

**APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF  
~~DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN~~ / GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION)<sup>1)</sup>  
FOR AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OR FOODSTUFF**

**I. Applicant:**

**1. Name or first name and surname<sup>2)</sup>:**

Stowarzyszenie "Łącka Droga Owocowa" ["Łącka Droga Owocowa" Association]

**2. Seat or residence and address:**

Łącko 445  
33-390 Łącko

**3. Mailing address:**

Łącko 445  
33-390 Łącko

phone: (18) 444 64 27; 601 877 001

fax:

e-mail: sekretariat@ldo.pl

**4. Person acting on behalf of the applicant:**

Krzysztof Maurer

**5. Group:**

The Association currently brings together approximately 60 fruit growers.

**II. Specifications**

**1. Name:**

'Jabłka łąckie'

**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

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

---

<sup>1)</sup> Delete as appropriate.

<sup>2)</sup> 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.

### 3. Category:

Class 1.6. Fruit, vegetables and cereals, fresh or processed

### 4. Description:

- Apples of the following varieties may be sold under the protected name 'jabłka łuckie':

*Characteristics of 'jabłka łuckie'*

	CULTIVAR	SKIN COLOUR	BLUSH (COLOUR AND SURFACE)		AVERAGE ACIDITY (g/kg)	REFRACTOMETRIC EXTRACT (BRIX)	MINIMUM FIRMNESS (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
			Extra class	Class I			
1	<b>IDARED and sports</b>	yellow-green	red > 55%	red > 35%	6.3	> 10.5	5
2	<b>JONAGOLD and sports</b>	yellow-green	bright to deep red > 40%	bright to deep red > 18%	4.8	> 10.5	5
3	<b>SHAMPION and sports</b>	yellow-green	faint pink stripes > 54%	faint pink stripes > 33.3%	5.1	> 9.5	4.5
4	<b>LIGOL and sports</b>	yellow-green	faint red stripes > 56%	faint red stripes > 38%	6.0	> 9.5	5
5	<b>GOLDEN DELICIOUS and sports</b>	green-yellow	in some environments pink, russetting reaches > 25%	no blush	5.2	> 10.5	5
6	<b>GALA and sports</b>	bright green-yellow	red > 40%	red > 20%	3.7	> 10.5	5
7	<b>BOSKOOP</b>	green-grey-yellow	grey-red > 25%	no blush	12.0	> 11	5

8	<b>RED BOSKOOP</b>	green-grey-yellow	red > 55%	red > 37%	12.0	> 11	5
9	<b>ELISE</b>	green-yellow	red > 75%	red > 53%	7.5	> 10.5	5.5
10	<b>EARLY GENEVA</b>	green-yellow	red > 40%	no blush	9.2	> 9.5	4.5
11	<b>TOPAZ</b>	green-yellow	red > 56%	red > 34%	9.0	> 10.5	5
12	<b>LOBO</b>	green-yellow	red > 53%	red > 36%	5.2	> 10.5	4.5
13	<b>RUBIN and sports</b>	green-yellow	bright red stripes > 40%	bright red stripes > 17%	6.9	> 11	5
14	<b>GLOSTER</b>	green-yellow	dark red > 59%	dark red > 38%	5.9	> 10.5	5.5
15	<b>JONAGORED and sports</b>	yellow-green	dark red > 75%	dark red > 54%	4.9	> 10.5	5

2. The external appearance of the fruit depends on the characteristics of a given variety. The basic colour is characteristic of a given variety and the blush, that covers most of the fruit, is clearly more intense than average, which is due to the differences in temperature between day and night in autumn. Some varieties have a waxy bloom. The fruit tends to develop russetting.
3. ‘Jabłka łąckie’ must belong to the quality categories Extra or I.
4. The firmness of the flesh is not less than 6.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at the time of picking, and not less than 4.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at the end of the apple’s storage period.
5. A typical characteristic of ‘jabłka łąckie’ is their relatively high acidity (3.7-12.0 g/kg). As a result, ‘jabłka łąckie’ are said to have a ‘mountain-green note’, i.e. they have a distinctive taste and are tart and aromatic.
6. The refractometric extract ranges from 9 to 16 °Bx

## 5. Geographical area:

‘Jabłka łąckie’ are produced in the following gminas: Łącko, Podegrodzie and Stary Sącz (in the Nowy Sącz powiat) and Łukowica (in the Limanowa powiat) in the Małopolskie Voivodeship.



Figure 1. Małopolskie Voivodeship – ‘jabłka łąckie’ are produced in the marked poviats



W opracowaniu wykorzystano mapy cyfrowe IMAGIS (R)

Figure 2. Limanowa powiat – ‘jabłka łąckie’ are grown in this powiat in one gmina – Łukowica



W opracowaniu wykorzystano mapy cyfrowe IMAGIS (R)

Figure 3. Nowy Sącz powiat – ‘jabłka łąckie’ are grown in this powiat in three gminas: Łącko, Podegrodzie and Stary Sącz

Source: <http://www.zpp.pl/>

## **6. Proof of origin:**

1. The entire production process is subject to a special control system that enables comprehensive product traceability. The name ‘jabłka łąckie’ may only be used for a product that fully meets each of the following conditions:

- (a) has been produced in the geographical area specified in section 5 in accordance with the production method described in section 7 and has the characteristics specified in section 4,
- (b) its producers have undertaken in writing to comply with the specifications, including the obligations arising from the “proof of origin”,
- (c) its producers have provided the information specified in section 6, points 2, 3, 4 and 5, to the Łącka Droga Owocowa Association in Łącko.
- (d) has been produced in accordance with the principles of the Integrated Fruit Production (IFP) system.

