## GI tagged bananas

A Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign that certifies the unique quality of the landrace/cultivar governed by the location, soil and/or climate. GI status confers legal protection of the varieties and prevents unauthorised use of it by others. It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods and also helps consumers to get quality products of desired traits. Till now eight land races got GI tag.

- 1. Nanjangud rasabale (GI tag No. 35-2005) is a banana variety that is grown in and around the areas of Mysore and Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka, India where the soil type is black clay alluvial that changed the taste and aroma, giving it a unique identity.
- 2 & 3. Virupakshi and Sirumalai bananas (GI tag Nos. 124 & 125-2008) are grown only in the lower Pulney and Sirumalai hills of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu respectively. The famous Panchamirtham is made using these bananas and offered to Lord Muruga at Palani temple.
- 4. Kamalapur Red Banana (GI tag No. 133-2009) is a banana variety grown in Kamalapur and surrounding areas like Rajnal, Okali and Nadvinhalli villages of Kalaburagi district, Karnataka, India. Fruits are rich in calcium, iron, potassium and fibre and vitamins C and B6. Advised for the treatment of typhoid patients particularly children.
- 5. Chengalikodan (GI tag No. 479-2014) is a banana variety that originated in Chengazhi Kodu village of Thrissur district in Kerala, India. Chengalikodan banana is known for its unique shape, size, colour and taste. During Onam, it is offered as 'Kazhchakula' to the deity in temples all around the state, including the famous Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple.
- 6. Jalgaon banana (GI tag No. 498-2016) is a Cavendish type grown in Tandalwadi village of Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, India. Fibre and mineral richness in 'Jalgaon banana' boosted its export Delhi and Dubai markets.
- 7. Goa Myndoli (GI tag No. 680-2021) grown in Pernem, Bardez and Bicholim taluks of Northern Goa along the river tributaries of Chapora and Mapusa. It grows in well drained soils rich in organic matter, iron, manganese and copper. Myndoli Kelya Chi Halwo is the delicacy prepared from Myndoli.
- 8. Kanyakumari Matti Banana (GI tag No. 757-2023). native to Kanyakumari district thrives well in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste.

