

## **The Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and protection Act, 1999)**

In the matter of an application by the Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka for registration of “Bangalore Rose Onion (*Alium cepa*)” as a geographical indication in class 31

### **STATEMENT OF CASE**


The Department of Horticulture is a public sector organization under the Government of Karnataka promoting the extension and development of Horticulture in Karnataka.

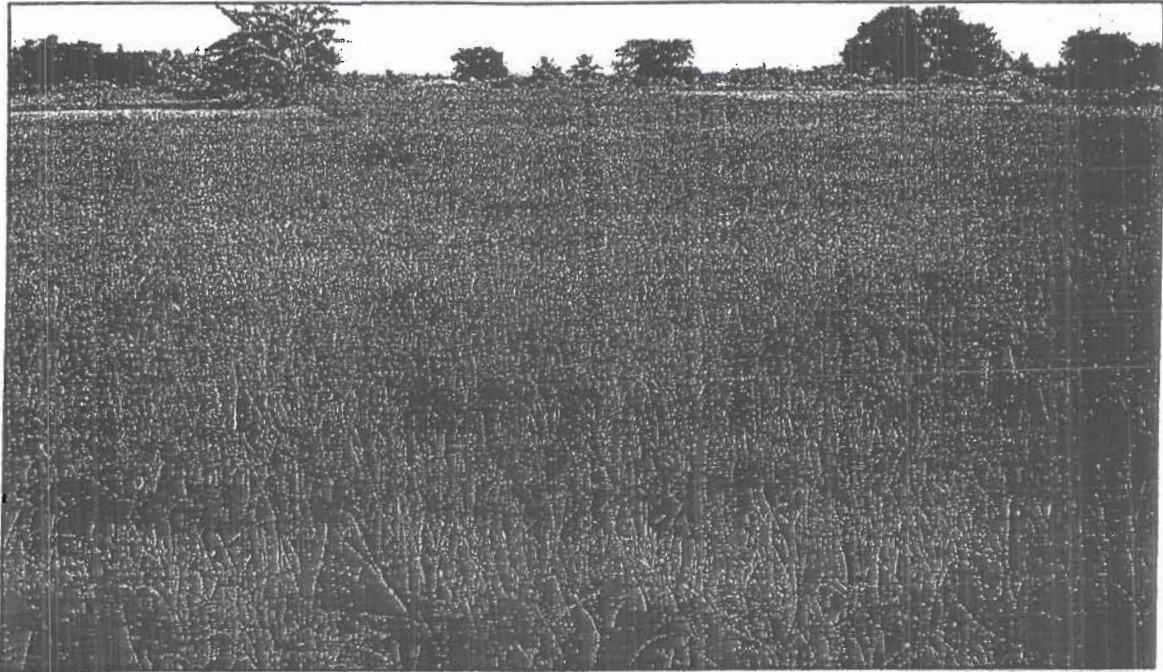
#### **Bangalore Rose Onion**

##### **Introduction**

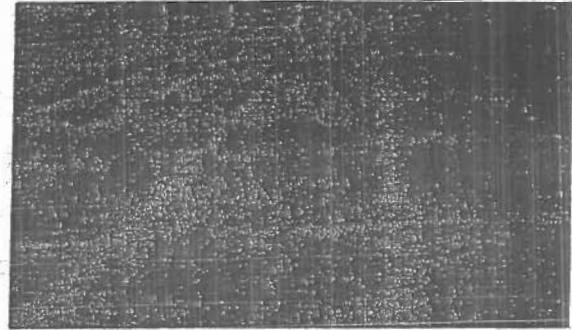
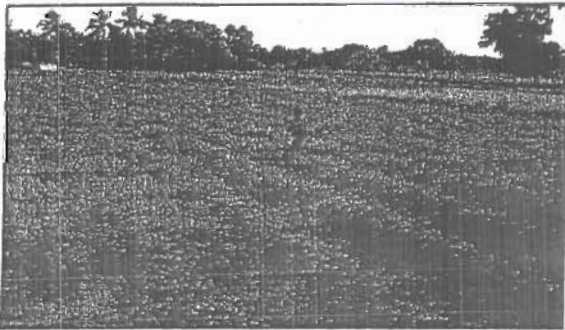
1. Onion (*Alium cepa*) is one of the most important commercial vegetables. It is type of Onion grown in Bangalore and surrounding areas. As the name itself suggests this variety of Onion is grown only in Kolar and Bangalore (Urban & Rural) districts of Karnataka. The special characteristic of this variety is its high pungency compared to other variety which makes it most popular in international markets. It is pickling type variety. Bulbs are flattish round shapes, deep scarlet red in color and 2.5 to 3.5 cm size. Since this has got an excellent export potential, the ultimate realization to farmers will be much better. The consumption of the variety in domestic market is almost negligible (maximum 10% of the production).
2. Bangalore Rose Onion would be available for exports for 9 months from March – November. Rabi crop which will be harvested in March – April is stored for 2 to 3 months. Out of the total production only 50% is fit for exports. Currently this variety is being exported to Singapore, Malaysia, Middle East, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius etc. besides having enquiries from other countries too.

