

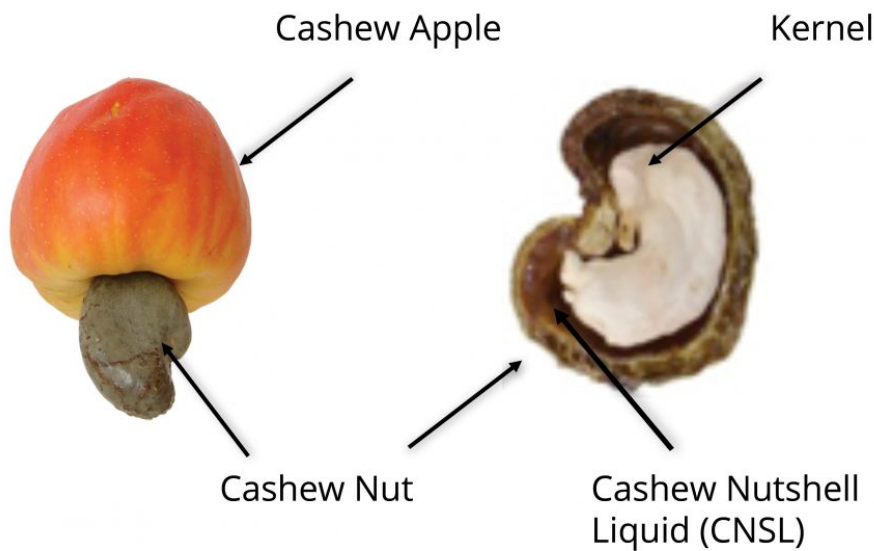
## GI tag for the Goan cashew

By iastoppers. | 2023-10-13 15:05:00



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Recently, **Goan cashew** (kernel) got the **Geographical Indication** (GI) tag.



[ref-cardolite]

### **About the Goan cashew:**

- Goan cashew is **organic** and has a **unique flavour**.
- The term “cashew” is derived from the **Portuguese** word ‘caju’ or ‘kaju’ in Konkani.

### **How did cashew come to Goa and become a contributor to the economy?**

- It was introduced to **Goa** by the **Portuguese** in the **16<sup>th</sup> century (1570)**.
- Before its introduction on **Indian coasts**, cashew was mainly known as a **crop** meant for **afforestation** and **soil conservation**.
- The Portuguese **imported** high yielding varieties from **Latin American** countries and cultivated them extensively in Goa.
- The **edible nature** of cashew nut was discovered by the **Portuguese** only in the **mid-18<sup>th</sup> century**.
- The **first cashew** factory in Goa started operations in **1926**.

### **About Cashew:**

- The Cashew is a **kidney shaped** fruit, which is **not** a **true nut**, and derived from cashew trees.
- The cashew tree is a **tropical evergreen tree** native to South America particularly **Brazil**.
- It is **commercially cultivated** mainly in **Brazil** and **India**.
- India is amongst the world's **largest** producer of cashew.
- **Maharashtra** is India's **largest** cashew nut-producing state, followed by **Andhra Pradesh** and **Odisha**.
  - Note that **Goa** is **not** the **largest** producer of cashew.
- **Nutritional benefits**- Cashews are rich in fiber, protein, vitamins, minerals, and healthy fats.

### **About the cashew tree:**

- It is cultivated in the **tropics** between 25°N and 25°S
- It can be grown in **red sandy loam, lateritic soils** and **coastal sands**.
- It is a versatile crop that can thrive even at **high temperatures**.
- It requires **annual precipitation** of **1000 - 2000 mm** for ideal growth.
- The tree produces **wood** that is used to make shipping crates, boats, charcoal and for a gum that is similar to **gum arabic**.
- The **resin** within the **shells** of the fruit is used as an **insecticide** and in the production of **plastics**.
- Cashew nut shell is used to make of **resins** for **paints**, insulating varnishes etc.

### **About the GI tag:**

- A GI tag is conferred upon **products** originating from a **specific** geographical region, signifying **unique characteristics** and **qualities**.
- Once a **product** gets this **tag**, any other individual or company **cannot** sell a **similar item** using that name.
- **Quality, reputation, or characteristic** of the good must be attributable to its **geographic origin**.
- GI is defined under **Article 22 (1)** of the **WTO's** (World Trade Organization) **TRIPS** (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement.
- GI tags in India are certified under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
- The act came into force from **2003**.
- These are issued under the **Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- This tag is commonly issued to **agricultural items, foodstuffs, wine** or spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- It serves as a **trademark** in the **international market**.