2. Each producer who wishes to produce the product covered by the PGI is obliged to submit a declaration to the Łącka Droga Owocowa Association in Łącko. The declaration shall include at least:

- (a) first name and surname of the fruit grower,
- (b) location of the orchard,
- (c) orchard area,
- (d) estimated production volume in a given year, specifying the varieties,
- (e) declaration of the fruit grower that they undertake to comply with the specifications,

3. In case of any change regarding the items included in the declaration (from section 6(2)), fruit growers should immediately provide this information to the Association.

4. Fruit growers who are not registered but wish to produce the product covered by the PGI in a given year should submit a declaration of accession no later than 31 March of that year.

5. The „Łącka Droga Owocowa” Association should always be in possession of the up-to-date register of producers interested in producing ‘jabłka łąckie’ and the up-to-date locations of orchards.

6. Orchards are assigned registration numbers. Boxes or other packaging of apples are marked with special labels containing information on the place of their origin (producer’s code). Documents held by the Association should guarantee the product traceability.

7. Each producer shall also keep a register in which they record the following data:

- the volumes of production and sales as well as the buyer of the apples, intended for further sale, in a given year,
- the area and location of the orchards.

8. If the inspection body finds any discrepancies occurring even at a single stage of the production chain, the product will not be allowed to be marketed under the PGI.

9. Producers must comply with the conditions specified in point 6(1)(a) from the moment of sending the application for registration to the European Commission. Producers must start

complying with the obligation to meet the conditions specified in point 6(1)(b) and (c) no later than three months from the first publication of the single document of the application for registration in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Keeping the registers makes it possible to determine the origin of apples as well as the quantity of fruit produced and placed on the market.

## **7. Production method:**

All production steps are compliant with the principles of the Integrated Fruit Production (IFP) system.

### **Soil**

The orchards must be located in the geographical area defined in point 5.

### **Planting**

Apple trees are planted, depending on weather conditions, in autumn or spring. The number of apple trees per hectare should be 500-5,000. The minimum and maximum permitted tree density depends on the approach to orchard management and the different prolificacy of trees depending on whether the land on which the trees have been planted or that to which have been transplanted is considered. Density also varies depending on the rootstock used. As small trees are desired in accordance with the Integrated Production system, rootstocks that decelerate growth are used. The rate of the rootstock growth should be adapted to the fertility of the soil. Chemical disinfection before planting is prohibited.

### **Pruning**

Apple trees are pruned at least every two years, starting from the third year of life, to a central leader system. Pruning consists, on the one hand, in pruning fruit branches, and on the other hand, in removing limbs located under the branches or insufficiently exposed to sunlight.

### **Fertilisation**

Fertilisation is carried out in accordance with the standard rules for fertilising fruit plants. Fertiliser doses are determined based on a chemical analysis of the soil. Fertilisation should follow good agricultural practice. Due to the low pH of the soil in the area specified in point 5, the soil pH is increased by liming, as a result of which the soil pH value should be at least 5.

### **Watering:**

Watering must be carried out rationally. It must not negatively affect the quality of the fruit and the quality of flowering induction in the following year.

Watering is prohibited within 15 days preceding harvest and after 31 August. Local watering or a micro-irrigation system is permitted, so is sprinkler irrigation.

### **Treatments**

The maintenance treatments include:

- maintenance of the turf between rows by mowing during the growing season
- foliar feeding is permitted by spraying the plant with mineral and organic fertilisers at a time of critical nutrient deficiency, which may increase the weight of a single fruit
- taking action aimed at protection against diseases and pests. The use of any insecticides and fungicides as well as herbicides and pest control preparations that could change the taste of the apples is prohibited.
  - The use of insecticides containing HCH is prohibited, both in foliar and soil treatments.

Each producer determines themselves the timing of these treatments, based on their knowledge and experience in this regard.

### **Flowering**

Flowering time depends on weather conditions, the age of the trees and their location. It usually begins around 20 April. The average diameter of the flowers is 10-30 mm. Older trees start and finish flowering first. The flowering period and, especially, the weather conditions prevailing at that time determine the success of the crop in a given year.

### **Harvesting**

Fruit is harvested at full physiological maturity and its timing depends on the location and meteorological conditions in a given year. Fruit is usually harvested from 10 September to 31 October, except for early varieties that are harvested at full physiological maturity. Each producer determines themselves the exact harvest date based on their knowledge and experience in this regard. If during this period, due to specific weather conditions, the fruit is not fully ripe, harvesting may be postponed. In each such case, the “Łącka Droga Owocowa” Association is obliged to report this fact to the inspection body.

The agronomic yield is a maximum of 50 tonnes per hectare. Any excess over this yield will result in the loss of the authorisation to use the protected geographical indication with respect to the entire output from the orchard concerned. The harvested apples can be 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, impacts are limited, etc.). Then, throughout the process, until packaging, the apples are treated with the utmost care in order to avoid impacts.

Once harvested, the fruit may not be subjected to any phytosanitary treatments.

### **Storage**

‘Jabłka łąckie’ should be stored in the area specified in point 5, until they are packed. The optimal storage temperatures for ‘jabłka łąckie’ are as follows:

- below 6°C – long-term storage for up to several months,
- 5-12°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/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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 free from any defects and have the characteristic features listed in the description.

## 8. Link with the geographical region:

### 8.1. Natural link

‘Jabłka łackie’ are produced in the following gminas: Łącko, Podegrodzie, Stary Sącz and Łukowica. These gminas are located in the Łącko Basin. The Łącko Basin is 6 km long and up to 1.5 km wide. It is bounded to the east by the Jazowski mountain range, through which the Dunajec River flows in a short, gorge-like valley into the wide intermontane Sądecka Basin. Given the mountainous location, the climate in the designated area is mild and favours plant production, offering especially good conditions for fruit farming.

