

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION
OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION
FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OR FOODSTUFF**

I. Applicant:

1. Name or first name and surname¹:

Stowarzyszenie Sady Grójeckie [Grójec Orchards Association]

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4. Person acting on behalf of the applicant:

Marcin Lis

5. Group

The Association brings together producers of ‘jabłka grójeckie’ and producer groups operating in the area defined in the application.

¹ Only a group is entitled to apply for registration. A natural or legal person can apply for registration once the European Commission has defined the conditions under which such person can be treated as a group.

II. Specifications

1. Name:

Jabłka grójeckie

2. Application for registration of:

Please mark [X] if the applicant is seeking to register the name referred to in point 1 of the specifications as a designation of origin or geographical indication.

- (1) designation of origin
(2) geographical indication

X

3. Category:

Class 1.6. Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed

4. Description:

Apples of the varieties listed below may be sold as 'jabłka grójeckie' in the 'extra' class and in class I if they meet the minimum requirements for colouring, size and firmness of flesh at the time of sale specified in the following table. 'Jabłka grójeckie' also have a level of acidity which is, as a rule, 5% higher than the average for the variety concerned. However, the value for this parameter is dependent on the atmospheric conditions prevailing during the growing season.

Variety	Colouring as % of surface area	Size of 'extra' class (mm)	Size of class I (mm)	Minimum firmness of flesh (kg/cm ²)
Alwa	55	60	55	5.5
Belle de Boskoop and mutants	38	70	65	6
Braeburn	55	70	65	6
Cortland	55	70	65	4.5
Celeste	38	70	65	5.5
Delikates	55	70	65	5
Derlrbaleestival and mutants	38	60	55	5.5
Early Geneva	55	60	55	6
Elise	80	70	65	6
Elstar	38	60	55	4.5
Empire	80	60	55	5
Fuji	55	70	65	6
Gala and mutants	38	60	55	5.5
Gloster	55	70	65	5.5
Golden Delicious and mutants	10	70	65	5
Idared	55	70	65	5.5
Jerseymac	55	60	55	5.5
Jonagold and mutants	38	70	65	5
Jonagored and mutants	80	70	65	5
Lobo	55	70	65	4.5
Ligol	55	70	65	5.5
Mutsu	10	70	65	6

Paula Red	55	70	65	5.5
Pinova and mutants	38	70	65	5.5
Piros	38	60	55	5.5
Rubin	80	70	65	4.5
Shampion and mutants	55	70	65	4.5

5. Geographical area:

in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship:

- the whole of Grójec powiat (gminas: Belsk Duży, Błędów, Chynów, Goszczyn, Grójec, Jasieniec, Mogielnica, Nowe Miasto n. Pilicą, Pniewy and Warka),
- Mszczonów gmina in the Żyrardów powiat,
- Tarczyn, Prażmów and Góra Kalwaria gminas in Piaseczno powiat,
- Sobienie Jeziory gmina in the Otwock powiat,
- Wilga gmina in Garwolin powiat,
- Grabów n. Pilicą and Magnuszew gminas in Koźienice powiat,
- Stromiec, Białostrzegi and Promna gminas in the Białostrzegi powiat,

in the Łódzkie Voivodeship:

- Biała Rawska, Sadkowice, Regnów and Cielądz gminas in the Rawa powiat,
- Kowiesy gmina in the Skierniewice powiat.

According to the geographical division, the gminas listed above are located mainly on the Warsaw Plain, Rawa Plateau and in the Białostrzegi Valley and the Central Vistula Valley. These areas form part of the Central Mazovian Lowlands and the Southern Mazovian Lowlands.

Figure 1. Map of the area where ‘jabłka grójeckie’ are produced



The area where 'jabłka grójeckie' are produced, indicated on the map above, is called the biggest orchard in Europe due to its size and very high apple crop concentration. The largest concentration of apple crops in this region is recorded in the following gminas: Błędów, Belsk Duży, Grójec and Warka (up to 70% of crops).

6. Proof of origin:

The production of 'jabłka grójeckie' and their sale under this label is strictly controlled by the Grójec Orchards Association and at the request of competent inspection bodies.

Any producer wishing to produce the product covered by the geographical designation must comply with the following terms and rules:

1. For the name 'jabłka grójeckie' to be used, the product must be produced in the areas specified in point 5 in accordance with the method described in point 7 and meet the features listed in point 4.
2. 'Jabłka grójeckie' are produced in the Integrated Production system or in the GlobalGAP system.
3. The producer or producer group on their behalf must submit a written declaration to the Grójec Orchards Association that includes the following data:
 - a. First name and surname of the producer,
 - b. Location of crops,
 - c. Orchard area,
 - d. Estimated production volume in a given year, specifying varieties,
 - e. The producer's declaration to comply with the specifications, including the obligations arising from the "proof of origin".

4. The producer or producer group on their behalf must immediately report to the Grójec Orchards Association any changes made to the declaration.
5. The producer and producer group (if applicable) receive an identification number from the Association, that they are obliged to use together with the relevant label on all packaging approved for sale. This number is to ensure the traceability of the product.
6. The producer is obliged to keep a register concerning: the volumes of production and sales, the recipient of apples intended for further sale, as well as the area and location of their orchards. The register is kept in accordance with the template provided by the Association. The register may be kept electronically in accordance with the method developed by the Association.

7. Production method:

‘Jabłka grójeckie’ must be produced in accordance with the integrated production (IP) method for apples or the GlobalGAP specifications.

Site preparation

Each site designated for the establishment of an apple orchard should be properly prepared. Preparation of the soil for the orchard begins with a chemical analysis of the soil to eliminate nutrient deficiencies in the soil before orchard trees are planted. The results of soil analyses and limit values for the content of mineral components in the soil are used to issue fertiliser recommendations.

Before planting the orchard, the soil should also be prepared through appropriate mechanical cultivation and the cultivation of plants for green fertilisers in order to eliminate pathogenic organisms. If green fertilisers cannot be used, organic fertilisation in the form of manure is used.

Starting the plantation

Apple trees, depending on the weather conditions and the type of trees used, are planted in early autumn or spring. The spacing used for planting apple trees depends mainly on the growth strength of the noble variety and the growth strength of the rootstock used.

The spacing is 3-3.5 metres between rows and 0.5-1.2 metres between trees for dwarf rootstocks, depending on the growth strength of the variety, cultivation method and equipment used. The spacing for apple trees planted on semi-dwarf rootstocks is 3.5-4.2 metres between rows and 1.2-2 metres between trees. For orchards planted before an application for registration of ‘jabłka grójeckie’ was submitted, other spacing may also be used.

Cutting and shaping

The shaping of apple trees begins immediately after they have been planted by removing branches that do not match the planned orchard type. The shaping of crowns lasts until they reach the intended thickness.

The pruning of apple trees is performed annually at the beginning of the growing season. The main purpose of pruning is to clear the crown so that light can reach its every part. Annual pruning of trees is also an agrotechnical procedure that helps to attain the exceptional quality of fruit by providing light access to the crown, which directly affects the colour of the fruit. Pruning also affects the size of the fruit in a given year by removing an excessive amount of flower buds, which also indirectly affects the annual yield of trees. In years when there are very few flower buds, pruning is limited to the necessary minimum, so that trees with a small amount of fruit do not grow too much.

Fertilisation

Fertilisation is one procedure that has a direct impact on the quality of the fruit produced, while significantly affecting environmental protection. For these two reasons, fertilisation requires special supervision. The quantities and types of fertilisers used need to be determined, so does the method of their application. Fertilisation is based on the commonly known rules for fertilisation of orchard plants described, among others, in the methods of integrated apple production. Fertiliser recommendations for a given plantation are made based on regular soil analyses, at least once every 4 years, and verified annually against weather conditions, the appearance of the plants and the intensity of flowering and fruiting.

In the event of symptoms of mineral deficiencies on leaves or fruit, foliar fertilisation is used to quickly eliminate the deficiencies.

Irrigation

Only rationally used irrigation ensures long-term yields and high fruit quality, while affecting environmental protection. Rational irrigation is based on the use of an irrigation technique that ensures the use of the smallest possible amount of water during the year, with the best fruit quality. Three types of irrigation are used on farms: drip irrigation, under-crown micro-sprinklers and over-crown sprinkling. The need for irrigation is determined each time based on the reading of tensiometers, and in the absence thereof – based on observations of soil moisture.

In order to reduce water evaporation from the soil, mulching in the tree rows can be used, which also results in a faster increase in soil temperature in spring, thus accelerating vegetation.

Plant protection

Plant protection against diseases, pests and weeds is a procedure that has the greatest impact on the quality and yield of crops. Only a correctly identified threat in the form of disease infection or pest occurrence allows for making the right decision on the need and method of controlling diseases, pests or weeds. Each fruit grower is trained in recognising pests and weeds, and choosing the right method of their control. Fruit growers also regularly improve their qualifications, especially in plant protection, so as to make maximum use of non-chemical methods of pest, disease and weed control. Where a chemical plant protection product is required, preparations are used that are the least burdensome for the environment, including natural enemies, while being highly effective in controlling a given pathogen.

Treatments improving fruit quality

In order to improve the quality of fruit during the growing season, treatments such as thinning out fruit buds and summer pruning are used. Thinning aims to reduce the number of fruitlets. Thinning is used during the flowering period to chemically reduce the number of fruitlets and ensure annual fruiting, or it is carried out in summer by hand to eliminate distorted fruitlets or those with symptoms of pests and diseases, to improve the quality of the remaining fruit.

Summer pruning involves cutting out growths that cover the fruit. The thus ensured exposure of the fruit to sunlight helps to improve their colour.

