

# COPAL COCOA *Info*

*A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance*



Issue No. 332

20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Cocoa Producers' Alliance



## UP-COMING EVENTS

- ❖ International Workshop on Cocoa Policies, Market Reforms and Level of Implementation of COPAL Scientific Research Workshop Recommendations, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

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- NEW YORK (ICE) FUTURES MARKET UPDATE
- FROM THE NEWS MEDIA
- TIT BITS

Do your health a favour, drink Cocoa everyday  
'It's nature's miracle food'

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## ICCO Daily Cocoa Prices

	ICCO daily price (SDR/tonne)	ICCO daily price (\$US/tonne)	London futures (£/tonne)	New York futures (\$US/tonne)
20 <sup>th</sup> April	1641.89	2432.58	1705.67	2387.33
21 <sup>st</sup> April	1682.48	2492.00	1737.67	2430.33
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	1657.27	2457.25	1733.00	2402.00
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	1698.48	2522.81	1764.67	2462.33
24 <sup>th</sup> April	1676.71	2509.73	1745.67	2453.33
<b>Average</b>	<b>1671.00</b>	<b>2483.00</b>	<b>1737.00</b>	<b>2427.00</b>

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

**Monday 20th April 2009**

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
May 2009	1757	1760	0	1775	1742	2,145
Jul 2009	1720	1713	-8	1732	1702	3,166
Sep 2009	1705	1704	-6	1721	1695	777
Dec 2009	1700	1700	-4	1715S	1691	980
Mar 2010	1699	1700	-4	1714	1690	817
May 2010	1690	1702	5	1702	1690	181
Jul 2010		1703	5			0
Sep 2010		1709	5			0
Dec 2010		1700	5			0
Mar 2011		1700	5			0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>1709</b>				<b>8,066</b>

**Tuesday 21st April 2009**

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	1760	1792	32	1799	1757	1,853
Jul 2009	1711	1745	32	1757	1707	4,024
Sep 2009	1699	1735	31	1750	1698S	1,487
Dec 2009	1693	1733	33	1749	1693	1,212
Mar 2010	1693	1732	32	1732	1693	373
May 2010	1709	1732	30	1729S	1709	413
Jul 2010		1735	32			0
Sep 2010		1741	32			0
Dec 2010		1732	32			0
Mar 2011		1732	32			0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>1741</b>				<b>9,362</b>

**Wednesday 22nd April 2009**

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	1792	1792	0	1802	1771	4,656
Jul 2009	1742	1740	-5	1757	1727	2,555
Sep 2009	1728	1730	-5	1745	1720	832
Dec 2009	1733	1729	-4	1743	1719S	779
Mar 2010	1719	1727	-5	1733	1719	566
May 2010	1742	1727	-5	1743	1720	732
Jul 2010	1725	1727	-8	1730	1725	40
Sep 2010		1733	-8			0
Dec 2010		1724	-8			0
Mar 2011		1724	-8			0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>1735</b>				<b>10,160</b>

**Thursday 23rd April 2009**

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	1792	1840	48	1853	1792	3,160
Jul 2009	1741	1775	35	1786	1738	4,998
Sep 2009	1730	1761	31	1771	1730	1,212
Dec 2009	1730	1758	29	1766	1730	1,952
Mar. 2010	1730	1754	27	1763S	1730	2,399
May 2010	1731	1752	25	1751	1731S	704
Jul 2010	1745	1750	23	1759S	1745	1,020
Sep 2010		1751	18			0
Dec 2010		1752	28			0
Mar 2011		1753	29			0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>1765</b>				<b>15,445</b>

**Friday 24th April 2009**

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	1850	1831	-9	1862	1830	1,156
Jul 2009	1773	1757	-18	1788	1754	2,044
Sep 2009	1761	1743	-18	1772	1741	600
Dec 2009	1768	1737	-21	1768	1737S	352
Mar 2010	1766	1734	-20	1766S	1744S	45
May 2010	1765	1730	-22	1765	1735	87
Jul-10	1761	1735	-15	1761S	1735	135
Sep 2010	1761	1736	-15	1761S	1761S	25
Dec 2010		1737	-15			0
Mar 2011		1738	-15			0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>1748</b>				<b>4444</b>

<b>Average for the week</b>	<b>1748</b>				<b>9495</b>
					<b>47,477</b>

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

**Monday 20th April 2009**

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	2355	2354	-48	2380	2355	754
Jul 2009	2393	2379	-34	2401	2359	6,054
Sep 2009	2397	2383	-32	2401	2369	826
Dec 2009	2406	2397	-34	2408	2382	667
Mar 2010	2412	2401	-40	2413	2386	35
May 2010	0	2402	-40	0	0	1
Jul 2010	0	2409	-40	0	0	
Sep 2010	0	2405	-40	0	0	1
Dec 2010	0	2412	-40	0	0	
Mar 2011		2412	-40	2450	2450	
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>2395</b>				<b>8338</b>

**Tuesday 21st April 2009**

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	2342	2410	56	2400	2340	187
Jul 2009	2380	2429	50	2440	2380	3900
Sep 2009	2388	2433	50	2442	2386	685
Dec 2009	2407	2449	52	2459	2407	352
Mar 2010	2443	2455	54	2465	2443	102
May 2010	0	2456	54	0	0	
Jul 2010	0	2463	54	0	0	
Sep 2010	0	2459	54	0	0	
Dec 2010	0	2465	53	0	0	
Mar 2011	0	2465	53	0	0	
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>2448</b>				<b>5226</b>

**Wednesday 22nd April 2009**

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	2360	2370	-40	2373	2356	56
Jul 2009	2412	2390	-39	2424	2375	4,756
Sep 2009	2406	2394	-39	2423	2380	429
Dec 2009	2425	2410	-39	2437	2406	206
Mar 2010	2429	2418	-37	2444	2416	29
May 2010	2415	2416	-40	2433	2415	
Jul 2010	2418	2418	-45	2431	2418	
Sep 2010	0	2416	-43	0	0	
Dec 2010	0	2422	-43	0	0	
Mar 2011	0	2422	-43	0	0	
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>2408</b>				<b>5476</b>

**Thursday 23rd April 2009**

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	2403	2440	70	2425	2397	10
Jul 2009	2408	2460	70	2476	2394	5,420
Sep 2009	2404	2464	70	2471	2402	1,210
Dec 2009	2420	2480	70	2486	2420	1,406
Mar 2010	2441	2490	72	2501	2441	314
May 2010	0	2488	72	0	0	6
Jul 2010	0	2490	72	0	0	44
Sep 2010	0	2489	73	0	0	0
Dec 2010	0	2495	73	0	0	0
Mar 2011	0	2495	73	0	0	0
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>2479</b>				<b>8410</b>

**Friday 24th April 2009**

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
May 2009	2457	2429	-11	2457	2422	10
Jul 2009	2452	2451	-9	2472	2442	5135
Sep 2009	2460	2458	-6	2478	2450	1081
Dec 2009	2488	2472	-8	2488	2463	1058
Mar 2010	2497	2483	-7	2497	2476	314
May 2010	0	2483	-5	0	0	6
Jul 2010	0	2489	-1	0	0	44
Sep 2010	0	2488	-1	0	0	
Dec 2010	0	2492	-3	0	0	
Mar 2011	0	2492	-3	0	0	
<b>Average/Totals</b>		<b>2474</b>				<b>7648</b>

<b>Average for the week</b>	<b>2481</b>				<b>1912</b>
					<b>2150</b>

**Spot Prices (US \$ per tonne)**

	20 <sup>th</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> April	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	24 <sup>th</sup> April
Main Crop Ghana, Grade 1	2879	2929	2877	2963	2954
Main Crop Ivory Coast, Grade 1	2721	2771	2717	2783	2774
Main Crop Nigerian, 1	2697	2747	2702	2768	2759
Superior Arriba	2596	2646	2593	2622	2613
Sanchez f.a.q	2637	2687	2678	2715	2706
Malaysian 110	2392	2442	2377	2447	2438
Sulawesi f.a.q	2484	2514	2497	2522	2513
Ecuador Cocoa Liquor	3608	3684	3816	3682	3668
Pure Prime Press African Type Cocoa Butter	5868	5992	5911	5551	5531
10/12% Natural Cocoa Press Cake	1308	1336	1530	1656	1650

Source: Cocoa Merchant Association



# News

## **Health and Nutrition**

### **Three cheers for the health benefits of chocolate**

Examiner.com

April 20, 2009



**"Life is like a box of chocolates - you never know what you're going to get."**

**- Forrest Gump in Forrest Gump (1994)**

There is a lot of buzz around the health benefits of chocolate. Specifically, these benefits are referring to dark chocolate. For a chocolate to be considered dark, the cocoa content needs to be at or above 65%. Chocolate is made from cacao beans that grow on the cacao trees. Thus, its health benefit comes from flavonoids that act as antioxidants in our system. Antioxidants are important to maintain proper health by helping to limit the free radical damage in our body's cells.