The soils in the Łącko region are not good. Their suitability for fruit growing should therefore be considered in terms of their suitability for fruit growing. The soils in this region are compact, non-skeletal (less than 10% skeletal) or slightly skeletal (10-25%). This enables the trees to take root better without significantly disturbing oxygen or water profiles. Since the soils are generally very compact, the sloping land creates more favourable conditions for planting fruit trees. The slope of the land (most orchards are located on slopes with a gradient of between 5 and 15°) means that excess water can drain away periodically. Excess amounts of water in compact soil would be detrimental to the water profiles and trigger the development of fungal diseases (Adamczyk, *Glebowe uwarunkowania rozwoju sadownictwa w Karpatach* [Soil conditions for the development of fruit growing in the Carpathians]). The average annual total precipitation ranges from 700 to 1,000 mm. The large difference between day-time and night-time temperatures is a key feature of the Łącko region. This improves of fruit quality, especially its colour, and also improves its organoleptic as well as physical and chemical properties, by enhancing the formation of aromatic substances.

Apples grown in such a special environment have excellent taste and appearance, being distinguished for their colour, firmness of the flesh, aroma, smell, and higher acidity, which is why ‘jabłka łackie’ are said to have a ‘mountain-green note’, i.e. they have more distinct taste.

**Table 1.** Share of particular soil types

Soil types	Area in ha	% of all soils
------------	------------	----------------



Alluvial soils	12,148	12.6
Brown soils, including	72,522	75.3
-typical brown soils	1,541	1.6
-leached brown with non-carbonate binder	29	31.6
- leached brown with carbonate binder	39	41.0
Podsols, including:	11,195	11.6
-carbonate podsols	5,790	6.0
-non-carbonate podsols	5,405	5.36
Other	481	0.5

### 8.2.1. Human and historical link

The development of fruit growing in the Łącko region was facilitated by its numerous advantages. Undoubtedly, these include favourable natural conditions. *They are undoubtedly due to favourable natural conditions. As early as the interwar period, it was found that these areas have a specific microclimate conducive to fruit growing. It was emphasised that Boiken, very sensitive to powdery mildew, was cultivated in Łącko in large quantities with good results, and that even Bauman, withdrawn from the national selection, was planted and brought income. Currently, the ecological purity of these areas and the lack of industry create conditions for obtaining natural and healthy fruit. Very high fruit growing standards, developed and improved over a few centuries, are very important. Just as car factories or assembly plants are built in regions where there are high technical standards and only there it is possible for them to be launched and operate competitively, so can fruit growing flourish where there are high fruit-growing standards* (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach* [History of fruit growing and fruit culture in Łącko and its surroundings], typescript, Kraków, 2007).

When describing various areas of production, reference is often made to old-time traditions to explain the high quality of products. Also in the case of fruit growing in Łącko, its very long tradition, which has led to the development of high fruit-growing standards and very good fruit quality, should be emphasised. According to historical accounts, fruit growing was known as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Dried fruit was floated down the Dunajec River to the Vistula River and then to Gdańsk, from where it was transported by water to other European countries.

*The beginnings of rational farming, and with time also horticultural and fruit farming, date back to 1257, when Bolesław the Chaste gave the villages of the Łącko Basin to his wife, Kinga. After his death, she moved to the monastery in Stary Sącz, which she had founded, and gave it her estate. The Order organised a modern administration of the estate and economic management. Duties were regulated, the economy was given a specific direction. Kinga brought from Hungary not only a high intellectual culture, but also economic*

standards. This was manifested, among others, in the establishment of orchards and the cultivation of fruit trees (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach*, typescript, Kraków, 2007).

Orchards in Łącko are also mentioned in documents from the 16<sup>th</sup> century as grange and parish gardens. Bazelić states that fruit growing flourished in the Łącko area from time immemorial, and that raw plums and apples were exported from this region to Gdańsk in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. (W. Bazelić, *Historie starosądeckie* [Stary Sącz stories], Kraków 1965, p. 173). As early as the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were large plum and apple orchards in these areas. The court records from the inspection conducted in 1698 include information that some of the cottagers were obliged to collect fruit and deliver it to the manor as corvée work: *There is no house here without an orchard or at least a few fruit trees next to it; moreover, some roads and edges of fields are surrounded by plum trees. Fruit-growing is the most important branch of the farm after agriculture and a source of wealth for the local area* [*Sady okolic Łącka* (Orchards in the Łącko area) (in: *Ogrodnictwo* (Gardening) No. 6, 1923, p. 1)].

*Published by prof. Adam Vetulani, "Księgi sądowe wiejskie klucza łąckiego" [Rural court books of the Łącko demesne] (Vol. 1 and 2, 1962-1963) provide a great deal of information about the existence of orchards, picked fruit, dried plums from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1811, when the books end. The lease agreement from 1550 (Vol. 1, No. 103) provides information about the orchard and the lessee's right to pick fruit. Supervised farming in the estate of the Stary Sącz monastery developed high agricultural standards over a long period and popularised fruit growing. Its development was not thwarted by the dissolution of the monastery by the occupying Austrian authorities in 1782. From that moment on, for over half a century, the Łącko estate became state property. As part of the colonisation carried out by Emperor Joseph II, German colonists were brought to the state property. Two towns: Weisendorf i Ernstsdorf were created for them besides Łącko. The Austrians preserved the tradition of fruit growing. As early as 1830, Herzog, the secretary of the state property, settled in Łącko and, as dr Stefan Ziobrowski writes ("Sady okolic Łącka" [Orchards of the Łącko area], "Rocznik Sądecki" [Nowy Sącz annal], Vol. 2, 1949, p. 145 et seq.), established an orchard on a larger scale and a nursery, and distributed and sold trees from it to German settlers. The Austrian authorities also ordered, by means of regulations (circular letters), among other things, that fruit trees should be planted along the roads. All this resulted in the expansion and popularisation of fruit growing, as noted by travellers around the Nowy Sącz region, and raising its standards. This development was due to, among others, the Society of Machinery Rings and the local clergy (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach* [History of fruit growing and fruit culture in Łącko and its surroundings], typescript, Kraków, 2007).*

