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[Novianti Hafid](#)<sup>\*</sup>, Hasbir Paserangi, Oky Deviany

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*Article*

# Legal Protection Geographical Indications Siompu Tangerines in South Buton District

Novianti Hafid \*, Hasbir Paserangi and Oky Deviany

Faculty of Law, Hasanuddin University, Makassar MKS 62; hasbir\_paserangi@yahoo.com (H.P);  
okyburhamzah@gmail.com (O.K)

\* Correspondence: hafidn22b@student.unhas.ac.id (N.F)

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to identify, and examine the potential characteristics of Siompu Tangerines to be given legal protection for Geographical Indications and examine the efforts of local governments in encouraging legal protection of Siompu Tangerines Geographical Indications, this research uses a type of empirical legal research. The conclusion of this study explains that characteristics of Siompu Tangerines have the potential to be given legal protection for Geographical Indications because they have a distinctive sweet, slightly sour taste and strong aroma with a sugar content scale of 9-10<sup>o</sup> Brix, the orange has been named the sweetest orange in the National Citrus fruit contest and several times served at official ceremonies at the State palace, the reputation of Siompu Tangerines makes it a National Flagship Orange through the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture number 742 / Kpts / TP. 240/7/1997. Geographical environmental factors from natural conditions and human factors make Siompu Tangerines can only grow well in the Siompu island area. The Regional Government of South Buton Regency has made efforts in terms of the development of Siompu Tangerines but has not been optimal in carrying out legal protection of Geographical Indications, due to a lack of community understanding, and the Regional Government regarding the potential of Siompu Tangerines which can be given protection by registering as a Geographical Indication product, the importance of obtaining legal certainty and obtaining exclusive rights is very useful in improving the community's economy and Farmer Tangerines Siompu.

**Keywords:** legal protection; geographical indications; Siompu tangerines

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia has entered the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In this era, "speed" is the main key to facing the era of revolution (Hasibuan, Chairi, and Aflah 2022). In the current era of global trade, one of the important aspects is to increase economic growth in Indonesia (Harwanto and Arifin 2022). Indonesia is a country that is rich and abundant in natural resources. Nature grows many kinds of uniqueness, both biological and vegetable so that provides various kinds of extraordinary natural gift potential that from this potential produces the results of vegetable and biological cultivation that characterizes the geography where the potential is (Oxtalevanus Siallagan and Rahma 2022). Indonesia has so many potential natural resources such as; Kintamani Coffee, Toraya Coffee, Bangka Pepper, Medan Passion Fruit, Ternate Cloves and Nutmeg, Ambon Eucalyptus Oil, Bukit Tinggi Cinnamon, and many other local products that are categorized as potential geographical indications, due to the place of origin of goods that have the characteristics of the region concerned, the characteristics of the products produced have a certain quality, quality and character (Alfons 2020).

The rapid growth of the global economy, particularly the industrial sector and technological facilities, has made people's ways of thinking more creative and innovative. This is shown by the growing number of human creative works that are realized through the use of power, taste, and intention, rooted in their intellectual abilities to enrich their lives. To date, work usually entails a lengthy process because it requires a significant amount of time, effort, and cost. Therefore, creators of creative works, technology inventors, designers, and trademark holders are respected and given adequate legal protection (Fathanudien, Akhmaddhian, and Firmansyah 2022). Intellectual property (IP), unarguably,

is one of the most important resources for any business organization.(Asri et al. 2022). Intellectual property rights support the economic development of a country (Sari et al. 2019). The laws governing public relations, arising at the creation, use, and operation of objects of intellectual property, and the systems that have laid the main legislative foundation for the protection of objects of intellectual property were consistently adopted (Malikovna 2015). Intellectual property differs from other commodities because it can bring in return only being effectively protected by the state and society. The level of intellectual property rights protection reflects the level of social, cultural, and economic development of the country.

