

COPAL COCOA *Info*

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance



Issue No. 343

6th - 10th July 2009

Cocoa Producers' Alliance



UP-COMING EVENTS

- 72nd General Assembly and Council of Ministers Meetings, Lome, Togo, 7 – 11 September 2009
- 16th International Cocoa Research Conference, Hyatt Hotel, Nusa Dua, Denpasar, Bali – Indonesia , 16 - 21 November 2009

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

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ICCO Daily Cocoa Prices

[illegible]

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

Monday 6th July 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Jul-09	1554	1576	9	1578	1554	1,003
Sep-09	1592	1605	9	1608	1587	1,771
Dec-09	1601	1615	10	1614	1598	1,053
Mar-10	1598	1612	10	1613	1594	1,054
May-10	1594	1608	10	1609	1592	808
Jul-10	1600	1610	10	1605	1600	16
Sep-10	1606	1608	10	1606	1606	5
Dec-10		1610	10			0
Mar-11		1608	10			0
May-11		1618	10			0
Totals		1607				5710

Tuesday 7th July 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	1578	1580	4	1612	1577S	924
Sep-09	1607	1609	4	1640	1604	2,910
Dec-09	1630	1619	4	1647	1615	632
Mar-10	1619	1618	6	1638	1612	644
May-10	1612	1610	2	1629S	1612	552
Jul-10	1615	1610	0	1615S	1615S	36
Sep-10		1607	-1			0
Dec-10		1610	0			0
Mar-11		1608	0			0
May-11		1618	0			0
Totals		1608				5,698

Wednesday 8th July 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	1583	1634	54	1636	1583S	4,495
Sep-09	1610	1662	53	1664	1610	7,203
Dec-09	1619	1668	49	1669	1619S	2,037
Mar-10	1642	1666	48	1667S	1622S	1,475
May-10	1620	1663	53	1620	1620	16
Jul-10		1664	54			0
Sep-10		1658	51			0
Dec-10		1661	51			0
Mar-11		1659	51			0
May-11		1669	51			0
Totals		1660				15,226

Thursday 9th July 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	1609	1671	37	1685S	1605	4,215
Sep-09	1649	1700	38	1719	1629	7,564
Dec-09	1650	1706	38	1725	1636	3,321
Mar-10	1641	1703	37	1720	1641S	1,039
May-10	1656	1693	30	1704S	1654S	585
Jul-10	1654	1691	27	1654S	1654S	35
Sep-10		1686	28			0
Dec-10		1689	28			0
Mar-11		1687	28			0
May-11		1697	28			0
Totals		1692				16,759

Friday 10th July 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	1670	1678	7	1695	1668S	2,647
Sep-09	1710	1709	9	1725	1694	6,452
Dec-09	1715	1711	5	1726	1699	1,770
Mar-10	1703	1710	7	1723	1701	1,192
May-10	1693	1701	8	1716	1693	307
Jul-10		1701	10			0
Sep-10		1695	9			6
Dec-10	1709	1698	9	1709S	1709S	0
Mar-11		1696	9			0
May-11		1706	9			0
Totals		1701				12,374

Average for the week		1705				11153
Total for the week						55,767

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

Monday 6th July 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	0	2448	-29	0	0	0
Sep-09	2470	2474	-20	2479	2444	4,318
Dec-09	2495	2502	-19	2503	2470	809
Mar-10	2488	2513	-21	2509	2488	253
May-10	2514	2523	-21	2514	2514	18
Jul-10	0	2533	-22	0	0	0
Sep-10	0	2537	-22	0	0	0
Dec-10	0	2547	-24	0	0	0
Mar-11	0	2555	-29	0	0	0
May-11	0	2555	-29	0	0	0
Totals		2519				5,398

Tuesday 7th July 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	2493	2442	-6	2493	2493	1
Sep-09	2469	2468	-6	2537	2446	6,452
Dec-09	2515	2496	-6	2560	2477	1,047
Mar-10	2525	2509	-4	2553	2500	226
May-10	2532	2519	-4	2532	2532	14
Jul-10	0	2530	-3	0	0	0
Sep-10	0	2534	-3	0	0	0
Dec-10	0	2544	-3	0	0	0
Mar-11	0	2552	-3	0	0	0
May-11	0	2552	-3	0	0	0
Totals		2515				7,740