#### Chocolate

Some of the benefits that chocolate may provide include:

- \* Helping to lower your blood pressure
- \* Assisting in lowering your LDL cholesterol (the bad kind that we keep hearing about)
- \* Relaxing blood vessels

What is a proper portion of chocolate? To achieve the maximum benefits, you'll want to select a piece of dark chocolate without any added sugars, such as those filled with sweetened centers. Although there is no perfect answer to a proper daily portion of chocolate, a good rule of thumb is to break off a piece that is no larger than the size of your finger tips.

Are you interested in checking out the local Seattle chocolate scene? Although there are several great places to visit, here are two ideas to get you started. Located in the Fremont neighborhood is the Theo Chocolate Factory. They host public tours daily and the cost is only \$6 per person, ages 1 and older. To book your tour date, simply call (206) 632-5100. If you'd prefer to take a class on chocolate, a good option is Oh! Chocolate. They offer classes at their Madison park location for \$59 per person. To sign up for a class, give them a call at (206) 329-8777.

### **Cocoa Dolce Introduces a Healthy Dose of Chocolate Gourmet Retailer**

April 21, 2009

Cocoa Dolce Artisan Chocolates is spreading the word: Chocolate -- in small amounts -- is good for you. After reading about an 18-week study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/298/1/49>), which essentially confirmed that a small dose of commercially made chocolate provides health benefits, Cocoa Dolce owner and master chocolatier Beth Tully was inspired to expand her product mix.

The JAMA study concluded that, in a relatively small sample of otherwise healthy individuals with above-optimal blood pressure, "the inclusion of small amounts of polyphenol-rich dark chocolate as part of a usual diet efficiently reduced blood pressure and improved formation of vasodilative nitric oxide." In other words, it

lowered systolic blood pressure by three points and diastolic by two points. "When I read the article in the San Francisco Chronicle, I was thrilled that a specific dose was finally identified," explains Tully, who got to work on a perfectly sized new product. "Our 31 doses to a Cure package makes it easy for everyone to enjoy the proper amount of fine chocolate each day," she said.

Tully's new package features 31 individually wrapped pieces of 70 percent single-origin Columbian chocolate, each just 6.3 grams, the recommended dose. For more information, visit [www.cocoadolce.com](http://www.cocoadolce.com).

### **Surprising seal magret, avec cocoa sauce**

National Post

By Jason Rehel,

April 22, 2009



Seal, hunted as food for generations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is drawing raves from big-city chefs keen to serve it up with apples, as a pate — or why not? — with cocoa sauce.

With no fat and rich in iron and omega-3s, seal is widely seen as a big nutritional winner. For time immemorial seal has been eaten raw as a traditional food by indigenous people such as the Inuit.

It also has been a traditional food for generations of hunters in eastern Canada who serve it up roasted, or sometimes with a hearty Burgundy sauce.

Now, rustic seal has been carted out by back-to-basics foodies dressed up as a gourmet delight, particularly inspiring diners

in Quebec, where there are many devoted food lovers.

### **Agence France-Presse**

Many diners are huge fans of its taste, describing the mammal's meat as somewhere between duck and veal. "The texture and body of it really are unique," raved Benoit Lengnet, the French chef at Montreal's Au Cinquieme Peche restaurant. Seal arrived on its menu two-and-a-half years ago.

But with a super-short hunting season, from late March to late April, seal is a seasonal specialty that is served, rather frenetically, for just a few weeks a year.

And it comes laced with controversy as the annual seal hunt is condemned by environmental groups, both here and abroad. The European Parliament votes in the coming weeks on a total ban favoured by most EU states on importing seal-related products.

The main Canadian hunt started April 15 off the northeast coast of Newfoundland, with an estimated seasonal kill of 338,000 animals.

"It has been a week since we have had it (this season), and it has been half the main courses ordered," said Lengnet, who was preparing a seal dish with truffle oil. Luc Jomphe, head chef and owner of the Bistro du Bout du Monde, said seal "is a sort of unusual niche market product" that really has caught on here.

A trailblazer in seal gastronomy, Jomphe helped start it all when he opened a restaurant five years ago on the Iles-de-la-Madeleine, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where the annual hunt kicks off. The success still seems to be growing, Jomphe said.

One of his specialties is a seal "magret," served a bit like duck magret, or duck breast, and accompanied by a cocoa-based sauce and legumes. "It is surprising, but really good. The meat is light and does not taste like fish at all," said a diner named Maude, acknowledging it was her first time eating seal. Still, the trend has not yet



become mainstream, as restaurants serving seal remain on the rather bold side. Shipments of seal meat remain small amid the bad press surrounding the hunt, which many animal-rights activists consider cruel.

## ***Production & Quality***

### **Cameroon: Cocoa/ Coffee - Code of Ethics for Producers**

AllAfrica.com

20 April 2009

Weaknesses suffered by producer organizations in the Cocoa and coffee sector was topical in Bamenda from April 13-15, 2009 during a workshop that deliberated on the capacity of producers' organizations to play a more active role in the overall interest of the sector and of the economy of the agricultural sector. The Cameroon-EU project executed by the cocoa and Coffee inter professional Board support program ( CCIBSP) seeks to satisfy the needs of member organizations in terms of services delivered, satisfy market needs and ensure the best representation possible at all levels.

The approach also known as a typology, proposes the strengthening of the capacity of production organizations through activities that enable them to train themselves, take decisions and actions towards development. The workshop assembled some 40 delegates with a mission to elaborate an instrument for analysis and decision. It all had to do with an approach that is functional, profitable, competitive, representative and credible.

The approach which is said to be scientific is based on a study of reality focused on a code of ethics beyond set rules to improve undesirable practices and behaviour that harm their credibility and confidence necessary for the development of responsible institutions. In effect, personal or territorial reasons are also known to hinder the development of collective actions in the cocoa/Coffee sector which consequently set in speed brakes for common positions or the ability to widen the base of producer consortiums. It was against this background that delegates deliberated on the creation of an association of producers of Cocoa and Coffee.

Agricultural professional organization's typology and implementation of the process of ethics was the theme of the seminar conceived to ensure the implementation of decentralized participatory rural support. Delegates from the Centre, Littoral, East, North West and South regions were trained to reflect and propose ethical rules to apply in agricultural professional organizations. Lessons on the organizing and structuring of the rural world and the cocoa and coffee sector by Cameroon 's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development ( MINADER) were also taken home by delegates.

### **Ivory Coast to Harvest 1 Million Tonnes of Cocoa in 2008/09**

Source: Reuters

21/04/2009

Abidjan, April 21 - Ivory Coast will harvest 1 million tonnes of cocoa during the 2008/09 season, down from 1.36 million last season, but exports will range between 1.1 and 1.2 million tonnes of beans, the head of the country's cocoa administrator said on Monday.

This season in the world's biggest grower has been hit by bad weather, disease, strikes and administrative chaos. But Gilbert Ano N'Guessan, head of the committee which manages the cocoa sector, said exports would be boosted by cocoa stocks left over from last year. "We will be between 1.1 million and 1.2 million tonnes of cocoa for export ... production itself for the full season will be 1 million," he told reporters at an industry meeting.

Expectations that the Ivorian harvest would be lower than 2007/08 helped support cocoa prices in late 2008 and early this year, making it among the best performing commodities on the world market. Benchmark futures for delivery in July traded at 1,720 pounds per tonne in London on Monday, down around 3 percent since the start of the year.