### **Łącko parish priests – promoters of fruit-growing**

Łącko and its surroundings owe their orchards to the work and efforts of many people. The following Łącko parish priests made great contributions to local fruit-growing: Kacper Melchior Czekajski, Maciej Szaflarski and Jan Piaskowy. The first of those promoters, priest Kacper Melchior Czekajski, began establishing orchards and initially planted 90 grafts. He died in 1844. He was succeeded in the Łącko parish by priest Maciej Szaflarski, *who held this position for 24 years from 1844 to 1868* (archives of the Łącko parish, *Kronika parafialna* [Parish chronicle], vol. I, 1806-1840). It was said that priest Maciej Szaflarski, wishing to improve the material situation of his parishioners and considering the

establishment of orchards as the only way to achieve this goal, ordered from the pulpit that all engaged couples coming to the parish office to settle formalities related to banns of marriage should bring with them certificates from the village or gmina administrator that they had planted at least 10 fruit grafts in their gardens.

Priest Jan Piaskowy had no less merit for Łącko fruit-growing. He took over the parish in Łącko in 1897 and found it to be morally corrupted. This is what he noted in the parish chronicle: *I was quite disappointed with the morals of the local parishioners: very impudent, disrespecting priests, liberals, lack of faith. Drunkenness, field thefts, lack of respect for other people's property, huge disregard for the laws, arrogance, practically no donations to the church* (archives of the parish in Łącko, *Kronika parafialna* [Parish chronicle], vol. II, 1897). Therefore, priest Piaskowy decided to restore the parish in moral and economic terms. He struggled to raise the economy of the local population to a higher level. He required the parishioners not only to know the truths of faith and the catechism, but also to have *professional knowledge: the skills of farming, grafting and planting trees, and cattle breeding* (archives of the parish in Łącko, *Kronika parafialna* [Parish chronicle], vol. II, 1903). The parish priest instructed the young on how to plant trees, organised regularly special meetings, courses and discussion sessions. In 1898, priest Piaskowy set about with great energy to organise the economic branch of the parish, *to set it on such a footing and to set an example for the parishioners who were running a backward economy, which they themselves even demanded: show us what you can do and we will follow you* (archives of the parish in Łącko, *Kronika parafialna* [Parish chronicle], vol. II, 1897). Priest Piaskowy took over the parish land and ensured that the farm was run in an exemplary manner. Having become familiar with the climate of the Łącko Basin, he encouraged people to establish orchards and he did it himself. A local legend has it that as part of penance for sins revealed during confession, parishioners had to plant fruit trees. This priest showed an economic sense of foresight by ordering apple trees to be planted as penance instead of “reciting Hail Marys”. *Thus people in Łącko sinned breezily and planted fruit trees, trusting that both of these activities would be counted among their good deeds.* (“Gazeta Krakowska” newspaper, No. 15, 1967). Plum and apple trees were planted, because the local climate suited them best. All the effort that the parish priest put into the comprehensive education of the parishioners was carried out according to a deeply thought-out plan that consisted in teaching the parishioners to work and save. Considering fruit-growing as the best opportunity to boost the local economy, he planted different varieties of fruit trees. In 1904, he planted 29 plum trees, 5 apple trees and 2 pear trees in the garden near the presbytery. *The thrifty parish priest used every piece of ground that belonged to the presbytery land* (archives of the parish in Łącko, *Kronika parafialna* [Parish chronicle], vol. II, 1906). Thanks to priest Piaskowy's efforts, *now the Łącko valley could be called a fruit region* (J. Wiktor, *Pieniny i ziemia sądecka* [The Pieniny and Nowy Sącz land], Kraków, 1958, p. 197).

The expansion of fruit-growing [in the 19<sup>th</sup> century] was noted by an expert in these areas, A. Kurzeja, in his work “*Z rodzinnych stron Mikołaja Zyndrama wodza spod Grunwaldu*” [From the family land of Mikołaj Zyndram, a chief from Grunwald] (Brody, 1910) where he wrote: “*Great progress can be seen in fruit-growing. Currently, the gardens established around the house are not enough, so the fields nearby are slowly changing into orchards. And if work in these fields continues at this rate, the entire area will turn in the near future into one huge orchard. The people here have seen it and, convinced that an orchard brings more profit than an arable field, they have taken up this branch of industry*” (p. 85). *This phenomenon of development, thanks to fruit-growing, of the previously poor locality, has*

aroused researchers' interest. As early as 1900, A. Kurowski published an article entitled "Orchards in Łącko" in the "Ogrodnictwo"[Gardening] magazine, and in 1923, S. Grossbardówna and J. Łukaszewicz published in the same magazine an article entitled "Orchards around Łącko". Kurowski emphasised the beginnings of fruit processing (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach* [History of fruit growing and fruit culture in Łącko and its surroundings], typescript, Kraków, 2007).

