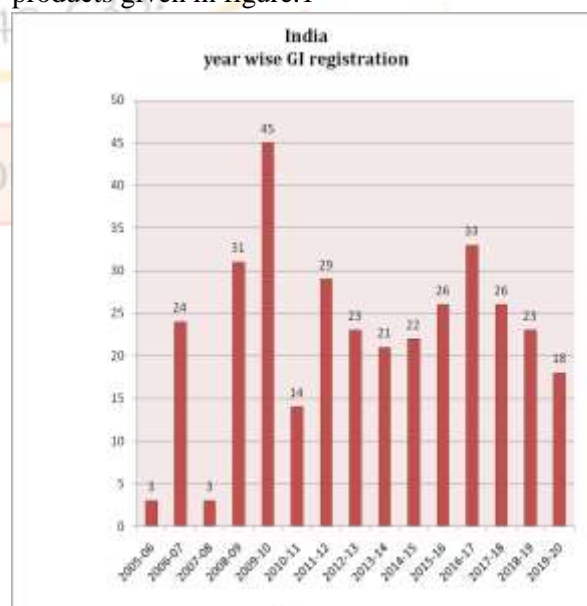


Fig.No.1: GI Registration Status of India

No. of GI registration was very negligible in the years of 2005-06 and 2007-08 except that yearly average no. of GI registration is more than 25. Highest registration was made in 2009-10 that is 45 products were registered under GI. In this current year still 18 products are registered.

GI status of Maharashtra-

In Maharashtra there is a big geographical as well as cultural diversity, which gives raise various unique products, handicrafts and food stuffs. These products, handicrafts and food stuffs. These products are specific Geographic Origin and possess qualities that are essentially attributed to that origin. Maharashtra registered 32 GI products from 2004-2005 to 2019-20.

Solapur Chaddar and Solapur Terry towel these are two products first time registered as GI from Maharashtra in April 2005 to March 2006. Second product is Puneri Pagadi registered as a GI in 2009 -2010. Puneri Pagadi has a specific origin and characteristic. Puneri Pagadi is a historical and cultural heritage of Peshwai. Then after Nashik valley wine was registered as a GI in 2010-2011. Nashik valley wines quality is result of high altitude at which grapes are grown and is marked as “specific acid – sugar balance.” Paithani sarees and fabrics, Mahabaleshwar strawberries, Nashik Grapes were also registered and protected by GI in same year. In year April 2013 to March 2014. Warli Painting and Nagpur orange were got GI tag from Maharashtra. April 2015 to March 2016 was glorious year for Maharashtra because 7 agricultural products were protected under GI that is Ajara Ghansal Rice, Mangalwedha Jawar, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri – Kokum, Navapur tur dal, waghya ghewda, vengurla cashew and Lasalgaon onion. This successful story was continued in April 16 to March 2017.

In a year of 2016 – 2017 Sangli Raisins, Beed custard Apple, Jalna sweet orange, waigaon turmeric, Purandar Fig, Jalgaon bharit Brinjal, Solapur pomegranate, Bhiwapur chilli, Ambemohar rice, Dahanu Gholwad chikoo, Jalgaon banana, Marathwada kesari mango, karvath kati sarees and fabrics got GI tag. Recently in the year of April 2018 – March 2019 Alphonso, sangli turmeric, Kolhapuri Chappal were registered as GI products of Maharashtra.

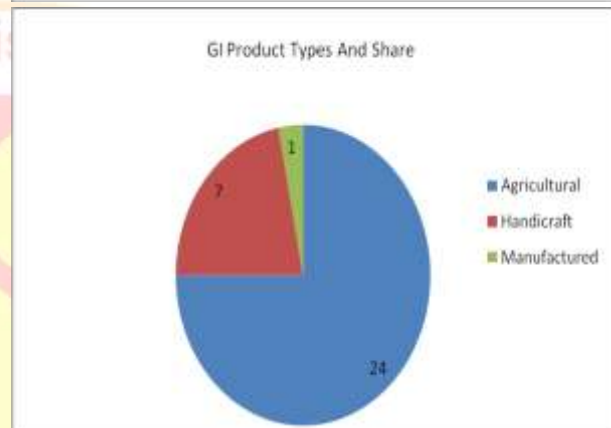
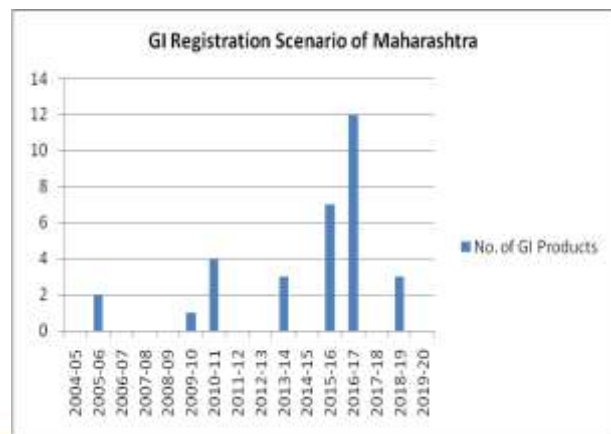


Fig.No.2: GI Registration Scenario of Maharashtra
Fig.No.3: GI Product Types and Number Maharashtra

Map of Maharashtra-

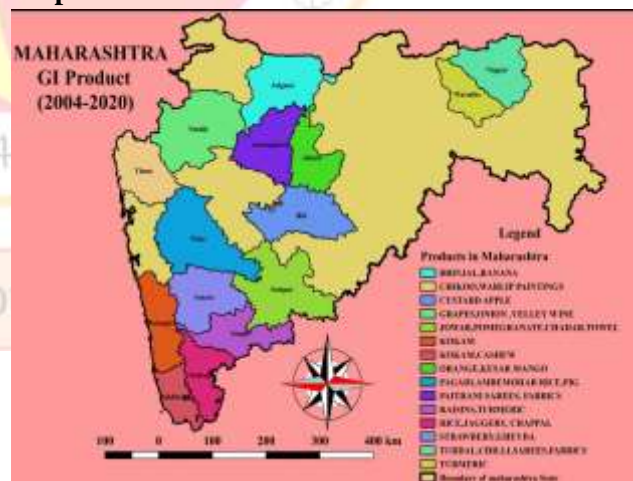


Fig No.4: Maharashtra GI Product Map

Conclusion-

GI products get a name from their origin place, which create a band between that product and specific geographic region. After getting a GI tag those products attract consumer attention which fosters the trade of that particular product. GI creates

a number of opportunities for trade and commerce, Employment, tourism and sustainable rural development. The main beneficiaries of these Economic opportunities are rural people from that specific Geographical origin of the product. GI is a tool to drag a rural people from poor socio – economic condition of a rural people.

GI is a tool to reserved the right of economic development of rural people who have a close vicinity to a specific geographical origin of product.

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