



COPAL COCOA *Info*

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance

Issue No. 182

5th – 9th June 2006

ICCO Daily Cocoa Prices

	ICCO daily price (SDRs/tonne)	ICCO daily price (US\$/tonne)	London futures (£/tonne)	New York futures (US\$/tonne)
5th June	1042.3	1561.45	858.33	1505.67
6th June	1037.82	1548.85	860.33	1491.67
7th June	1050.84	1563.49	871	1503
8th June	1041.51	1545.47	866.67	1489
9th June	1056.46	1562.09	876	1504.67
Average	1,045.79	1,556.27	866.47	1,498.80

Up-coming Events

- 15th International Cocoa Research Conference, 9th – 14th October 2006, San José, Costa Rica

In the News:

- Gold overtakes cocoa
- FG trains farmers for cocoa production
- Cargill to expand cocoa presence in Ghana
- ADM Interested In Ghana's WAMCO Cocoa Mills
- Cocoa Plants Find a Friend in Fungi
- Ghana to process 50% of her cocoa
- Cargill joins cocoa industry in fighting child labour
- Organic chocolate taps growing ethical consumerism
- Plant diseases threaten global chocolate production
- Public debate opens on international food safety standards

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICCO DAILY COCOA PRICES

UP-COMING EVENTS

LONDON & NEW YORK FUTURES
MARKETS UPDATE

SPOT PRICES

NEWS

TIT-BITS

15TH ICRC – REGISTRATION FORM

Cocoa Producers' Alliance

**International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE)
London Futures Market – Summary of Trading Activities
(£ per tonne)**

Monday 5th June 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Jul 2006	842	849	8	860	842	4,195
Sep 2006	853	854	3	865S	852	2,223
Dec 2006	872	872	2	882	870S	670
Mar 2007	883	885	2	897S	883S	794
May 2007	897	898	1	906S	897	327
Jul 2007	908	906	1	908	908	20
Sep 2007		915	1			0
Dec. 2007		922	1			0
Mar 2008		929	1			0
May 2008		940	1			0
Totals		897				8229

Tuesday 6th June 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	852	853	4	862	850	6,778
Sep 2006	854	856	2	864	854	4,110
Dec 2006	874	872	0	880S	871	904
Mar 2007	885	884	-1	893	883S	1,586
May 2007	897	896	-2	903S	897	194
Jul 2007	905	904	-2	915	905	34
Sep 2007	915	914	-1	915	915	3
Dec. 2007	930	922	0	930S	930S	250
Mar 2008		929	0			0
May 2008		940	0			0
Totals		892				13,859

Wednesday 7th June 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	854	866	13	867	850	5,123
Sep 2006	857	865	9	865	853	4,455
Dec 2006	875	882	10	882	870	4,794
Mar 2007	889	895	11	896	882	1,557
May 2007	899	905	9	905	895	722
Jul 2007	903	914	10	908S	903	68
Sep 2007	914	922	8	918	914	14
Dec. 2007	919	930	8	926	919	3,764
Mar 2008		941	12			0
May 2008		952	12			0
Totals		907				20,497

Thursday 8th June 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	866	862	-4	873	859	3,151
Sep 2006	865	861	-4	872	860	2,350
Dec 2006	881	877	-5	886	876	1,406
Mar 2007	896	890	-5	901	890	902
May 2007	907	901	-4	908S	900	24
Jul 2007	913	910	-4	913S	912S	8
Sep 2007	923	918	-4	924	923	21
Dec. 2007	931	926	-4	932	931	504
Mar 2008		937	-4			0
May 2008		948	-4			0
Totals		903				8,366

Friday 9th June 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	862	875	13	879	862	5,548
Sep 2006	862	869	8	874	862	4,862
Dec 2006	878	884	7	888	878	459
Mar 2007	893	897	7	901	893	728
May 2007	908	907	6	908S	906S	10
Jul 2007		916	6			0
Sep 2007		925	7			0
Dec. 2007	931	933	7	936S	931	105
Mar 2008	941	944	7	941	941	10
May 2008		954	6			0
Totals		910				11,722

Average for the week		902				12535
-----------------------------	--	------------	--	--	--	--------------

**New York Board of Trade
(New York Futures Market – Summary of Trading Activities)
(US\$ per tonne)**

Monday 5th June 2006

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	1473 1477	1474	13	1484	1467	4489
Sep 2006	1500 1503	1506	12	1515	1499	3385
Dec 2006	1540 0	1542	11	1551	1538	535
Mar 2007	0 0	1574	13	1583	1580	230
May 2007	0 0	1593	13	0	0	160
Jul 2007	0 0	1612	13	0	0	25
Sep 2007	0 0	1630	13	0	0	148
Dec. 2007	0 0	1656	14	1662	1657	20
Mar 2008	0 0		0	0	0	0
May 2008	0 0		0	0	0	0
Totals		1573				8992