9. In case this variety is grown outside other parts of Karnataka, the characteristic colour and pungency will not be seen. Onion growing regions use a special mix of manure 800 – 1000 Kg per acre with FYM, Neem and Pongamia cake and DAP. This particular manure mix coupled with prevailing soil will give the specific pungency to the onion.
10. The name Bangalore Rose Onion therefore qualifies as a geographical indication for the aforesaid type of Onion in the aforesaid region. The Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka is accordingly making this application for registering Bangalore “Rose Onion” as a geographical indication. Department of Horticulture, therefore submits that it is in the interest of farmers that there should be a registration for Bangalore “Rose Onion” as a geographical indication to ensure that it is sold under the name Bangalore “Rose Onion”. Since it is produced in the aforesaid region in Karnataka, India and having aforesaid special distinctive and naturally occurring unique characteristics.
11. Such a registration would assist in enforcing the provision of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act 1999.

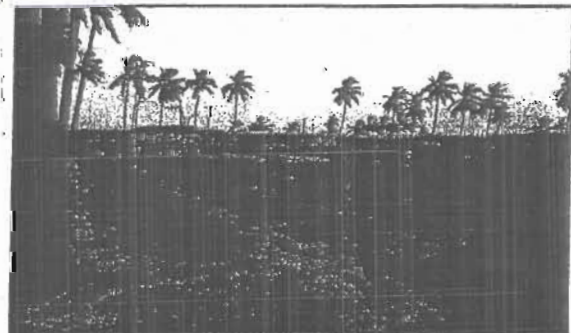
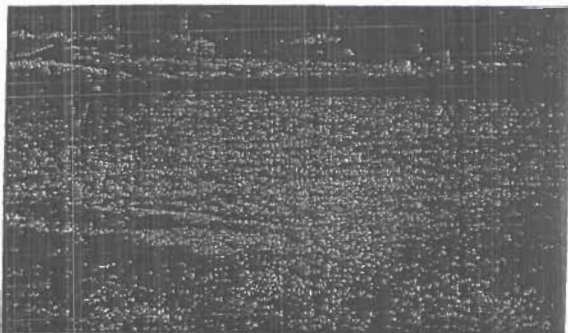
  
Director of Horticulture  
Lalbagh, Bangalore-560 004



**View of Bangalore Rose Onion fields**



**Cultivation practices in Rose Onion crop**



**Land preparation for growing Rose Onion**



### **Harvesting and Yield**

The growth period is 110 – 120 days. It yields 15-18 tones per hectare with an annual production of 70,000 tones. 45% of total production is exported. Rose onion amounts for 4% of total onion production in our country.

### **Shelf life and pre and post harvest techniques**

After harvest the bulbs will be stored for 2 – 3 months and then they will be marketed.

### **Distribution**

Bangalore Rose Onion is grown in all Taluks of Kolar District and Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, Nelamangala and Anekal Taluks of Bangalore district. It is grown in 4000 hectares of land.

### **Geographical extent of Bangalore Rose Onion growing areas**

- Latitude: N 12° 39' 22" – 13° 57' 31"
- Longitude: E 77° 11' 04" – 77 ° 35' 20"

### **Agro-climatic conditions**

Rose onion has adjusted itself to the soil and climatic conditions of Kolar and Bangalore (Urban & Rural) districts. These districts have sand mixed red soil. The PH value of soil is 6.5 - 7.0. The average temperature is 25-35 degree Centigrade. The humidity is found to be 70-75%.

Deep, fertile, Mekkalu Soil where water is easily percolating is most suitable for growing onion. Sand mixed Godu and loose mud is also suitable. The PH value of the soil must be 6.5 – 7.0. Salty and Jedy soil where water is not percolated down is not suitable. Onion can be grown in all seasons of the year. Cold climate and winter is most suitable for getting high yield of onion. Temperature 15.5 – 21 degree centigrade, humidity 70%, 10 hours of sunlight everyday is suitable.

### **Uniqueness**

Flat base and spherical shape with deep scarlet color and high pungency are unique characters of the crop. It can be stored for long time without losing its pungency and it will not rot upon storage.

### **Mechanism of regulation of fruit grading and quality standards**

The standards in International market are uniformly sized, uniformly weighed, deep red glaze skinned with spherical shape and size with in 2.5 – 3.5 cm range.

### **Market :**

45% of the total production of rose onion is exported. The farmers will separate the unsuitable tumours after harvesting. This selected lot is again put for further selection for export purposes by experienced laborers. Of the total onion production, it is estimated that 15% is used for domestic consumption and for seeds. The farmers will sell the onion to the middlemen. These middlemen will sell the stock to the exporters. But recently, the Government of Karnataka has entrusted the export of rose onion to Nafed, Karnataka State Agricultural produce and export corporation limited. As on today, the export market of rose onion is unorganized. The farmers are dependant on middlemen for crop loans and financing. The farmers should organize their own unions for this purpose and act effectively. There is a need for informing the farmers regarding export market.