Harvest

The fruit harvest period is a time of increased work for fruit growers. Due to the need for long-term storage of fruit, it should be harvested at the harvest maturity stage. The fruit harvest date depends on the variety and the intended storage duration under specific conditions. The basic methods for determining the harvest date include observation of the fruit, degree of colouration, seed colour, firmness, starch test, extract content, and the Streif Index.

Apples are harvested at full harvest maturity if the fruit is intended for storage, and at consumption maturity if the fruit is intended for direct consumption. The harvest date depends on

the location and weather conditions in a given year. Fruit is usually harvested from 10 September to 31 October, except for early varieties. Each producer determines himself the exact harvest date based on his knowledge and experience in this regard. The harvested apples are packed into box pallets with a capacity of approx. 300 kg and boxes with a capacity of approx. 20 kg. The apples are harvested by hand in order to maintain high fruit quality (the fruit is sorted by the picker, damage is limited, etc.). It is permissible to use machines and devices that facilitate harvesting, e.g. platforms, etc. Then, during transport and storage, until packaging, the apples are treated with the utmost care in order to avoid damage.

Storage

‘Jablka grójeckie’ should be stored in the area specified in point 5, until they are packed.

The optimal storage temperatures for ‘jabłka grójeckie’ are as follows:

1-3°C – long-term storage for up to several months,

4-10°C – short-term storage after harvest for up to a dozen or so days.

The permissible storage period for apples depends on their variety. It is important that the firmness at the end of the storage period is not less than 4.5 kg/cm².

If a given producer also grows other apples that not covered by the protected geographical indication, they should be stored separately to prevent the fruit from mixing. Apples intended for sale as dessert fruit should be of very good quality and free from any defects or damage.

Packing

Apples must be packed in the geographical area specified in point 5. Various types of unit and collective packaging with a capacity of up to 20 kg are used. The fruit is packed by hand or using special machines that minimise mechanical damage.

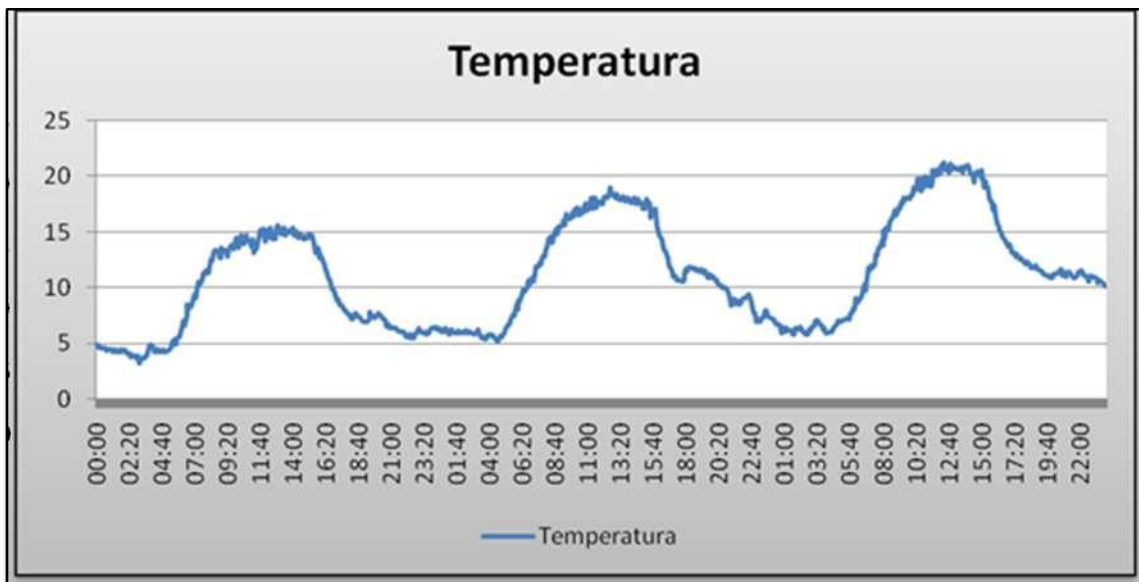
8. Link with the geographical region

8.1. Natural link

Podsolic and pseudopodsolic soils predominate in the Grójec powiat, including Grójec podsolic soil formed hard, limeless clay. In the river valleys, there are alluvial soils as well as sands and clays, often of different origin: a number of fruit-growing centres can be found where the Vistula River widens its bed, flooding certain areas during floods and depositing alluvial soils on them.

The average rainfall in the Grójec powiat in recent years has been around 600 mm.

The typical phenomena characterising the climate of the Grójec powiat include significant differences in temperature between day and night from mid-September to the end of October. This area is also characterised by drops in temperature at night, even to as little as 0°C.



Temperatura – Temperature

Chart 1. Temperatures from 20 to 22 September 2007. Source: Institute of Geophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) in Modrzewin near Belsk Duży.

Low night-time temperatures impact favourably on the physiological processes which take place in the apples just before harvesting. This is because oxidisation processes during the night-time resting period are less intensive and, as a result, more sugars accumulate in the fruit, significantly improving the fruit blush. Ground frosts also occur during this period. Such a climate favours an intensive blush covering a large part of the surface of the apples. It also improves the sugar-acid ratio, making a significant contribution to the exquisite taste of ‘jabłka grójeckie’. The apples’ beautiful red blush not only gives them a pleasing appearance but also reflects the higher content of pigments, mainly anthocyanins and caretonoids, in their skin tissue. The pigments responsible for the production of the red blush have health-promoting properties, because they are antioxidants that “sweep away” free radicals from the human body. As is commonly known, free radicals are the causes of numerous diseases that plague society in the 21st century, but by eating beautiful red ‘jabłka grójeckie’ we can significantly reduce such risk. In short, the influence of significant temperature amplitudes translates into the health-promoting properties of apples as follows: **significant temperature fluctuations → intensive blush → a large amount of antioxidants → healthier apples.**

8.2. Human and historical link

The Grójec region has been associated with fruit growing since the Middle Ages, which is why currently the Grójec powiat and its neighbouring powiats have developed apple production to an industrial level on a global scale. Fruit producers were followed by companies providing services to this sector of agriculture that have developed the infrastructure necessary to handle fruit farms. As a result, the “biggest orchard Europe”, as it is colloquially called by the local people, has developed in southern Mazovia.

It is for the centuries-old tradition of apple growing, heavily concentrated in these regions, that apples are closely associated with the Grójec region. The reputation enjoyed by ‘jabłka grójeckie’ results from their large market share and their high quality.

8.2.1 History of ‘jabłka grójeckie’

Orchards of large ownership

Queen Bona, who was known for her great passion for horticulture, received a large tract of land in what is now the Grójec powiat. The queen established numerous privileges for the population in the administered localities: Czersk, Bądków and Warka, founded new villages, and also grew fruit plants. (Gieysztorowa, Zahorski, Łukaszewicz, 1968). The following was written about Warka and its surroundings: *almost the entire Pilica district is covered by fertile gardens* (Pazyra 1974). As a great lover of gardens and an efficient administrator, she took care of the gardens in the estates under her control (Gieysztorowa, Żaboklicka, 1967/1968), just like the previous administrator of these estates, Princess Anna – the last representative of the Piast dynasty. Queen Bona's actions gained legal support in a royal act from 1578 issued by her son, where the right to own the gardens was confirmed (Rola-Stężycki, 1992). The inspection from the time when she was the administrator includes a description of the grange in Bądków, that reads as follows: *The orchard – It is not small, but the trees in it are old and many of them have been cut down by the wind. There are many trees there, but they do not fruit often, this orchard will do little good, seedlings need to be planted* (Gieysztorowi, Żaboklicka, 1967). The grange in Bądków included Goszczyn, Kozina, Długa Wola, Pacew and had an area of 40 voloks, 12 fields each, on which 66 peasants and 10 gardeners lived and worked, and there were 40 gardens there. (Gieysztorowa, Żaboklicka 1967). In Długowola, there were 26 gardeners, while in Pacew the number of gardeners did not exceed 10 (Gieysztorowa, Żaboklicka 1967).

The Grójec powiat clearly stood out: **there were several times more manor orchards there than in other poviats – the area of orchards was 1,801 morgens**. The Warsaw powiat, second in this hierarchy, had a three times smaller area of orchards (600 morgens). In the Wieluń, Sieradz, Kalisz and Łęczyca poviats in the Kalisz Governorate, the area of orchards ranged between 400 and 500 morgens. In other regions of the country, manor orchards developed on a smaller scale (according to statistical data from 1880).

At the end of the 19th century, the following was noted about orchards in the Belsk area: *Some 40 years ago, there were large orchards in Belsk owned by the Lubomirski princely family and the local parish priest, but few little ones. Now we see new and older orchards everywhere in the fields, not only in the parishes, but also quite a few owned by peasants. Many freshly dug holes mean new rows of trees to be planted. Most of the trees are a dozen or so years old.* (Jankowski, "Ogrodnik", 1934, p. 290). Other sources say: *Even before the granting of property rights, Prince Jan Tadeusz Lubomirski from Mała Wieś encouraged people to establish orchards* (Czekanowski, *Grójeckie we wspomnieniach* [Recollections of the Grójec region], series IV, 2004, p. 51). The pre-war orchard stretched over an area of **104.76 hectares** (one quarter of the total land) and was unmatched in the Grójec powiat, being also one of the largest in the country (Słowińska, 2007). *At the outbreak of World War II, in our estate, mainly in Stara Wieś, there was ca. 100 ha of fruiting orchards and ca. 4 ha of nurseries where apple and other fruit tree seedlings were growing* (Morawski, 1997). In 1937, it was noted that the Nowa Wieś estate had at that time one of the most outstanding and largest fruit farms in Poland ("Ogrodnik" [Gardener], 1937, p. 207).