Last November, N'Guessan forecast a crop of at least 1 million tonnes after the start of the October-March main crop had been disrupted by, among other factors, a reorganisation of management structures in response to a probe into corruption at the Coffee and Cocoa Bourse, which oversees the sector.

Arrivals of beans at the West African country's two ports reached 911,000 tonnes by April 19, exporters estimated on Monday, down from almost 1.1 million at the same time last season. Shippers are closely watching the development of the April-September mid crop, with cocoa from that expected to begin arriving in early May.

### **DJ Mid-Crop Cocoa Harvest improves in Nigeria's Cross River State**

MarketWatch (press release)

By Obafemi Oredein, Dow Jones Newswires; 234 2 751048

April 21, 2009

IBADAN, Nigeria, Apr 21, 2009 (Dow Jones Commodities News via Comtex) -- Harvesting of the 2008-09 (September-October) mid-crop cocoa in Nigeria's southeastern Cross River state, has improved considerably with bean sizes bigger than normal, an official of the Cocoa Association of Nigeria, or CAN, said Tuesday. "The mid-crop production is now heavy in the state. We are getting more beans with bigger sizes and weight than usual at this time," Sayina Riman, CAN's national publicity secretary, told Dow Jones Newswires.

Speaking by telephone from Calabar, the Cross River state capital, Riman said this year's early rainfall was responsible for the "excellent development of the mid-crop cocoa crop in the state." He said the rainfall has been steady in the state since the beginning of the year. Riman said farmers in the state were harvesting mid-crop cocoa with bean counts of 285 grams per 300 beans. "We should see cocoa with bean count of 300 grams per 300 beans in the next few months," he noted. He said the state could harvest the 2009-10 main crop cocoa in July or August as cocoa with bean count of 300 grams per 300 beans is regarded as the main crop cocoa

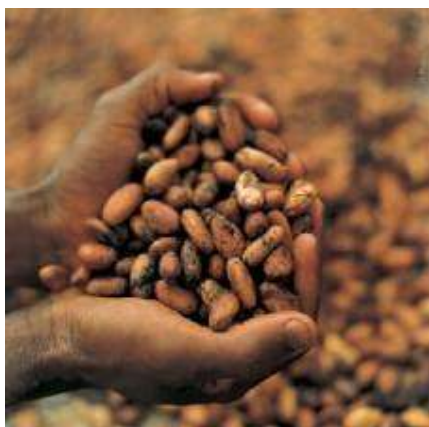
A trader in Ikom, the biggest cocoa-producing area of the state, said: "The mid-crop cocoa beans are bigger than normal at this time. We usually see bean counts of around 240 to 250 grams per 300 beans for the mid-crop cocoa at the beginning of the mid-crop harvest." He said the mid-crop harvest began early in April throughout Cross River state, the largest cocoa producer in the southeast cocoa belt. The state produces 45,000-50,000 metric tons of cocoa per year.

### **Walking the walk on Sustainability**

Environmental News Network (press release)

From: Triple Pundit

April 21, 2009



There are good signs that that corporate sustainability is moving beyond mere PR and blue-sky vibes. It might even be true, descending at last from somewhere past Mars to an Earth-based reality.

Speaking of Mars, the candy company of the same name claims it is the "first global chocolate company to commit to fundamentally changing the way sustainable cocoa farming practices are advanced by aiming to certify" that its entire cocoa supply is produced in a sustainable manner by 2020.

It wants to achieve this through collaboration with the Rainforest Alliance, an international non-profit that works on land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior. They unveiled new goals in their continuing campaign to help cocoa farmers get

on the path toward sustainability. They agreed to redouble efforts to help thousands of farmers meet holistic social and environmental standards so that their farms could earn Rainforest Alliance certification.

Near-term, Mars aims to buy enough certified cocoa so that the Galaxy chocolate bar, for example, which is highly popular in the United Kingdom, can bear the Rainforest Alliance Certified green seal of approval by early 2010. The Rainforest Alliance accepted the company's challenge to bring enough farms up to code so that 100,000 tons of Rainforest Alliance Certified cocoa would be available each year by 2020.

Let's hope its aim is true. Mars says this is the "latest milestone in a long-running sustainability effort," and demonstrates a "real commitment" to sustainable farming. "Mars' commitment to buying sustainable cocoa is unprecedented in size and scope, and the benefits to farmers, farmworkers, tropical environments and wildlife

will be tangible," says Tensie Whelan, president of the Rainforest Alliance. "This initiative is an example of the tremendous impact global companies can have when they commit to sustainability."

Kind of breathless, kind of self-serving maybe, but it's a worthy effort and someone has to step up. Give 'em a chocolate bar. The Rainforest Alliance accepted the company's challenge to bring enough farms up to code so that 100,000 tons of Rainforest Alliance Certified cocoa would be available each year by 2020.

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Kind of breathless, kind of self-serving maybe, but it's a worthy effort and someone has to step up. Give 'em a chocolate bar. *This article is reproduced with kind permission of the Triple Pundit. For more news and articles, visit [www.triplepundit.com](http://www.triplepundit.com)*

### **Ageing plantations lowering Ivorian cocoa crop**

Reuters South Africa

By Ange Aboa

Apr 24, 2009



DALOA, Ivory Coast (Reuters) - Ageing plantations and a tendency towards drier weather are lowering cocoa production in Ivory Coast's Daloa region, farmers and exporters said on Friday.

Daloa is a key production zone in the centre-west of the world's top grower, and problems there are contributing to a 2008/09 crop that the country's sector administrators expect to be around 25 percent below last year's.

"It's the region which falls the most in terms of quantity and quality every season," said the director of a European exporting company active in the region.

"Previously, we could talk about a quarter of national production coming from Daloa, and 80,000-120,000 tonnes from Gagnoa, but in the past five years it's completely crashed."

As cocoa trees age their capacity to grow beans diminishes, and when the trees themselves are not replaced, plantations' output falls. "Most of the plantations in Daloa, Gagnoa, Oume and Sinfra are old, and therefore less productive than in the past," the exporter said.

Ageing plantations are also more vulnerable to diseases such as black pod and swollen shoot, which lower cocoa quality and require expensive chemical treatment. "There's so much disease that we always need to treat the plantations here if we want a decent harvest, because the land is tired," said Adolphe Bitty Kore, a farmer in Bonon, 40 km (25 miles) from Daloa.

Abundant rain mixed with sunny spells has raised Ivorian farmers' hopes the April-September phase of the season may at least in part compensate for a poor main crop, but the picture is not uniform across the country. "Our problem is that rain comes, but it doesn't last," said Maxime Kotia, who farms near Daloa. "It's not like it is in Duekoue or Soubre."

Pod counters and shippers in the western region of Soubre raised their forecasts for the mid crop this week as a result of healthy rainfall in recent weeks. They expect the harvest to reach 275,000-300,000 tonnes, up from previous forecasts and closer to last year's haul of around 320,000 tonnes.

## **The Market**

### **Cocoa slightly down, seeks to consolidate after fall**

guardian.co.uk

By Nigel Hunt

April 22 2009

LONDON, April 22 (Reuters) - Cocoa futures fell slightly on Wednesday as the market tried to steady after a steep setback earlier this month, while a firmer dollar weighed on arabica coffee, dealers said.

Sugar prices were little changed in thin conditions.

Dealers said cocoa prices had been under pressure from bearish first quarter grind data and improving prospects for the mid-crop in top grower Ivory Coast but most of the bearish news had probably now been factored into the market. "I think we've had all the bear news in the market with the grind data. Both markets have been severely oversold and will probably recover at some point," one London dealer said.

July cocoa in London stood one pound lower at 1,744 pounds a tonne at 1142 GMT. The contract fell steeply after trading as high as 1,944 pounds early this month, touching a low of 1,674 pounds late last week. Cocoa futures on ICE eased with a firmer dollar adding to downward pressure. July was off \$13 at \$2,416 a tonne.