Geographical indications (GIs) that identify products of origin were born in Southern Europe and extensively internationalized thanks to the World Trade Organization 1994 Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement(Marie-Vivien 2020). More than 10,000 Geographical Indications (GI) exist around the world (Menggala et al. 2021). The “GI turn” has created inertia in the directions of product valorization, certification, and international trade such that turning away from the constructed sense of inevitability of GI can take considerable self-reflection(Feuer 2019). which due to geographical environmental factors including natural factors, human factors, or a combination of these two factors gives a certain reputation, quality, and characteristics to the goods and/or products produced. Indonesia has a lot of potential Geographical Indications(Noviyanti and Yetniwati 2021). Law No 23/2014 on Regional Government has opened up space for local governments to develop and utilize existing economic opportunities. In terms of natural resources, many regional products have long been recognized and have gained a place in the international market so that they have high economic value, for examples: Gayo Coffee, Kintamani Coffee, Toraja Coffee, Salak Pondoh Jogja, Cilembu Sweet Potatoes, Carica Dieng, Jepara Furniture, and so on which have been exported abroad with a value of millions of dollars. The popularity of these products will be better if they receive legal protection that will protect these commodities from unfair competition practices and can provide economic benefits and increase product competitiveness in Indonesia's international trade. Many location-specific superior products in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, and handicrafts have a good reputation, so these products need to get legal protection as well as a means of promotion in their marketing(Ningsih, Waspiah, and Salsabilla 2019).

The complexity of legal protection issues against intellectual property rights in the era of globalization is followed by varied discourses. The birth of these problems is indirectly the result of the development of science, technology, and human resources manifested in innovation for the welfare of society. Taking into account the situation, the community is required to be critical and continue to test the determination of a product to produce intellectual work that dominates the market share of the economy. It becomes a trigger for every human being to try to use his creative power to the fullest by being supported by cultural support in competing as a superior resource in a particular field(Hananto and Prananda 2019). The Geographical Indication (GI) quality scheme guarantees the distinctiveness of a product embedded in the environmental characteristics and cultural know-how of a given region (Rachel John 2021). Geographical Indication (GI) quality scheme guarantees the distinctiveness of a product embedded in the environmental characteristics and cultural know-how of a given region (De Filippis et al. 2022). The benefit of GI utilization is not merely as an indication of the goods' origin. If GI is utilized appropriately and efficiently, the advantages will be fruitful for the government and the indigenous people (Kurnilasari 2020).

Indonesia has a diverse culture and biodiversity held by indigenous and local communities. Accordingly, this country has a special interest in a system of protection based on Geographical Indication (GI) because of the communal nature of GIs. Today, Indonesia has implemented the mandate to protect GIs provided by the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) through Indonesian Law Number 20 Year 2016 about Trademarks and Geographical Indications (TM & GIs Law 2016), which regulates the protection of national and oversea GIs in the country (Ayu Palar et al. 2021). GI has a positive regional and economic impact on the community who live within the production area (Laksono et al. 2022).

Geographical Indication is important because it is considered an effective policy tool to encourage rural development. Sustainable rural development refers to the steady progress of rural areas by taking

advantage of global prospects while ensuring the sustainability of resources in the future (Hoang et al. 2020). One of the results of natural wealth in the Southeast Sulawesi area that has the potential to be registered as a Geographical Indication is Siompu Tangerines which have become a traditional plant of the inhabitants of Siompu Island. Tangerine Siompu fruit is medium-sized yellow fruit flesh, yellowish-green fruit skin, contains 31.30 mg / 100 g of vitamin C and its distinctive taste, which is sweet and slightly acidity and meets the criteria of superior tangerine types characterized by soft fruit skin, lots of juice, sweet fruit taste, and few seeds, growing in lowland areas 0-200 m above sea level. Tangerines from Siompu Island are very popular with the people of Southeast Sulawesi because the selling price of Siompu Tangerines can reach 5-10 times the selling price of other local tangerines, so it is used as a mainstay of Siompu Island farmers as a source of income and used as a leading horticultural commodity by the Regional Government of South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province. According to the Research Institute for Citrus Plants and Subtropical Fruits (Balitjestro) Balitbang Pertanian Ministry of Agriculture, Siompu Orange is included as a national flagship orange through the Decree of the Minister of Agriculture number 742 / Kpts / TP.240 / 7 / 97. The sweetness level of Siompu Tangerines is on a scale of 9° -10° Brix.