### **About the Godfather of Łącko fruit-growing**

The development of fruit-growing in Łącko is largely due to Stanisław Wilkowicz. The head of the elementary school in the years 1898-1927, called the "godfather of Łącko fruit-growing", a great promoter of this branch of the economy, a social activist who founded a fruit tree nursery 70 years ago as a "teaching aid" for teaching nature, and rewarded good grades with dozens of fruit seedlings. Having arrived at the new educational establishment, director Wilkowicz decided to decisively improve the economic situation of the surrounding villages. *His observations of the environment, geological and climatic conditions, and the terrain convinced him that Łącko was an excellent area for fruit-growing, that fruit-growing could be the key to the transformation of the local villages, to improving the life of the local population and, as a result, to raising the education level.* (B. Faron, *Zanim w Łącku zakwitły jabłonie* [Before the apple trees bloomed in Łącko], in: *Powrót do korzeni* [Return to the roots], Kraków, 2000, p. 72). He started by collecting fruit seeds, in which he engaged all his students. At first, this caused great surprise, but when it turned out that he had grown seedlings from these seeds in the school garden, the distrust of the youth and parents disappeared. Wilkowicz took care to consolidate the knowledge of fruit-growing. At the end of the school year, he gave his students seedlings of fruit trees grown in the twenty-acre nursery. *He instructed, encouraged, advised, answered questions, reprimanded, praised, and indicated the most suitable place to establish an orchard* (B. Faron, *op. cit.*, p. 74). He was a fanatic and enthusiast of fruit-growing, instilling a passion for the Łącko land among the population. As a sign of gratitude, Łącko chose him as the patron of its school opened in 1958. A plaque embedded in the Primary School in Łącko commemorates the distinguished teacher as follows:

*1859-1943 To Stanisław Wilkowicz – a warm-hearted friend of the youth, an outstanding teacher and head of this school in the years 1898-1927, an indefatigable promoter of fruit-growing and co-creator of this land of blooming apple trees, the people of Łącko and the surrounding area have funded this plaque in gratitude for the contribution he made to this school and the Łącko region. The school he built, after its current expansion, has been named after Stanisław Wilkowicz for eternal memory and a glorious example. 1958.* (B. Faron, *op. cit.*, p. 75). Wilkowicz was succeeded as the headmaster by Stanisław Gronuś, who also promoted fruit-growing in this area. As a result of his activity, large nurseries were established in Dunajczyska, where school children took care of trees as part of physical work.

### **Fruit-growing revolutions**

*Another important figure in the interwar period was A. Drzewiński, a fruit-growing instructor. It can be said that from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 1939, Łącko and its surroundings experienced the first fruit-growing revolution. It was manifested in an unprecedented expansion of the area covered by orchards and an increase in the number of trees, eliminating old and poor varieties and introducing new, robust and efficient ones, and*

*the popularisation of processing. Before World War II, most fruit farmers had at least simple drying facilities. When after World War II, dr Ziobrowski, in agreement with the then Minister of Agriculture, conducted an inventory of orchards, he established that there were over 44,000 fruit trees in Łącko, including 22,000 apple trees, over 17,000 common purple plum trees, and over 2,000 other plum trees. He also recorded the cultivation of 26 varieties of apple trees, including the greatest numbers of Belle de Boskoop trees, Landsberger Reinette trees, Reine de Reinette trees, and Kaiser Wilhelm trees. A local variety known as 'Reneta Czarniecka' was also developed. The presented data illustrate the situation before the outbreak of the war.*

*Such great development of fruit-growing was an unprecedented phenomenon on a national level, and thus began to arouse the interest of fruit growers and agricultural authorities as early as the interwar period. After the war, the prospect of building a dam in Jazowsko on the Dunajec River and flooding Łącko stopped this development for some time. In order to preserve the tradition of fruit-growing, 'Dni Kwitnącej Jabłoni' [Apple Blossom Festival] started to be organised, to quickly become a celebration of Polish fruit growers, attracting tourists from various parts of Poland. Fruit-growing in Łącko was also supported by science. Dr Ziobrowski, together with students, conducted research and published a report on it in "Rocznik Sądecki" [Nowy Sącz Annal]. In his paper, he indicated the losses that these areas would suffer if they were flooded. He presented plans – in the event of the construction of the dam – consisting in moving young orchards and exploiting the old ones.*

The decision to build a dam on the Dunajec River in Czorsztyn in the 1960s and averting the threat of flooding resulted in the renewed development of fruit-growing in Łącko. Łącko and its surroundings experienced a second fruit-growing revolution. Extensive "blocked" orchards were created and fruit storage facilities as well as drying facilities were built. Fruit export from Łącko developed on an enormous scale. Political changes after the fall of communism, economic transformation, and fierce competition in Poland and with other European countries pose new challenges to fruit-growing in Łącko. A number of factors indicate that fruit-growing in Łącko has many advantages that speak for its future (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach* [History of fruit growing and fruit culture in Łącko and its surroundings], typescript, Kraków, 2007).

The increase in agricultural and fruit-growing production was also due to the activities of the Machinery Ring in Łącko. *This organisation initiated and held agricultural and fruit-growing training during winter (...)* (S. Baziak, *Łącko przez wieki* [Łącko throughout the centuries], Łącko 1990, p. 42). The Machinery Ring initiated establishing fruit tree nurseries. The nurseries were run by members of the Machinery Ring under the supervision of a great specialist from the Powiat Agricultural Association in Nowy Sącz, a fruit-growing instructor – Andrzej Drzewiński. After World War II, there were 600,000 fruit trees in Łącko and the surrounding area (*Encyklopedia sądecka* [Nowy Sącz Encyclopedia], Nowy Sącz, 2000, p. 331). According to current data, there are 1,148,000 apple trees in the Łącko gmina, including 6,000 trees over 25 years old.

### **Integrated Fruit Production (IFP)**

In order to ensure the highest quality of the product and the least possible interference with the environment, local fruit producers introduced Integrated Fruit Production (IFP). This is an environment-friendly farming system that takes into account the latest achievements in

agricultural science and technology, as part of which food is produced. High-quality fruit is produced in this system. The specific growing characteristics result from properly selected crop rotation and agrotechnics as well as rational fertilisation based on the actual nutritional requirements of plants. Unlike conventional agriculture, chemical plant protection is limited to the use of only those plant protection products that are safe for the environment, including beneficial organisms. The use of preparations classified as toxic and very toxic to humans is prohibited. Plant protection products are used only where other methods of limiting the occurrence of agrophages are not sufficient, in the lowest possible permissible doses, after the pest exceeds the harmfulness threshold or based on symptoms. Detailed obligations regarding farming methods are specified in the Integrated Apple Production method and guarantee that products obtained by using this method have a significantly higher commercial quality in terms of plant health and environmental protection.

