

## Summary of Specification



### 1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet

対州そば (transcription: Taishu Soba)

### 2. Category of the product for which the name is protected

Class 1 : Agricultural product (Buckwheat)

Class 5 : Processed agricultural product (Buckwheat flour)

### 3. Applicant – name and address

Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council

To the attention of JA Tsushima Eino-bu, 606-19 Nakamura, Izuhara Town, Tsushima City, Nagasaki

Prefecture 817-0013, Japan

### 4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin

April 9, 2018

### 5. Description of product

Taishu Soba is a buckwheat belonging to the variety indigenous to Tsushima (also known as “Taishu”). Compared with other *soba* (buckwheat) produced across Japan, Taishu Soba has superior taste and flavor, and maintains bitterness of the original variety. Its grains are smaller but uniform in size, and heavier in grain weight.

### 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:

Tsushima City, Nagasaki Prefecture

(2) Production method:

① Cultivar

Use the variety indigenous to Tsushima (“*Taishu Soba*”).

② Cultivation method

Cultivate the variety in ①, *Taishu Soba*, in the producing area.

③ Dehulling/milling

Dehull and mill buckwheat grains in the producing area.

Shipment in the form of brown buckwheat is allowed only for the edible use.

## **7. Link with the Geographical Area**

Buckwheat was introduced to the Japanese archipelago from southern China, via northern China and the Korean Peninsula. Tsushima on the route is considered as the first place in Japan where buckwheat was introduced.

In nature, buckwheat can easily crossbreed. In Tsushima Island, an isolated island far away from the Korean Peninsula and Kyushu mainland in Japan, the scope of activities of pollinating insects are limited within Tsushima Island and therefore the possibility of crossbreeding with varieties from other areas is extremely low. Due to the geographical conditions and the efforts of local producers and administration for preserving and controlling the variety, *Taishu Soba* with distinctive characteristics is cultivated.

## **8. History / confirmations of on-going production**

Buckwheat is considered to be introduced to Tsushima from southern China, via the Korean Peninsula in the late Jomon period (about 4,500 to 3,300 years ago). It is recorded that swidden cultivation for sweet potato, wheat, buckwheat, legume and other grain crops was performed until the late 1950s and early 1960s because there was few flat land suitable for farming. It is assumed that buckwheat had been cultivated as subsistence crop from ancient times.

Today, in recognition of the taste and flavor, *Taishu Soba* is cultivated widely in the Tsushima Island as a local specialty.

## **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 *Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council*.

In addition, MAFF regularly monitors the condition of quality control in the process of production, through the examination of annual report submitted by *Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council*.

## **11. Outline of the quality control plan**

*Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council* will check (1) producing area; (2) cultivar; (3) cultivation method and final products. *Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council* will give instruction and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow

the instruction, Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council may prohibit the shipment of the product as “Taishu Soba” and/or the distribution of *Taishu Soba*’s seeds. In addition, Taishu Buckwheat Promotion Council 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