The total geographical indications that have been registered in Indonesia contained in the website of the Directorate General of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights on Geographical E-Indications to date amount to 132 products. This number is not appropriate when viewed from the potential owned by Indonesia, especially for the Southeast Sulawesi region, where there is only one registered geographical indication product, namely Cashew Muna. This can be due to the government's efforts to protect products that have the potential to become Geographical Indications, besides that public understanding of the importance of registering products that have the potential to become geographical indications is also still small. Therefore, the local government has a very important role in encouraging the provision of protection for Siompu Tangerines as a Geographical Indication product in the form of registration by proving the characteristics of Siompu tangerines, and the role of the government is needed to socialize and fund Geographical Indication rights certification activities to increase regional income and also be able to provide welfare for farmers and conduct guidance and supervision of the protection of geographical indication products by the provisions of Law Number 20 of 2016 concerning Brands and Geographical Indications.

## **2. Methods**

This research is seen from the type of problem and its purpose is descriptive research with survey techniques. The survey technique is research that takes samples from a population and uses questionnaires as the main data collection tool. Survey techniques are used to obtain data from certain natural (not artificial) places, but researchers do treatment in data collection, for example by circulating questionnaires, tests, and structured interviews. Using survey techniques, researchers can obtain facts from the phenomena that arise and seek factual information. In the survey technique, the research instrument uses the same structured and systematic questions or statements to certain groups according to the research target, and then all the answers obtained are recorded, processed, and analyzed (Sumarjo, Ihsaniyati, and Pardono 2020).

## **3. The Potential of Siompu Tangerines as a Geographical Indication Product**

This geographical location is also influenced by astronomical, geological, physiographical, to socio-cultural aspects (Sopiyani et al. 2021). Geographical Indications are a form of industrial goods as part of Intellectual Property (IP). Geographical indication has been recognized in Indonesia since 2001 and was discussed again in 2018 many MSMEs did not realize and understand the benefits of GI for their business (Sopiyani et al. 2021). According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Geographical Indications are marks used on goods that have a particular geographical origin and have qualities or existence that arise because of the place of origin of the object. Consumers can see certain qualities of a product, which are due to nature such as race, variety, soil, climate, and human factors, such as certain production skills and traditions found in the place of origin of the



product. To be considered a GI, the mark must identify the product as originating in a place and the quality, characteristics, or reputation of the product must be based on the place of origin.

In the protection registration of IG, objects that can be registered include natural resources, handicraft items, and industrial products (Kudiya and Ayu 2020). The criteria for Geographical Indication products can be seen from the definition, based on Article 1 Number 6 of the General Provisions of Law Number 20 of 2016 concerning Trademarks and Geographical Indications which states that "Geographical Indication is a mark indicating the region of origin of a good and/or product which due to geographical environmental factors including natural factors, human factors or a combination of both factors gives a certain reputation, quality, and characteristics to the goods and/or products produced." Based on this definition, researchers analyzed product names that have potential Geographical Indications such as Siompu Tangerines explained that the name of agricultural products in the form of fruit is attached to the identity of the region of origin, namely "Siompu" which is located in South Buton Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province. As in products that have been registered as Geographical Indication products, namely Pulu Mandoti Enrekang Rice or Gayo Tangerine, the name of the region of origin and traditional name are attached to a product because of their respective characteristics as regional superior products. Based on the results of interviews with agricultural extension workers of South Buton Regency what characterizes Siompu Tangerines are its sharp and distinctive fragrant aroma, sweet taste mixed with a little sourness so that it feels fresh, and the skin of the fruit is not smooth, rather thick so it is not like other oranges. According to its characteristics, Siompu Tangerines are delicious to eat as fresh fruit or as dessert after meals. Siompu Tangerines are less juicy and, therefore, more suitable as table oranges and less adequate if squeezed into fresh drinks (juice).