In Błędów, there was: *A fruit garden with over three hundred and several dozen trees of various species /.../ This garden is crossed by a ditch serving as a drain – There is also a small nursery here – there is no gazebo /.../. This garden is leased by Zagórski to Antoni Bredowski from the village of Kozietyły for two hundred and fifty Polish zloty per year, and additionally half a morgen of land* (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, sygn. 18 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, ref. No. 18], p. 380). The 1843 description indicates an increase in the area of orchards and presents these parts of the grange: *Błędów Landed Property /.../ covers ca. 150 Chełmno voloks², of which /.../ Behind the palace, at the back, there is a walking garden with wild trees, among which there are 20*

² 1 Chełmno (new Chełmno) volok = 17.955 ha

fruit trees – and next to it there is a fruit and vegetable garden with about 500 trees of various species and a nursery with about 300 fruit trees (ibid., ps. 148, 149).

According to statistical data from 1880, when orchards were divided into manor and peasant ones, **the area of peasant orchards in the Grójec powiat was 398 morgens** (Aleksandrowicz 1880).

The peasant orchards included mainly species and varieties that were easy to grow, that is why varieties such as ‘Oliwka’, ‘Papierówka’, ‘Różanka Wirginijska’, ‘Mnich’ and ‘Rzepka’ prevailed there. Winter varieties were rare, and summer and autumn varieties prevailed (Pieniążek 1997).

In the Michałów Górny nad Pilicą estate, gardening was practiced even before the granting of property rights to peasants: *Village gardens /.../ these are located between settlements and village buildings and together with buildings occupy an area of ca. two Chełmno voloks*³ (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, 1826 r. sygn. 400 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, 1826 ref. No. 400], p. 30). In Michałów Dolny, gardens: *are located between settlements that /.../ occupy an area of first-class land of ca. 24 Chełmno morgens* (ibid., p. 31). The estate also included the village of Palczew, and in it: *Village gardens located /.../ as in the previous villages, that together with buildings occupy ca. 3 Chełmno voloks* (ibid., p. 33). In Zastruż, which was part of the Michałów estate, a garden was established of an astonishing size for those times – 12 Chełmno morgens⁴.

Among few pieces of information about peasant orchards in the mortgage books, there is a note that in the Ostrołęka estate: *The cottage is the same as the previous one, but there is a small fruit garden next to this one and it belongs to this one* (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, 1851 r. sygn. 388, nr dok. 21 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, 1851 ref. No. 388, document No. 21]).

We also know that in the 19th century in Błędów: *each of these cottages has a small garden with fruit trees that is enclosed with a pole fence* (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, sygn. 18 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, ref. No. 18], p. 385) and that the manor gardens with an area of 46 morgens were divided between manufacturers, colonists and peasants (ibid., p. 406).

Below there is fragment of a document concerning the Sielec estate from 1822: *Gardens around rural buildings occupied by peasants together with orchards at these buildings /.../ ca. 8 morgens* (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, sygn. 466, nr 1822, dok. 59 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, ref. No. 466, No. 1822, doc. No. 59]).

Jan Przybylski from Wichradz was also involved in fruit growing and had 180 fruit trees in his orchard (“Ogrodnik Polski” [Polish Gardener], 1896, p. 219). He received a distinction in the competition for peasant orchards announced by T.O.W. (Warsaw Horticultural Society) in “Zorza” and “Ogrodnik Polski” magazines.

Commercial fruit growing

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, commercial orchards were increasingly established, but the areas around houses were usually not large. Fruit trees were therefore planted in the field. In the past, they traditionally most often grew behind farm buildings, in the immediate vicinity of villages. Even then, two increasingly compact fruit-growing regions could be noticed in the powiat: one on the Vistula River – from Konary and Podgórzyce to Góra Kalwaria and the other – west of Grójec in the vicinity of Belsk and Błędów. Orchards were also established in other parts of the powiat, but for a long time they did not form a larger whole. They were established with profit in mind, which is how they differed from those established earlier. On the Vistula River: *orchards developed in the 1880s, when there were several fruit trees near buildings, most of them were forest*

³ 1 Chełmno volok = 17.955 ha

⁴ 1 Chełmno morgen = 0.56 ha

pears and apple trees (...) Kosztela, Papierówka and Rapy (regional name). (...) The actual, faster development of fruit growing took place at the beginning of the 20th century (Bereza 1958).

The following was noted about Podgórzyce: *Most orchards in 1911 in Podgórzyce comprised young trees that could only be expected to bring profit in a few years (Głodkowska-Sampolska, 1965). This locality was already at that time focused on commercial fruit production, as evidenced by the constantly expanding plantings. The long tradition of planting fruit trees is confirmed by a pear tree found there in 1937: its age was then estimated at about 150 years. This tree was therefore a remnant of an 18th-century home orchard (Onych, Wojtasik, 1985). Orchard trees were already planted in Podgórzyce at that time, so were they in nearby Konary: Gradually, the village of Podgórzyce was covered with fruit trees and today it is one large commercial orchard with a total area of ca. 60 hectares, producing fruit on a mass scale, and bringing prosperity to its owners ("Sad i Owoce" [Orchard and Fruit], 1939, p. 47). Just before World War II, agriculture and fruit growing finally separated in many farms there: Currently, the village of Podgórzyce consists exclusively of fruit farms; grains and potatoes are produced as catch crops, for own needs, in a typical two-level farming system, and the main harvest takes place in autumn ("Sad i Owoce", 1939, p. 51).*

Pioneers of fruit growing – whose merits are still visible today – had their orchards in Podgórzyce near Warka. Jan Cieślak was the first to start fruit growing on a larger scale was. While at a market in Warsaw, he noticed the high price of fruit, which prompted him to establish his own orchard. He was one of the few who broke away from the system of leasing orchards to traders who usually did not care about fruit trees. He sold his products himself in Góra Kalwaria and Warsaw. As the first fruit grower in Poland, he built fruit storage facilities in 1918, and as early as 1932, wiser due to experiences related to storing apples, he built, together with his sons, a second storage facility with a double-wall system (Photo 1). Above the storage facility, he designed a room for sorting fruit. At first, these activities were hard to comprehend for his neighbours. Later, however, it turned out that Jan Cieślak was heading in the right direction and eventually had many followers. Jan Cieślak's pioneering fruit-growing career can be evidenced by the price obtained for the fruit sold. In 1938, when a kilogram of sausage cost PLN 2, the farmer from Podgórzyce sold apples for PLN 3.50 per kg. In 2006, when 1 kg of Podwawelska sausage cost about PLN 20, one kilogram of apples cost about PLN 2 (*Słownik wiedzy o Grójeckiem, zeszyt VIII* [Dictionary of knowledge about the Grójec region, issue VIII] p. 14, Małgorzata Sztokinier).

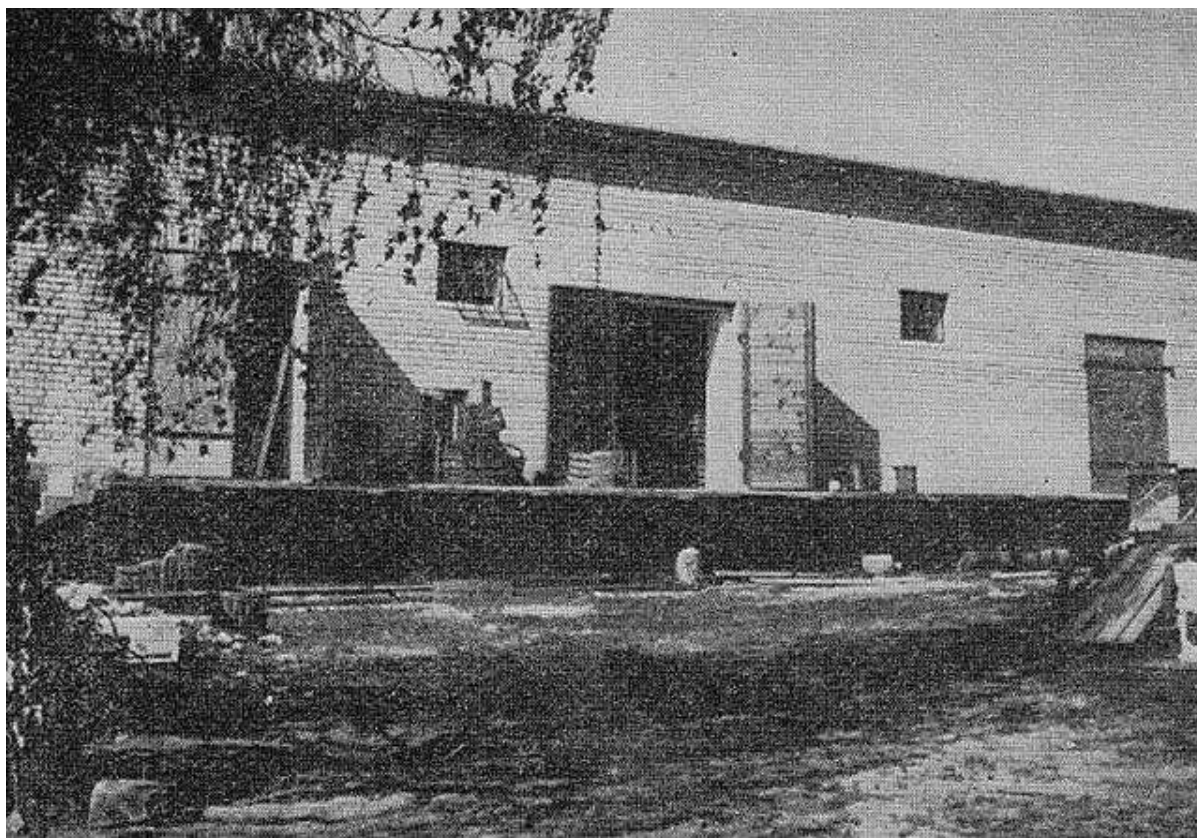


Photo. 1. Jan Cieślak's storage facility.