Tuesday 6th June 2006

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	1477 1481	1460	-14	1481	1457	7368
Sep 2006	1509 1511	1489	-17	1511	1486	5791
Dec 2006	1545 0	1527	-15	1545	1526	1110
Mar 2007	1576 ^B 1580 ^A	1560	-14	1571	1558	751
May 2007	1595 ^B 1600 ^A	1578	-15	1578	1578	200
Jul 2007	1615 ^B 1620 ^A	1597	-15	0	0	270
Sep 2007	1632 ^B 1636 ^A	1615	-15	1630	1622	470
Dec. 2007	0 0	1639	-17	1658	1658	15
Mar 2008	0 0			0	0	0
May 2008	0 0			0	0	0
Totals		1558				15975

Wednesday 7th June 2006

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	1460 1462	1473	13	1475	1459	11115
Sep 2006	1489 1492	1500	11	1502	1488	9354
Dec 2006	1530 0	1538	11	1542	1527	791
Mar 2007	1561 1563	1570	10	1572	1561	595
May 2007	1579 0	1589	11	1579	1579	20
Jul 2007	1595 ^B 1605 ^A	1608	11	1600	1600	70
Sep 2007	0 0	1626	11	1620	1620	235
Dec. 2007	0 0	1650	11	0	0	0
Mar 2008	0 0			0	0	0
May 2008	0 0			0	0	0
Totals		1569				22180

Thursday 8th June 2006

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	1468 1469	1461	-12	1474	1459	11079
Sep 2006	1493 1495	1484	-16	1500	1483	11418
Dec 2006	1533 ^B 1534 ^A	1523	-15	1537	1523	2815

Mar 2007	1567 1568	1555	-15	1570	1555	690
May 2007	1584 ^B 1590 ^A	1575	-14	1575	1575	390
Jul 2007	1600 ^B 1610 ^A	1594	-14	0	0	50
Sep 2007	1621 ^B 1623 ^A	1611	-15	1624	1611	353
Dec. 2007	0 0	1636	-14	0	0	653
Mar 2008	0 0			0	0	0
May 2008	0 0			0	0	0
Totals		1555				27448

Friday 9th June 2006

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2006	1470 1474	1476	15	1490	1465	10480
Sep 2006	1486 1489	1498	14	1509	1486	10053
Dec 2006	1529 1530	1535	12	1548	1529	543
Mar 2007	1563 0	1568	13	1580	1560	324
May 2007	1580 ^B 1583 ^A	1588	13	0	0	95
Jul 2007	1599 ^B 1607 ^A	1607	13	1613	1613	55
Sep 2007	1616 ^B 1621 ^A	1625	14	0	0	15
Dec. 2007	1641 ^B 1645 ^A	1648	12	0	0	0
Mar 2008	0 0	1675	1675	1674	1674	10
May 2008	0 0					0
Totals		1580				21575

Average for the week		1567				24043
-----------------------------	--	-------------	--	--	--	--------------

	5th June	6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	Average for the Week
Main Crop Ghana, Grade 1		1827	1840	1828	1843	1835
Main Crop Ivory Coast, Grade 1		1727	1740	1728	1743	1735
Main Crop Nigerian, 1		1703	1716	1704	1719	1711
Superior Arriba		1682	1695	1683	1698	1690
Sanchez f.a.q		1678	1691	1679	1694	1686
Malaysian 110		1477	1490	1478	1493	1485
Sulawesi f.a.q		1505	1518	1506	1521	1513
Ecuador Cocoa Liquor		2501	2524	2503	2529	2514
Pure Prime Press African Type Cocoa Butter		3854	3889	3857	3897	3874
10/12% Natural Cocoa Press Cake		701	707	701	708	704

Source: Cocoa Merchants' Association

News

Gold overtakes cocoa

...as Ghana's leading foreign exchange earner

Accra, June 10, GNA - Ghana recorded a significant increase in all mineral productions in 2005 with gold taking over from cocoa as the leading foreign exchange earner for the country.

Mineral revenue went up from 798 million dollars in 2004 to 995.2 million dollars in 2005 contributing about 13 per cent of the total collection of Internal Revenue Service in the year under review. Gold production recorded an increase of 63 per cent from 1,794,497 ounces in 2004 to 2,029,218 ounces in 2005 with its export revenue increasing from 731.2 million dollars to 903.9 million dollars. These were contained in the 2005 annual report of the Chamber of Mines released at its 78th Annual General Meeting held in Accra under the theme; "The Impact of Mining on Local Economy."

