

Summary of Specification



1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet
善通寺産四角スイカ (transcription: Zentsujisan Shikakusuika)、Zentsujisan Shikakusuika

2. Category of the product for which the name is protected
Class 1 : Agricultural product (Watermelon)

3. Applicant – name and address

Kagawa Prefecture Agricultural Cooperative (JA Kagawa)

14-7 Nishinomaru Town, Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, 760-0021, Japan

4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin
June 14, 2019

5. Description of product

Zentsujisan Shikakusuika is a watermelon produced in Zentsuji City. It has a cubic shape like a die, different from common round watermelons. The skin of Zentsujisan Shikakusuika shows almost vertical stripes making a pattern of neat longitudinal stripes. Because of these stripes, Zentsujisan Shikakusuika has a beautiful appearance.

The unique cubic shape and beautiful appearance of Zentsujisan Shikakusuika is appreciated in the market and it is traded at a high price.

Moreover, Zentsujisan Shikakusuika is stably produced every year under the warm climate conditions with little rain, suitable for cultivating watermelons. Currently, Zentsujisan Shikakusuika is a specialty product representing Zentsuji City.

6. Description/delimitation of the Geographical Area and of specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographic area

(1) Producing area:

(2) Production method:

① Variety

“Shimao” is used for Zentsujisan Shikakusuika, considering its characteristics related to shape, appearance, and others. Other varieties that are recognized to have equivalent characteristics as “Shimao” may be used.

② Cultivation method

Only selected fruits with favorable growth are cultivated in a cubic container for molding and cultivating cucurbitaceous plants before fruits become large.

After putting a fruit into a cubic container, the fruit is cultivated until the fruit takes on the cubic shape. The fruits are harvested at a proper timing not to cause scratches, etc. on the skin.

③ Shipping standard

Fruits are sorted according to “The Shipping Standard of Zentsujisan Shikakusuika”. The weight of it must be 5.5kg or more but less than 8kg. The skin of it must have almost vertical stripes. Only fruits meeting the standard are shipped as Zentsujisan Shikakusuika.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

To produce high-value-added watermelons, JA Kagawa took initiative to start development of a cubic watermelon in Zentsuji City, where was a very active area for watermelon production.

JA Kagawa has conducted researches and continued the process of trial and error about a container for molding and cultivating over many years in order to enable the production of cubic watermelons with beautiful appearance. JA Kagawa acquired patent regarding the container for molding and cultivating in 2004 and established the molding and cultivating method. Additionally, selection of watermelons for cultivating in the container is very important process to produce cubic-shaped watermelons with beautiful appearance. For this selection, JA Kagawa also takes the initiative to organize a system to hand on the selection techniques generation to generation in the region.

Furthermore, the climate of Zentsuji City is warm with little rain, providing suitable weather conditions for cultivating watermelons. The weather conditions have enabled the stable production of Zentsujisan Shikakusuika every year.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

The molding method and cultivation techniques for Zentsujisan Shikakusuika have been studied by JA Kagawa taking the initiative in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Zentsujisan Shikakusuika is invented in around 1975.

The unique, cubic shape and beautiful appearance are appreciated by the market, and Zentsujisan Shikakusuika was sold well. Therefore, its production has continued for years since then.

9. Specific rules concerning labelling and using, if any

N/A

10. Control body / control authority responsible for checking the respect of the product specifications

Control body is JA Kagawa.

In addition, MAFF regularly monitors the condition of quality control in the process of production, through the examination of annual report submitted by JA Kagawa.

11. Outline of the quality control plan

JA Kagawa will check (1) cultivar, (2) producing area and cultivation method, (3) shipping standard and final products. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, JA Kagawa will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, JA Kagawa may stop the shipment of the products. In addition, JA Kagawa will prepare an annual performance report and submit it to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

12. Information of registered trademark(s) identical or similar to the GI (if applied by the GI holder in other Party's territory)

N/A