Robusta coffee futures in London were lower with business dominated by rolling forward of positions out of May into July ahead of the front month's first delivery day late next week. July robustas in London eased \$9 to \$1,471 a tonne. "I think we are stuck a range of \$1,400 to \$1,600 (on July robustas). People are screaming out for some fresh news," one London dealer said. Arabica coffee futures on ICE also eased, weakened partly by a firmer dollar, with July down 1.50 cents at \$1.1285 a lb, just above this month's low of \$1.1275 set on Tuesday.

Sugar futures trading activity centred on nearby rollover business in raws, with the spread trading into -30 points as the market focused increasingly on the ICE July contract before expiry of the front-month May on April 30. Some dealers talked of a likely small delivery tonnage against the May expiry, but attention will continue to focus in the coming days on spread activity. "Whilst the nearby spread structure has tightened on short covering, some are expressing doubts as to whether we can hold current levels as we go into a 540,000-tonne centre/south Brazilian crop," Fortis said in a daily market report. ICE May raw sugar was up 0.04 cent to 13.10 cents per lb, while July was off 0.01 cent to 13.42 cents per lb. London August white sugar futures were up \$2.40 to \$404.20 per tonne. *(Additional reporting by David Brough in London) (Reporting by Nigel Hunt; Editing by Peter Blackburn)*

### **DJ SW Nigeria Graded Cocoa NGN370,000/Ton For 5th Week – Buyers**

MarketWatch (press release)

By Obafemi Oredein, contributing to Dow Jones Newswires

April 24, 2009

IBADAN, Nigeria, Apr 24, 2009 (Dow Jones Commodities News via Comtex) -- The price of graded cocoa in southwestern Nigeria remained at 370,000 naira a metric ton (\$2,500) Friday for the fifth week running, buyers said.

A buyer in Akure, Ondo state, said the price has remained stable because of the small size and low weight of the mid-crop cocoa now on sale in the region. "We are obtaining from farmers cocoa with bean count of 230 grams per 300 beans. These are small sized-beans that do not attract high prices," he told Dow Jones Newswires. He said rainfall has been frequent and heavy in the past two weeks. "If we see more rains between now and the end of the month, bigger cocoa beans should be on sale next month," he said.

Normally the mid-crop cocoa is smaller in size and weighs less than the main crop harvested between September/October and February. A buyer in Ile-Ife, an important cocoa-growing and marketing center in Osun state, said unless the mid-crop bean size is bigger at around 260-270 grams per 300 beans, the cocoa price isn't likely to rise in the southwest. He said cocoa marketing is slow, adding "we expect marketing to pick up next month when bigger cocoa beans should arrive in the market."

Mid-crop harvesting began last month and is expected to end in August. Nigeria normally produces 50,000-55,000 tons a year of the mid-crop, but officials forecast output would likely reach 60,000-66,000 tons this year.

Graded cocoa has been inspected and certified fit for export. The southwest cocoa belt accounts for 70% of Nigeria's annual production of 242,000 tons.

### **Cocoa rises on soft pound, rollovers boost sugar**

guardian.co.uk

By David Brough

April 24 2009

LONDON, April 24 (Reuters) - London cocoa futures rose on technically driven buying driven by a weak pound on Friday, while raw sugar edged up in activity dominated by rollover business, and arabica coffee dipped on arbitrage.

London cocoa futures rose on investor buying as the pound hit a two-week low against the euro after data showed the UK economy's fall in the first quarter was its fastest in 30 years. "The weakened pound provided support. I don't have the impression that industry is particularly active (on the buy side)," one dealer said.

Dealers digested the latest data from West African pod counters, which they said was broadly in line with the market consensus. Cocoa exporters and pod counters in the west of Ivory Coast, the world's top grower, have raised their forecasts for the 2008/09 mid crop thanks to healthy rainfall in recent weeks. ICE July cocoa was up \$10 or 0.4 percent to \$2,470 per tonne at 1211 GMT, while London July cocoa was up 9 pounds to 1,784 pounds per tonne in thin turnover of 1,007 lots.

Raw sugar futures rose on trade short-covering and rollover business before expiry of the front-month May contract on April 30, and dealers saw further upside price potential. "It is possible we could see fresh longs by the specs with moves over recent highs in the 13.80s (cents per lb)," Sucden Financial Sugar said in a daily market report. ICE July raw sugar was up 0.09 cent to 13.76 cents per lb at 1206 GMT. London August white sugar futures were up \$2.80 or 0.7 percent to \$412.20 per tonne in slim turnover of 1,300 lots. The sugar market's focus remains India's appetite for sugar after the world's biggest consumer swung to net importer from exporter.

Arabica coffee futures on ICE were slightly lower while robusta coffee in London remained little changed with arbitrage selling weighing on the New York market. Dealers said the premium for arabica coffee had widened significantly to around 50 cents per lb during the run-up in prices earlier this week, prompting some selling. "I think we are seeing a slight retracement (on the arabica premium). I think 50 (cents a lb) was a bit too heavy," one London dealer said. July arabicas on ICE stood 0.55 cent lower at \$1.1770 per lb at 1138 GMT with July robustas in London \$1 higher at \$1,491 a tonne. Dealers said business in both markets featured rolling forward of positions with May on ICE already in delivery. The first tender day for May robustas is next Friday.

Vietnam's coffee exports in the first seven months of the current crop year from October to April jumped by an estimated 20.2 percent to 775,000 tonnes, or 12.92 million bags, the government said on Friday.

## **Processing & Manufacturing**

## **Business and Economy**

### **Yar'Adua: Nigeria will comply with EU Cocoa Regulation**

THISDAY

From Emmanuel Ugwu in Umuahia,

04.18.2009

President Umaru Yar'Adua yesterday said that Nigeria would strive to comply with the regulation on cocoa products introduced by the European Union (EU), which places a maximum residue limits (MRLs) of pesticides on cocoa products exported to member nations. The President gave the assurance in his address at the closing ceremony of the 5th National Cocoa Day tagged: Umuahia 2009, noting that ensuring compliance with the various EU tariffs and regulations that became effective September 1, 2008 would guarantee ready markets for Nigerian cocoa products.



"I have been informed that action has been taken to ensure our compliance. Our farmers are being taught best practices in cocoa production through the Farmer Field Schools and other extension delivery outfits," he said, adding that Nigeria was desirous of increasing its share of the US\$6 billion revenue generated by cocoa into the economies of West and Central Africa .

The president, who was represented by Vice-president Goodluck Jonathan, stressed on the need for Nigeria to look inwards "to ensure the sustainability of our cocoa economy" adding that the Federal Government has put in place a number of policies to make agriculture attractive. He said: "I believe that with the implementation of the various policies already put in place, the quality of life of our farmers and their families will continue to improve, especially since Nigerian farmers enjoy the highest price of cocoa in West and Central Africa, as a result of the deregulation of our cocoa sector."

Yar'Adua justified the annual National Cocoa Day celebration, which started in 2005 in Oyo state, saying that it has manifested in increased production of cocoa and more awareness of its health benefits. "May I use this opportunity to inform this August gathering that the outcomes of the previous celebration have been very encouraging. Our cocoa production has increased from 170, 000MT in 1999 to about 360, 000MT in 2007," he said.

In his address the governor of Abia State, Chief Theodore Orji, represented by his deputy, Comrade Chris Akomas, called for the implementation of policies "that will give agriculture a sure footing in our nation's economy." He said that the state government has directed a lot of efforts towards sustainable cocoa development and urged Nigerians to go back to her rich agricultural potentials to serve as a back up revenue base alongside crude oil. Highlights of the closing ceremony were the presentation of prizes to the winners of the essay competition on the topic: "Quality Cocoa for Wealth and Health" as well as march past and cultural dances.

#### **Cameroon Aug-March cocoa exports up 6.2 pct: CCIB**

Reuters South Africa

By Tansa Musa

Apr 18, 2009

YAOUNDE (Reuters) - Cameroon's cocoa exports rose 6.2 percent in the first eight months of the 2008/09 season from a year earlier, statistics from the main industry bodies in the world's fifth biggest growth showed on Saturday.