The Report said bauxite revenue increased from 11.9 million dollars in 2004 to 18.1 million dollars in 2005, while diamond rose from 26 million dollars to 34.7 million dollars. Manganese exports realised 39.1 million dollars in 2005, up from 30.2 million dollars the previous year.

Presenting his Presidential Address, Mr Mike M. Ezan, who doubled as the Chamber's Council Chairman, said despite the increase in production and revenues, the mining industry witnessed extremely high input prices particularly for diesel fuel, sodium cyanide and earth moving equipment tyres. According to him, the high input prices dampened what could have been an impressive year for the global mining industry in general and Ghana in particular.

He said the mining companies for the 2005, returned about 48 per cent of their export earnings to the country to support their operation and also to fulfil their retention obligation to the Bank of Ghana. "This is significantly higher than the minimum 25 per cent stipulated by the Mineral and Mining Law PNDCL153," he said. Mr Ezan noted that the challenges of railing manganese and bauxite to the Takoradi Port compelled both Ghana Manganese Company and Ghana Bauxite Company to haul significant portions of their production by road transport, which increased their costs at a time the prices of both commodities were at an all-time low.

He called on the Government to expedite action on the restructuring of Railway Sector saying the under-performance of the Ghana Railway Company remained of grave concern to them as it had negatively impacted on their production."

Mr Ezan said the quality of supply of electric power in the country was deteriorating, as the mines experienced frequent interruptions that were causing the industry several millions of dollars annually as well as the overall revenue to the Government. He pledged the Chamber's commitment to uphold the concept of sustainable development in the business of mining by ensuring that companies integrated environmental initiatives into their management systems, structures and incentives.

The Council Chairman expressed satisfaction that the year under review achieved about 80 per cent compliance with mining environmental regulations and standards.

Under the payment of mineral royalties to mining communities, Mr Ezan advocated 30 per cent as against the current figure of 10 per cent. "This amount is inadequate for the stimulation of infrastructure development in the mining communities." He said royalties paid in 2005 amounted to 25.9 million dollars.

FG trains farmers for cocoa production

• Saturday, Jun 10, 2006, The Tide Online

The federal government has embarked on the training of cocoa farmers for increased production of the commodity. The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, is coordinating a two-week workshop for master trainers and supervisors as part of the exercise.

The training, which is holding at the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan, is for the Farmers Field Schools programme for farmers in cocoa-producing states. The IITA Country Manager, Dr Chris Okafor, told newsmen in Ibadan Wednesday that the programme would provide capacity building and support for cocoa production.

“The idea of the programme is to have an extension approach by bringing farmers together in the field towards providing capacity building and support for cocoa production,” he said. “We are not talking about imparting knowledge because we believe farmers have some capacities. “It is to help them to maximise and use existing capacities they have to move themselves forward and to build on how to increase cocoa production,” he said.

Okafor said the field extension programme, which would last seven months, would bring together farmers in the field. “There are many things that affect cocoa production. “Obviously, what we are trying to do now is how to help farmers have a good practice that will not require excessive (farm) inputs,” he said.

Cargill to expand cocoa presence in Ghana

Confectionary News.com

06/06/2006 - Cargill is to build a state-of-the-art cocoa processing facility in Ghana, West Africa, to produce cocoa liquor, butter and powder.

The facility will be located in the port of Tema and will process 60,000 tonnes initially, with the potential to expand to 120,000 tonnes.

The announcement follows a recent high-level meeting between the president of Ghana, John Kufuor, and Cargill's chairman and chief executive Warren Staley, along with other Ghanaian government officials and senior Cargill executives.

Construction is due to begin during the next few months and the facility should be operational by the end of 2007. In a further commitment to cocoa in the country, Cargill also recently signed a long-term cocoa bean supply agreement with Isaac Osei, chief executive of the Ghana cocoa board.

“As a major cocoa processor, it is important that we continue to invest in order to meet the growing needs of our cocoa customers,” said Paul Naar, head of Cargill's food ingredients business in Europe and Africa. “The quality of Ghanaian cocoa beans is excellent, and we are pleased to invest in a country whose government is committed to cocoa and further developing its processing industry.”

Osei said that Cargill's international expertise in the cocoa industry would have many benefits for the Ghanaian economy. "The new facility will significantly increase Ghana's ability to process cocoa beans locally, at the same time creating an important new outlet for local farmers and employment opportunities for the local community in Tema," he said.

