In Tawau, only the Amelonado cocoa species is grown. Generally, in cocoa plantations worldwide, there are two harvests which take place in a year, but in the Tawau Cocoa plantation, several harvests are possible. It is unshaded cocoa cultivation, with no traditional protective plants and the cocoa tree bears fruit within 2 years compared to the normal cocoa trees which require 5 years to mature.

Tawau is an area located in the south-eastern Sabah region. It is one of the world’s largest producers of cocoa products. Quion Hill is one of the world’s most fertile areas and has a black volcanic soil. The Teck Guan plantation opened up a cocoa plant nursery in 1 000 acres of Quion Hill land.

Cocoa was introduced into Borneo in 1950 by the British when the first batch of cocoa seed was sent from London to the local agricultural department in Tawau and was commercially planted by the Teck Guan Plantation in Quion Hill, Tawau. Recent research conducted by the cocoa scientist, Dr Paula Alvin from Brazil has confirmed Tawau Region has optimal natural conditions for growing cocoa. The land has a rich fertile soil, enough rainfall, no prolonged dry spells, no strong winds and a unique fertile black volcanic soil. Tawau produces the highest yield per hectare of cocoa in the world.