



Geographic Indication for the White Prawns of Mozambique: Institutions, Process, Challenges and the way forward

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The white prawns of Mozambique

- White prawns have a high export potential because they taste different from others
- The quality and specificities of the white prawns of Mozambique is well known, not only in Mozambique but also in Southern Africa
- However, there is a lot of misuse of the «brand name» of the prawns of Mozambique especially in lucrative markets of South Africa
- In the absence of a GI, there is no way to distinguish the white prawns of Mozambique from the other prawns commercialized in those markets.



Legal & institutional framework for GI

Progress towards global integration:

- 1994-Member of the Trade Organisation, WTO;
- 1996-Member of the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation;
- 1997-Paris Convention 1883 on protection of Intellectual Property Rights;
- 1999-Cooperation Treaty on Patent;
- 1999-Member of the Regional IPR body-ARIPO;
- 2013-Agreement on trade-related IPR.

Domestic changes:

- 2006-the government passed the IPR Act 4/2006 of April,12;
- 2009-the GI and OD regulatory framework enacted through Decree 21/2009;
- The Instituto de Propriedade Industrial (IPI) administers the IPR system (including GIs).
- The IPI falls under the Ministry of Industry and Trade. For GI of prawns, IPI liaises with IIP and INIP both under the Ministry of Fishery.

Major steps in the process of writing the technical specifications of the mozambican prawns

Step #1:
Identification of potential prawns
ONLY one specie

Step #2:
Meeting individual stakeholders for each fishery product

Step #3:
Drafting of the technical specifications for the chosen product



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Major steps in the process of writing the technical specifications of the mozambican prawns

- Mozambique requested the help of UNCTAD
- UNCTAD hired an expert in the field of GI's
- UNCTAD and IPI organized two national workshops on GIs (Beira, Maputo) in 2013.
- Building collaboration with INIP (National Institute for Inspection of fishery products) and also IIP (National Institute for research in fisheries products) and IPI



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Advantages

- The strong involvement of IPI (Intellectual Property Institute of Mozambique)
- The collaboration of two governmental institutions : National Fisheries Research Institute (IIP) and the National Fish Inspection Institute (INIP) which played a crucial role in drafting the specification.



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Constraints

- Disaggregated nature of the fisherman associations
- Lack of cooperation from
 - National Directorate of Fisheries Administration (DNAP) responsible for granting licenses and inspection of fishing activities
 - Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Pesca de Pequena Escala (IDPPE)
 - Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project (PROPESCA) project: 43.5 millions



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Challenges

- Delimitation of three 3 major regions of white prawns occurrence (Sofala Bank in central region, Maputo Bay and the mouth of Limpopo river in the south) and its attachment to specific communities/or fishermen associations;
- Despite institutional and legal progress on GIs, the level of awareness on its relevance to country's economic growth and development remains dramatically low among decision-makers, private sector and communities;
- Institutions are marked by weak intra and inter-institutional coordination, competing interests and generally slowness in adopting changes;
- Existing artisanal fishermen associations are weak and invariably face internal governance challenges;
- To get the Confederation of Business Associations (CTA) involved in GIs;
- Involvement of dominant actors (***Propesca and Pesca-Mar***) in the sector in the GIs process;
- Take advantage of the window of opportunity marked by the election of new President whose cabinet is to be won-in early 2015.



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The way forward...

- Implementation of a communication strategy designed to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders at national level;
- Identification of fishermen associations that can deposit a GI request for the prawns;
- Validation of the technical specifications;
- Submission of the specifications to IPI;
- Add value to the products on the national and international market

Thank you for your attention

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