

Name **Sarawak Sago**
Country **Malaysia**

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Source: MyIPO

Main characteristics/features

Geographical area

Sago is a starch extracted from the spongy centre or pith of various tropical palms stems especially Metroxylon Sago. Sago starch is similar to starch obtained from maize, potato, tobacco and wheat. In Sarawak, Metroxylon Sago is the only crop which flourishes in the low lying swampy plain. Sago palm grows without the need for any form of fertilisation, apart from some ground clearing during the first year of growth. Sago palm is mainly planted in mineral or shallow peat soil areas. The initial waiting period is up to 10 years for the plant to be harvestable. A fully grown palm is about 10-12 m high with a diameter of about 0.8-1 m.

The main areas where sago palm is planted is in Oya Dalat and Mukah covering 32.6 % and 28 % of the total area. The Oya Dalat plantation has an estimated value of RM 13.7 million, covering an area of 1 600 ha while the Mukah plantation has an estimated value of RM 35.6 million covering 20 000 ha. While other small planters around this area cover around 3 000 ha.

Production/processing

Link between product and territory

Sago palms are mainly planted in mineral or shallow peat soils (< 3 metres deep). The planting material is in the form of a sucker is collected from a mature cluster (reaching trucking stage and is an L-shaped rhizome), and has a height of 45 to 60 cm and a weight of 2 to 4 kg. The rhizome diameter should be less than 20 cm. The roots are trimmed to about 5 to 10 cm and the suckers are nursed in a raft nursery for 3 months or in polybag nursery for 6 months. The planting density is about 100 to 145 palms per hectare in a double avenue design. During harvest, the felled sago palms are cut into sections for transportation. Sago sections should be not left in the field for more than 2 days to avoid deterioration of the starch in the trunk.

For many centuries, people have inhabiting the swamp forest of Oya, Mukah, Igan, Baligian and Daiat districts. Most of them are ethnic Melanaau and they live off the palm.

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Type of product Sago
Control body
File number GI2015-00006
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