Main characteristics/features

Yok Mlabri Nan is a square or rectangular bag. The size can be big or small, depending on its intended use. There is a small hole that is the same size on each bag and a small knot, which makes the bags unique. Yok Mlabri Nan have a natural colour. They can have purple, brown, red, white or green bands of colour.

Production and processing

The plant varieties used to make bags come from the provinces of Chiang Mai, Lampang and the Nan Mountains. The first step involves cutting the plant to get the desired length. The thread used for weaving is produced by twisting dry plants. For dyeing, threads must use the natural colour of the plants, leaves, bark or roots. Special tools are then used to weave. Small pieces of bamboo are used as knitting tools. They help to make the holes and knots that are typical for these bags. Different colour threads are used to weave lines of alternating colours.

The label must include the words, ‘Yok Mlabri Nan’.

Geographical area

The geographical area of Yok Mlabri Nan is located in the districts of Bo Glua, Viangsa, Baan Luang, and Muang, in Nan Province.

Link between product and territory

‘Yok Mlabri Nan’ or ‘Mlabri Kitbag’ is a unique handicraft of the Mlabri people. Mlabri means ‘forest people’ and they have been living in the mountains, along the streams in the forest for many years. The original weaving of Mlabri kitbags was considered a job for extra income for Mlabri women. Kitbags or ‘Yogs’ are made of plants or ‘Tapad’ which grow near water sources in Nan Province. Mlabri people have passed on their knowledge about the plants and threads from generation to generation. The craft of making Mlabri kitbags dates back to the generation of the grandparents. Back then, the Mlabri people used the kitbags to carry taro roots. They made the kitbags to use themselves or to trade for things. Natural raw materials as well as traditional know-how constitute the link between the product and its territory.