Geographical indications (GIs) have been used globally to denote quality of a product related to geography, raw materials, particular skills, or other processing techniques. In recent years, agencies such as FAO have been encouraging further development of GIs around food and agricultural products to support sustainable development. Considering the pressing need for more sustainable food systems, we ask: Are current GI schemes working to promote sustainability in food systems, and if so, how? We examine this question with analysis of current GIs for agricultural crops in Italy. We develop a Java-based application to compile, read, index, and search the corpus of files retrieved from the eAmbrosia database, which houses GI applications and registrations for agricultural products. We find several examples of GIs mandating and protecting sustainable modes of production. We conclude with a discussion of how this geographic scheme could support sustainable food systems in the United States.

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