

Summary of Specification



1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet
大栄西瓜 (transcription: Daiei Suika), Daiei Suika

2. Category of the product for which the name is protected
Class1: Agricultural product (Watermelon)

3. Applicant – name and address
Tottori Chuo Agricultural Cooperative (JA Tottori Chuo)
1409 Koshidono Town, Kurayoshi City, Tottori Prefecture, 682-0867, Japan

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

5. Description of product

Daiei Suika is a watermelon that has been cultivated mainly in Hokuei Town (former Daiei Town), one of the foremost production areas of watermelons in western Japan and has a history of cultivation for more than one hundred years. The watermelon is fully ripened until about the 48th day after pollination, with a small difference of sugar content between the central part of the fruit and the fruit peel side.

Daiei Suika has received a high evaluation from the market, as there is little variability in the shape and quality, ensuring stable quality and supply. In particular, the large size watermelon has been evaluated for having few puffy fruits, i.e., having very few hollow cavities inside, and is in demand from retailers for sales as a pre-cut fruit, as well as in demand for use as a gift.

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:
Hokuei Town and Kotoura Town in Tohaku County, and Kurayoshi City, Tottori Prefecture

(2) Production method:

① Cultivar

A variety that is selected through test cultivations in the region by a producer's group based on the climate conditions of recent years, the characteristics of Daiei Suika (large size, full ripeness), and others.

② Cultivation Method

Cultivation should be done with protection against rain using a pipe house or an open-field tunnel, and the number of fruits per plant is to be limited to 2 or 3.

In addition, only the watermelon that has been fully ripened until about the 48th day after pollination is shipped in order to prevent shipment of unripe fruits.

③ Shipping Standards

The shipping standards are that the weight per each watermelon should be 3.0 kg or more, the sugar content should be 11 degrees or more, and the fruit should be without rottenness, deterioration, or disease. The watermelon that can satisfy all these standards are shipped as Daiei Suika.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

Hokuei Town, the major producing area of Daiei Suika, is situated at the northeastern foot of Mt. Daisen, and extends long toward southwest with its northern end being the coastline facing the Sea of Japan, shaping gentle hills made of andosols. The andosols are fertile with good water retentivity and permeability, making natural conditions suitable for watermelon cultivation.

Moreover, because there were 22 producers' associations of watermelon as a subordinate body of JA Tottori Chuo, each producers' association was unified in 1973 to establish the Council of the Heads of Daiei Town Agricultural Cooperative Suika Associations (currently the Council of Daiei Suika Association) to strengthen production organization. In the same year, the center for raising seedling was set up in Daiei Town under the policy decided in the said Council. Also, after inspection through tapping each watermelon based on the same shipping standards as the current one using the unified method of trimming branches and node order of fruit set, only the Suika that has satisfied the relevant production method and shipping standards is sold under the unified name of Daiei Suika. In the area, the production of fully ripened watermelon with little variability in quality has been thoroughly carried out.

Furthermore, it was decided that the four collecting places at the time were consolidated to one in 1994, and preparation was made for the Daiei Suika Consolidated Fruit-Sorting Place where the processes of receipt of goods, quality inspection, fruit-sorting, and box packing are automated, resulting in processing capacity of 50,000 per day. This cooperative fruit-sorting system has enabled efficient shipment and a well-organized distribution system, ensuring the stable quality of Daiei Suika.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

According to the Tottori Prefecture Agricultural Association Newsletter No. 117 published in 1907, the cultivation of watermelons started in Yura village (Daiei district, current Hokuei Town), Tottori Prefecture in 1907. In particular, the spread of grafting technique in 1955 and the introduction of tunnel cultivation since 1966 stabilized the cultivation, expanding the production of watermelons.

Even after Daiei Town and Hokujo Town were integrated into Hokuei Town on October 1, 2005, the watermelons continued to be produced as Daiei Suika without changing the name, because the name and reputation of Daiei Suika has been already recognized widely. In addition, due to the expansion of the cultivation area, Daiei Suika is also produced in Kotoura Town, which is adjacent to Hokuei Town and has the same soil conditions as Hokuei Town, as well as Kurayoshi City.

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 Tottori Chuo.

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

11. Outline of the quality control plan

JA Tottori Chuo will check (1) cultivar, (2) cultivation method, (3) shipment standard and final products. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, JA Tottori Chuo will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, JA Tottori Chuo stops the shipment of his/her products with the geographical indication and the GI mark. In addition, JA Tottori Chuo 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