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The Economic Value of Geographical Indications (GIs) in IP

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Following a global trend where regions protect the unique identity of their products, exemplified by Ghana officially granting Geographical Indication (GI) status to Kente cloth in September 2025; there is an intensifying policy push for a dedicated GI framework in Nigeria.

Geographical Indications protect products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin, such as Adire fabric, Ijebu Garri, or Nsukka Yellow Pepper.

The current global focus is on moving beyond simple trademark protection to a "sui generis" (unique) GI law that can prevent unauthorized international use of Nigerian cultural names and significantly increase the export value of local commodities.

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