Based on data released by the Research Institute for Citrus Plants and Subtropical Fruits on the Superior Varieties of Nusantara Oranges and Source Seed Distribution, Siompu Tangerines have a sucrose sugar content of 9°-10° Brix. The values of °Brix (i.e. the value (%) of total sugar content) were checked using a pocket refractometer (Lane Paixão dos Santos et al. 2020).

A refractometer is a tool for estimating the convergence of broken-down substances designed by Dr Ernest Abbe, a researcher from Germany around the 2010s. Researchers analyzed that this was by SNI 3165:2009 tangerines which regulates the standard ripeness provisions in dissolved solids oranges with a minimum scale of 8° Brix. The Brix degree describes the average value of the entire flesh so that the quality that has been determined by SNI can compete in domestic and international markets so that the quality of Siompu Tangerines has the potential to be registered as a Geographical Indication product and can compete with tangerines that have been registered. GI labels are regulated and implemented by various mechanisms under different legal frameworks and indication schemes to protect cultural heritage and artisanal production while providing a product identity. A formal acknowledgment of historical know-how and a high-quality reputation can transform local expertise, socio-cultural assets, and natural and human local characteristics into global connectivity (Crescenzi et al. 2023).

Siompu Tangerines from South Buton was named the sweetest oranges in Indonesia through the National Tangerine Contest in Batu City, Malang, East Java, in 2016. Siompu oranges have their special features compared to oranges in other regions. This fruit weighing 135-200 grams tastes sweeter than all types of superior oranges in the country, such as Sumatran tangerines, Kalimantan oranges, or oranges from Bali and Java. The distinctiveness of Siompu Tangerines also makes it special by being a fruit that is often used as one of the banquets at the state palace every year, even every August 17 event or other banquet events parties from the Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Plantation and Horticulture Office always send Siompu Tangerines to the State Palace. Citrus fruits can resist external microorganisms and maintain fruit quality, primarily due to their high content of natural resistance compounds; these compounds include peel essential oils, flavonoids, and phenolic acids. Reports have shown a positive correlation between fruit resistance and the content of polyphenols. Siompu Tangerines have a strong and distinctive aroma when peeled, so they will be formulated for perfume-making in the form of technical guidance by the Indonesian Mycorrhiza Association (AMI) and from the Plantation and Horticulture Office of Southeast Sulawesi Province.

Siompu Tangerines can produce essential oils such as limonene from flowers, leaves, and fruit peels that have a fresh and distinctive aroma suitable for perfume. The peel of Siompu Tangerines can also be used to find out if the oranges are original from the results of Siompu Tangerines seeds or the results of grafting that can affect the quality of oranges. Citrus peel waste is rich in health-promoting phytochemicals like polyphenols, which have antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

The Geographical Indication (GI) quality scheme guarantees the distinctiveness of a product embedded in the environmental characteristics and cultural know-how of a given region. Each region has its speciality products that are the flagship of the region. It is said to be a typical product because the goods in question have special characteristics that only exist in the region concerned, and cannot be obtained in the region. Based on this fact, many goods on the market use the name region to show the distinctiveness of the product. According to Article 1 point 6 of Law No. 20 the Year 2016, it is a mark indicating the region of origin of a good and/or product due to geographical environmental factors including natural factors, human factors, or a combination of both factors gives a certain reputation, quality, and characteristics to the goods and/or products produced (Saputra, Sulistiyono, and Latifah 2019). Citrus crop productivity and quality are largely determined by climatic and environmental factors (Nurmiaty 2021). The geographical environment of Siompu Tangerines consists of factors of natural conditions (soil type, climate, nutrients in the soil) on Siompu Island and/or human factors from maintenance carried out by the Siompu community form its characteristics of the Siompu Tangerines, thus making the oranges still survive and become the leading varieties of the region. The influence of natural factors, human factors, or a combination of the two creates a product that is "distinctive" from its place of origin, implying that the same product with the same special characteristics, will not be obtainable in another location.

