

31 MAR 2005

**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 "Kodagina kittale" (Coorg Mandrin) as a geographical indication in class 30


STATEMENT OF CASE

1. The Department of Horticulture is a public sector organization under the Government of Karnataka promoting the extension and development of Horticulture in Karnataka.
2. Based upon the historical and general evidence available, Coorg orange was introduced to India by British before 160 years i.e., during the year 1830-1840 AD. In Karnataka during the year 1900 it was cultivated in 6000 acre land, as this crop was found to be economically beneficial, its cultivation rate (Area wise) increased to 8000, 10,000, 50,000 acres in the years 1920, 1940 and 1960 respectively. At present "Kodagina kittale" are in the verge of extinction. The area of cultivation is reduced to 3471.93 acres in the recent years. A copy of Mysore State Gazetteer Coorg District By B.N. Sathyan Chief Editor, Mysore Gazetteer, Bangalore 1965 and Karnataka State Gazetteer Coorg District Revised edition by Suryanath U. Kamath (Kannada version) are enclosed as a proof of historical evidence. Now it has been grown and produced in a particular geographical region of the Karnataka namely Kodagu, Hassan and Chikmagalur. Attached as Annexure-I is a map of the region where kodagina kittale is being grown in Karnataka. Also attached and marked as Annexure-II are the botanical characteristics of Kodagina Kittale.

3. The cultivation of "Kodagina kittale" has remained traditional by planting seedlings and growing mainly under rain fed conditions, with sub-optimal management practices. It is planted as a companion crop in coffee estates for shade as well as for fruits. No exclusive cultural care has been provided for "Kodagina kittale" under these conditions.
4. "Kodagina kittale" can be grown successfully in all types of loamy soil, which are deep, and well-drained black or red loamy soils are ideal for its cultivation. It grows well in slightly acidic soil, than in an alkaline medium and it demands liming when soil pH is below 5.5. However optimum soil pH should be 5.5-6.0. Soils rich in salt concentration has deleterious effect on plant growth and causes malnutrition. "Kodagina kittale" is an evergreen sub tropical small tree grows well in sub mountain tract of 600-1200 meter elevation from sea level. It prefers more humid sub tropical summer but warm winter with an annual rainfall of 75-250cm per annum. Mandarin oranges are much more cold hardy than the sweet orange, and the tree is more tolerant ^{to} of drought. The fruits are tender and readily damaged by cold. Severe frost during winter and heavy winds during summer will have adverse effect on plant growth. Attached and marked as Annexure-III is a note on the production technology of Kodagina Kittale
5. Mandarin is a group name for a class of oranges with thin, loose peel. Coorg, a mountainous region of the Western Ghats, in India, is famous for its mandarin oranges. For commercial exploitation, Coorg mandarins have several disadvantages: the fruit has poor holding capacity on the tree, the peel is tender and therefore the fruits do not stand shipping well, and the tree has a tendency toward alternate bearing.
6. Coorg mandarin, an ecotype of mandarins, popularly called **Coorg orange**, is under cultivation in Coorg, Hasan and Chikmagalur districts of Karnataka. They produce medium sized, fairly tight-skinned orange yellow fruits having

dark orange pulp, being tender, juicy with a rich flavour and excellent blend of acid and sugar with fairly good keeping quality.

7. Though there are over hundreds of varieties of citrus fruits grown in the world, Kodagina Kittale surpasses all owing to its characteristics such as medium sized, fairly tight-skinned orange yellow fruits having dark orange pulp, being tender, juicy with a rich flavour and excellent blend of acid and sugar.
8. The unique characteristics of Kodagina Kittale are due to a combination of the inherent genetic constitution of the Kodagina Kittale variety and the geographical region where it is grown. These characteristics of Kodagina Kittale cannot be replicated by growing the same crop in areas other than Coorg (Kodagu)
9. The name "Kogina Kittale" therefore, qualifies as a geographical indication for the aforesaid type of mandarin origination in the aforesaid region. Department of Horticulture, Karnataka is accordingly making this application for registering "Kodagina kittale" mandarin as a geographical Indication. Department of Horticulture Karnataka therefore, submits that it is in the interest of both trade and public that there should be registration for "Kodgina Kittale" mandarin as geographical indication to ensure that the mandarin is sold under its recognized name "Kodagina Kittale", since it is produced in the aforesaid region in Karnataka, India and having aforesaid special distinctive and naturally occurring unique characteristics.
10. Such a registration would assist in enforcing the provision of the Geographical indications of Goods (Registration and protection) Act, 1999.


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