

Summary of Specification



1. Name of the GI + transcription in Latin alphabet or in international phonetic alphabet
ひばり野オクラ (Transcription: Hibarino Okra)

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

3. Applicant – name and address
JA Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative
45-1 Aza-izumida, Tarada, Ugo Town, Ogachi County, Akita Prefecture, 012-1115, Japan

4. Date of first Protection in the country of origin
December 15, 2017

5. Description of product

Hibarino Okra is a type of okra without green raw flavor, cultivated in greenhouses and characterized by long length and thickness, as well as being large and soft.

Since Hibarino Okra grows greatly in a shorter period than typical okra, it is large but full and soft.

Since Hibarino Okra is large but soft, it has the reputation of being available for a wide variety of dishes.

Hibarino Okra is traded at high price in the prefectural market than okras produced in other production areas, showing that Hibarino Okra has a high reputation.

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:
Ugo Town, Ogachi County, Akita Prefecture

(2) Production method:

①Cultivation Method

(a)Seeding and Raising Seedling

The seedlings of Hibarino Okra are raised in pots. During this time, an electric heating

wire is used to keep the temperature for sprouting, as well as to secure soil temperature, and irrigation is finely modulated to maintain precise moisture levels.

(b) **Transplanting and Cultivation**

The seedlings are transplanted and cultivated in greenhouses. Since okras have a high tolerance for heat but are sensitive to cold, producers also conduct precisely modulated cultivation control after settled planting, such as closing the skylight windows of greenhouses in the early evening to ensure that the appropriate temperature is maintained.

② **Shipping Standard**

Total length of 10 to 12 cm with a cross section of 8 mm to 1 cm.

7. Link with the Geographical Area

Ugo Town where Hibarino Okra production takes place is situated in a basin surrounded by the Ou Mountains and the Dewa Hills. Therefore, the area receives a longer duration of sunshine. The longer duration of sunshine and the greenhouse cultivation facilitate the growth of Hibarino Okra, leading to significant growth in a short period.

The cultivation of Hibarino Okra in the producing area started in 1976. Since then, producers in the area have worked on improving cultivation techniques in the region by such measures as going the rounds of each producer's fields to improve cultivation techniques. As a result, leading to a high reputation of Hibarino Okra in the market.

The name Hibarino Okra is derived from the geographical name, "Hibarino" located within Ugo Town. The okra producers, at the time when the production started, gave this geographical name to their okra, for the purpose of popularizing the okra.

8. History / confirmations of on-going production

The production of Hibarino Okra in greenhouses started in 1976, at the request of the market and others to develop the new local specialty, focusing on the longer duration of sunshine in April, and has continued to the present day with strong commitment to its large and soft characteristics.

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 Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative.

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

11. Outline of the quality control plan

JA Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative will check (1) producing area, (2) cultivation method, (3) shipping standard and final products. If a producer fails to abide by the specification, JA Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative will issue a warning and request a correction of his/her production. In case the producer does not follow the warning, JA Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative stops the shipment of his/her products as "Hibarino Okra". In addition, JA Ugo Niinari Horticultural Cooperative 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