Soil is the outermost layer of the earth. The layer is formed from weathered rocks and mixed with crushed organic materials. The layer is also a place for various plants to grow including horticultural plants of various types. Siompu tangerines are planted in the soil between calcareous rocks, to get optimal plant growth, they should be planted in loose, fertile, and well-drained soil with a pH of 6-6.8.

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- First bullet;
- Second bullet;
- Third bullet.

Numbered lists can be added as follows:

1. First item;
2. Second item;
3. Third item.

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3.2. *Figures, Tables and Schemes*

All figures and tables should be cited in the main text as **Figure 1**, Table 1, etc.

**Table 1.** Soil Test Results.

Analysis Parameters (Nutrients)	Unit	Value
Fosfor (P2O5)	Ppm	12,47
Kalium (K)	cmol/ kg-1	0,38
Magnesium (Mg)	cmol/ kg-1	1,47
Nitrogen (N)	%	0,24
pH	-	6,68

Based on the results of the Laboratory of Soil Chemistry and Fertility, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Hasanuddin University, show that the soil in Waindawula Village, Siompu District contains phosphorus of 12.47 ppm, which is high on a scale of 1-19 ppm. Phosphorus is the main nutrient in phosphorylation and has an important role in enzymatic reactions, the nutrient is

also present in the cell nucleus and essential in cell growth, meristem growth, formation of flowers, fruits and seeds, fruit ripening, stimulating root development, and determining the quality of plants. Other nutrients are medium category, so organic fertilizer is needed so that the nutrients contained in the soil remain optimal and maintained. Siompu Tangerines are also spoiled plants that always need a human touch. One form of touch is to bring plants closer to household kitchen smoke. Farmers in Siompu also think that smoke contains carbon dioxide needed by citrus plants. By planting in the yard, it means that the plant has the opportunity to always get kitchen smoke. However, farmers also suggest that Siompu Oranges can develop outside the yard. But the condition is that the plant must be provided with adequate manure. The approach that can be taken is the application of intensive cultivation techniques in the form of procurement or production of quality Siompu tangerine seedlings, environmental manipulation, and pest and disease control. Therefore, farmers who are Siompu islanders need to be equipped and at the same time improve their basic knowledge of cultivation aspects. In addition, based on the analysis of interviews with farmers and experts, the main contributing factor is the cultivation aspect. Thus, a breakthrough is needed to increase productivity by mastering the cultivation technology package. Based on research conducted in the South Buton District, Southeast Sulawesi Province, Siompu tangerines have been traditionally cultivated by farmers on Siompu Island for generations. The cultivation process is also still very traditional so the tangerines produced have a distinctive taste from the natural conditions in the Siompu Island area and the farmers who come from Siompu. The human factor is still important in the cultivation, harvesting, or processing of Siompu tangerines because tangerines cannot grow on their own, there must be a human touch as a supporting factor in addition to the natural factors of Siompu island that make the quality of Siompu tangerines better than other tangerines. The planting of Siompu tangerines is spread across 2 sub-districts, namely Siompu and West Siompu sub-districts, but the Siompu sub-district, Waindawula village, is the main planting site because of the large amount of vacant land and the agro-tourism center. The amount of use of production factors will certainly be related to the amount of sacrifice in obtaining these production factors (Marhawati 2019).

#### **4. Discussion Local Government Efforts in Encouraging the Potential for Legal Protection of Geographical Indications of Siompu Tangerines**