Wednesday 8th July 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	2470	2470	2470	2509	67	1
Sep-09	2448	2560	2446	2542	74	7,041
Dec-09	2484	2579	2484	2566	70	1,410
Mar-10	2497	2577	2497	2575	66	649
May-10	2585	2586	2558	2584	65	64
Jul-10	2593	2593	2593	2594	64	24
Sep-10	2601	2601	2601	2599	65	4
Dec-10	0	0	0	2607	63	4
Mar-11	0	0	0	2615	63	2
May-11	0	0	0	2615	63	0
Totals		1797				9,199

Thursday 9th July 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	2541	2619	110	2541	2541	6
Sep-09	2539	2647	105	2671	2510	12,268
Dec-09	2559	2670	104	2694	2538	2,033
Mar-10	2565	2683	108	2696	2562	1,357
May-10	2608	2689	105	2698	2608	78
Jul-10	2605	2697	103	2669	2605	3
Sep-10	2605	2701	102	2669	2605	6
Dec-10	0	2709	102	0	0	22
Mar-11	0	2717	102	0	0	2
May-11	0	2717	102	0	0	0
Totals		2685				15,775

Friday 10th July 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul-09	2620	2625	6	2620	2620	1
Sep-09	2639	2645	-2	2671	2622	5,702
Dec-09	2658	2670	0	2695	2658	1,388
Mar-10	2672	2687	4	2712	2672	1,186
May-10	2691	2691	2	2710	2683	845
Jul-10	0	2698	1	0	0	31
Sep-10	0	2701	0	0	0	1
Dec-10	0	2712	3	0	0	6
Mar-11	0	2720	3	0	0	2
May-11	0	2720	3	0	0	0
Totals		2687				9,162

Average for the week		2440				9,455
Total for the week						56,729

News

Health and Nutrition

Red wine and cocoa combats dementia

Pharmacy Europe - Jul 10, 2009

Powerful antioxidants found in red wine, cocoa and a wide range of fruits and vegetables may help people avoid suffering the effects of Alzheimer's disease, it has been claimed.

Recent studies from King's College London suggest that plant chemicals called flavonoids may help to keep the brain healthy in old age. The compounds are already known to benefit the heart and possibly reduce the risk of cancer.

Antioxidants absorb oxygen free radicals that can damage cell walls and DNA, but not all flavonoids can enter the brain. Clinical trials with other antioxidants such as vitamin E showed no positive effect on dementia.

However, biochemist Dr Robert Williams told the British Pharmacological Society's Summer Meeting in Edinburgh that flavonoids could protect the brain through other mechanisms.

His King's College research team focused on a flavonoid called epicatechin which is found in a number of foods, including cocoa.

Dr Williams said: "We have found that epicatechin protects brain cells from damage but through a mechanism unrelated to its antioxidant activity and shown in laboratory tests that it can also reduce some aspects of Alzheimer's disease pathology."

Flavonoids protect the brain against the sticky clumps of abnormal beta amyloid protein associated with Alzheimer's, according to Dr Williams.

Food alchemy

Examiner.com - Jul 11, 2009

Beth Schreiber-Gehring, Foody Alchemist

Did you ever wish you could eat dessert before dinner or better yet, have dessert instead of dinner? Alchemists transform existing formulas into a different product. According to Wikipedia "(less well known is plant alchemy, or 'spagyric'); the creation of a 'panacea', or the elixir of life, a remedy that supposedly would cure all diseases and prolong life indefinitely;" The challenge is creating medicines comprised of natural, organic foods that are both fun and appealing to the palate. Beth Schreiber-Gehring is such a food alchemist and has created a dessert that is a nutritionally substantial and satisfying meal. Beth's recipe for Vegan Nutella or vegan carob ganache sans nuts, is chemically integrated to biologically address disease and disorders as well as maintaining overall health.

The alchemy of this vegan carob ganache stems from the process in which the ingredients are blended. The centrifugal force from the Vita-Mix's high speed (and I wouldn't recommend anything with less power) creates a friction so intense allowing the carob chips and coconut oil to fuse and emulsify. The additional ingredients in both dry powder and liquid form blend beautifully with the emulsification culminating in a highly viscous product substantiated by the rich oils and dense nature of the hazelnuts.

The chemical breakdown of each individual ingredient in the ganache compliment one another to create what is known as a "functional food", working in sync with our biology to promote powerful healing energy. The ingredients are all plant proteins and in raw food form, protect natural enzymes potentiating bioavailability.