Cargill has been supplying cocoa products around the world for over 40 years. The company has a network of cocoa processing facilities in Western Europe, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil and the USA. The group has been active in Africa since 1981 and now has operations in cocoa processing and origination, commodity trading and processing and warehousing. Cargill's began its cocoa operations in Côte d'Ivoire in 1997 and production at its cocoa processing plant near Abidjan began in 2000.

Nearly 70 per cent of the world's cocoa production originates from West Africa with Cote d'Ivoire alone accounting for 40 per cent. An estimated 10 million people in West Africa are supported by over 1.2 million independent family cocoa farms.

Since 2001, Cargill has been running seminars to train its suppliers to go back to their communities to teach their neighbours about sustainable cocoa practices. The seminars include a component on child labour. Cargill also requires that all of its direct suppliers of cocoa beans in West Africa, both licensed buyers and cooperatives, sign a statement acknowledging that they understand Cargill's commitment to the elimination of abusive child labour practices in the cocoa supply chain.

ADM Interested In Ghana's WAMCO Cocoa Mills

Kwasi Kpodo

ACCRA, Ghana (Dow Jones)--Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. (ADM) is interested in taking total control of WAMCO, two cocoa mills with an annual throughput of 70,000 metric tons, located in Ghana's western port of Takoradi, a government official said Monday. WAMCO, or West African Mills, is a joint venture between Germany's Hamester (60%) and Ghana's cocoa marketing body Cocobod (40%).

ADM wants to acquire the stakes of both Hamester and Cocobod, Poku Kwabena Kyei, a special advisor on cocoa affairs to the Minister of Finance, told Dow Jones Newswires. Kyei said there had been talk about ADM being prepared to pay up to \$30 million.

Like Cargill, which said this weekend that it will build a 60,000-ton grind in Ghana, ADM had initially planned to build its own cocoa grind in the country. But there are worries that grinding capacity might exceed supply of beans.

A source close to Hamester with inside knowledge of WAMCO told Dow Jones Newswires that a takeover was still a long way off. "There are pending issues which need to be resolved first," he said, talking by telephone from Germany, referring to fears of a lack of supply of beans to the grind.

The source said an ADM takeover of WAMCO "would create market domination in Ghana by Cargill and ADM and increase chances of them dictating prices of (cocoa) butter and powder."

Cocoa Plants Find a Friend in Fungi

By Erin Peabody

June 7, 2006

It's a sweet deal. Cacao trees—Nature's chocolate source—offer certain fungi a place to live and hang out. In return, the tiny tenants stand guard, ready to protect their plant-based homes from microbial attack.

That's the finding of scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and their colleagues, who are looking for ways to protect *Theobroma cacao*, known as cacao, from destructive pathogens that can ruin the plant's cherished crop of cocoa beans.

In Latin America, where about one-third of the world's chocolate originates, the two most persistent cocoa spoilers are witches' broom and frosty pod rot. Right now, chemical fungicides are farmers' best defense against the diseases.

But experts at the ARS Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., and their collaborators have an all-natural alternative in mind. They've found that certain fungal endophytes, which take up residence in plants, make ideal roommates capable of keeping disease-causing microbes at bay.

Endophytes are fungi or bacteria that live within the nooks and crannies of living plants and trees but cause no apparent harm to their hosts. These live-in microorganisms set up shop pretty much wherever they want: in a tree's leaves, stems or trunk.

Gary Samuels, a mycologist at the ARS Beltsville laboratory, is part of a team of experts who are traveling the globe in search of new and promising endophytes. He named and described one recent discovery: *Trichoderma ovalisporum*. Samuels' colleagues, including Harry Evans with CABI Bioscience in the United Kingdom, found the fungus growing inside a tropical woody vine in Ecuador.

Laboratory and field studies show that this endophyte is effective at running off the frosty pod rot pathogen. If it continues to prove its worth, *T. ovalisporum*'s spores could someday be applied to cacao tree flowers to help shield the plant—and its precious beans—from fungal attack.

Read more about the research in the June 2006 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

Ghana to process 50% of her cocoa

Daily Graphic

President J.A. Kufuor has begun an arduous 16-day world tour with a pledge in London that within the next few years, 50 per cent of all locally-produced cocoa will be processed in the country.

Addressing a Cocoa Dinner ahead of the annual conference of the International Cocoa Organisation (ICO) at the weekend, the President announced that local processing of cocoa had already risen from 18 per cent to 30 per

cent over the last four years and a record jump in production from 340,000 metric tonnes to 734,000 metric tonnes over the same period.