National Cocoa and Coffee Board (NCCB) and Cocoa and Coffee Interprofessional Board (CCIB) figures showed Cameroon exported 162,150 tonnes of cocoa beans between last August and March, up from 152,713 tonnes in the same period a year ago. The figures showed, however, that exports slowed markedly in March. Cocoa bean exports stood at 4,482 tonnes in the month, down 54 percent from February and 21 percent from the same month a year earlier.

"Despite the drop in March's exports compared to February, we are satisfied with the overall exports so far which indicate some progress in our production," said Gerard Ngubi, sub-director in charge of statistics at NCCB.

"From the way things are going, and the dry season rains this year which promise a good mid-crop harvest, there is every indication that we may meet our target of producing at least 200,000 tonnes of cocoa beans in 2008/2009."

Cameroon is the world's fifth biggest cocoa producer. Output hit a record 187,355 tonnes in 2007/2008, 162,220 tonnes of which were exported. The country is aiming for an annual crop of 300,000 tonnes within five years. The cocoa season in the central African country runs from August 1 to July 31, with the mid-crop harvest from late April or May to early July.

The industry bodies said Cameroon's local grinder bought 25,104 tonnes of beans in the first eight months of the season, up 26 percent from 19,902 in 2007/08. The data showed Cameroon has produced 187,254 tonnes so far this season, already on par with the record output for the full 2007/08 season.

Despite the overall increase, the local grinder Sic-Cacaos bought only 189 tonnes of beans in March, a significant drop from 490 tonnes in February and down from 331 tonnes in the same month a year earlier.



Sic-Cacaos, or the Societe Industrielle Camerounaise de Cacaos, is a subsidiary of Swiss firm Barry Callebaut which processes cocoa beans into powder, cake and butter.

These products are sold mainly in the six-nation Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (CEMAC) zone, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The Douala-based company raised its processing capacity from 22,000 tonnes last year to 33,000 tonnes this year.

### **Govt targets cocoa development from N200b bond, says minister**

The Guardian – Nigeria

April 20, 2009

THE Federal Government's N200 billion bond for large scale farming may come in handy for the revival of cocoa business in the country. The hint was given by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Sayyadi Ruma, last week, while speaking at the Fifth National Cocoa Day celebration in Umuahia, Abia State.

Ruma explained that the bond, floated by the ministry, in conjunction with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Debt Management Office (DMO), was aimed at revolutionising the agricultural sector. He said government was passionate about the promotion of the sector as the alternative source of foreign exchange, especially with the progressive decline in crude oil price in the international market.

According to the minister, government was partnering with institutions and stakeholders within and outside the country to reposition the sector, to enable it to meet the challenges posed by the global economic melt down. He said the National Cocoa Day, with the theme: "Quality Cocoa for Health and Wealth," called for total reflection on the shortcomings of the sector and the way forward.

"The occasion is a time for stock taking and deep reflection on the shortcomings of the sector, and there is need for us to come up with a framework to reposition the industry.

"Cocoa farmers in the country are fast aging. We need to have replacement for our fathers by providing incentives to attract the younger generation to take over the sector, so as to inject new ideas to get the best quality cocoa in Nigeria," he said.

Ruma suggested that cocoa should be marketed as health product, because of the several human problems it addresses, adding that the commodity had become a rich source of revenue and food for the country. He urged farmers to aim at producing one million tonnes of cocoa annually from the current 400,000 tonnes, in order to increase their earning capacity and compete with Ghana and Senegal. Mrs Erelu Obada, the deputy governor of Ondo State and chairman of the National Cocoa Development Committee, said the committee's production target was 1.5 million tonnes per annum, adding that it would enable Nigeria to compete with other world producers.

The 14 cocoa producing states, led by their deputy governors, captains of industry, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr. Fidelia Njeze, and Gbenga Makanjuola, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, attended the ceremony.

Mr. Sona Ebai, the Secretary-General of the Cocoa Producers Alliance (COPAL), said the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be achieved if cocoa production plays its rural transformation role. Addressing a symposium organised as part of activities for the Fifth National Cocoa Day celebration on Thursday in Umuahia, Ebai said that an improved agricultural sector was a prerequisite in Nigeria's quest for economic development.

Speaking on the topic: "Ensuring Quality and Food Safety in Cocoa to Optimise its Health and Nutritional Benefits," he advocated for the best farming practice to ensure safety in cocoa production and consumption. "We need to do more to avoid poor soil management which has been a threat, causing all manner of diseases to food crops," he said.

He stressed the need for research institutes to be provided with adequate resources to conduct research into some of the new trends in cocoa production, as well as, train cocoa farmers accordingly. "The cultivation of cocoa has

come to its crossroads because it is now difficult to get a large expanse of land needed for it," he said, adding that farmers needed to emphasise more on high yield per stand of cocoa in the face of the shortage of land.

On the other hand, he noted that the cocoa market was showing some promises.

"The market economy is going through a good period for cocoa producers, because demand has increased and the West African sub-region should take advantage of this as the largest producers of the commodity."

He, however, warned that the craze to resuscitate cocoa production should not make farmers lose sight of other lucrative areas in agriculture as doing so could be dangerous. "Farmers should have alternatives so that if cocoa production becomes unattractive, as we are witnessing with crude oil, they would fall back to the next available option," Ebai said.

### **Yar'adua solicits private sector's support for agric develpt**

#### **Triumph**

Rabi Thani 24 1430 A.H.

April, 20 2009

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua in Umuahia urged the private sector to collaborate with his administration in ensuring sustainable growth and development of the agricultural sector. Yar'adua, represented by Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan, made the call at the closing ceremony of the fifth International Cocoa Day celebration. He said his administration had invested substantially as well as articulated policies and implemented programmes and projects in the sector.

The President said the efforts were to reduce the country's dependence on a mono-product as its revenue source. He urged the private sector to partner with government to sustain Nigeria's cocoa economy, because of the unfavourable international policies in the sub-sector. Yar'adua said: "We need to look inwards to ensure the sustainability of our cocoa economy. "The European Union is placing all kinds of tariffs and legislations on cocoa products being exported into the member countries." He noted that a regulation enforcing Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for pesticide had already come into force from Sept. 1, 2008. "What this means is that if Nigerian cocoa bean exports have pesticide residues above the set limits, the beans will be rejected," he said.

Yar'adua also challenged the youth to see cocoa as a crop, "not only for the present, but also of the future". The challenge, he added, was as a result of the problem of ageing cocoa farmers and the unwillingness of the youth to take up the business. The President identified cocoa farming as a major source of livelihood not only in Nigeria, but also in West and Central Africa. "In Nigeria today, cocoa provides employment to thousands of rural households as farmers and in suburban areas. "Considering the quantum of cocoa revenue coming into our sub-region, it has become imperative, more than ever before, for Nigeria to increase its share by increasing its production as well as the quality of its produce," he added.

Yar'adua said the country's cocoa production had increased from 170,000mt in 1999 to about 360,000mt in 2007.

He said some states had included cocoa drink in their school feeding programme, while the consumption of cocoa powder had increased by about 20 per cent in most cocoa producing states. The president said more Nigerians had also become aware of the health benefits of cocoa to their well being.

Earlier, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr Abba Ruma, had said that the cocoa production sector would benefit substantially from the Federal Government's N200 billion bond earmarked for large scale commercial farming. He said the ministry would work toward repositioning cocoa business to take its pivotal role in the generation of foreign earning.

Governor Theodore Orji of Abia, represented by his deputy, Mr Chris Akomas, said cocoa was a veritable means of cushioning the effects of the global economic crisis.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reports that Jonathan, accompanied by deputy governors of some cocoa producing states, inspected the exhibition pavilions of the participating states.

## **Public-private partnerships needed to revitalize agriculture in Africa**

Ghana News -

April 20, 2009

GNA - The Executive Committee of the Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP) partnership begins a meeting in the Ivorian commercial capital, Abidjan, on Monday to assess its performance over the years and deliberate on issues facing the cocoa economy of West and Central Africa. The meeting brings together representatives of national and international institutions responsible for the cocoa sector, according to a statement issued in Accra by STCP.

