

Geographical Indications in grapes: Indian Scenario

Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma and Dr R G Somkuwar,
ICAR-NRC for Grapes, Pune (India)

Geographical Indications of Goods are defined as that aspect of industrial property which refer to the geographical indication of a country or to a place situated therein as being the country or place of origin of that product. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of unique quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the fact of its origin in that defined geographical locality, region or country. Under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, geographical indications are covered as an element of IPRs. They are also covered under Articles 22 to 24 of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which was part of the Agreements concluding the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15th September 2003. Intellectual Property India is part of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI. Deputy Registrar of Geographical Indications has office at Chennai which looks GI related issues.

Fresh grapes and processed products of grapes listed in Table 1 having GI (Geographical Indication) tag. Details different GI tags granted to grapes or processed products are given bellow:

Nashik valley wines is designated to red and white wines (alcoholic beverages) produced from grapes collected from several vineyards of Nashik district of Maharashtra and at least 80% of grapes used for wine making to be produced from Nashik district and manufactured and bottled with labels within district. The terrain is hilly with elevation range of 2,000–2,400 feet (610–730 m) with an inverse climatic condition with warm average day temperature of 26 °C (79 °F) and night cold temperature of 7–8 °C (45–46 °F), which are ideal conditions for the growth of grapes used for making wine with characteristic flavor of the Nashik valley. The soil condition consists of red laterite with good drainage conditions and generally with chemical properties suitable for growing wine grapes. The water quality is also stated to be ideal for growth of quality wine grapes.

Nashik grape is a variety of grape produced in Nashik district, which is known as the "grape capital of India". Nashik contributes to more than half of the total grape export from the country. The catchment areas of Grape production in Nashik District are Kalvan, Peint Igatpuri, Sinnar, Niphad, Yeola, Nandgaon, Satana, Furgana, Dindori, Melgaon.

Bangalore Blue grape, also simply called Bangalore Blue, is a variety of fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*) grown in districts around Bangalore in India. The variety has been grown for the past 150 years in the districts of Bangalore Urban, Chikkaballapur and Kolar. It is cultivated exclusively in an area of about 5,000 hectares, mainly in the Nandi Valley; and about 450,000 tonnes of the fruit are produced annually. The ideal conditions needed to grow Bangalore Blue are: soil of red sandy loam type, day temperature of 35 °C to 37 °C and night temperature of 12 °C to 15 °C. As these conditions are found around the Bangalore region, the variety is grown exclusively there. The grape is mainly used for raw consumption, making jams and jellies, juice and juice concentrates; and in fortified wines.

Sangli raisins variety is unique type of variety in Sangli district. Sangli raisins are especially famous for its tempting and fragile appearance with distinct taste. Most special characteristic of Sangli Raisins is – barring few handful exceptions, each and every raisin remains separated. Geographical location of Sangli district is between 16.40 & 17.10 North Latitude and 73.430 & 75.000 East Longitude. The district of Sangli is located in the western part of Maharashtra. Sangli District is situated in Managanga River-bed, below north of Mahadev mountain plateaus and surrounded by Warana and Krishna River. The length of the Krishna River in the district is 105k.m. Sangli district is extremely good for growing grapes due to their monsoon rains, rich fertile soil and cool climate. The major raisins producing areas are Tasgaon, Miraj, Palus, Kadegao, Aatpadi Malgaon, Kavathemahankal, Jat, and Agalgaon. Sangli district has the suitable climatic conditions for raisins production, production of raisins began in Tasgaon tehsil in Sangli, around 40 to 45 years ago. Sangli, the most famous place for table and raisin grape production. The Tasgaon-Sangli belt of Maharashtra is known for raisin making. The district has about 60 thousand acres of grape plantation specifically for raisin making. The types of raisins produced in Sangli district are green, yellow and black. The weather of Sangli district i.e. high temperature and low humidity, is favorable for raisin making.

Table1: Details of GIs related to grapes

S. No.	Application No.	Geographical Indications State	Goods (As per Sec 2 (f) of GI Act 1999)	State	Year in which GI granted
123	123	Nashik Valley Wine	Manufactured	Maharashtra	FROM APRIL 2010– MARCH 2011
140	165	Nashik Grapes	Agricultural	Maharashtra	FROM APRIL 2010– MARCH 2011
189	211	Bangalore Blue Grapes	Agricultural	Karnataka	FROM APRIL 2012 – MARCH 2013
262	490	Sangli Raisins	Agricultural	Maharashtra	FROM APRIL 2016 – March, 2017