He described the local processing of cocoa as “one of the measures we have put in place to ensure that, apart from providing job opportunities for our people, we will also ensure that we limit the dependence of the crop on the international commodity market”.

He said undoubtedly cocoa had been the driving force in the socio-economic development of Ghana and its significance in the economy, therefore, was unmatched in terms of tax revenue, foreign exchange earning, employment generation and wealth creation.

“In a country of about 20 million people, I can confidently say that about one-third of the people earn their livelihood directly or indirectly from cocoa,” President Kufuor said. He urged the international cocoa community to forge a global partnership with governments of cocoa producing countries to seek the welfare of peasant cocoa farmers whose toil and efforts continued to sustain the industry.

“That will not only build self confidence in the poor peasant cocoa farmer but, more important, ensure maximum growth of the industry, as well as help to attain the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),” the President said. “It is laudable that we meet at such meetings to discuss the future of the priceless bean but we should not forget the basic and primary producer.

If we make him happy, the industry will be sustained, so let us recognise him as a member of this fraternity and extend to him our commitment and support,” the President declared.

The conference is an international trade organisation for the private sector representing all sections of the cocoa supply chain, such as the world's cocoa producers, chocolate manufacturers, cocoa processors, merchants, trade houses, warehouse keepers, insurers, superintendents and other trade associations which meet annually to deliberate on the future of cocoa from the global perspective.

President Kufuor noted that the increasing global demand for the beans augured well for the industry but that ought to be translated into sustainable and higher earnings for the farmer and producing countries. He observed that equity in that sense was far from being achieved and urged the ICO to help to address the issue.

President Kufuor pledged that Ghana would do its part by continuing to endeavour to sustain the remarkable achievements that the cocoa industry had registered over the years, especially during the last five years. He catalogued some of the achievements as the payment of remunerative producer prices of cocoa to the Ghanaian farmer, which had risen from 40 per cent to 72 per cent.

The Chairman of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce, Mr Alan Cook, who is retiring after four decades of service to the cocoa industry, commended Ghana's efforts at distinguishing itself by way of producing the best quality cocoa beans over the years.

He said the federation had assisted some producing countries to expand their market and called on other cocoa producing countries in the world to emulate Ghana's example of maintenance and expansion to ensure a sustainable cocoa industry.

President Kufuor was accompanied to the dinner by Ghana's outgoing High Commissioner to the UK, Mr Isaac Osei, who incidentally is the Chief Executive of the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), and the Manager of COCOBOD in the UK, Mr Edem Amegashie, who exchanged presents with the incoming Chairman of the federation, Mr Paul Davis.

Cargill joins cocoa industry in fighting child labour

By Anthony Fletcher, Food, Beverage & Nutrition

20/04/2006 - Food giant Cargill has committed itself to improving cocoa growing and production practices, including the eradication of child labour. The company says that it is committed to working towards the elimination of abusive or enforced child labour in cocoa production. This is an entrenched problem within many cocoa-growing countries.

Nearly 70 per cent of the world's cocoa production originates from West Africa with Cote d'Ivoire alone accounting for 40 per cent. An estimated 10 million people in West Africa are supported by over 1.2 million independent family cocoa farms.

Cocoa is produced primarily by independent family farm with family members providing the farm labour. Children have traditionally worked as part of the family unit on these farms.

In 2002, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) completed a survey to determine the extent of child labour in the cocoa sector. The survey found that family labour was the primary source of labour in the West African cocoa sector.

The majority of children working on cocoa farms were found to be working on their own family's farm, with typical dangerous situations including the handling of sharp machetes and exposure to pesticides.

The survey also found that these children were hampered by a general lack of educational opportunity. Of those surveyed, roughly 4 per cent of children working on cocoa farms had no family ties to the farmers, and the survey found that these children were more at risk of being exploited.

The use of child labour in cocoa is primarily a function of a farmer's income, and it is here that corporations such as Cargill can make a difference. As a processor and exporter of cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire, Cargill purchases close to 50 per cent of our cocoa beans from farmer cooperatives, to which it provides transparent information about world market prices as a direct means of increasing farm income.

In addition, although Cargill does not buy cocoa directly from farmers, the firm claims it is able to leverage its relationships with farmer cooperatives to partner on sustainable cocoa practices and child labour.

Since 2001, Cargill has been running seminars to train its suppliers to go back to their communities to teach their neighbours about sustainable cocoa practices. The seminars include a component on child labour.