It said ahead of the meeting, STCP partners, which include the global cocoa industry, major donors, national cocoa authorities and research institutions, are calling upon national governments, regional authorities and the private sector to formalize the present public-private partnership platform around tree crops. At the same time, they are encouraging the promotion of such value chain partnerships in other agricultural commodities, including food crops, towards the transformation of rural economies in sub-Saharan Africa. STCP is managed by the Ibadan-based International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

It said a concerted effort across commodities was required if the six per cent national agricultural growth rate was to be achieved as targeted by African governments. The public-private partnership on which STCP is built has been heralded as an innovation that "never before existed for the cocoa sector". The statement said STCP had demonstrated that bringing together government authorities, the private sector, development agencies and research institutions, working together towards a common goal, can strengthen the value chain and lead to significant increases in farmer income. "Such revitalization benefits the local and global private sectors, which depend on a stable supply of quality tree crop products, and national economies that rely on agriculture as part of their growth and poverty reduction strategy."

STCP was launched in 2000 by West and Central African cocoa stakeholders, the global cocoa industry, the World Cocoa Foundation, and USAID, and is managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

STCP has been introducing production, marketing, and institutional innovations in the cocoa sector aimed at improving the economic and social wellbeing of tree crop farmers. For instance, its training approach has led to farmers increasing their cocoa yields on average by 15 to 40 per cent. The introduction of group sales and entrepreneurship, more transparent and direct transactions, and quality control have resulted in 5-15 per cent higher farm-gate prices for farmers. STCP is engaged with public and private partners in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia to identify the potential of the cocoa sector in contributing to rural transformation.

These demonstrated accomplishments and innovations are being integrated into new development initiatives by national and regional authorities and the private sector. Based on these achievements, the STCP partners recognize the significant role of agriculture in fighting poverty in Africa.

## **Cocoa records improvement**

Solomon Star

21 April 2009

FEBRUARY preliminary data on cocoa production for this year indicated that export volume grew notably by 68 per cent to 304 metric tonnes from the previous month.

The Central Bank of Solomon Islands revealed this in its monthly economic bulletin. The bulletin stated that yearly comparison showed February harvest was more than double the production of last February. The bank said high season harvests and unusually high international prices are the contributing factors to the positive outcome.

Cocoa domestic prices declined 9 per cent to SBD\$10.75 per kilogram from SBD\$11.75 per kilogram. Contract prices received by exporters on the other hand rose by 10 per cent to GP£1,282 (SBD\$15,210.00) per tonne. Average international price for cocoa increased marginally by 1.6 per cent to US\$2,664 (SBD\$21360.00) per tonne over the previous month.

**News: West Sumatera (Indonesia) hoping to export cocoa worth Rp1 trillion to Singapore**  
FoodBizDaily.com (press release)  
FoodBizDaily.com - Staff writer  
April 21 2009



(FoodBizDaily) - The provincial government of West Sumatera is aiming to export cocoa worth Rp1 trillion ( +- US\$93 million) to Singapore in the ongoing year 2009. Last year, a quantity of cocoa to the tune of 32,000 tons, which was valued at Rp744 billion, was sold in exports by the Indonesia province.

On Monday, the 20th of April, the Governor of West Sumatera, Gamawan Fauzi, informed that a total area of 61,000 hectares of cocoa fields in the possession of the local community is just waiting to be developed. The government has plans to increase the area to 100,000 hectares in a bid to give a boost to the volume of export. "The provincial government will give assistance of 2.5 million cacao seeds while the industry and trade ministry will contribute one million seeds," Gamawan Fauzi said.

He observed that when compared to other plantation commodities, the cocoa never experiences a fall in prices. Up to now, the price of cocoa price is observed to be hovering in the region of Rp 26,000 to Rp 27,000 per kilogram.

Explaining further, Gamawan said that West Sumatera can become the largest cocoa supplier in the whole of Western Indonesia if the province takes the necessary initiative and measures to expand and develop the area of cocoa fields to 100,000 hectares. He noted that Malaysia has an area of just 30,000 hectares of cocoa fields. "But Malaysia already has a chocolate industry. This is the challenge for West Sumatera and entrepreneurs to open a chocolate factory," stated Gamawan Fauzi.

#### **COMMODITIES-Up mildly after assurances on U.S. banks**

##### **Forex Pros**

By Barani Krishnan  
2009-04-21

NEW YORK, April 21 (Reuters) - Commodities rose on Tuesday as government assurances that U.S. banks were well-capitalized soothed investors and inspired a mild rebound from the previous session's sharp selloff.

Oil settled up 1 percent in volatile trading that saw crude fall early. Soybeans and cocoa rose about 2 percent.

The Reuters-Jefferies CRB, a broad index that tracks commodity prices across 19 futures markets, closed up 0.6 percent, after losing nearly 4 percent on Monday.

But metals, both industrial and precious, settled down.

Copper, the No. 1 base metal, followed stock markets lower in early trading before settling off its lows as equities rebounded after U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner said most banks have adequate capital.

Gold, one of the few commodity markets that rallied during Monday's sell off, started strong but was hit by profit-taking. In New York, gold futures for June settled down \$4.80 at \$882.70 an ounce, after a session high at \$896.40 which failed to test the psychologically key resistance level of \$900.

"We've seen a bit of a disappointing day for gold," said James Moore, analyst at TheBullionDesk.com. "The fact that we failed in front of \$900 is a bit of a bear signal and I wouldn't be surprised if we saw another move lower."

After two of their worst quarters in decades, commodity prices finished the first three months of 2009 broadly higher, led by double-digit gains in markets like oil and copper, on optimism that the world economy was recovering.

But investors remain worried about the health of financial institutions, and those concerns reached a new peak on Monday when Bank of America -- No. 1 in the United States -- reported a 57 percent surge in credit losses for the first quarter and set aside more funds for bad loans.

Treasury Secretary Geithner said on Tuesday the vast majority of U.S. banks "have more capital than they need to be considered well capitalized by their regulators".

U.S. stocks rebounded sharply after his comments, led by banking shares.

U.S. crude for May delivery finished up 63 cents at \$46.51 a barrel, tracking Wall Street's turnaround. It fell \$4.45, or 8.8 percent, in the previous session.

Traders said oil prices were also helped by remarks from OPEC-member Iran that the cartel may need to restrict supplies further to thin down brimming global stockpiles.

On the agricultural front, U.S. soybeans for May delivery ended up 19-1/2 cents at \$10.38 per bushel. May wheat closed up 5 cents at \$5.09-1/2 per bushel, while May corn settled up 4-1/2 cents at \$3.74.

Dealers said the soybeans rally was partly fueled by fresh bulk orders for the oilseed from China and persistent reports of low yields in Argentina's soy harvest.

For corn, the higher prices were also due to wet weather in the U.S. heartland, which kept many farmers from sowing this year's crop.

In cocoa, the July contract in New York settled \$50 higher at \$2,429 a tonne, while July futures in London ended 32 pounds firmer at 1,745 pounds per tonne. Analysts said cocoa moved higher on industry buying and short-covering linked to views that the market was oversold.

Copper, like gold, bucked the broader trend in commodities.

Copper for three-months delivery ended London trade down \$85 at \$4,505 a tonne. But it rebounded from the session low of \$4,369, thanks to the rally in equities.

In New York, copper for May settled down 1.65 cents at \$2.0870 a lb, off the session bottom of \$2.0030.

Copper, used in power and construction, has shed more than 6 percent of its value so far this week.

"Driving the metals has been the extraordinarily bullish tone that people have taken towards copper over the last month or so, and it's completely misplaced," said Andrew Keen, analyst at Bernstein Research. (Additional reporting by Barbara Lewis in London; Editing by David Gregorio)

### **COCOBOD and Stanbic Bank contribute to Asantehene's anniversary**

Joy Online

Source: GNA

23 April 2009

Management of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) on Wednesday presented a cheque for GH¢10,000 and a carton of aromatic schnapps towards the 10th anniversary celebration Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene's enstoolment.

Madam Pauline Adobea Dadzewaa, Deputy Director of Public Affairs of COCOBOD said the company had recognised the role Ashanti Region played in the production of cocoa for national development and economic growth. "Ashanti Region is the second in the production of cocoa in quality and quantity," she said.

