

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM

DPIIT-IPR CHAIR

SURVEY ON MUGA SILK POST GI FORMALITIES AND ISSUES

The DPIIT-IPR Chair of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam on January 4, 2023 conducted a survey on Muga Silk Post GI Formalities and Issues at the International Winter Expo held at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Betkuchi, Guwahati. The Survey was carried out with the intention of taking stock of the Muga Silk post GI scenario and the awareness among the Muga Silk producers (including persons engaged in the various stages of Muga Silk cultivation and weaving) regarding registration as ‘Authorised Users’. Producers and traders/dealers of Muga Silk Assamese traditional garments (Mekhela Chadar, Muga Kurta, Muga Jackets, etc.) from various places of Assam participated in the expo. The team consisting of the Research Assistants (Ms. Sharmistha Baruah and Ms. Dolly Kumar), Office Assistant cum Data Entry Operator (Mr. Priyanko Mahanta) and Field Assistant (Mr. Pranjal Baishya) under the guidance of Dr. Pankaj Kumar, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor and Dr. Jupi Gogoi, Coordinator of Centre for Research on Intellectual Property Rights Law (CeRIP) of NLUJA, Assam, interviewed the producers and traders/dealers of Muga Silk Assamese traditional garments. The tools adopted for the survey included Interview Schedules and informal discussion.

The team learned that most of these producers and traders/dealers of Muga Silk were ignorant of the GI Act of 1999 and the benefits offered under the legislation. None of the producers present in the expo were aware about registration as ‘Authorised Users’ under the GI Act. They only had DIC Udyam Registration available with them. The producers and the dealers informed the team about the production and sale of fake and cheap Muga substitute in the form of Tussar/Toss Silk which has devastated the demand and the market for original Muga Silk. The significant issue pertaining to Muga Silk market is its high price owing to which people opt for the cheap Tussar/Toss Silk. This situation has brought about noticeable loss for the Muga Silk producers and dealers community. Hence, they seek legal aid in order to revive the Muga Silk market in Assam as well as at the national and international level.

The Research Assistants enlightened the producers as well as the traders of Muga Silk the basics of the GI enactment and the terms thereunder, apart from explaining them the benefits of registering as ‘Authorised Users’ of Muga Silk of Assam. The names and responses of the producers and the traders/dealers of Muga Silk have been recorded by the Research Assistants in the Interview Schedules which are annexed with this report for information and reference. The team also recorded videos and photos of survey which are available with the DPIIT-IPR Chair of NLUJA, Assam.

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Sl. No.	Names of Interviewees	Address	Contact No.	Whether Producer or Dealer of Muga Silk of Assam
1.	Anita Pegu	Dhemaji, Kulapathar, P.O. Aradhal, Assam	9101536873	Producer
2.	Diptikali Changkrang	Kulamuwa Missing Gaon	6003469971	Producer
3.	Minu Bhuyan	A.B.C., Tarunnagar, Guwahati	7002618193	Producer
4.	Lakhi Prava Pait	Dhemaji College, Tiniali, Dhemaji	8876614940	Producer
5.	Manisha Kardong Kumbang	Telam Bazar, Jonai	6002113779	Producer
6.	Karishma Tawa	Vill: Bordubi, P.O. Jorkata, Dhemaji	9365241294	Producer (Owner of Karishma Handloom)
7.	Anujyoti Doley Pamegan	North Lakhimpur, Assam	9706139847 (No. of Krishnanima Dhruba – dealer of Anujyoti Doley)	Producer
8.	Momi Pegu Doley	Komonselek Telam, Jonai	6001342041	Producer
9.	Swarnalata Taw Saikia	Lakhimpur Chetia Gaon, Ward No. 5	9365217974	Producer
10.	Pramila Konwar	Dhakuakhana, Sonari Sapor	9401282112	Producer

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Glimpses of the Survey