Indonesia is a country rich and abundant natural resources (Sarmilah 2019). Intellectual property is a property right that has commercial value with great potential (Thalib, Santoso, and Lestari 2020). The potential of Indonesia's diverse horticultural resources requires adequate legal protection of geographical indications for these products. GIs have become a product protection regime that is rooted in locality but has been accepted on an international scale as an essential aspect of product marketing (Thahir 2021). Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is important in the social life between nations. This is because IPR does not only contain moral rights but also contains economic rights. Moral rights are based on the concept of natural rights or natural rights, which means that naturally the creator or the person who gave birth to the intellectual work has ownership rights to the creation or intellectual work (MAYANA and SANTIKA 2020). Economic rights are based on marketplace theory, according to this theory, the basis for IPR protection is the provision of rewards to creators who have sacrificed energy, time, thoughts, and costs to produce a work (Dara et al. 2022). There are 3 (three) elements contained in TRIP that need to be scrutinized by countries that intend to adapt their national legislation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights. The three of elements are new norms, higher standards, and strict law enforcement. Approval of TRIPs is held to reduce distortion and impediments in international trade and the need to promote effective and adequate protection against Intellectual Property Rights and to ensure that process and law enforcement measures of Intellectual Property Rights are not a barrier to trade (Ahmad and Paserangi 2018). Affirmed the role of Geographical Indications in the development of rural areas and found that it played an important role in increasing farmers' incomes. However, less attention has been paid to the role of GI in reducing the urban-rural income gap and its underlying mechanisms. GI, which depends on regional resource endowments, is a unique regional intangible asset formed by coupling regional resources, environmental factors, and humanistic factors, and it is the key element in the formation

of regional economic competitive advantages, as well as in promoting regional agricultural development and people's well-being. The construction of GI can help to build the quality, reputation, and market demand for agricultural products, and then promote the export of agricultural products. The existence of superior products that have such unique values or local-specific distinctiveness needs to be preserved. Maintaining the existence of regional superior products that have a taste, and the uniqueness of certain distinctive shapes requires strong efforts to protect them.

Intellectual property rights products must essentially receive legal protection to obtain guarantees in efforts to produce them, trade and marketing distinguishing marks, as well as the stage of purchase and fulfillment of consumer or community needs (Purbaningsih, Suciningtyas, and Istanto 2019). In terms of the definition of the scope of the GI, the Trademark Act and Trademark Act 2001 has not defined definitively in the general provisions, however, the protection of a GI is a sign that shows the area of origin of an item, which due to geographical environmental factors including natural factors, human factors or a combination of both factors, giving certain characteristics and quality of the goods produced (Masnun 2021). As instruments of legal protection, the GIs are characterized as legal protection for consumers and producers. For producers, because they protect the use of their nominal identification and intangible assets since the major objective of a GI is the protection of products and their geographical name. In this sense, they can contribute to the fight against biopiracy and commercial fraud and forgery and for consumers, because they ensure traceability (to the extent that the source is emphasized by the GI) and compliance with established characterization (Medeiros, Passador, and Passador 2016). The assumption that GIs inevitably generate positive outcomes favors their incautious adoption. By elucidating that negative social and environmental effects can result from poorly conducted processes and that these results tend to reinforce each other, we expect to contribute to the integration of the incentives for GI creation into a coherent set of policies that can support the social organization of local actors, desirable productive practices and land use regulation. To ensure positive environmental effects, the connection between the identity of the target product of the GI and its terroir must be explicit. Also, the rules of the GIs should express the need for the protection of the environmental and cultural characteristics of the territory (Milano and Cazella 2021). Protection of geographical indications based on the registration system (constitutive) or first-to-file system, registration must be applied and the application must be submitted to the Minister. However, not all persons or legal entities can apply for geographical indication classification. Based on Article 53 paragraph (3) of Law Number 20 of 2016 concerning Marks and Geographical Indications, it is explained that Geographical Indication protection is provided after registration, to obtain registration, an application must be submitted to the Minister can come from community institutions, Provincial or Regency / City Governments. The local government in question is the governor, regent, mayor, and other regional officials as elements of local government administration. The memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Southeast Sulawesi and the Government of South Buton Regency on Legal and Human Rights Services signed on August 08, 2022, is the first step in cooperation in efforts to protect the potential of Intellectual Property in the South Buton area. One of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding is to develop and protect the potential of Intellectual Property in South Buton Regency and realize the progress of communal intellectual property in the context of preservation which includes protection, development, and utilization, as well as fostering communal intellectual property for national development.

