

The challenges of Geographical Indications in Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Lessons learned from the UNCTAD approach, strategy and action

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UNCTAD Vision: GIs as a Trade development policy instrument

- LDCs are perennially affected by low export capacity and productivity and are dependent on commodities with high price fluctuation and low value added.
- However, LDCs possess an invaluable array of products linked to **their culture, tradition, and biodiversity belonging to rural communities.**
- If adequately protected and branded through IPRs, these products could graduate to “excellence” fetching high prices in national, regional and international markets.
- LDCs tend to have a negative perception of trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPs) as the rights of the Developed countries vs. developing world.
- However, GIs and trademarks offer substantial potential for LDCs, but they have to be understood and used by delegates, capitals and rural communities.

UNCTAD Case Studies

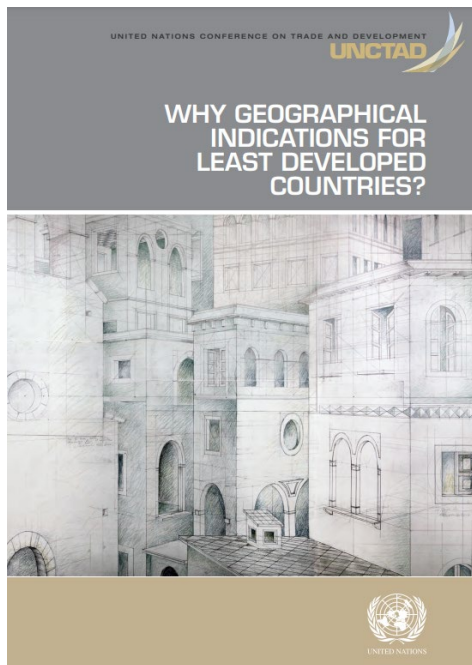
No.	LDCs	Potential GI products	Environmental settings
1	Bhutan	Bhutanese red rice	Glacial valleys
2	Cambodia	Kampot duriam (fruit)	Fertile soils
3	Cambodia	Kampot pepper	Drained soils
4	Ethiopia	Harennna wild coffee	Protected forest
5	Ethiopia	Wenchi volcanic honey	Forest surrounding a crater lake
6	Ethiopia	Wukro honey	Forest
7	Guinea	Ziama-Macenta <i>robusta</i> coffee	Protected forest
8	Lao PDR	Coffee from Bolaven Plateau	Dense forests
9	Madagascar	Pink rice from Amparafaravola	Presence of a tectonic lake
10	Mauritania	Imraguen women's mullet bottarga	Natural reserve
12	Mozambique	White prawn from Mozambique	Mangrove ecosystems
12	Mozambique	Tete goat meat	Forest with abundant fruit trees
13	Senegal	Fruits from Lower-Casamance	Naturally grown fruits, high soil fertility

Linking GIs to trade strategies and Aid for Trade - The UNCTAD experience gained in LDCs

- GIs challenges and success stories depend on a mix of factors such as: the organization of the rural communities, the institutional set up of the different Ministries and overall Government perspective.
- A major challenge is the lack of understanding of what GIs are: Mixing with Trademarks, Fair trade, organic products etc. etc.
- Precarious institutions and regulatory frameworks: national GI laws might not exist or if available, they are incomplete and/or compete other initiatives.
- Importance of dialogue among stakeholders at local level: Ministry of Trade, Agriculture, IPRs institutes, Chamber of commerce, associations of producers.

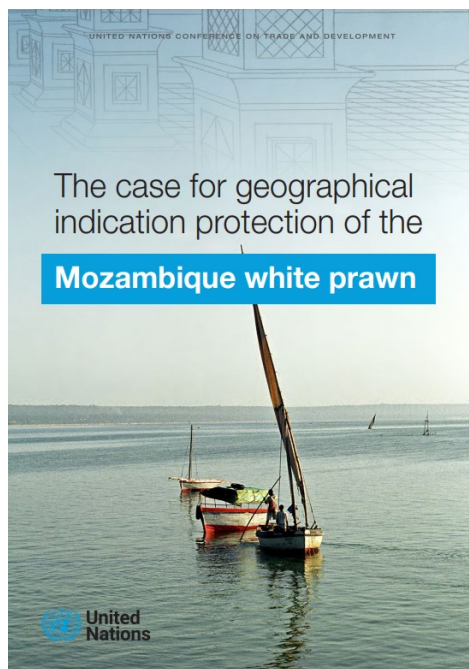
Linking GIs to trade strategies and aid for Trade – Some lessons learned and strategies adopted

- To be effective and viable GIs should be part of an overall trade strategy, not be read in isolation as GIs are resource-intensive to be linked to an overall multi-sectoral trade strategy.
- However, GIs do not receive substantial Aid for trade assistance.
- The main promoters of GIs appears to be more interested in promoting their own GIs rather than funding inclusive programs.
- UNCTAD has made efforts to link GIs to structured Aid for trade programs like the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).
- UNCTAD, WIPO and FAO held a joint coordinating effort to support GIs with LDCs delegates in 2018.
- Seeking funds from China and Italy.



Resources

- [Why Geographical Indications for Least Developed Countries? \(2016\)](#), (UNCTAD/ALDC/2015/4)
- [The case for geographical indication protection of the Mozambique white prawn \(2022\)](#), (UNCTAD/ALDC/2022/2)
- [Geographical Indication Protection of Mozambique's Cabrito de Tete \(Tete Goat\) \(2023\)](#), (UNCTAD/ALDC/2023/1)
- [The EU trade policy on geographical indications and the missing link with development](#), Stefano Inama and Pramila Crivelli
- [GIs Beyond TTIP: Death or Victory for the 'Living Cultural and Gastronomic Heritage'? \(2017\)](#), Stefano Inama, Journal of World Trade, Volume 51, Issue 3



Thank you



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