

Name Tawau Cocoa
Country Malaysia

Date of registration:
08/01/2015



Source: MyIPO

Main characteristics/features

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.

Geographical area

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 in 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.

Production/processing

Sabah is Malaysia's cocoa producing centre contributing 80 % of the country's total annual production, both for local demand and export. The whole production process takes place in Tawau – planting, harvesting, processing to finished product, marketing, sales and export. During the fermentation process, all the sugars convert to acetic acid with enzymes. At a temperature of 52 C, bacteria is killed, the enzymes are activated and the chocolate aroma is created during the roasting process. The cocoa beans change colour to dark brown indicating the beans are ready for the drying process at 65 C.

Link between product and territory

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.

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Competent authority Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)
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Type of product Cocoa beans
Control body SIRIM ISO, HACCP Cert, HALAL Cert Ministry of Agriculture
File number GI2015-00001
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