Nana Otuo Serebuor II, Juabenhene and Chairman of the Anniversary Planning Committee receiving the cheque expressed appreciation to the management of COCOBOD for the assistance.

In another development, management of Stanbic Bank presented a cheque for GH¢ 10,000 towards the celebration. Mr Emmanuel Asiedu-Mante, Chairman of Board of Directors presented the cheque which was

received by Nana Bi Kusi-Appiah, Paramount Chief of Manso-Nkwanta Traditional Area who expressed appreciation.

### **Nigeria's Cocoa Exports Fell 15% in First 5 Months (Update1)**

**Bloomberg**

By Dulue Mbachu

April 24, 2009

(Bloomberg) -- Cocoa exports from Nigeria, the world's fourth-largest producer of the chocolate ingredient, fell 15 percent in the first five months of the 2008-09 season, the Federal Produce Inspection Service said.

Shipments dropped to 104,669 metric tons between October and February, from 123,651 tons a year earlier, the Lagos-based FPIS said today in a statement from the commercial capital, Lagos. The figures represent beans that have been officially inspected and certified fit for export and don't take into account cocoa smuggled out of the country, the agency said.

Exports dropped because many farmers hoarded cocoa between December and January to avoid low farm-gate prices, said Robo Adhuze, a market analyst for the Cocoa Association of Nigeria, which represents farmers, traders and processors, by phone from the southwestern cocoa-trading town of Akure. "When prices began to pick up in January, there was a lot of selling by farmers," he said. "This should translate into more exports in March and April." Farm-gate prices increased to 350,000 naira (\$2,345) a ton in February from about 200,000 naira in December, Adhuze said.

Nigeria ranks behind the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Indonesia as the world's largest cocoa producer, according to the Web site of the International Cocoa Organization. The government has boosted output by providing farmers with quick-maturing seedlings and fertilizers at subsidized prices since 2005.

The following is a monthly breakdown of export data provided by the agency. Figures are in metric tons:

	2008/2009	2007/2008
October	9,786	11,104
November	18,553	16,643
December	25,321	33,897
January	30,104	33,904
February	20,905	28,103
Total	104,669	123,651

To contact the reporter on this story: Dulue Mbachu in Lagos at [dmbachu@bloomberg.net](mailto:dmbachu@bloomberg.net)

## **Labour Issues**

### **Cocobod supports awareness on elimination of child labour with GHC1.2 million**

**Ghana Broadcasting Corporation**

21, April, 2009

The Ghana Cocoa Board has provided GHC1.2 million Ghana cedis to help increase awareness on the elimination of worst forms of child labour in 36 cocoa districts in the country. Part of the money is to be used to provide formal education or skills training for children who will be identified as providing worst forms of labour on cocoa farms.

The Chief Executive of the Ghana Cocoa Board, Tony Fofie, made this known at the opening of the first in a series of five Training of Trainers' programmes in Kumasi, to equip participants on how to monitor and effectively help reduce the incidence of worst forms of child labour in the cocoa industry. It is being organized by the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare.

Mr.Fofie said by the end of this year, 47 cocoa districts would have been covered under the awareness creation programme. It is expected that all cocoa districts in the country will be covered by 2010. Mr. Fofie noted that



commodity production and trade have major income, employment and welfare significance in developing countries.

Achievements of farms income on sustainable basis therefore depends on improvement on productivity at the farm level through adoption and application of modern technologies. Mr. Fofie explained that the increase in cocoa production from about 300 thousand metric tons in the 2000-2001 cocoa seasons to more than 700 thousand metric tons in 2005-2006 main crop season was not achieved on the basis of free or child labour on the farms.

However the phenomenal strides made were rather through the adoption of improved technologies, productivity oriented programmes including pest and disease control, fertilizer application and good remunerative producer prices for farmers among others.

The Manager of the National Programme to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa, Mrs. Rita Owusu Amankwaah said community based child labour monitoring systems will be established this year. According to her, these systems will be expected to mobilize the local communities to bring about change in attitudes and behaviours with regard to the worst forms of child labour. They are also to promote an integrated approach to child development at the district and community levels.

### **Ministry to establish Community child labour monitoring system**

#### **Ghana Broadcasting Corporation**

22, April, 2009

The Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 36 Municipal and District Assemblies to support them to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector. In this regard, a capacity building programme is being undertaken to enhance implementation of interventions in 470 beneficiary communities in these districts.

The sector Minister, Stephen Amoanor Kwao who announced this in Kumasi, said one key intervention for the selected Assemblies is to establish a Community Child Labour Monitoring System to disseminate occupational safety and health messages. He said, the Community Child Labour Monitoring System will help the Municipal and District Assemblies to identify working children in cocoa growing communities and their migration status.

They will also help to identify children who are in distress and exploitative situations at any given time, so as to plan and institute appropriate interventions. Mr. Kwao said society should see child labour not as a consequence, but also as a cause of poverty and under-development.

According to him, the prosperity of Ghana depends greatly on the quality of the human resources and therefore, to tolerate child labour is inconsistent with the massive investment government is making. Mr. Kwao said, in view of this, a micro credit scheme is being introduced, so that community members could source, to pursue alternative livelihoods in order to raise additional income, especially during off-season, to support the children.

### **DJ Nigerian Cocoa Movements Restart in Lagos as Strike Ends**

#### **MarketWatch (press release)**

By Obafemi Oredein, Dow Jones Newswires; 234 2 751 0489

April 23, 2009

IBADAN, Nigeria, Apr 23, 2009 (Dow Jones Commodities News via Comtex) -- The movement of cocoa in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos, has Thursday following the end of a four-day strike by Petroleum Tankers Drivers Union, or PDTU, in the city, exporters said. "Cocoa is now being transported with ease from one warehouse to the other and to the two major ports in the city," the director of a local cocoa exporting firm told Dow Jones Newswires. He said cocoa trucks which arrived in the city on Wednesday and Thursday from upcountry buying agents in the southwestern cocoa-producing states of Ondo, Ekiti and Osun can now buy fuel for their return trip.

He said exporters couldn't move cocoa to the Apapa and Tin Can Island ports in the city because of the shortage of fuel during the strike adding: "They are now transporting the commodity to the ports for export without hindrance."

Movement of cocoa in Lagos was hampered Monday and Tuesday because of the strike by members of the PDTU, a unit of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, who refused to lift and distribute gasoline, diesel oil and other petroleum products to filling stations in the city.

PTDU officials said the union launched the strike last weekend following the seizure of some gasoline tankers belonging to the union by officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, or LASTMA, over alleged violation of traffic laws. The strike was called off Tuesday after the intervention by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. at the behest of the federal government.

## ***Environmental Issues***

## ***Research & Development***

### **Research and Markets: The Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturing from Cacao Beans Industry's Revenue for the Year 2008 Was Approximately \$4.7 Billion USD**

April 20, 2009

DUBLIN—(BUSINESS WIRE)--**Research and Markets** ([http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/79e6a0/chocolate\\_and\\_conf](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/79e6a0/chocolate_and_conf)) has announced the addition of Supplier Relations US, LLC's new report "Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturing from Cacao Beans Industry in the U.S. and its Foreign Trade [2009 Edition]" to their offering.

The Chocolate and Confectionery Manufacturing from Cacao Beans Industry report is the most comprehensive market research report available on this industry. With complete 2008 data and sophisticated forecasts for 2009, the report provides the most updated data and analysis on the industry's key financial data, cost and pricing, competitive landscape, industry structure, and trends and opportunities.

This 158-page report includes the most recent information on the domestic market, global market and overseas growth opportunities. This detailed information resource, independently researched and supported by 10 years of historical data, identifies best and worst case scenarios of today's pressing challenges. While the breadth of coverage leaves no aspect of the industry uncovered, the depth of analysis delves into granular macroeconomic data on personal consumption, channel mix, government demand index, and pricing fluctuation. Our Fortune 500 customers consider this report the most comprehensive guide to the industry.