It seems that fruit growing began to develop earlier in the Vistula River region, but it expanded more rapidly and on a larger scale west of Grójec – in the Błędów and Belsk regions. The information that it was worth planting fruit trees reached the residents of Błędów and Ignaców early on: *The future of the village was, however, in orchards. They originated in small, rickety and half-wild home orchards. It was not until around 1920 that the new generation – my generation – planted larger orchards. They usually reached about half the distance between the village and Ług (...) Only 10 years later, when transport and plant protection equipment improved, the first commercial orchard was established in Borzęcki, currently owned by Jan Lachowicz. Since then, commercial orchards have been established quite quickly* (Lachowicz, typescript, no date)

Stanisław Feliksiak from Łęczeszyce established his first orchard early on. He learned fruit growing at an agricultural school and then began an apprenticeship in the parish orchard of priest Niedźwiedzki. He established a 6-hectare commercial orchard in 1926 (Unruh 1963, Słowińska, 2007).

In Łęczeszyce, fruit was grown by Adolf Korczak from Belsk Duży. He established the first orchards a year before the disastrous winter, in 1927. After the frosts, the plantings had to be almost completely restored (Słowińska, 2007).

Bolesław Pietrzak's father also established an orchard very early on: *the garden of old Pietrzak was established, so were several orchards in Janówek and peasant orchards in the Grójeck powiat, whose areas were no longer hundreds of hectares, but far more than a thousand. /.../ This is not only my or my deputy's merit, the merit of the valuable Zygmunt Racięcki from Kociszewo. (Grójeckie we wspomnieniach, 2004). This took place at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries: At that time, my parents decided to allocate about 2 morgens for an orchard – quite a lot of work, because they were to plant over four hundred trees. So my father dug wide holes for them to fill them later with good, fertile soil, and peasants passing by on the nearby road laughed at him for*

establishing a cemetery. He paid no attention to it. He planted many species of trees, and then started planting a forest (Pietrzak, 1971).

Fruit-growing also developed in the vicinity of Błędów. In 1922, Władysław Małachowski's commercial orchard in a farm of over 40 morgens covered 6 morgens. Several late varieties of apple trees (400 trees), 100 pear trees and 100 plum trees fruited there. Władysław Małachowski's brother, Bolesław, had orchards that were not smaller. The oldest orchard covered about 3 hectares. Its area increased to 8 hectares before the war, so it was a large orchard, considering the conditions at that time (Słowińska, 2007).

In Bronisławów, located in the western part of the Grójec powiat: *Near the farmsteads, there were fruit orchards everywhere, with apple, pear, plum and single cherry and sweet cherry trees. /.../ orchards were established, producing a larger amount of pome fruit /apple trees, pear trees/ for sale still before World War I. Stanisław Pawlak, son of Antoni, had an orchard with an area of a few morgens at that time, and then so did their son Wojciech, as well as Jan Pawlak, son of Wojciech. The orchard of the latter was run by his brother Walenty, a passionate gardener, who lived with him. There were also orchards at other farms too. Our village was therefore one of the first in the Grójec region to switch from agricultural production to fruit-growing. Even larger commercial orchards began to be established in the 1940s. First by my father, Waclaw Czarnecki, son of Jan and Rozalia, who planted 3 morgens of orchard in 1937 (Czarnecki, 2002).* This is what the beginnings of fruit-growing in the Konie gmina looked like. The author also mentions Jan Czarnecki and Wojciech Pawlak as the forerunners.

During breaks in his intense social and political activity, the outstanding activist Tomasz Nocznicki was involved in fruit growing. He founded: *a 4-morgen orchard consisting of good trees purchased in line with the latest good practice (Mierzwiński, 2002).* However, his merits were incomparably greater in popularising machinery rings and promoting establishment of orchards. Orchards were also owned by representatives of other families: Żółcik, Maciak, Kowalczyk, Pietrzak, Maliszewski, Jaskulski and Skorupski.

According to the 1921 census, orchards, gardens and buildings in the Grójec powiat accounted for 4% of the total area (6,764 ha), including **2,694 hectares** of orchards. In 1931, the total area of orchards increased to **2,709 hectares** (Goldberg, 1939). The largest number of fruit trees grew within the boundaries of Góra Kalwaria – 61 ha, in Mogielnica – 38 ha, in Grójec – 29 ha, and in Warka – 22 ha. Among the rural gminas, Czersk with 305 ha of orchards was in the forefront, followed by Jazgarzew – 242 ha, Belsk – 193 ha, Konary – 188 ha, Kobylin 181 ha, Komorniki – 166 ha, Konie – 144 ha, Rykały 142 ha, Jasieniec 141 ha, Borowe 132 ha, Błędów 111 ha, Promna 103 ha, Lechanice 87 ha, Lipie 84 ha, Nowa Wieś 75 ha, Drwalew 58 ha, and Wągradno 43 ha (Goldberg 1939). As early as then, fruit growing in the Grójec powiat was at the highest level, unmatched anywhere else in the country. In 1931, according to calculations by the district branch organisations, orchards covered 6-7% of the land area in the powiat, despite the frost that affected 40% of this area in 1928. The ratio of old to new orchards was 1:3 (Goldberg 1939). It should be remembered that the number of orchards was most likely much greater, but their area was underestimated to reduce income tax (Słowińska, 2007).

Foreign gardeners

For many centuries, gardeners were not educated in Poland, and the development of horticulture, and fruit growing in particular, was influenced by gardeners brought from abroad to landed estates (Molisch, John – Mała Wieś, Zaborówek – Winkler, Lessel – Pilica and others). German and Dutch colonists also arrived in large numbers. Seeing the backwardness in the development of horticulture, they tried to develop this field, drawing on the experience gained in their homeland. As early as then, many colonists of German origin lived in Błędów and its surroundings, and each of them had a garden. They were more involved in horticulture than Polish serfs (*Słownik Wiedzy o Grójeckiem*, 1993, 1994, 1999). Each of the settlers owned: *Buildings with*

a garden, 3 Magdeburg morgens⁵ of land, with the obligation to pay rent by 11 November each year in the amount of nineteen zlotys (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. IV, sygn. 61 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part IV, ref. No. 61] pp. 162–175). Colonists from Germany of the Evangelical faith, gathered around the church in Pilica, settled in large numbers north of Warka, in the villages of Pilica, Gaški and Hornigi (*Słownik Wiedzy o Grójeckie*, 1994). The village temporarily belonged to Princess Maria Wirtemberska of the Czartoryski princely family and her husband. She was the daughter of Izabela Czartoryska of the Fleming family. Izabela was known for her passion for gardening. She was the founder of the famous park in Puławy. At the time of her ownership, the garden was looked after by Franciszek Lessel, later inspector of the Agronomic Institute in Marymont, who died in 1839, but: *the settlement of Lessel's successors has survived /.../, and in it a fruit garden with an area of 1.67 morgen and a wooden house* (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, sygn. 419 [Register of mortgages in Grójec, part I, ref. No. 419], p. 59). German influences, and above all the existence of a pastoral centre in Pilica, were an important factor attracting people from Württemberg, which was considered *a land of fruit trees*, as reported in the horticultural press of the 19th century. In many places, single German families could be found.

Merits of the clergy

Equal merits in the development of fruit growing are attributed to priests. Virtually all parishes had their orchards. Parishioners employed to work in those orchards could learn there the art of caring for and propagating fruit trees. The priests' orchards also provided the scions necessary for budding and grafting. In 1836, the following was noted about the orchard in Drwalewo: *The trees in the orchard do not meet their purpose either – when the trunk reaches the layer of sand, canker develops and the tree withers. Over a few years, I have lost 300 trees and grafts. It is best to keep a few trees for your own convenience, but when planting, you need to fill the holes deeply with clay or fertiliser* (Szczekowscy, 1996).

The 19th century, especially its second half, saw an increase in priests' influence on the development of fruit growing. Not only priests, but also clergy of other denominations promoted fruit growing, e.g. in the town of Pilica (Słowińska, 2007).

In the Grójec powiat, fruit growing was popularised by the following priests: Roch Wójcicki from Belsk, Niedźwiedzki from Łęczeszyce, Stefan Roguski from Goszczyn and Edward Kawiński from Konary, and probably others.

Priest Roch Wójcicki was the only representative of the clergy at the first gardening exhibition in 1881 and: *specimens presented by /.../ the parish priest from Belsk, consisting of 10 varieties of apple trees and 10 varieties of pears* (“Gazeta Rolnicza” [Agricultural Newspaper], 1881, p. 273) *aroused great interest. The garden serves as a nursery for peasants who, encouraged by the example of the respected parish priest, are eager to establish orchards on their own* (ibid., p. 273).

In 1889, priest Niedźwiedzki from Łęczeszyce published an assessment of the harvest in the “Ogrodnik Polski” [Polish Gardener] magazine, providing a fairly detailed (for that time) picture of his orchard. There were 91 older apple trees in his garden. Young trees were brought from Warsaw gardens. Priest Niedźwiedzki had a 3-morgen orchard and a small nursery. Not only did he deal with fruit growing, but he also encouraged others to produce fruit and taught them how to do it.

The third priest of those mentioned above, Stefan Roguski from Goszczyn, actively expanded the area of orchards in the area, participated in cooperative structures, and in September 1917, at a meeting of the branch of the machinery ring, he co-founded a gardening company (14 members), in which he acted as an activist and deputy president. Later, however, he was moved to a Warsaw parish and the cooperative movement lost one of the most influential activists popularising knowledge of orchards (*Grójeckie we wspomnieniach*, 2004).