## 8.2.2 Reputation

### Apple Blossom Festival

The first Apple Blossom Festival (mentioned by prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec in the cited work) was organised after the war in 1947. The festival is said to have been organised specifically to prevent plans to build a dam, by showing Poland what it would have lost if Łącko had been flooded. Subsequent festivals were aimed at promoting folklore and cultural achievements. Since that time, the festival has been celebrated every year in May and is still as popular as ever. It attracts crowds of visitors in a beautiful amphitheatre located on Jeżowa Mountain. Regional groups, brass bands and well-known Polish performers take part at this event. The stalls and displays (with fruit, culinary treats, works by folk artists, etc.) are also impressive.

The local press from 1959 includes accounts of the celebration of the Apple Blossom Festival. For example, the article entitled “*Święto Kwitnącej Jabłoni*” [Apple Blossom Festival] published in the “*Gazeta Krakowska*” newspaper on 11 May 1959, includes information about the organisation of the Festival and the guests that took part in it. There is also an important note that this event provides an opportunity for fruit growers, scientists and representatives of the authorities to talk about problems related to local orchards:

*The festival of Nowy Sącz fruit growers was a success thanks to the organisers, the wonderful weather and... the blooming apple trees that were a beautiful, natural decoration for Sunday's celebrations. There were welcome gates and flags. There were lots of people: farmers, workers, young people and tourists from all over Poland.*

*On Saturday, the day before the actual celebration, scientists – specialists in fruit growing and representatives of the authorities arrived in Łącko to discuss there with local fruit growers the problems faced by orchards in the Nowy Sącz region. The meeting was attended by J. Nagórzański, the chairman of the Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council.*

*On Sunday morning, the crowd of visitors headed for Czerniec along the road leading through the blossoming orchards. There were representatives of all political organisations and authorities from the powiat and the voivodeship, representatives of the army and society organisations. Deputy Minister of Agriculture S. Gucwa was also present.*

*In Czerniec, all participants gathered in Stanisław Sopata's old orchard. After the welcome by Mr Kalicki from Łącko and the speech by K. Węglarski, the chairman of the Apple Blossom Festival Celebration Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Powiat*

*National Council in Nowy Sącz, who spoke about the history of Łącko orchards and the pioneers of fruit-growing – the school choir entered the stage. The artistic performances were opened by the song entitled “Orchard”. Vocal groups from Nowy Sącz played and sang in the blooming orchard, Stanisław Klimek from Zabrzeże recited his poems. A highlander group from Łącko gave a performance of a powerful highlanders’ “zbójnicki” dance.*

*Later, performances moved to the stage on the market square in Łącko. There were air shows and sports shows. Their achievements were also presented by numerous artistic groups, including the warmly welcomed dance group of school children from Barcice and the famous band from Zalesie. The celebrations continued until late afternoon. This is how Łącko presented the visitors its assets – its orchards and the artistic achievements of this region during the apple blossom season.*

On 12 May 1959, the “Dziennik Ludowy” newspaper published an article entitled “*Impreza w Łącku pod kwitnącymi jabłoniami*” [A party in Łącko under blooming apple trees] reading:

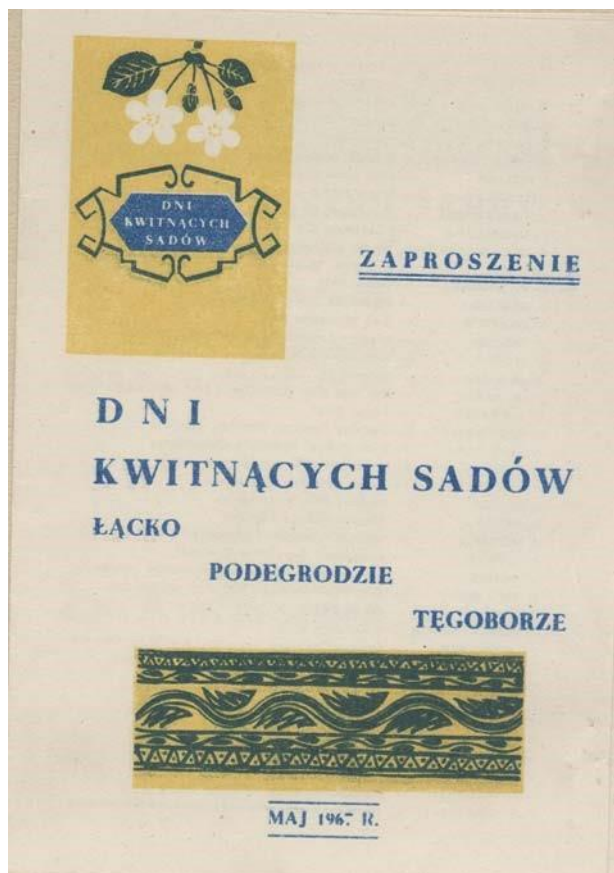
*On 10 May, Łącko in the Nowy Sącz powiat hosted almost 10,000 tourists and guests from various parts of Poland, who came here to celebrate the “Apple Blossom Festival”. The guests included representatives of the administrative authorities from Warsaw and Kraków.*

*On an improvised stage, placed among blossoming trees, regional highlander ensembles from all over the Nowy Sącz region gave their performances. For people from the Nowy Sącz region, it was an opportunity to popularise the wonderful folklore of this land, while presenting the guests the achievements of local fruit growers. In Łącko alone, 250,000 trees fruit every year. In the next seven years, this number will increase to 1,900,000.*

*The Apple Blossom Festival was an opportunity to hold a meeting of scientists and representatives of agricultural institutes, universities and the Ministry of Agriculture. The meeting participants discussed the current condition of fruit-growing in the Nowy Sącz region and the prospects for its development. The Łącko celebrations ended with folk games. An additional attraction was an air show, in which, among others, “Wścibuś”, the plane of the “Sztandar Młodych” magazine, took part.*

There are also preserved invitations to the celebrations of ‘*Dni Kwitnących Sadów*’ [Blossoming Orchard Festival] from 1967 (Photo 1) and from 1969 (Photo 2).

