

Regarding grant of Geographical Indication Tag to Perambalur small onions

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): Small onions a much sought after vegetable all over the country are mainly cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. My Perambalur constituency is a major player among small onion growing districts in the state. Perambalur is the Hub for the small onion cultivated on more than 20,000 acres. Particularly Chettikulam is the main onion cultivation Centre in Alathur block which includes 12 other areas. Chettikulam onion shows good quality in yield, appearance and long shelf life during storage. Because of the quality bulbs produced here these are used as a parental material in many onion growing districts of Tamil Nadu. The onion seeds produced here are supplied to various parts of the state and neighboring States. After harvesting the seeds, the stock is preserved under Patti (conventional storage technique) for a few months. It has better tolerance towards pests and diseases and has longer storage life than the common onion. Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing board and Chettikulam small onion farmers Association in Perambalur have jointly applied for geographical indication tag for the small onions largely cultivated in the area. Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to consider this genuine request to recognize Perambalur small onions with geographical indication tag.