However, until now there has been no real step in registering Siompu Tangerines as a Geographical Indication product, and no regional products in Southeast Sulawesi have been recorded as potential Geographical Indications in the DJKI Communal Intellectual Property. The efforts of the Southeast Sulawesi Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights are always carried out with the existence of a Performance Target program every year that must be achieved, one of which is by coordinating with local governments to encourage the recording of traditional cultural expressions, registration of brands and Geographical Indications. However, until now the leading regional product that has registered Geographical Indication certification in Southeast Sulawesi is



only Muna Cashew with registration number ID G 000000052 in 2016, in contrast to other regions that have registered many Geographical Indications. The Mobile Intellectual Property Clinic (MIPC) in Southeast Sulawesi is one of the flagship programs initiated by the Directorate General of Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia in bringing intellectual property services closer by providing consultation and assistance services to all levels of society to encourage the potential quantity and quality of Indonesian intellectual property. The role of Plantation and Horticulture Office of Southeast Sulawesi Province always provides support in terms of developing Siompu tangerine cultivation such as providing seed assistance, biological fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and training in the form of field schools aimed at Siompu tangerine farmers. assistance from the government cannot be given simply only by individuals, but must be on behalf of Siompu tangerine farmer groups that have been registered in the Agricultural Extension Information System (SIMLUHTAN), this is to show that the farmers are a legal group. Then there must be verification of the ability of the farmer group by stating intent or MOU cooperation contract to the farmer group explaining the ability to plant and maintain until the harvest of the assistance to be provided, then reported by the relevant agencies. The Head of Horticulture explained that Siompu tangerines have their characteristics but did not know that their potential could be protected as Geographical Indication products. There is still a lack of understanding by the government regarding the importance of registering potential products as Geographical Indications.

The South Buton Agriculture Office explained that it coordinates with researchers from the Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Crops Research Center (BALITJESTRO) in terms of developing Siompu tangerines as a regional superior product and efforts to deal with various kinds of disease or pest threats from citrus plants. Agricultural extension officers from the South Buton District Agriculture Office play an important role as facilitators to facilitate or serve the needs of farmers in carrying out efforts to increase productivity and develop products such as Siompu tangerines. Regarding the protection of Siompu tangerine agricultural products as Geographical Indication products, there has been socialization with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, but the knowledge of the Office related to Geographical Indications is very limited and the conditions of the South Buton Agriculture Office are very limited so there has been no follow-up to register. Based on the explanation above, the role of the relevant government in protecting Siompu tangerine products as Geographical Indications, it is necessary to first increase understanding and legal awareness of the importance of legal protection of Geographical Indications, these actions can be in the form of socialization education of legal awareness related to intellectual property rights, especially Geographical Indications to the community, local government officials, the world of education, and several related agencies. The local government of Southeast Sulawesi province and South Buton regency need to provide funding from the state budget (APBN/APBD) specifically for the registration of Siompu tangerines as Geographical Indication products. So that when the citrus is successfully registered, Siompu tangerines are entitled to protection.

## 5. Conclusions

The potential characteristics of geographical indications owned by Siompu tangerines have not received protection from the local government in the form of product registration due to a limited understanding of the importance of protecting regional superior products as geographical indication products. due to a limited understanding of the importance of protection of regional superior products as geographical indication products, local government efforts are still focused on aspects of the development of Siompu Tangerines which had declined to maintain its sustainability so as not to become extinct, besides the limited budget of the local government which is not intended for Geographical Indication registration and has not made Siompu Tangerines a top priority in terms of product registration.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following supporting information can be downloaded at: [www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1](http://www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1), Figure S1: title; Table S1: title; Video S1: title.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, N.F., H.P. and O.K.; Data collection, N.F., H.P. and O.K.; Interpretation of data, N.F., H.P. and O.K.; Manuscript preparation, N.F., H.P. and O.K.; Funding acquisition, N.F., H.P. and O.K. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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