⁵ 1 Magdeburg morgen, also known as a small Prussian morgen = 0.2553 ha

The fruit orchard of priest Edward Skupieński on the parish farm in Chynów was equally highly regarded. The fruit orchard established on a 2-morgen area was as carefully tended as the agricultural part of the farm (Słowińska, 2007).

Priest Edward Kawiński decided to become independent from donations from parishioners by establishing an orchard. He also acquired a 3-morgen orchard from a parcelled manor house in Konary (Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. IV, sygn. 450 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part IV, ref. No. 450], p. 233). His successor, priest Piotr Zajkowski, stayed in the parish almost until the outbreak of the war, belonged to the European Agricultural Progress Association, and received a thorough agricultural education (Kronika parafii Konary [Chronicle of the Konary parish], Walczak 2001).

There were profitable orchards in the parish of Belsk, where priest Feliks Dąbrowski received, in 1927, 7,000 zlotys from the lessee, which was 3,000 zlotys less than Prince Lubomirski from Mała Wieś did. At that time, priest Niedźwiedzki from Łęczeszycze took only 500 zlotys, and priest Marks from Lewiczyn – 700 (Matyjas 1999).

Priests who were aware of the role that fruit growing and cooperation could play, actively participated in the activities of machinery rings. These included priests Rogulski and Choiński from Goszczyn, Niedźwiedzki from Łęczeszycze, Bryndza from Lewiczyn, Prądyński from Worowo, Ożarek and Sobolewski from Wrociszew, Sołtyszewski from Ostrołęka and Wilkoszewski from Przybyszew. They often invited travelling gardeners, co-organised gardening courses, and contributed to raising social awareness among the village inhabitants (Słowińska, 2007).

Advisory and machinery ring activities

The first advisors, called travelling gardeners, arrived in the Grójec powiat before World War I. Witalis Urbanowicz, one of the most famous travelling gardeners, helped to run orchards and disseminated knowledge among peasants. He cooperated with priests: Stefan Rogulski from Goszczyn, Niedźwiedzki from Łęczeszycze, Wojciech Bryndza from Lewiczyn, Prądyński from Worów, Ożarek and Feliks Sobolewski from Wrociszew, Jan Sołtyszewski from Ostrołęka and Kawiński from Konary. W. Urbanowicz was a member of the Warsaw Horticultural Society and as an instructor thereof, he became one of the most important figures in fruit growing at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. He was self-taught, passionate fruit grower. He used his oratorical skills during lectures, talks and presentations organised by him to promote knowledge of fruit growing. He helped establish orchards and supervised them. He used slides and a projection device. In 1909, Witalis Urbanowicz dreamt of “*a rustling orchard with delicious fruit*” at every peasant’s cottage (Matyjas 1994).

Urbanowicz was also the author of the 10 gardening commandments:

- “1. You will not spare a penny, if you have a penny, to buy good grafts, nor the effort to establish an orchard.*
- 2. You will not ask a shoemaker or a blacksmith for advice in the garden in vain, but a good gardener, books and newspapers.*
- 3. Remember that you plant fruit trees not only for yourself, but also for your children, because they will mainly benefit from them, and having income from this, they will not need to go to work as farmhands for Jews, Germans or other friends.*
- 4. Honour and respect the fruit tree, because the future of the country is in it. You, brother, will have hundreds for the fruit, and the country will have millions and billions.*
- 5. Do not kill gardening and do not encourage others to do it, by growing any kind of seedlings.*
- 6. Do not let worms eat the leaves on your trees, otherwise you will have to say goodbye to the fruit.*
- 7. Do not steal, or rather do not send your children to someone else’s garden for apples, but plant a garden yourself and teach your child to respect plants and other people’s property.*

8. *Do not bear false witness against gardening, at least until you establish a garden yourself.*
9. *Do not expect your tree, after having been planted, fruit immediately the same year, because that is impossible, and even if it began to fruit in the first or second year, you will not have fruit in the following years, because of the tree's effort.*
10. *Love fruit trees, try to keep your orchard properly maintained, use it, enrich yourself and the country – God willing. Amen”.*

In old notes, the surname of the Żółcik family members – Andrzej and his sons Ludwik and Adolf – also appears frequently. Andrzej participated in work for the local community, was an enlightened farmer, and from 1916, he was involved in the organisation and operation of the Agricultural and Horticultural Machinery Ring. (*Słownik Wiedzy o Grójeckiem*, 2002).

The activities of machinery rings greatly influenced the development of fruit growing. Gardening courses were organised, specialist press was subscribed to, publications were purchased and lent out every Sunday and holiday, an agricultural and horticultural school was established in Mogielnica, plant protection products and fertilisers were imported and, above all, a campaign was carried out to promote fruit growing and sale of fruit on one's own. Trips to model farms were also organised. However, not everywhere was cooperation facilitated to the same extent as in the Grójec powiat. The development of cooperative movement was ensured by *the mobility and mentality of the population of the powiat* (Rozenwajówna 1939). Cooperative movement was therefore understood on many levels, not only as actions aimed at increasing the area of orchards and income, but also as an undertaking facilitating cooperation, purchase of production inputs, tools and machines as well as basic food products.

Brokerage

The problem of fruit growing at that time was the lessees, but above all the faulty structure of fruit trade, the lack of organisations dealing with sales, and the habit of using the simplest and least advantageous form of sale – through sales brokers: *We have good gardeners, but we do not have good merchants in horticulture* (“Gazeta Rolnicza”, 1904, p. 532). A change in the approach to fruit growing was necessary to actively participate in the process of fruit production and distribution. This was possible after making the owners of orchards aware of the profits fruit production could bring. However, it was still difficult to avoid brokers, it was necessary to introduce sales by weight, and not the orchard as a whole, and thus force them to handle the fruit better (“Ogrodnik”, 1895, p. 343). In order to slightly influence the condition of fruit growing, it was also necessary to encourage strict accounting on farms, run gardener recommendation offices and employment agencies, and acquire the largest possible number of suitable lessees (Tylicki 1915).

Transport

The development of fruit growing in the Grójec region was facilitated by the improvement of the condition of the roads and the construction of a commuter railway connecting Warsaw with the larger towns of the powiat. Previously, fruit was mainly transported by water, and sales took place annually in late summer at the fruit fair at the Warsaw river port. The fruit was transported to the Grzybowski market or to the Za Żelazną Bramą square, where merchants gathered.

Fruit growing in the Grójec region just before the war

Fruit growing in the Grójec region is historically strongly linked to the estate in Nowa Wieś. Tadeusz Daszewski was its last owner before the war. He experimented with arboriculture, selection of adequate varieties for a given type of soil and climate, disease and pest control, fertilisation, and crop rotation. The results of experiments, observing foreign countries and nature caused the estate in Nowa Wieś to gain popularity not only in Poland but also abroad. Daszewski turned out to be not only a great producer but also a trader. He got rid of the lessees and harvested the fruit himself. He

sold it through the agency of one of the wholesale companies in Warsaw. He introduced self-developed fruit standardisation and separate packaging for the different species, which enabled him to quote dizzying prices. He was aware that only the production of the highest quality fruit could guarantee success. As early as then, Daszewski exported his fruit to the English market. Even the approaching World War II did not stop the owner of the estate in Nowa Wieś. For army purposes, varieties for processing began to be planted and the production of marmalade was taken up (Matyjas 1994).

Dynamic development of fruit growing after the war

The winter of 1939/40 destroyed many orchards in the Grójec region and in other regions. However, Polish nurseries were strong enough to quickly produce a significant number of trees. Planting 6-8-year-old trees using large holes was abandoned, and therefore the production cycle in the nursery was shortened to 2-3 years. The war operations caused large losses in the tree stand, especially in the eastern part of Grójec powiat. Land consolidation was not carried out everywhere, which made farming difficult. In the post-war years, fruit growing began to develop dynamically in the Belsk and Błędów gminas, as well as, although a bit slower due to destruction, in the Konary gmina.

Grójec powiat was called Polish California long before the war.

Many people contributed to the dynamic, post-war development of fruit growing in the Grójec powiat, of whom Professor Szczepan Pieniążek was the most famous and respected. His name became synonymous with Polish fruit growing. He gained professional knowledge of fruit growing at the University of Warsaw and at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He later became a professor at the Higher School of Agriculture in Kingston. After the war, he returned to Poland where he joined the Warsaw University of Life Sciences. In 1951, he founded the Institute of Pomology and Floriculture. His contribution to the fruit growing industry in Grójec is invaluable. As early as 1946, he met fruit growers from Grójec, about whom he said that they recognised varieties better than American farmers did, but the protection of orchards against diseases and pests was at a lower level than overseas. This is where the history of the “Huragan” motor sprayer (Photo 2) began, the production of which, after numerous efforts by Szczepan Pieniążek, began at the Grójec Local Industry Plants. “Huragan” contributed significantly to raising the level of protection to a higher level, and once modified, it became a modern “Ślęza”. For Pieniążek, the Grójec region was a huge testing ground for new varieties to be later widely disseminated. A number of doctoral dissertations were written based on the Grójec orchards. During Professor Pieniążek’s time, orchards in the Grójec region changed from sparse and tall to dense and short (intensification of production following the American model). At the International Horticultural Congress held in Poland in 1974, the Grójec orchards, that developed thanks to Pieniążek, were considered to be “no worse than those that can be found in America, the Netherlands or the Federal Republic of Germany in similar climatic and soil conditions” (Matyjas 1994, p. 156).