Cargill also requires that all of its direct suppliers of cocoa beans in West Africa, both licensed buyers and cooperatives, sign a statement acknowledging that they understand Cargill's commitment to the elimination of abusive child labour practices in the cocoa supply chain.

Supplier contracts are subject to termination if they are found they to be employing abusive child labour practices.

Cargill is also committed to the 2001 Harkin-Engel Protocol dedicated industry to specific actions to ensure that cocoa is produced responsibly, without the use of abusive child labour.

To ensure that abusive or enforced child labour in cocoa farming is eliminated, and to help alleviate rural poverty, the protocol outlines a four-step approach: help 'at-risk' children, develop a credible 'certification' programme to improve cocoa farming labour practices, improve the well being of the farming community and support the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) - a joint foundation between industry and non-industry stakeholders.

Organic chocolate taps growing ethical consumerism

By Anthony Fletcher, Food, Beverage & Nutrition

14/04/2006 - A US firm has launched an organic fair trade chocolate range designed to tap the growing demand for environmentally conscious food.

The products, from The San Francisco Chocolate Factory, are claimed to be 100 per cent organic and fair trade certified. The company used this year's Natural Products ExpoWest in Anaheim, California to launch the range entitled Gaia. "Our customers were looking for us to develop a unique organic chocolate line," said general manager Robert Kopf. "We felt very strongly that it was important to incorporate the principles of fair trade into this new product.

"We are very proud and happy to have been able to bring a socially responsible product to market that not only meets our high quality standards but also supports a better life for the families and communities most directly

affected by the cocoa business.” Indeed, the new range reflects a growing trend within the confectionery market. Top of the range confectionery is becoming increasingly important as margins are tightened elsewhere.

For example more than three quarters of respondents to a recent Mintel survey said they were given premium chocolate for the Christmas or Valentines holidays last year and two thirds of products bought in the holiday seasons were from gourmet stores.

Tailoring premium, organic, natural and fair trade chocolate into seasonal gifts could therefore be the most effective way to offset an estimated 13 per cent decline in holiday season chocolate sales until 2009. Consumers are becoming more ethically minded. In the UK for example, a recent YouGov survey commissioned by Marks & Spencer found that 78 per cent of consumers claimed they would like to know more about the way goods are made including the conditions in the factories where they come from.

Some 59 per cent said they already purchase Fairtrade products and 18 per cent said they would buy Fairtrade items if they were more widely available on the high street.

Kopf said that customer reception at ExpoWest was positive. According to him, the recurring comment was about the innovative presentation of the chocolate itself. Indeed, he claimed that many attendees were impressed by the fact that the confectionery is not in bar form. The San Francisco Chocolate Factory has consistently attempted to achieve product differentiation by developing products in bite-sized discs, instead of entire bars of chocolate.

The product is available in three choices: milk chocolate, dark chocolate and dark chocolate espresso. In addition, each box is 100 per cent recyclable, with a minimum of 65 per cent post-consumer content, with all printing in soy-based inks.

The Fair Trade Certification ensures that the cacao farmers who provide the raw product necessary for manufacturing chocolate are being given “a better life through fair prices, direct trade, community development and environmental stewardship.” The San Francisco Chocolate Factory has consistently targeted the gourmet section of the market since its inception in 1999. The company is best known for its line of Wine Lover's Chocolates, presented in distinct, signature tins.

Plant diseases threaten global chocolate production

By Anthony Fletcher, Food, Beverage & Nutrition

08/06/2006 - A fifth of the cacao beans used to make chocolate are lost to plant diseases every year – and things could get worse, according to scientists. Randy Ploetz, plant pathology professor at the University of Florida, says that losses would be even greater if some of the diseases were spread. "Plant diseases are the most important constraints to cacao production and the continued viability of the world's confectionery trades," he said.

Currently, 4 million metric tons of beans worth more than \$4 billion are produced each year. The global chocolate market is worth \$75 billion annually.

According to Ploetz, the three most important and damaging cacao diseases are black pod, frosty pod, and witches' broom. Black pod occurs worldwide and has the largest impact, while frosty pod and witches' broom are restricted to tropical America. "Frosty pod and witches' broom would devastate cacao production in West Africa, where almost 70 per cent of all production occurs," said Ploetz. "In this region, either disease could reduce yields by an additional one million more metric tons per year."

Advances have been made in protecting the cacao crop against disease. Scientists from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for example recently claimed to have located the genetic markers that help cocoa resist disease. The scientists found the markers for resistance to witches' broom, a disease caused by the fungus *Moniliophthora perniciosa*, the main killer of *Theobroma cacao* trees. The findings, which were presented earlier this year at the biennial symposium on cocoa, could help cocoa farmers tackle the list of diseases that endanger supplies.