In this report, you will find industry data on the following major categories:

- \* Executive Summary
- \* Industry Income Statement
- \* Industry Balance Sheet
- \* Capital Expenditure
- \* Industry Cost Analysis
- \* Industry Pricing Analysis
- \* Industry Foreign Trade
- \* Industry Structure
- \* Competitive Landscape

(Please see the full table of contents for more details)

### **Definition & Classification**

This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in shelling, roasting, and grinding cacao beans and making chocolate cacao products and chocolate confectioneries. This 6-digit NAICS industry (311320) is under the hierarchy of Sugar and Confectionery Product Manufacturing Industry Group (3113), Food Manufacturing Subsector (311), and the Manufacturing Sector (31-33). Its SIC equivalent code is: 2066 - Chocolate and Cocoa Products (except chocolate products, made from purchased chocolate).

### **Revenue, Profitability & Foreign Trade Preview**

The industry's revenue for the year 2008 was approximately \$4.7 billion USD, with an estimated gross profit of 37.79%. Import was valued at \$2.4 billion USD from 85 countries. The industry also exported \$1.1 billion USD

worth of merchandise to 116 countries. Adding import value to and subtracting export value from the industry's shipment value, the total domestic demand for the industry in 2008 was \$5.9 billion USD.

#### Report Summary

This 158-page report contains unparalleled research on this industry in breadth and depth. With a macroeconomic perspective, the report provides a fresh and comprehensive view of the industry. The report's supply and demand data covers both U.S. shipments and international trade while taking into consideration of the industry's capacity utilization. The industry level income statements, balance sheets, and capital expenditure analysis contain all the elements needed for financial benchmarking. In the cost analysis section, 31 upstream industries are analyzed to offer insight into the supply chain cost structure. For the channel and pricing structure, 12 downstream industries are analyzed. The competitive landscape section provides the number of companies and their revenue share within the industry, the market concentration, and a list of major players. All related trade associations, industry standards, and trade publications are also listed.

Our clients include Fortune 500 companies, manufacturers, international top consulting firms, major retailers and wholesalers, professional trade associations, financial corporations, universities, governmental entities, start-ups and individuals. We are committed to providing the highest level of quality to all our clients and assure your satisfaction in the report delivering as promised. For more information visit [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/79e6a0/chocolate\\_and\\_conf](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/research/79e6a0/chocolate_and_conf)

#### Cocoa husks has economic potential – Researcher

Joy Online

Source: GNA

24 April 2009



Dr Yeboah Woode, Research Scientist and Lecturer at Department of Chemical Engineering, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and technology (KNUST) in Kumasi on Thursday said potassium carbonate (potash salt) produced from cocoa husks had large economic potentials that should be exploited for cocoa farmers and the country. He called on Government to support individuals and organisations to produce potash salt extracted from cocoa husks in commercial quantities to boost incomes of cocoa farmers and create employment for the youth and women in cocoa growing areas.

Dr Woode, who is also Executive Director of Marglas Potash Industries (MPI) who made the call in an interview with Ghana News Agency in Kumasi said, the company could not meet the foreign daily demand of about 1,000 tonnes of potash salt produced from cocoa husks. However, he said management could meet the demand with government assistance to establish more factories in major cocoa growing areas throughout the country.

Dr Woode explained that this would not only offer employment for the youth, provide extra income to cocoa farmers but also generate about two million dollars in foreign exchange to the country. “Ghana needs to realise the full potentials of cocoa to benefit farmers and the country,” he added. He said the company recently launched a kiln machine he had manufactured for potash extracts at Mankranso in Ahafo-Ano South District in Ashanti Region. “Since salt extracted from potash could be used in food industries and other consumables, its demand on the international market is very high compared to mined potash which is not good for human consumption,” he said.

Dr Woode said salt extracted from potash would help reduce the importation of potassium salt into the country and in addition, diversify the country's export earnings. He said management was determined to establish more

factories in major cocoa growing areas by 2010 and appealed to government and management of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) for assistance.

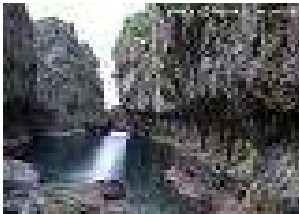
### ***Promotion***

### **Others**

#### **Bougainville acts to stop PNG cocoa pest**

Radio New Zealand International

21 April, 2009



The autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville is taking measures to ensure that the deadly cocoa pod borer disease does not spread there from East New Britain.

The Post Courier newspaper reports the acting Bougainville President Joseph Watawi has called on Bougainvilleans traveling from East New Britain into Bougainville to take extra care they do not bring in the disease. Mr Watawi says the disease had destroyed East New Britain's cocoa industry and it would have the same effect on Bougainville's. He says cocoa is a big money earner for the province and everyone should work together to look after the industry.

A 45 strong delegation from Bougainville is in East New Britain attending a workshop on how to contain the spread of the disease. Mr Watawi says the Bougainville administration will put measures in place to quarantine all air and sea ports so that no foreign flowers or plant species entered Bougainville.

## TIT BITS

(Source: Business Recorder – [www.brecorder.com](http://www.brecorder.com))

### **Sugar and cocoa down in London**

LONDON (April 21, 2009): Sugar and cocoa futures eased on Monday, as a stronger dollar and softer equity markets made investors more risk averse and sparked broad-based losses in commodity markets. "I think the strength of the dollar has been a key factor," said analyst Sudakshina Unnikrishnan of Barclays Capital.

### **Sugar, cocoa rise in London**

LONDON (April 22, 2009): Sugar futures rose on Tuesday, supported by a softer dollar and demand from top consumer India, while cocoa climbed on industry buying and coffee was little changed, dealers said. Dealers said the focus in sugar was on India's appetite for fresh imports after a decision last week to end the country's 60-percent white sugar import duty.

### **US MIDDAY: cocoa up, coffee down**

NEW YORK (April 22, 2009): US cocoa futures edged higher and arabica coffee futures eased early Tuesday as trading remained cautious after sell-offs in global equity markets Monday, traders said. Arabica coffee for July delivery was down 0.15 cent at \$1.1345 per lb by 8:45 am EDT (1245 GMT).

### **Coffee surges in London**

LONDON (April 23, 2009): Arabica coffee futures surged in late trade on Wednesday with buy-stops hit in a short-covering rally after several failed attempts to breach a key support level, dealers said. Raw sugar futures also rose with business dominated by rolling forward of positions out of May ahead of its expiration next week while cocoa ended lower.

### **US MIDDAY: cocoa, coffee fall**

NEW YORK (April 23, 2009): US cocoa and arabica coffee futures dropped in early trade Wednesday on weak technical indicators and spillover pressure from the lower commodity complex, traders said. Arabica coffee for July delivery dropped 1.45 cents to \$1.1290 per lb by 9:06 am EDT (1306 GMT). Ranging \$1.1285 to \$1.1435. July volume at 2,351 lots.

### **cocoa bounces in London**

LONDON (April 24, 2009): cocoa futures recovered in a technically driven bounce on Thursday, while arabica coffee edged up as the market looked to build on Wednesday's sharp gains and sugar rose on trade and investor buying. In cocoa, investors defended net long positions to square positions before the end of the month.

### **US MIDDAY: cocoa and coffee climb**

NEW YORK (April 24, 2009): US cocoa and arabica coffee futures rose in early trade Thursday on the backs of a firmer commodity complex and weaker dollar, traders said. Arabica coffee for July delivery rose 0.65 cent to \$1.1840 per lb by 9:00 am EDT (1300 GMT). Session range \$1.1730 to \$1.1845. July volume at 2,386 lots.

### **Sugar rises, cocoa down in London**

LONDON (April 25, 2009): Sugar futures rallied to a six-month high on investor buying triggered by a weaker dollar on Friday, while cocoa reversed earlier gains driven by a weak pound. Robusta coffee also made gains on the back of the soft dollar, while arabicas were steady in arbitrage activity. "It's a technically driven push higher," one sugar dealer said.

### **US MIDDAY: cocoa, coffee steadies**

NEW YORK (April 25, 2009): US cocoa and arabica coffee futures hovered near unchanged early Friday, with a weaker dollar and a steadier pre-market tone in equities lending support, traders said. Arabica coffee for July delivery was up 0.40 cent at \$1.1865 per lb by 9:04 am EDT (1304 GMT).