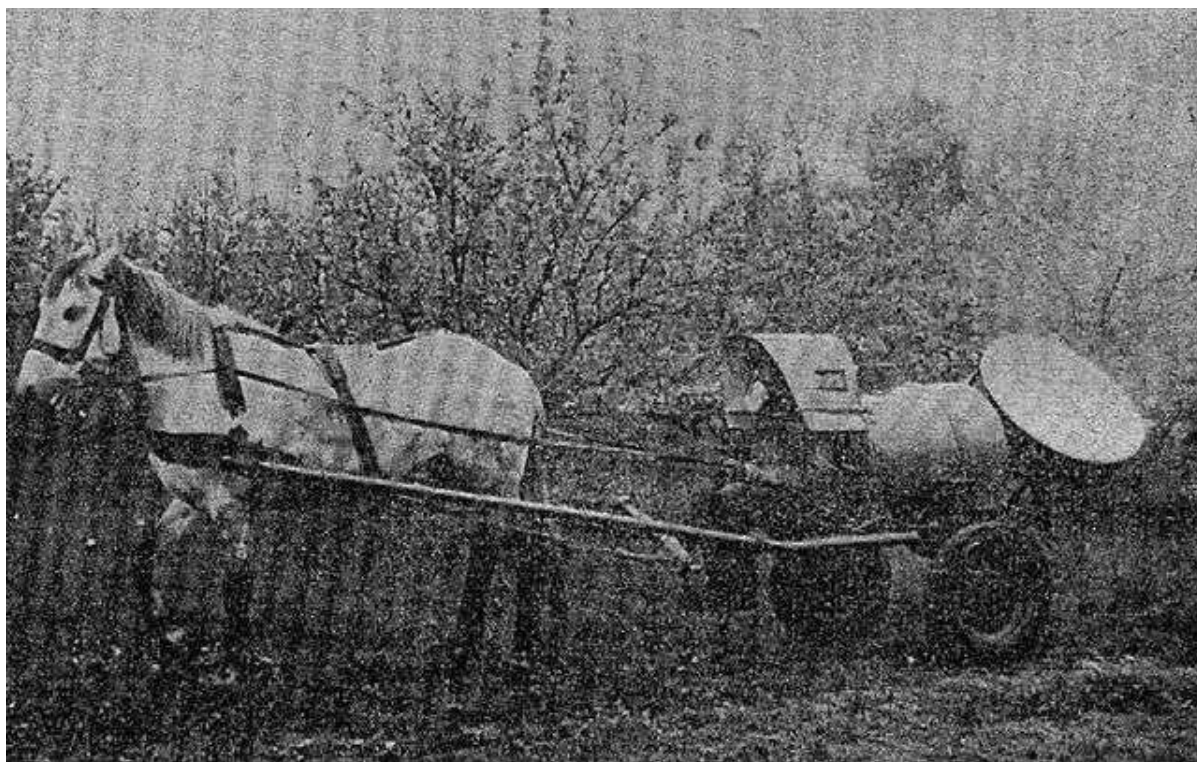


Photo 2. “Huragan” sprayer

Professor Pieniążek’s students also contributed greatly to the dynamic development of post-war fruit-growing. After taking part in foreign internships in the west, they brought back modern solutions and fruit-growing practices previously unknown in the Grójec region. This was the case with Eligiusz Gajewski, who disseminated such knowledge among fruit-growers using the farm in Nowa Wieś. The farm in Nowa Wieś started permanent cooperation with the Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice, which resulted in the establishment of the Experimental Fruit-Growing Station in Nowa Wieś. Gajewski quickly brought the farm in Nowa Wieś to a high level of culture and, together with the employees of the Experimental Fruit-Growing Station, disseminated fruit-growing knowledge during field meetings. It was for him that the production of the “huragan” rotary (tractor-driven) sprayer was located in Grójec. He was a co-initiator of the establishment of the Masovian Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plants in Tarczyn and the Horticultural School Complex in Nowa Wieś (1973). In 1976, the Experimental Station, together with the Masovian Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plants and the Growers’ Club in Warka, organised the Universal Fruit Farming University that conducted two-winter qualification courses, ending with a state exam and granting the master title (*Słownik wiedzy o Grójeckiem*, Volume VIII – 1999, Małgorzata Sztokinier, p.22).

Józef Cieślak, the son of Jan Cieślak from Podgórczyce – one of the first market-oriented fruit growers in Poland, also made a significant contribution to the development of fruit growing in the Grójec region. He significantly contributed to the popularisation of the Mills table, developed by an American scientist, that is used to determine the dates of plant protection treatments. He also improved this table giving it a pictorial-dial form, which aroused the admiration of Mills himself. It was mainly for him that as early as 1962, a system indicating the occurrence and intensity of diseases and pests in orchards was developed, to be used to this day in an almost unchanged form (Józef Cieślak, “Ogrodnictwo” [Gardening] 1997, No. 3, p. 17).

Józef Cieślak held many social positions such as Member of the Supervisory Board of the Horticultural Cooperative in Grójec (from 1960), Chairman of the Horticulture Development Committee of the Horticultural Cooperative Council (1969-1973) and Member of the Board of the

Fruit Growers' Club (1975-1982). On 2 February 1977, he became the head of the Organising Committee of the Fruit Growing Museum in Grójec, which was opened in 1980. He was also a member of the committee for the construction of the Gardener's House in Mogielnicka Street, which is still the seat of the Horticultural Cooperative in Grójec (*Słownik wiedzy o Grójeckiem*, Volume VIII – 1999, Małgorzata Sztokinier, p.18).

8.2.2. Apple Blossom Festival

The pompously celebrated Apple Blossom Festival [*Święto Kwitnących Jabłoni*] has a very long tradition. For the first time, as the Apple Blossom Days [*Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni*], it was organised in 1959 thanks to Waclaw Przytocki – the deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Poviats National Council in Grójec. He was inspired to organise this holiday by the beautifully blooming Grójec orchards and tonnes of apples filling the ditches after the over-abundant harvest in 1958. Przytocki's dream was for the Apple Blossom Days to become a showcase of the Grójec region and to give the local community the opportunity for cultural fulfilment. That is how a reflection of the ancient holidays of Dionysus, the god of the vine, was created.

The Apple Blossom Festival was initially celebrated every year in a different locality. It began in 1959 in Potycz, followed by Warka and Mogielnica (since the end of the seventies, a variety of Jabłonia – Wisona Mogielnicka – has been celebrated here). However, the high costs of preparations meant that in the end, the powiat town of Grójec has become an almost permanent meeting place. The festival does not have a fixed name, because the following names have been used for it so far: 'Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni', 'Dni Kwitnącej Jabłoni', 'Grójeckie Dni Kwitnącej Jabłoni', 'Grójeckie Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni', 'Kwitnące Jabłonie' and 'Święto Kwitnących Jabłoni'. For a dozen or so years, the last name has been used.

Photo 3. Poster with the agenda of 'Grójeckie Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni'



The Apple Blossom Festival usually lasted from two to three days. From the very beginning, the agenda of this event was very abundant. There were shows of products and gardening equipment, fairs, and orchard assemblies combined with trips to model farms. It was, however, the festivity part that was the most distinctive. The official part consisted of welcomes, speeches, and

reports illustrating the achievements of the people's homeland, including those in fruit growing. These ceremonies were attended also by representatives of state authorities, ministers, deputy prime ministers, and even ambassadors of foreign countries. Odpowiednio przyjęci ważni goście (za suto zastawionymi stołami) odwiedzili się później przychylnymi odgórnymi decyzjami dla regionu grójeckiego: budowa przetwórni w Tarczynie i w Warce.

After the official part, a patriotic and entertainment part, i.e. an artistic show, followed. The performances took place in specially arranged amphitheatres, using the natural terrain, which brought interesting visual and acoustic results. In Grójec, the school stadium, that had been expanded for this occasion with stands and a bandstand, was used.

The ceremony began and ended with a mass dance procession accompanied by soloists, a choir and an orchestra. Between the opening and closing processions, there was room for individual and collective recitations, vocal pieces accompanied by music bands, choral songs, orchestral pieces, movement staging, gymnastic and acrobatic shows and dances. The scenario had its main theme, such as: "Staging of the Fruit Collection Cycle" (1961) (Matyjas 1994).

There are not many mementos from the Apple Blossom Festival from the past, as no commemorative books were kept. Recollections of the Festival remain in the memories of those who participated in it and in books describing the history of this region. It was not until 1991, when the tradition was resumed after a two-year break (due to the difficult political and economic situation) and materials related to the Festival began to be collected. In the archives of the Regional Culture Centre in Grójec, which, incidentally, has an apple symbol in its logo, one can find numerous posters related to the Apple Blossom Festival, informing about the schedule for each day of the event. In the chronicles, that have also been kept since 1991, one can find information about the course of the Apple Blossom Festival, about invited persons who patronised the event, and about lectures by professors in the field of fruit growing. The notes include numerous photographs showing the main events of the Festival and famous artists on the stage of the amphitheatre in Grójec.

8.2.3. Poetic works

The beauty of the Grójec orchards, that until now delight in spring with their abundant blooming, has inspired local poets. A number of pieces referring to the blooming orchards have been written. The piece that fully reflects the atmosphere of the Grójec festival is "Polonez Grójecki" [Grójec polonaise] (1961). The authorship of the melody is attributed to Marian Nowicki, and of the lyrics – to Jan Borsiak.

Polonez grójecki

Witaj ziemio ma grójecka,

W polach szumi Twych Ojczyzna.

W drzewach, łęgach mazowieckich,

Piękna ma kraino żyzna.

Chowasz w czarnym łonie,

Stare ojców bronie,

Z ich prochami dzbany i kurhany.

Męstwo Czarnieckiego, szablę Pułaskiego,

Wysockiego sławę, rany krwawe.

Hej w pola rozwiośnione,

W zieleniutkich mają szatach.

Sady wiśnią rozśnieżono,

I jabłonie w kwiatach, kwiatach.

