

Can A Geographical Indication (Gi) Tag Increase Exports? : A Study On Indian Basmati Rice

RASHMI A SHARMA

ABSTRACT

The present paper discusses about geographical indications (GIs) and the benefits that they offer. A geographical indication (GI) tag can be given to a product which has grown in a particular place and has unique and special characteristics because of its particular place of origin. It is expected that the exports of a product would increase after it gets the GI tag. GIs contribute in reducing poverty, preserving traditions, increasing welfare of the people etc. Basmati rice is the geographically indicated product of the entire India. The present paper tried identifying the extraordinary increase that the exports of basmati rice would experience after 2016 (on February 15, 2016, basmati rice got registered as the geographically indicated product of the entire India). Time series graphs were examined to see the trend of exports of basmati as well as non basmati rice from India. After observing the unsatisfactory trend of basmati rice exports after 2016, non basmati rice exports' trend was observed to make sure that atleast non basmati rice are exported from India in good quantities/amounts each year (before and after 2016). However, it was seen that neither the basmati rice exports nor the non basmati rice exports have shown major significant positive change after 2016. There is a need to give GI more years so that it can justify its true potential regard to basmati rice exports. After some years, it can be expected that the GI tag would increase the exports of basmati rice at an increasing rate every year and the fact that the socio-economic benefits and other benefits from GIs vary from product to product and from country to country should be remembered.

Key Words: Geographical Indications; Basmati rice; Non Basmati rice; Exports from India.

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