**Photo 1.** Invitation to the Blossoming Orchard Festival, May 1967



**Photo 2.** Invitation to the Blossoming Orchard Festival, 1969 – obverse





as above – reverse

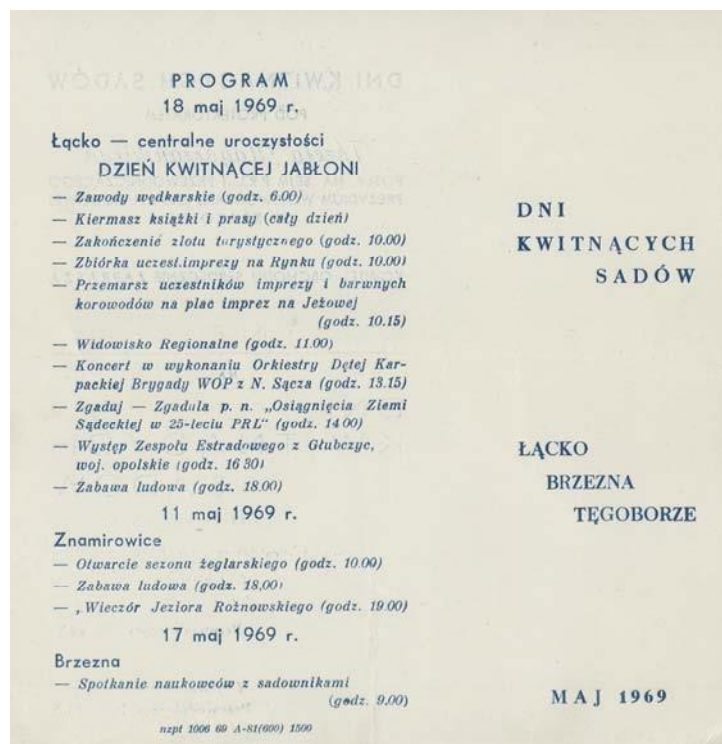


Photo 3. Greeting card from 1959



**Photo 4.** Celebrations of the Apple Blossom Festival, 1963



**Photo 5.** A highlander orchestra performances during the Apple Blossom Festival, 1963



**Photo 6.** A highland orchestra performances during the Apple Blossom Festival, 1966





The skills honed by local people over the centuries and their characteristic temperament played an important part in developing fruit farming in the area concerned.

*People who have travelled to and observed this region throughout the different periods of history have underlined the acuity, perceptiveness, obstinacy and patience of its inhabitants (known as 'White Highlanders'). Such traits are important for developing the economic sector in question.* (prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach* [History of fruit growing and fruit culture in Łącko and its surroundings], typescript, Kraków, 2007).

### **Economic importance**

The growing reputation of apples has translated into an increase in their supply over the years. The great interest and demand enjoyed by 'jabłka łąckie' is also confirmed by the changes that have taken place in their production method aimed at its intensification. At the beginning of fruit-growing in the Łącko region, a multi-tier method was used, in which the tree spacing was 10x10 – 12x12 m. Agricultural crops were planted under the trees. These were tall trees with a widely spread crown, that can still be seen today and constitute 15-30% of the total area of orchards. Most owners of these orchards apply for an ecological certificate. In the 1960s, intensive orchards appeared, in which tree spacing was 7x5 m or 6x4 m. Later, these distances were reduced to 5x4 m or even 5x3.5 m. In these dense orchards, multi-tier cultivation was no longer possible. Such orchards account now for ca. 10% of the total area of orchards. In the 1980s, spacing was further reduced to 4x2 m. This spacing has been preserved to this day. Orchards with such planting spacing account for ca. 50% of the total area of orchards in the Łącko region. The production method is traditional and provides for maintaining ecological balance and the principles of good agricultural practice.

It should be emphasised that apple crops account for ca. 80% of the area of all fruit crops in the area specified in point 5. In this area, apple orchards cover 3,000 ha, and this area is distributed as follows: 50% in the Łącko gmina, 15% in the Stary Sącz gmina, 18.3% in the Podegrodzie gmina, and 16.7% in the Łukowica gmina.

The importance of orchards in the lives of the inhabitants of Łącko and its surroundings, also nowadays, is also evidenced by the poem entitled "*Kocham Cię Łącka Ziemio*" [I love you, Łącka Land], written by Mr Stanisław Wąchała. This poem was included in the "*Gmina Łącko*" [Łącko Gmina] booklet published by the Gmina Cultural Centre:

*Kocham Cię Łącka Ziemio rodzinna  
Kwieciem jabłoni zdobiona,  
Tyś mi najbliższa sercu, nie inna,  
Moja kolebko rodzinna.*

### **Summary**

'Jabłka łąckie' are distinguished by such exceptional features as higher acidity and a blush larger than average, which is why they are said to have a 'mountain-green note', i.e. they have a distinctive taste and are tart and aromatic. They also have firm flesh and are juicy. 'Jabłka łąckie' owe all these characteristic features to natural factors that are conducive to

fruit-growing, such as the mountainous area and mild climate. As a result of the combination of the geographical conditions and the skills of the local people apples produced in the area specified in point 4 are distinguished by their quality. The skills mentioned above are manifested primarily in the fact that in order to ensure the highest quality of the product and the least possible interference with the environment, local apple producers have introduced Integrated Fruit Production (IFP). Local fruit growers adapt production methods to the climatic and soil conditions prevailing in the area described in point 5.