*Grójeckie jabłonie,
O sztandary wiosny,
Rozjaśniajcie błonie w dzień radosny.
Latem lany złote w niebo się kołyszają,
Niosą w dal tęsknotę i serc ciszę.*

*Czas osuszył krwawe rosy,
Lud schylone dźwignął głowy.*

*Wyszły w pola twarde kosy,
Po plon twardy Tomaszowy.*

*Swobodna Ojczyzno,
Nasza ojcowizno,
Jedną nam zbożowa i stalowa.
Przewodź nam w gromadach, kwieć się majem w sadach,
Rośnij w szkołach nowych – dziś ludowych!*

In the shadow of the Grójec apple trees, true poetic talents were born. Some of them developed and solidified within the framework of the Literature and Art Enthusiasts' Club, founded and managed by Kazimierz Kochański, that operated in 1980-1988 at the Municipal and Communal Public Library in Grójec. A historic achievement of Kochański's group was the patronage of the poetry competition "O laur jabłoni" [For an apple laurel] (according to Tadeusz Pakulski's idea), which has become inextricably linked with the Apple Blossom Festival: the name and announcement of the verdict fell in May. The competition very quickly became a nationwide event. Its organisers suggest that one of the three poems submitted by the participating authors concerns Grójec or the "Grójec land". Often the theme elaborated on by the poet is the capital of the orchard region, as for example in Włodzimierz Szymkiewicz's poem "Jeden dzień w Grójcu" [One day in Grójec]. Sometimes it is an apple tree that is the through line.

Its life – from planting to natural or mechanical destruction – reflects human ups and downs, joys and sorrows, and death.

Many poets from Kochański's group wrote about apple trees in the Grójec region, but none of them received such a lively response as Czesław Mirosław Szczepaniak from Kopana near Grójec. Most of his works were inspired by apple orchards, which can be seen in the names of his poems: "Mnie tylko w sadzie" [I'd rather be in the orchard only], "Zapisek na listku jabłoni" [A note on an apple tree leaf], "Księga o sadach i owocach" [Book about orchards and fruit] (Matyjas 1994).

8.2.4. Fruit-growing themes

Names

Fruit-growing and especially apple tree cultivation has become so strongly embedded in the tradition and culture of the Grójec region that there are many places where apple themes can be found. One example is the naming of towns and villages, which indicates a very long tradition of establishing orchards: Sadkowice, Sadków Duchowny, Sadków Kolonia ('sad' being the Polish word for orchard), Jabłonowo ('jabłoń' being the Polish word for apple tree). There are also surnames associated with apples in this region: Jabłoński, Sadowski, Sadkowski, which indicates a centuries-old tradition of growing apples and maintaining orchards.

Coats of arms of gminas

Orchard themes, and in particular the apple, appear in the coat of arms of Grójec powiat and in the coats of arms of a number of gminas: Belsk Duży, Błędów, Chynów and Jasieniec in the Grójec powiat, Kowiesy in the Skierniewice powiat (adjacent to the Grójec powiat) and Sadkowice in the Rawa powiat (also adjacent to the Grójec powiat).



Figure 1. Coat of arms of Grójec powiat



Figure 2. Coat of arms of Belsk Duży gmina



Figure 3. Coat of arms of Błędów gmina



Figure 4. Coat of arms of Chynów gmina



Figure 5. Coat of arms of Jasieniec gmina



Figure 6. Coat of arms of Sadkowice gmina



Gmina Kowiesy

Figure 7. Coat of arms of Kowiesy gmina

In the conference room in the Gardener's House in Mogielnicka Street, which belongs to the Horticultural Cooperative, there is a very interesting bas-relief on the wall, depicting an orchard during fruit picking.



Photo 4. Bas-relief in the Gardener's House

8.2.5. Fruit-growing organisations

The establishment of organisations related to fruit-growing in the Grójec region began at the beginning of the 20th century. The idea of forming organisations was instilled among fruit-growers by Witalis Urbanowicz, and it was thanks to him that the first clubs and associations were established. Later important events included the establishment of the Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice (thanks to Szczepan Pieniążek), the Mazovian Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plants in Tarczyn, the Horticultural Cooperative in Grójec, and the Horticultural School Complex in Nowa Wieś. The following list includes the most important organisations from this region established for the purposes of fruit growing.

Agricultural and Horticultural Club (17 December 1917, Witalis Urbanowicz),
Horticultural Association (16 January 1918, Witalis Urbanowicz),
Fruit Producers Association (1937, Daszewski), Polish Horticultural Association,
Universal Horticultural University,
Mazovian Fruit and Vegetable Processing Plants in Tarczyn,
Experimental Fruit-Growing Station in Nowa Wieś,
Gardening Cooperative in Grójec,
Quarantine and Plant Protection Station,
Vocational Fruit-Growing School,
Horticultural Technical School (17 September 1973),
Horticultural School Complex in Nowa Wieś (from 1983, Tomasz Nocznicki Horticultural School Complex in Nowa Wieś),

Horticultural School Complex. Tomasz Nocznicki Practical Education Centre in Nowa Wieś (currently),
Institute of Pomology and Floriculture in Skierniewice (1951, Szczepan Pieniążek),
Horticultural Trade and Service Cooperative in Grójec,
Powiat Horticultural Association,
Regional Horticultural Cooperative,
Warka Horticultural Cooperative,
Polish Fruit Growers Association (headquarters in Grójec).

8.3. Statistical data

The area of fruit cultivation in the Grójec region is over 40,000 ha. The average apple output in recent years has been 800-900 thousand tonnes, which is ca. 35% of domestic production. Apples for sale include mainly those intended for consumption. In favourable years, 42% of apples sold are in the 'extra' class and ca. 38% in the first class, in accordance with state standards. Apple production is carried out by 7,442 farms with an average farm area of ca. 7 ha, including an orchard area of 4.2 ha.

In the Grójec powiat and in the adjacent areas, robust industry related to fruit growing and in particular apple production has developed. The largest industrial plants handling fruit producers include fruit processing plants in Tarczyn, Kozietyły, Łęczeszyce, Warka, Potycz and Góra Kalwaria. These are plants with significant processing capacities and the apple concentrate they produce is sold to many fruit juice producers in Poland and Western Europe due to its unparalleled acidity.

In order to provide fruit growers with fruit production resources in the Grójec region, a robust network of gardening stores has been developed. Such a large number of stores with apple production resources is unheard of in any other region of Poland.

9. Control:

Please provide the name and address of the body or organisational unit conducting the inspection of compliance with the specifications and specify the scope of the inspection.

- (1) TÜV Rheinland Polska sp. z o.o. , 17 Stycznia 56, 02-146 Warszawa;
- (2) PNG sp. z o.o., Zajączków, 26-065 Piekoszów;
- (3) Wojewódzki Inspektor Jakości Handlowej Artykułów Rolno-Spożywczych [Voivodeship Inspector of the Agricultural and Food Quality] ul. Marszałkowska 115, 00-102 Warszawa.

10. Labelling:

None

11. Specific requirements introduced by applicable regulations:

Please indicate whether there are any specific requirements imposed by European Union or national legislation concerning the agricultural product or foodstuff concerned.

None

12. Additional information:

Please provide any additional information regarding the agricultural product or foodstuff concerned.

None

13. List of documents attached to the application:

Please provide a list of materials and publications referenced in the application and a list of attached appendices.

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4. Hipoteka w Grójcu cz. I, sygn. 18 [Register of mortgages in Grójec part I, ref. No. 18], p. 385
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Attachments

1. CD with the application
2. Proof of payment of the fee of PLN 300

III. Summary of the specifications (Single document)

SINGLE DOCUMENT

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin

‘Jabłka grójeckie’ EC

No.:

PGI PDO

1. Name:

‘Jabłka grójeckie’

2. Member State or third country:

Poland

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff:

3.1. Type of product:

Category: Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed – class 1.6

3.2. Description of the product to which the name in (1) applies:

Apples of the varieties listed below may be sold as ‘jabłka grójeckie’ in the ‘extra’ class and in class I if they meet the minimum requirements for colouring, size and firmness of flesh at the time of sale specified in the following table. ‘Jabłka grójeckie’ also have a level of acidity which is, as a rule, 5% higher than the average for the variety concerned. However, the value for this parameter is dependent on the atmospheric conditions prevailing during the growing season.

Variety	Colouring as % of surface area	Size of ‘extra’ class (mm)	Size of class I (mm)	Minimum firmness of flesh (kg/cm ²)
Alwa	55	60	55	5.5
Belle de Boskoop and mutants	38	70	65	6
Braeburn	55	70	65	6
Cortland	55	70	65	4.5
Celeste	38	70	65	5.5
Delikates	55	70	65	5
Derlrbaleestival and mutants	38	60	55	5.5
Early Geneva	55	60	55	6
Elise	80	70	65	6
Elstar	38	60	55	4.5
Empire	80	60	55	5
Fuji	55	70	65	6
Gala and mutants	38	60	55	5.5
Gloster	55	70	65	5.5
Golden Delicious and mutants	10	70	65	5
Idared	55	70	65	5.5
Jerseymac	55	60	55	5.5
Jonagold and mutants	38	70	65	5
Jonagored and mutants	80	70	65	5
Lobo	55	70	65	4.5
Ligol	55	70	65	5.5
Mutsu	10	70	65	6

Paula Red	55	70	65	5.5
Pinova and mutants	38	70	65	5.5
Piros	38	60	55	5.5
Rubin	80	70	65	4.5
Shampion and mutants	55	70	65	4.5

3.3. Raw materials (for processed products only):

3.4. Feed (for products of animal origin only):

3.5. Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area:

The following steps in the production of ‘jabłka grójeckie’ must take place in the area defined at point 4:

- site preparation,
- planting,
- cutting and shaping,
- fertilisation,
- irrigation,
- plant protection,
- fruit-quality improvement treatments,
- harvesting.

