



Geographical Indication Product Database - Step 1-

PGI Fagiolo di Sorana from Tuscany - Italy

SOURCE :

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1. NAME OF PRODUCT : PGI Fagiolo di Sorana

2. COUNTRY AND REGION IN THE COUNTRY: ITALY – Tuscany

3. TYPE OF PRODUCT : (including the possible substitutes and imitations of the product)

PGI Fagiolo di Sorana is a climbing legume of the species of *Phaseolus vulgaris L.* cultivated in a small area of Tuscany, crossed by Pescia creek in the province of Pistoia. Fresh beans cultivated in the same area are often sold on the local market, so that they can be considered as possible substitutes for the marked ones. There is also a Slow Food Presidium for the Fagiolo di Sorana.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCT AND ITS AREA (INCLUDING ITS SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS, CONDITIONS OF PRODUCTION, MAIN DIFFERENCES WITH THE SUBSTITUTES) :

PGI Fagiolo di Sorana is recognizable from its external colour which can be white with pearl-like stripes, or wine-red coloured with darker stripes. Its thin and smooth skin protection confers the product high digestible characteristics. The planting occurs once a year, while in September-October farmers harvest the beans (exclusively by hand), afterwards exposing them to the sun. During the winter time, producers preserve beans in bins adding black pepper grains and laurel leaves. The beans are then put in little bags and marketed. The main visible difference with the substitutes is the state in which the product is sold: usually unmarked beans are placed just on the local market without being dried, flavoured and packed.

5. LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA (tradition, know how, reputation, soil, climate, etc.):

Organoleptic and visual characteristics rely on environmental factors not replicable in other territories: frequent rains during autumn and winter, high humidity rate during summer time, moderate range due to a balance between highest and lowest noticed degrees. The river origin of soil also influences the characteristics of the beans. At the local level, this product has a strong reputation due to its old presence in the gastronomic local tradition. The reason why producers asked for the PGI is the strong locals' interest in preventing the name of the product to be usurped by growing imitations, and in fostering rural development dynamics thanks to promotional initiatives based on the EU logo reputation.

6. PRODUCTION SYSTEM / SUPPLY CHAIN (some data about the number of producers, processors, market structure..):

There are 16 small producers using PGI, with an average size of cultivated area of 1,5 hectares and a yearly beans production of 2 quintals per farmer. The distribution system is quite diversified: one third of PGI production is directly sold by farmers. The rest of production is sold through small retailers and wholesale dealers, or distributed to local restaurants. Most of the product is locally sold.

7. MARKET AND REPUTATION (size, price premium, attractiveness, growth) :

The production is around 30 quintals per year. The price premium of PGI on unmarked beans is on average up to 1,5 euros per kilo, compared to the ex-ante situation (without PGI). Possibilities of increasing the production are quite limited, even if the growth of attractiveness for the product can stimulate new producers.

8. APPLICANT / HOLDER (IF ANY) :

Producers members of "Associazione dei piccoli produttori – Il Ghiareto"

RELEVANCE : Why is this case important for research in general and for SINER-GI in particular ?

Producers have gained a good rate of economic and social gratification from using the PGI. Moreover, the use of the PGI opened new distribution channels. Some possible contradictions and conflicts may be raised by the co-presence of a PGI system and the Slow Food Presidium, which involves only a part of PGI Fagiolo di Sorana producers. This case is also relevant with respect to preserving the species from extinction and protecting biodiversity.

CATEGORY :

☐ Origin Product

☐ GI product

☒ Recognized G