

"Production volume and product quality of Thai fragrant coconuts improved, but due to the pandemic, the export volume still declined"



The fragrant coconut is included on a list of protected varieties in Thailand. The coconut milk of fragrant coconuts is richer and more fragrant than the coconut milk of regular 'sweet water' coconuts, and the fragrant coconut is juicier as well. Thailand can produce coconuts all year round, and a single growing season takes about 26 days. The peak production period of fragrant coconuts takes place between late March and November. The production areas are now preparing for a new season.

F365-Baotong Technology works together with several coconut plantations in Thailand. Company spokesperson Jason recently talked about conditions in production areas. "The production volume this season is bigger than last season. The weather conditions in 2021 were very suitable for growing coconuts. There were no great fluctuations in weather conditions. The overall quality of fragrant coconuts also improved compared to the previous year."

When asked about the unique characteristics of fragrant coconuts, Jason replied, "the environmental and meteorological conditions in production areas are unique, and they provide fragrant coconuts with their characteristic fragrance and flavor. The fragrant coconut production area in Damnoen Saduak, which is roughly 80 kilometers in circumference, is one of the core production areas for fragrant coconuts. The coconuts there enjoy sufficient moisture, and since the region is close to the coast, the coconut trees also take advantage of saline and alkaline levels in the soil. Thai fragrant coconuts are large and their skin is thin. The coconut water and coconut meat both possess a pleasing fragrance. The sweet flavor refreshes the mind. That is one of the unique characteristics of Thai fragrant coconuts."

"The export price of Thai fragrant coconuts is more or less the same as last year, despite the pandemic. Our greatest challenge is the rising shipping cost. The shipping fee from Thailand to Guangzhou used to cost 4,000 yuan [629 USD] per shipping container, but now the price already reached 20,000 yuan [3,149 USD] per shipping container," said Jason. "In addition, the pace of processing in production areas recently slowed down, shipping docks are blocked, and customs procedures have become more strict. All of these factors create delays. Under regular conditions our coconuts reach Guangzhou in 3 days, but additional disinfection and other Covid-19 measures cause delays, so that transport takes 5-7 days. And not only is shipping delayed, the cost of labor and distribution increased as well. In the end, our export volume of Thai fragrant coconuts declined by one third compared to last season."

When asked about market predictions, Jason replied, "there was still a huge domestic demand for coconuts, especially in summer. We are quite optimistic about the domestic market. And we hope the pandemic will soon come to an end, and bring relief to everyone."

F365-Baotong Technology and Star Coconut jointly invested in the construction of processing factories in 2016. The company works together with several coconut plantations in Thailand with a combined surface area of more than 200 hectares. And F365-Baotong Technology continues to strengthen their processing power. Their factories already cover a surface area of 8,400 square meters.

"In addition to coconut processing factories, the company also owns two durian processing factories in east and south Thailand. The company strictly adheres to GAP, GMP, and HACCP standards and implements modernized, standardized production management. Their aim is to provide consumers with an original, ecological flavor. F365-Baotong Technology exports their products to Asia, the Middle East, and Europe."

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