‘Jabłka grójeckie’ must be produced in the area defined in point 4, in accordance with the integrated production (IP) method for apples or the GLOBALGAP specifications.

3.6. Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc.:

None

3.7. Specific rules concerning labelling:

None

4. Concise definition of the geographical area:

in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship:

- the whole of Grójec powiat (gminas: Belsk Duży, Błędów, Chynów, Goszczyn, Grójec, Jasieniec, Mogielnica, Nowe Miasto n. Pilicą, Pniewy and Warka),
- Mszczonów gmina in the Żyrardów powiat,
- Tarczyn, Prażmów and Góra Kalwaria gminas in Piaseczno powiat,
- Sobienie Jeziory gmina in the Otwock powiat,
- Wilga gmina in Garwolin powiat,
- Grabów n. Pilicą and Magnuszew gminas in Kozienice powiat,
- Stromiec, Białostrzegi and Promna gminas in the Białostrzegi powiat,

in the Łódzkie Voivodeship:

- Biała Rawska, Sadkowice, Regnów and Cielądz gminas in the Rawa powiat,
- Kowiesy gmina in the Skierniewice powiat.

5. Link with the geographical area

5.1. Specificity of the geographical area:

5.1.1. Natural factors

The 'jabłka grójeckie' production area is located in central Poland, on the Warsaw Plain and Rawa Plateau and in the Białołęcki Valley and the Central Vistula Valley. These are geographical regions forming part of the Central Mazovian Lowlands and the Southern Mazovian Lowlands.

Podsolich or pseudopodsolic soils formed on sand, clay and marginal deposits in the average and low valuation classes which are ideal for the cultivation of apple orchards predominate in these areas. The area receives 600 mm of precipitation per annum. The growing season is about 200 days, which makes it possible to grow most varieties of apple trees. The region's relatively mild, near-continental climate protects against significant planting losses even in frost-sensitive varieties.

This region has a characteristic microclimate that is distinguished by low night-time temperatures (as low as 0°C) during the pre-harvest period (September and early October).

The identified 'jabłka grójeckie' production area is very homogeneous in character. From the centre of the region, i.e. the town of Grójec, to its boundaries, apple trees are grown in every locality. Crop concentration, reaching 70% in the area around Grójec, decreases as the distance from the town increases; just beyond the boundaries of the identified growing area the pattern of apple tree cultivation becomes more scattered. That is why the region is called the 'biggest orchard in Europe'.

The unique characteristics of 'jabłka grójeckie' are closely bound up with the area where the apples are grown, as a result of its particular microclimate. Podsolich and pseudopodsolic soils in low valuation classes predominate throughout the identified area. Moreover, the pre-harvest period in the Grójec area is characterised by major falls in temperature (to as low as 0°C in September and early October). In short, the soils and specific microclimate produce the unique natural conditions in which 'jabłka grójeckie' acquire their colour more quickly, giving them an above-average blush and a high acidity that is prized by processors throughout Europe.

5.1.2. Historical and human factors

The origins of the 'biggest orchard in Europe', as the area around Grójec is called, date back to the time of Queen Bona, who was known for her interest in horticulture and fruit farming. In 1545, she received a large tract of land in Grójec powiat, for which she later made provision by granting various privileges to owners of market gardens. The legal status of fruit farming was subsequently strengthened by the royal decree issued by Queen Bona's son in 1578. This provided the initial impetus for the development of orchards, particularly apple ones. Historical works contain numerous references to the development of manorial and peasant orchards in the Grójec area.

A not insignificant role in the history of 'jabłka grójeckie' was also played by members of the clergy (Roch Wójcicki of Belsk, Niedźwiedzki of Łęczeszyce, Stefan Roguski of Goszczyn and Edward Kawiński of Konary), who were the most important figures in fruit farming in the region in the 19th century.

The beginning of the 20th century saw the establishment of commercial orchards, symbolised by the work of Jan Cieślak of Podgórzyce. Cieślak did much to refine apple growing and storage skills (in 1918, he built the first fruit warehouse in Poland).

The early 20th century also saw the emergence of the first consultants, one of the region's most famous being Witalis Urbanowicz, who made a name for himself in 1909 by drawing up his 'ten commandments of horticulture'.

A period of very rapid growth in fruit growing in the Grójec area, with which the name of Prof. Szczepan Pieniążek is synonymous, began with the end of the Second World War. The Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture (*Instytut Sadownictwa i Kwiaciarnictwa*), which passed on the latest knowledge and experience to local fruit farmers, was founded at his instigation.

On his recommendation, a student of his, Eligiusz Gajewski, founded the Experimental Station of the Institute of Pomology and Floriculture (*Zakład Doświadczalny Instytutu Sadownictwa i Kwiaciarnictwa*) in Nowa Wieś. This developed into a model farm which passed on practical know-how to the fruit farmers of Grójec.

As time went by, the growing of 'jabłka grójeckie' became more widespread and as early as 1958, the local farmers had to do with oversupply of produced apples, which prompted the deputy Chairman of the District Presidium of the National Council in Grójec, Waclaw Przytocki, to organise an apple blossom festival (*Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni*) with the aim of promoting the apples and the region as a whole. Initially, the apple blossom festival was celebrated in a different place each year, under different names: 'Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni', 'Dni Kwitnącej Jabłoni', 'Grójeckie Dni Kwitnącej Jabłoni', 'Grójeckie Dni Kwitnących Jabłoni', 'Kwitnące Jabłonie' and 'Święto Kwitnących Jabłoni', which is the name that has been used for over ten years now.

5.2. Specificity of the product:

'Jabłka grójeckie' have a blush which is 5% greater than the average. The apples' beautiful red blush not only gives them a pleasing appearance but also reflects the higher content of pigments, mainly anthocyanins and carotenoids, in their skin tissue. The acidity of 'jabłka grójeckie' is also 5% higher on average than the average for the variety concerned. The value for this parameter is, however, dependent on the atmospheric conditions prevailing during the growing season.

5.3. Causal link between the geographical area and the quality or characteristics of the product (for PDO) or a specific quality, the reputation or other characteristic of the product (for PGI):

The link between 'jabłka grójeckie' and the geographical area defined at point 4 stems from the specific qualities described at point 5.2, which have been attained as a result of the natural factors described at point 5.1.1 and the reputation described below.

The natural conditions occurring in the 'jabłka grójeckie' production area, in particular its soils and specific microclimate, mean that 'jabłka grójeckie' acquire their colour more quickly and have a blush of above-average intensity and a high acidity that is prized by processors throughout Europe. Low night-time temperatures impact favourably on the physiological processes which take place in the apples just before harvesting. This is because oxidation processes during the night-time resting period are less intensive and, as a result, the sugar-acid ratio improves, making a significant contribution to the exquisite taste of 'jabłka grójeckie'.

The unique characteristics of 'jabłka grójeckie' are closely bound up with the area where the apples are grown, as a result of its particular microclimate. Moreover, the pre-harvest period in the Grójec area is characterised by major falls in temperature (to as low as 0 C in September and early October). In short, the soils and specific microclimate produce the unique natural conditions in which 'jabłka grójeckie' acquire their colour more quickly, giving them an above-average blush and a high acidity that is prized by processors throughout Europe.

The favourable conditions for growing apple trees in the Grójec area have resulted in an exceptional reputation that has been going from strength to strength for almost 500 years. For most people who live in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship and neighbouring voivodeships, Grójec is synonymous with apple-growing. References to fruit-growing are found throughout the area: in the coat of arms of Grójec powiat and a number of gminas (Chynów, Belsk Duży, Błędów, Jasieniec, Kowiesy and Sadkowice), which feature apples; in place-names such as Sadków and Sadkowice ('sad' being the Polish word for orchard); in a bas-relief in the House of Horticulture in Grójec that depicts apple-picking; in the hugely popular annual apple-blossom festival and in the National Orchard Conference, which takes place every year in Grójec; and in names given to parts of towns, such as the Zielony Sad ('Green Orchard') housing estate.

Many centuries of tradition have enabled the local fruit-growers to master, almost to perfection, the skill of caring for apple trees. Local industry is also geared primarily to servicing the needs of fruit-growing: fruit-processing plants, trading companies, producer groups, suppliers of orchard requisites, manufacturers of machinery, etc.

The Grójec area is now home to intensive dwarf orchards, accounting for almost 40% of domestic apple production; in some gminas crop intensity is as high as 70%.

The product's excellent reputation, which is due to the area's climatic conditions and its long tradition of apple-growing, was confirmed in a nationwide consumer survey conducted in September 2008. The results of the survey demonstrated how strongly the Grójec area is associated with fruit-growing and, in particular, with the production of apples. 27.7% of respondents indicated a link between the Grójec area and fruit-growing. 19% of Poles associate the Grójec area with apple-growing. The percentage of respondents from voivodeship adjoining the Mazowieckie Voivodeship who associate Grójec with apples is even higher: 32% in the Łódzkie Voivodeship and 36% in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

The reputation of 'jabłka grójeckie' is also borne out by articles relating to them in the press. For instance: 'Co czwarte jabłko z Grójca' (1991), 'Z Grójca do Szwecji' (1992), 'Jabłko ekologiczne' (1993), 'Eurojabłka z Grójeckiego' (1995), 'Sady po klęsce' (2000), 'Jabłkowe centrum Europy?' (2001), and 'Grójeckie jabłka najlepsze' (2007).

REFERENCE TO PUBLICATION OF THE SPECIFICATION:

(Article 5(7) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

<http://www.minrol.gov.pl/index.php?/pol/Jakosc-zywnosci/Produkty-regionalne-itradycyjne/Wnioski-przeslane-do-UE-od-kwietnia-2006-roku>