

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION: FAO TRAINING MATERIALS

ON ORIGIN - LINKED PRODUCTS

[FAO is implementing the Quality and Origin program](#) to support the development of quality standards linked to geographical origin products of the agri-food chain.

Specific quality linked to geographical origin is associated with the valorisation of local resources, which may be physical (soil, climate, conditions of drying places etc.), genetic (especially indigenous plant varieties and livestock breeds) and cultural (know-how, traditions in relation with farming and processing, etc.). The specific nature of these resources leads to the uniqueness, identity and value of products.

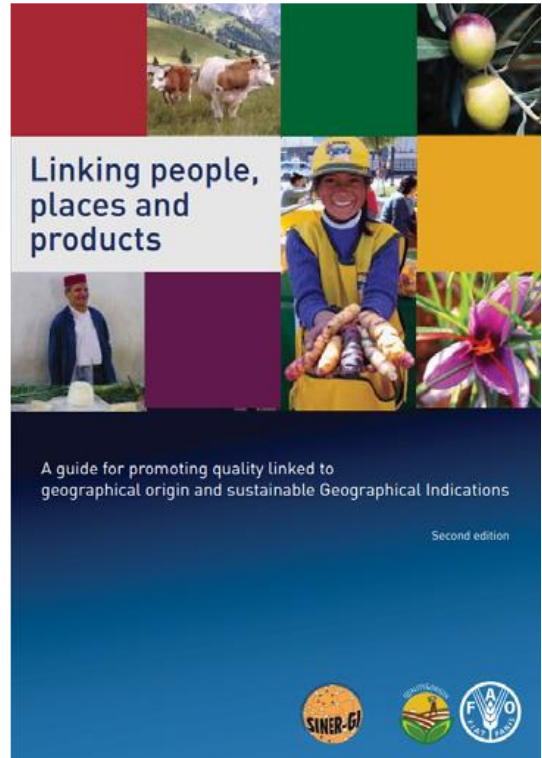
These food, agricultural, forestry or fishery products of *Geographical Indication* can increase food security, as much as they contribute to rural development and the preservation of food diversity, while also offering consumers a wider choice. Thanks to the link between such products and their areas of origin, they can help to preserve local resources, maintain traditions, strengthen the organization of local stakeholders and prevent delocalization and the rural exodus.

FAO highlights the following key facts:

- Products of origin-linked quality have a reputation, quality or characteristics that are essentially a result of their geographical origin and are related to resources that are distinctive to the production or processing area.
- Quality linked to geographical origin represents both a heritage to preserve and a potential to differentiate the product on market.
- This specific quality linked to geographical origin can be defined through a code of practice (specifications) and be promoted with a designation or "label" referring to the origin. This strategy is based on voluntary action by local producers to collectively define the associated characteristics and its production in accordance with these specifications.

Since 2007 FAO has developed a relevant series of documents in order to support the processes launched by different actors in the countries: guidelines, methodologies and technical references through case studies. These documents represent valuable tools for territorial actors engaged in specific value chains relating to typical local products, to start the processes of *Geographical Indication* (GI) recognition in collaboration with the national and international institutions. Some of these relevant documents, available in the FAO website, are presented below:

- [Geographical Indications for sustainable food systems - preserving and promoting agricultural and food heritage](#). Published in 2019 the document also indicates the most significant FAO publications on the subject.
- [Linking people, places and products](#). Guidelines on practical approaches and tools to establish and manage sustainable Geographical Indications, from the identification of potential products to their registration.
- [Strengthening sustainable food systems through geographical indications](#). An analysis of economic impacts of nine GI processes around the world and their economic and social benefits for rural areas and sustainable development. Published in 2018.



- [Identification of origin-linked products and their potential for development: A methodology for participatory inventories.](#) A methodological participatory approach to involve local actors in the identification of products of origin-linked quality.
- [Training on origin-linked products - Tools for a participatory approach.](#)
- [Linking people for quality products: Sustainable interprofessional bodies for geographical indications.](#)
- [Quality linked to geographical origin and geographical indications:](#) lessons learned from six case studies in Asia.
- [Calidad de los alimentos vinculada al origen y las tradiciones en América Latina:](#) Case studies FAO- IICA, 2008.

Geographical Indication recognition for typical local products can represent great potential for territories in all countries of the world. The procedures highlight the added value of their distinctive characteristics related to natural factors such as soil, climate and water, and human factors such as local culture, know-how and tradition. The products recognized and placed on the markets as *Geographical Indications* help to enhance not only the relative production chains but the territories of origin as a whole, supporting other income-generating initiatives such as tourism or external investments, creating jobs and strengthening local economies.

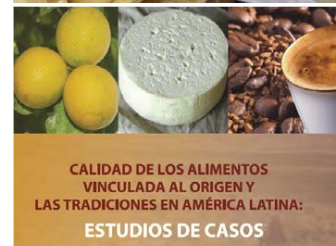
The processes for obtaining the recognition of Geographical Indication for a typical product of a territory are certainly complex because they involve aspects to be managed at local, national and international level.

[At the territorial level](#) a strong organization of local actors (including producers, local institutions, traders etc.) is needed to ensure an effective functioning of the production chain as well as the sustainable management of local resources, and to permanently guarantee the specific quality of the product. At national level public authorities can provide an appropriate legal and institutional framework to protect intellectual property rights. They can support the GI with their services and frame these initiatives in their policies of rural development, job creation, preservation of local environment and biodiversity. [At international level](#), *Geographical Indications* (GIs) are defined by Art. 22.1 of the Agreements on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). An appellation of origin is defined in the [Lisbon agreement](#).

With the *Quality and Origin program* FAO assists member countries and stakeholders in implementing both local and institutional-level systems regarding origin-linked specific quality products of the agri-food chain. In the framework of the [2019-2028 UN Decade of Family Farming](#), FAO underlines that one way to improve market access for origin-linked products produced and processed by family farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises is to develop *Geographical Indications* (GIs).

Despite this complexity of levels and actors involved, the processes of products recognition linked to the places of origin represent a promising way for a sustainable future. Not only they do consider an ever-growing demand from consumers to access high quality products, but they also support sustainable development processes in the territories, safeguarding their resources, biodiversity and their know-how.

The documents and guides internationally produced and disseminated by FAO allow many local actors to take initiatives for the preservation and promotion of their products of origin-linked quality and the associated natural and cultural resources.



To know more

[FAO Quality and origin program](#)

[FAO Quality and origin program brochure](#)

[FAO Quality and origin program brochure](#)

[FAO case studies](#)

[FAO Fact Sheets](#)

[Article in FAO website](#)

[Local process in FAO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in WIPO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in WIPO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in WTO website](#)

[Geographical Indications in UNCTAD website](#)

[Geographical Indications in UNIDO website](#)

[Guide to Geographical Indication by UN International Trade Center](#)



Geographical Indications

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production.
[Wipo.int website](#)