Agave is a honey/sugar substitute, containing the complex carbohydrate inulin, a refined form of fructose. Agave is abundant with minerals such as iron, calcium, potassium, and magnesium. Coconut milk, also known as "The Tree of Life", for its physiologically satiating forms, also acts as an insulin modulator like agave. Coconut is a digestive aid, an antimicrobial, an anti-inflammatory and offers the same antioxidative effects as

cocoa. Cocoa studies have shown to increase HDL levels, decreasing LDLs. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition states “cocoa powder increases polyphenols such as catechins and procyanadins therefore inhibiting LDL oxidation and arterogenesis.” Please refer to my Examiner.com article “Natural Foods Provide UV Protection”. Containing the ingredients outlined above, hazelnuts are also rich in fiber, monounsaturated fats and antioxidants; containing all the minerals associated with agave plus copper, zinc, selenium and phosphorous. Additional vitamins in hazelnuts are B6, B12 and Vitamin E a powerful antioxidant. Like coconut, hazelnuts are a functional food comprised of phytochemicals.

Whole, natural raw foods are widely available, but learning which to combine in a recipe as a meal to heal is an art. Enjoy this Vegan Carob Ganache and try composing variations of your own, remembering to share your creations!

Production & Quality

Cocoa program questioned

The Jakarta Post , JAKARTA | Fri, 07/10/2009

The country's cocoa output may rise next year for the first time in four years as crops mature and yields improve, the Indonesian Cocoa Association says. Production could rise to 500,000 metric tons from an estimated 480,000 tons this year, as improved yields offset any setback from lack of rain should an El Nino weather phenomenon occur, chairman of the Indonesian Cocoa Association Halim Abdul Razak said Thursday.

El Nino conditions shift weather patterns around the world and can cause drought in the Asia-Pacific.

Cocoa prices have dropped 5.5 percent this year as the global recession eroded demand for the beans, used in chocolate.

Indonesia, the world's third-biggest producer, cultivates cocoa on 1.2 million hectares, mainly on Sulawesi island and increasingly in Sumatra. Production has fallen from about 600,000 tons in 2006 because of disease and pest infestation, according to the association. “In Sulawesi, at least 50,000 hectares of new plants have started to produce cocoa this year, and more will mature next year,” Razak said in an interview quoted by Bloomberg. “New plants in Sumatra and Sulawesi will offset the impact” from adverse weather and plant pests and diseases”

Halim also questioned the involvement of private business in the Ministry of Agriculture program to boost national cocoa production, saying it resulted in high costs being imposed on farmers. The program is divided into three schemes: planting high quality seeds to replace old cocoa trees, grafting trees with high quality buds, and conducting training as well s distributing free fertilizers to farmers. The government holds the program in nine provinces in the eastern part of Indonesia.

Problems emerge because the seed distribution is managed by private companies; cocoa farmers must pay high prices to get the high quality seeds and plant grafting services, as the consequences. “The prices paid by farmers to buy the seeds is about Rp 8,000 [70 US cents] each tree while to get plant grafting service is set at Rp 5,000 for each tree,” Halim said.

The prices were unreasonably expensive compared to the prices set by Indonesian Coffee and Cocoa Research Institute. The institute's price of seeds is Rp 4,000 for each tree, while that for grafting service is Rp 3,000 for each tree, according Halim.

The ministry does not actually need private companies to distribute the seeds and to conduct plant grafting services, Halim said. “The regional ministry's agencies should distribute the seeds directly to farmers with more affordable price. The agencies could also provide the buds for grafting and train the farmers.” Commenting on the criticism, the ministry's director general of plantation Achmad Mangga Barani said that the ministry's could not directly distribute the seeds and buds since the law regulated that all government projects must be tendered. Achmad added that the seed priced were reasonable.

“The private companies channelled the distribution of seeds from a research institute in Jember [East Java] to the farmers in the eastern part of Indonesia. Of course the companies must receive payment for the distribution activities.” The same applies for the grafting buds, which were taken from high quality plants.

USAID to inject \$15m into cocoa industry

Jamaica Gleaner - Noel Thompson - Jul 9, 2009

Noel Thompson, Gleaner Writer

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will be injecting US\$15 million (approximately J\$1.8 billion) to assist with rehabilitating the local cocoa industry. The announcement was made yesterday by Karen Hillard, mission director with the USAID Jamaica, as she addressed delegates and farmers at a technical forum on cocoa at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston.

Noting that the cocoa industry needed a boost, Hillard said if the industry was to be resuscitated meaningfully, significant contributions would have to be made to encourage farmers and stakeholders in the industry.

Full support for agriculture

The fund is to be spread over a four to five-year period. "USAID are firm believers that the agriculture sector can be a major driver of Jamaica's economy and we are ready to put our money where our mouth is," Hillard said. She added that the USAID, through its Protected Areas and Rural Enterprise project, was pleased to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority and the Cocoa Industry Board to convene the forum, which runs from July 8-10.

