

WILD AMAZONAS CHILIES – PRODUCT SHEET

AJI GUSANITO

Aji Gusanito is a traditional Amazonian chili known for its distinctive worm-like shape and balanced aroma. It is cultivated in smallholder forest gardens.



Fruit & Plant characteristics

Aji Gusanito is characterized by its **elongated, twisted and often slightly curved fruits**, resembling a small worm. The pods reach a length of approximately **4–7 cm** and ripen, depending on the variety, from **cream-white to yellow or light orange**.

The plant is a **perennial, compact shrub** with a typical height of **0.8–1.3 meters**. The leaves are medium-sized, elongated and relatively soft. The plant is high-yielding and well suited to partially shaded growing conditions.

Origin & Occurrence

Amazon region of South America, including southeastern Peru. Mainly found in small-scale traditional garden systems.

Cultivation & Plant

Perennial chili shrub well adapted to humid tropical conditions. Prefers partial shade and organically enriched soils.

Harvest & Plant Lifespan

Multiple harvests per year. Fruits are selectively hand-harvested. Plant lifespan: 3–5 years or longer in tropical regions.

Scoville (approx.)

15,000 – 40,000 SHU

Aroma & Flavor

Mild to moderately hot, fruity with gentle spice. Suitable for salsas, stir-fries and aromatic seasoning bases where flavor comes before heat.