

WORLDWIDE PERSPECTIVES ON GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY FAO AND CIRAD

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement* (CIRAD) are planning the International Conference [Worldwide perspectives on geographical indications](#).

The Conference will bring together participants from all over the world, including researchers, public authorities, experts, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders of territorial value chains, academics, policy makers and practitioners to share and debate topical issues regarding Geographical Indications worldwide.

The organizers of the Conference invite all these interested actors to contribute with papers and presentations that can be submitted in English, French and Spanish. [The deadline for submission of contributions is the 1st of October 2021](#).

[In the presentation of the Conference](#), the Organizers highlight that the world's food and artisanal heritage encompasses a multitude of products linked to their origin that rely on the knowledge, skills, practices and traditions developed collectively by local producers over time and transmitted across generations. The commercial success of origin products has long preceded the use of formal mechanisms for their protection and legal frameworks governing the registration and protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) have mushroomed around the world in a very diverse manner, translating the variety of meanings and objectives attached to them. These regulations range from market-based approaches targeting unfair competition practices, to approaches directed at non-market objectives, including territorial development, and preservation of cultural heritage and natural resources.

Within this complex framework, institutional mechanisms have been developed to protect Geographical Indications, which provide the legal tools to recognize and preserve the name, typical quality and reputation of products linked to their origin, to varying extents. In two decades, numerous new GIs have been recognized in many different countries in all regions of the world. Considering the economic, social and cultural importance of the GIs, especially for rural areas, a growing number of actors at local, national and international level have been playing an important role in the identification, registration, control, protection and overall management of GIs.

Within this framework, the International Conference [Worldwide perspectives on geographical indications](#) intend to capitalize the most recent research outcomes and the best practical experiences of the last 25 years in all parts of the world to bring new ideas, perspectives and inspiration.

[The themes that will feed the debates in this Conference](#) reflect the objective of capturing the dynamic nature of GIs, of better understanding their many dimensions and the diversity of their manifestations across the world. These topics include, for example: the nature and legal definition of GIs, public and private management, impacts in the marketplace and outside the market,



sustainable development including social dimensions and the protection of biodiversity and environment, relationships with other intellectual property rights, engagement with other formal and informal forms of norm-making, consumers' welfare, competition policies, technical innovation and territorial effect, collective organization and collaboration, participation and empowerment of local actors.

Since many years FAO is developing through his [Quality and Origin Programme](#) extensive knowledge on GIs and provides guidance and technical assistance to countries in protecting their GIs as a tool to contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture and food systems for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. The *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement* (CIRAD), based in Montpellier (France), [conducts research, organizes training and provides technical assistance on GIs](#) in Africa, Asia and South America, regarding the setting up of the legal and institutional framework, the product identification and selection, the drafting of GI specifications, the role of collective producer's organizations, control mechanisms, the market access, or the impacts assessment.

The International Conference was planned for July 2021 at FAO headquarters in Rome and conceived by its organizers as an occasion to meet in person within the global community of researchers and practitioners on Geographical Indications. In view of the changing health situation, the Organizing Committee has decided to postpone the conference to July 2022. In the meantime, they invite all actors already working in the field of GIs to participate and to present their contributions before October 1st 2021. The promotion of this Conference, moreover, and the information available on its website, will help to spread the interest in Geographical Indications as a tool for building value chains for the enhancement of local products, strengthening the processes of endogenous, participatory and sustainable development of rural areas.

To know more

[Conference website in sciencesconf.org](#)

[Presentation of the Conference](#)

[Scientific Committee](#)

[FAO Quality and Origin program](#)

[FAO case studies](#)

[FAO Fact Sheets](#)

[CIRAD website](#)

[Geographical Indications in CIRAD website](#)

[CIRAD's approach on Geographical Indications](#)

[Guides and Manuals for Geographical Indication in CIRAD website](#)

[CIRAD library](#)

[Lisbon Agreement on Geographical Indications in WIPO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in WIPO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in WIPO website](#)