Declaring the forum open, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Dr Christopher Tufton welcomed the announcement, adding that the government was thankful for USAID's commitment to the various sectors. The forum is being held to support one of the strategic actions emerging from a November 2008 cocoa stakeholder's workshop, which defined the need for information sharing workshops.

The Market

The Weekly Pit Review for July 6th, 2009

Monday, July 06, 2009

by PitGuru.com

Authors of PitGuru.com

The Softs Pit Review

For the week of July 6th, 2009

By PitGuru Jurgens H. Bauer

Individual markets often take their leads from other markets as no market trades in a vacuum. It's important to remember this as we head into the summer season - typically a time of thin markets and quiet trading. This past week, the soft markets enjoyed some headlines with Sugar's strong move and the limit up day in cotton; yet for the week, only cotton prices ended with an advance. Here's what to likely expect this week:

Cotton prices ran up mid week on a wave of speculative buying, resulting in a limit move and a net gain of 3,000 contracts in open interest. Even with Tuesday's planting report near the high end of estimates, specs seem to want to get long. I suspect that with the current crop the lowest on record for the past 25 years and that most of that is focused on West Texas - where weather problems are bound to occur - were the driving forces behind that move. Beyond that, remember: "small crops get smaller." However, from fundamental standpoint cotton futures prices appear to have gotten too high. At these levels the cash business will suffer, so regardless of the influx of fund money be cautious for severe setbacks. Instead, look for a range between 64 and 55 cents basis December to get established. To do so, it may need to test both ends.

Cocoa prices lost about 100 points last week; and although many expect the driving force to be the dollar, this is typically a slow time for cocoa news. While I agree that the dollar direction will carry influence, I also don't see much happening and lean towards the negative side of cocoa. Sugar made another new high and then backed off in a corrective move. I believe the fundamentals are in favor of higher prices, yet a shakeout is possible because there seems to be a large amount of weak handed longs now in the market. Expect downside action to be violent and scare some of those out. Because I feel the fundamentals so positive, I think using significant dips to establish longs makes sense. Option volatility is likely too high and needs to also correct. Holding covered long and long against short straddle makes sense. I'm admittedly disappointed in coffee. Prices have dropped significantly from their highs and spent the past week trading sideways (between 121.5 and 118) until making a low of 117 on Thursday. Looks like without weather concerns in the forecast, coffee too will be on the

defensive. In sum, I suspect the soft complex will be on the defensive for the week - unless something new happens weather-wise or with the dollar.

SOFTS-Sugar bounces, cocoa trade digests German data

By Sharon Lindores and Nick Vinocur

LONDON, July 7 (Reuters) - Sugar futures edged up in a chart-driven bounce on Tuesday, aided by news of flood damage to cane in China, while London cocoa rose with support from a weak pound as the market digested weak German Q2 grind data.

Robusta coffee futures edged lower, pressured by a firm dollar, in light volumes, dealers said.

Sugar futures have been one of the strongest soft commodity performers this year, with both raws and white sugar hitting three-year highs last week. The market has since corrected lower and bounced back from over-sold positions on Tuesday, dealers said. "I wouldn't be surprised if some physical business has gone on in the last 48 hours or so with the set-back in the market," Rabobank soft commodity trader Nick Hungate said.

"Demand remains pretty robust and we keep getting constructive fundamental input coming in," Hungate said, noting concern Chinese crops may be damaged by flooding. "Every time we sell off a little bit and everybody kind of gives up on the market, we get constructive fundamental news which rallies us back again," Hungate said.

The worst floods to hit China's sugar-producing region of Guangxi since 1996 have affected 10 percent of the sugarcane areas in Liuzhou, a major sugar-producing city, but the overall extent of the damage is still unknown, a local official said on Tuesday.

London August white sugar futures were up \$6.30 at \$447.00 per tonne at 1149 GMT. The contract rose as high as \$465.20 on July 1, a three-year peak for the front month. October raw sugar futures on ICE rose 0.18 cent to 17.50 cents, down from the three-year high of 18.09 cents touched on June 30.

Other sugar dealers said sugar futures could correct further downwards to trigger more physical enquiries, weighed by rapid harvesting of sugar in the centre-south of Brazil.

They said discounts against spot raw Brazilian cash sugar had widened in recent weeks, signalling hefty supplies of Brazilian new crop sugar entering the market and subdued offtake. Brazil's 2009/10 centre-south cane crush reached 142.1 million tonnes by June 15, nearly one third more than the 107.7 million tonnes crushed by this time last year, the Sugar Cane Industry Association (Unica) said last week.