The high reputation of Łącko apples is evidenced by the fact that a celebration known as Apple Blossom Festival has been organised in their honour since 1947. This festival was born out of a desire to defend the fruit farming tradition in Łącko against a plan to build a dam on the Dunajec River, as a result of which the town would be flooded. Since that time, the festival has been celebrated every year in May and is still as popular as ever. Regional groups, brass bands and well-known Polish performers take part at this event. The stalls and displays (with fruit, culinary treats, works by folk artists, etc.) are also impressive. Information about the Apple Blossom Festival is published in the local press. During the festival, Łącko is visited not only by tourists from throughout Poland but also by scientists and academics from agricultural institutes and universities as well as representatives of the authorities. This is an excellent opportunity to exchange opinions with local producers on fruit-growing and its problems. All of this shows just how very important this economic sector is for the local population.

The growth in the reputation of 'jabłka łąckie' over the years has been conducive to increasing their supplies. The great interest and demand enjoyed by 'jabłka łąckie' is also confirmed by the changes that have taken place in their production method aimed at its intensification.

## **9. Control:**

1. COBICO Sp. z o.o., ul. Grzegórzecka 77, 31-559 Kraków;
2. Biocert Małopolska Sp. z o.o., ul. Lubicz 25a, 31-503 Kraków,
3. TUV Rhienland Polska Sp. z o.o., ul. 17-ego Stycznia 56, 02-146 Warszawa,
4. Wojewódzki Inspektor Jakości Handlowej Małopolski w Krakowie, ul. św. Sebastiana 9, 31-049 Kraków.

## **10. Labelling:**

Specific rules on the labelling of the agricultural product or foodstuff should be provided, if any.

All producers and entities involved in the packaging of 'jabłka łąckie' are obliged to use one type of label. The labels will be distributed through the "Łącka Droga Owocowa" Association. The Association will provide the control body with detailed rules for the distribution of labels. These rules may in no way discriminate against producers who do not belong to the Association.

## **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.

1. Stanisław Baziak, *Łącko przez wieki*
2. A. Kurzeja, *Z rodzinnych stron Mikołaja Zyndrama wodza spod Grunwaldu*, Brody 1910
3. Henryk Stamirski, *Przeszłość Łącka (l.1251- 1782)*
4. *Pamiętnik jubileuszowy wystawy ogrodniczej w Poznaniu 25.IX.-3.X.1926*, Poznań, 1926
5. Stefan Ziobrowski, *Sady okolic Łącka*
6. B. Faron, *Powrót do korzeni*, Kraków, 2000
7. Excerpt from ks. Józef Piaskowy 1898-1923 r. in: *Historia Parafii Łącko opracowana przez ks. Józefa Puta*.
8. prof. dr hab. Julian Dybiec, *Dzieje sadownictwa i kultury sadowniczej w Łącku i jego okolicach*, typescript, Kraków, 2007
9. Article entitled *Święto Kwitnącej Jabłoni*, "Gazeta Krakowska", 11 May 1959
10. Article entitled *Impreza w Łącku pod kwitnącymi jabłoniami*, "Dziennik Ludowy", 12 May 1959
11. *Gmina Łącko*, brochure issued by Gminny Ośrodek Kultury in Łącko

#### **IV. Scope and frequency of inspections carried out to verify whether the production process complies with the specifications**

Please describe which stages of the production process will be subject to control, and provide a detailed scope and frequency of inspections.

1. Control of the compliance of the production process of ‘jabłka łackie’ with the specifications will be carried out in several stages, at least once a year.
2. Information on the location of orchards, in accordance with the provisions regarding the proof of origin, should be provided to the “Łącka Droga Owocowa” Association in Łącko. The Association should at all times be in possession of an up-to-date list of entities interested in producing the product covered by the PGI, based on which control is carried out.
3. The first stage of the control consists in checking whether production is carried out in the area declared in the specifications (in point 5) and whether it is carried out in accordance with the documentation confirming the origin of the product, kept by the Association. The current list of producers interested in producing ‘jabłka łackie’ and the current locations of orchards are checked.
4. The second stage of the control consists in verifying whether the apples are produced in accordance with the principles of the Integrated Fruit Production (IFP).
5. Each producer is obliged to keep a register in which they record the volumes of production and sales, the buyer of apples intended for further sale in a given year, as well as the area and location of the orchards, which allows for determining the origin of the apples as well as the quantity of fruit produced and placed on the market. Based on the registers, it is also possible to determine whether the agronomic efficiency has not exceeded 50 tonnes per ha.
6. The control body also checks whether the number of apple trees per hectare is between 100 and 5,000 and whether the fruit is harvested by hand in the period from 10 September to 31 October. If the harvest date is different, the producer shall report this fact to the Association that reports it further to the certification body.
7. The control body checks whether the apples belong to the following cultivars: Antonovka, Beforest, Boiken, Kaiser Wilhelm, Grosse Bohnapfel, Kosztela, Croncels, Oberländer Himbeerapfel, White Transparent, Belle de Boskoop, Starking, Winterstettiner, Eiserapfel, Cox’s Orange Pippin, London Pippin, Culon’s Reinette, Plaska, Ananas Berżenicki, Landsberger Reinette, Blenheim Orange, Idared and sports, Jonagold and sports, Szampion and sports, Ligol, Jonatan, Golden Delicious, Elstar, Boskop, James Grievie, Elise, Fiesta, Elary Geneve, Celeste, Pilot, Pinowa, Rubinstar, Rubin, Paulared, Gloster, and have the characteristics presented in the description.
8. If a given fruit grower also produces other apple varieties not covered by the Protected Geographical Indication, the control body checks whether they are stored separately in a way that prevents the fruit from being mixed with the varieties covered by the PGI.

**Date:**

**Signature:**