Samut Songkhram Kom lychee refers to the Khom or Hom Lamjiak species of lychee that are fragrant and sweet. The fruit can be round or oval in shape and the skin is thin and brittle. When the fruit is on the tree, it is red but once collected, it becomes brown. The pinkish-white flesh is firm and crisp. The taste is bitter sweet and fragrant with a sweetness level of 19.50 Brix.

**Main characteristics/features**

Only the Khom or Hom Lamjiak varieties are covered by the GI.

Each tree is planted about 10-12 metres apart or as appropriate to the area. Each planting hole should be about 50-80 cm long, wide and deep. The soil should be mixed with organic fertiliser. The lychees are wrapped in a paper bag and gradually turn from green to red 20-25 days before harvest. About four months after flowering, the fruit turns a pinkish-red colour. The fruit is harvested when the light is not too strong, to avoid damaging the fruit. The harvest lasts around 2 or 3 days. After harvesting it is important to prune the branches and cut off any bad fruit.

The product label should include ‘Lychee Kom Samut Songkhram’ and/or ‘Samut Songkhram Kom lychee or litchi’.

**Geographical area**

Samut Songkhram Kom lychee production areas are located in the Bang Kantaek Subdistrict and the Muang, Amphawa, and Bang Konthee districts of Samut Songkhram Province.

**Link between product and territory**

Samut Songkhram is an old province with a long history. It was originally a part of Ratchaburi Province. It was also known as the city of 3 waters, making it suitable for agriculture, especially the Samut Songkhram Kom lychee, which is sweet and bright red. The first person to plant them was Mr Di Meekaewkunchorn, a gardener who brought seeds from Trok Chan, Yanawa, Bangkok in 1854. The trees bore fruit within 3 years and they were covered in bright red, sweet fruit. The fruit was originally called ‘E-Kom’, because the tree is not very tall and is rather bushy. The letter ‘E’ was removed, as it is impolite in Thai, and so the name became ‘Kom lychee’. The lychee is one of many popular fruits of Samut Songkhram Province. As such, an event is organised in April every year called ‘the Lychee and Mae Klong Products event’. It is a combination of natural and human factors that give the Samut Songkhram Kom lychee its uniqueness.