This development follows news in the later half of 2005 that the fungal pathogens causing witches' broom and frosty pod may be linked. The discovery was made by molecular biologist Cathie Aime who analysed the plant's DNA.

New insights and current research on cacao diseases, as well as resistance to and management of the diseases, will be addressed during the Cacao Diseases: Important Threats to Chocolate Production Worldwide symposium held 30 July, during the joint annual meeting of The American Phytopathological Society, Canadian Phytopathological Society, and the Mycological Society of America.

The joint meeting will be held 29 July to 2 August 2006, at the Centre des Congres de Quebec, Canada.

Public debate opens on international food safety standards

08/06/2006 - Federal regulators have opened up a public debate on proposed international food safety standards for such issues as additives, import rules, hygiene, and labelling, ahead of a meeting by the Codex Alimentarius.

The Codex Alimentarius is a global body set up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Health Organisation as a means of getting countries to adopt international food safety standards and other guidelines. Agreements forged at the meeting could eventually affect the way processors operate worldwide as they become incorporated into national laws.

In a notice the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the US Department of Agriculture is calling for comment on the proposals, set out by various international committees beforehand. The unit also wants recommendations for new standards, which will be considered at a public meeting, the afternoon of June 15.

US representatives will carry the country's position to the full Codex Alimentarius Commission and executive committee, which is holding a major session from July 3 to July 8 in Geneva, Switzerland, to consider food safety methods and standards. They will consider proposals setting safety priorities for setting standards on residues of veterinary drugs in foods and recommended maximum limits.

The committee on veterinary drugs met in Cancun, Mexico on May 8-12 this year, working on recommendations for maximum limits for Trichlorfon (metrifonate), Flumequine in black tiger shrimp, Pirlimycin, Cypermethrin and Alpha-cypermethrin, and Doramectin in cow's milk.

They will consider proposals on food additives and contaminants. These establish or endorse permitted maximum or guideline levels for individual food additives, contaminants, and naturally occurring toxicants in food and animal feed. The proposals would set out priority lists of food additives and contaminants for toxicological evaluation by a joint FAO and WHO expert committee.

Other proposals recommend specifications of the identity and purity for food additives, consider methods of analysis, and standards and codes for related subjects such as labelling and irradiation.

Proposals on pesticide residues would establish maximum limits for pesticide residues for specific food items or in groups of food. Codex limits on pesticide residues are primarily intended to apply to international trade. Country representatives will also consider a discussion paper on setting maximum residue limits for processed or ready-to-eat foods.

Draft guidelines have also been submitted for consideration by a codex committee on food import and export inspection and certification systems. The committee dealt with mutual recognition of food inspection systems including agreements, and processes and procedures to ensure that sanitary measures are implemented. It also dealt with guidelines on food import control systems, product certification and information exchange.

In particular Codex representatives will consider proposals on risk based draft principles relating to product traceability throughout the food chain.

Other committees are proposing changes in the defining risk analysis terms related to food safety, guidelines for the production, processing and labelling of organic foods, the general standard for labelling prepackaged, genetically modified products, and trans fatty acids. Another committee has submitted proposals on food hygiene practices, including ones relating to controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods, a code of practice for eggs and related products and microbiological risk management.

Draft standard for a variety of fruit and vegetables, nutrition content and claims, and dietary products, seafood, cheeses, milk, fats and oils, cereals, pulses and legumes, **cocoa products**, and biotechnology.

Since 1963, Codex has adopted over 200 commodity standards. Over this time considerable diversity has arisen in the content and format of the food additive sections among these standards, according to documents released ahead of the meeting.

The background documents for the meeting are available at:

<http://http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0016.htmhere>.

Tit Bits

(Source: *Business Recorder* – www.brecorder.com)

Agriculture may be next hot commodity story

PARIS (June 10, 2006): Farm products may take over from oil and base metals to become the next hot commodity market, boosted by strong demand from a booming biofuel sector, a senior analyst said on Friday.

US MIDDAY: cocoa rises

NEW YORK (June 10, 2006): cocoa futures finished on positive ground Friday, with speculative short-covering, trade buying and switch trading propelling the front-month position to its loftiest price in a week, market sources said.

New York cocoa down

NEW YORK (June 10, 2006): cocoa futures wilted in range-bound trading on Thursday, with contract switching accounting for most of the daily turnover, traders said. The New York Board of Trade's active cocoa contract for July delivery settled off \$12 at \$1,461 a tonne after trading from \$1,459 to \$1,474. September shed \$16 to end at \$1,484 a tonne and back months slipped \$14 to \$15.

Ivorian cocoa arrivals up

ABIDJAN (June 10, 2006): cocoa arrivals at ports in Ivory Coast reached 1,184,779 tonnes between October 1 and June 5 according to an estimate by major exporters on Friday. That compared with 1,150,873 tonnes delivered to ports at the same period in the 2004/05 season, industry data showed. The figures showed that 28,372 tonnes arrived at ports between May 29 to June 4.

Cameroon cocoa exports up

YAOUNDE (June 10, 2006): Cameroon's cocoa exports in the 2005/06 season reached 123,518 tonnes by the end of May, down from 151,184 at the same stage of the 2004/05 season, a state agency said on Friday.

US MIDDAY: cocoa plunges

NEW YORK (June 09, 2006): cocoa futures wilted in range-bound trading Thursday, with contract switching accounting for most of the daily turnover, traders said. The New York Board of Trade's active cocoa contract for July delivery settled off \$12 at \$1,461 a tonne after trading from \$1,459 to \$1,474. September shed \$16 to end at \$1,484 a tonne and back months slipped \$14 to \$15.

cocoa futures gain in New York

NEW YORK (June 09, 2006): US benchmark cocoa futures posted modest gains amid light speculative buying Wednesday, though contract rollovers accounted for the bulk of the daily turnover, traders said.

US MIDDAY: cocoa futures gain

NEW YORK (June 08, 2006): US benchmark cocoa futures posted modest gains amid light speculative buying Wednesday, though contract rollovers accounted for the bulk of the daily turnover, traders said.

New York cocoa slumps on speculative selling

NEW YORK (June 08, 2006): US benchmark cocoa futures fell about 1 percent to a one-week low on Tuesday, depressed by speculative liquidation as a resurgent dollar weighed on the commodity sector, traders said.

Brazilian cocoa arrivals fall

SAO PAULO (June 08, 2006): Brazilian 2006/07 (May-April) cocoa arrivals from Bahia and other states totalled 309,427 60-kg bags by June 4, down 42 percent from 531,243 bags a year ago, Bahia Commercial Association said Wednesday. Bahia state, Brazil's main cocoa producer, delivered 91,074 bags in the week, down from 114,341 bags in the same week last year.

US MIDDAY: cocoa slumps

NEW YORK (June 07, 2006): US benchmark cocoa futures fell about 1 percent to a one-week low Tuesday, depressed by speculative liquidation as a resurgent dollar weighed on the commodity sector, traders said.

New York cocoa futures advance

NEW YORK (June 07, 2006): US cocoa futures edged higher on Monday, propelled by industry and trade buying in an otherwise quiet session marked by thin trading volume, market sources said.

ADM seen eyeing German stake in Ghana cocoa venture

ACCRA (June 07, 2006): cocoa giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) has expressed interest in buying German firm Hamster's 60 percent stake in Ghana's top cocoa processor West African Mills, a finance ministry official said on Monday.

REGISTRATION FORM

**15TH INTERNATIONAL COCOA RESEARCH CONFERENCE
9TH – 14TH OCTOBER 2006
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA
Organised by the Cocoa Producers' Alliance**

Please duly fill and send by fax or email to:

The Secretary General

Cocoa producers' Alliance
National Assembly Complex
Tafawa Balewa Square
P.O. Box 1718
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: +234-1-263-5571 Fax: +234-1-263-5681
Email: 15icrc@copal-cpa.org / agro@copal-cpa.org
Website : <http://www.copal-cpa.org>

The Chairman

National Organizing Committee
15th International Cocoa Research Conference
CATIE
San Jose, Costa Rica
Tel: +506-556-1176
Fax: +506-556-1533
Email: ICRC@catie.ac.cr
Website : <http://www.catie.ac.cr>

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

- I wish to participate at the conference
- Bank Draft or cheque (No. _____) made payable to Cocoa Producers' Alliance for the amount of USD _____ is enclosed.
- Payment will be made at registration desk.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Registration Fee does not include a copy of the Conference Proceedings, and is payable at the Conference venue as follows:

Participants who are nationals of Member Countries of the Alliance.....US\$250.00
Participants from Non-Member Countries.....US\$350.00

This fee covers the cost of lunch over the 5 days of Conference period.

A late fee of additional US\$50.00 will be charged after the deadline for registration.

Institutions are urgently requested to send their list of participants to COPAL (15icrc@copal-cpa.org) and CATIE (ICRC@catie.ac.cr).

All interested participants are advised to register **on or before 1st September, 2003** to facilitate the smooth organization of the conference.