EUROPEAN GRINDINGS SEEN LOWER

A London-based cocoa trader said London futures were moving sluggishly upward, partly due to fund buying in thin trade, supported by the weak pound. "Most grinding figures have been disappointing this year," he said, adding that he expected European grinding figures, due out late this week or early next week, to show a fall in demand in sympathy with the Q2 German grind figures, which were down 15.3 percent year-on-year. London September cocoa was 28 pounds higher at 1,633 pounds per tonne in thin volume of 1,466 lots, while ICE September cocoa was \$48 stronger at \$2,522 per tonne.

Robusta coffee futures fell, weighed by outside macroeconomic influences such as the firm dollar.

A strong dollar makes dollar-denominated futures more expensive in terms of other currencies. "In the absence of strong fundamentals or finite technical moves, the market is looking at the macro picture and the dollar," a London-based analyst said. The dollar was slightly higher, supported near a two-week high against the euro as fading optimism about the global economic recovery kept investors cool to risky positions.

London's September robusta contract fell \$5 to \$1,340 per tonne. New York's September arabica contract rose 0.75 cent to \$1.1885 per lb. Analysts said the upward revision in the 2008/09 global coffee output estimate from the International Coffee Organization (ICO), had little market impact, with players focusing instead on the wider economic outlook.

The analyst said an El Nino weather pattern forming more slowly than expected was a longer-term concern that was not having an immediate effect on coffee prices.

Speculators beginning to exit agri futures market

G. Chandrashekhar

Mumbai, July 9

With weather concerns waning in major producing countries, crop prospects looking increasingly better and finally, continued anxiety over the macro-economic environment, speculators in major agricultural futures markets are viewing the price prospects negatively; and therefore, are quick to liquidate their long position, as is their wont.

Whether corn, soyabean or wheat, speculative capital is moving out of the market, mainly in the US which sets a benchmark for others. In addition to market fundamentals, including output prospects, currency also seems to be playing a role.

A firmer dollar is seen not positive for commodities. Major movement of agricultural commodities from out of the US is also slowing down due to seasonal factors. China's purchases have slowed. All these have resulted in a change of sentiment.

Net fund length

According to latest data (for week ending June 30) released by the US futures market regulator CFTC, net fund length continued to fall in the Chicago Board of Trade (CBoT) corn market. Experts attribute this to a combination of long liquidation and short-covering.

Net fund length has fallen in soyabean and more vigorously in soyabean oil. This suggests that tactical investors view the production prospects for the incoming season 2009-10 as bright, notwithstanding current season tightness.

Weakness in the crude market (caused by firmer dollar and weak economic data) also softening of palm oil futures (due to muted demand and rising inventory) added to the negative sentiment in soyabean oil.

In CBoT wheat too, the net fund length remained in the negative territory, doubling from the previous week's level. Net fund length also eased in ICE cocoa and ICE coffee.

Interestingly, cotton and sugar are exceptions. At the ICE, net fund length in both commodities increased, with sugar attracting special attention. This too is understandable.

Cotton tight

Cotton market fundamentals are likely to turn tight in 2009-10. Lower acreage in the US, possibility of higher consumption by China and lower export supplies from India are foreseen. As for sugar, it is already known that India would continue to be a large importer next year too.

It must, however, be remembered that July and August are critical months for agricultural crops in the northern hemisphere. Weather can make or mar crop prospects. The ongoing concerns over Indian monsoon weigh on the market. The market can change direction rather quickly, if crop prospects deteriorate. The market also awaits the next USDA report due later this week.

Foods and Softs Outlook - July 10, 2009

Friday, July 10, 2009

by [CRB Research Team](#) of [Commodity Research Bureau](#)

Foods and Softs Outlook - **An Excerpt from CRB'S Futures Market Service**



COFFEE—Sep Nybot Arabica coffee prices have trended down to a 2-1/4 month low from June's 10-month high. Bearish factors include (1) the +27% y/y rise in Jun Brazil coffee exports to 2.34 mln bags, and (2) speculation Brazil's 2009-10 coffee harvest may reach 31.9 mln bags, the highest off-year output since 1987-88. Bullish factors include (1) the USDA's Jun 12 cut in its 2009-10 global coffee output estimate due to an expected drop in Brazil's crop as its coffee trees enter their off-year production cycle, and (2) ICO's cut in

its global coffee output estimate for the year ending Sep 30 to 128.8 mln bags from a prior forecast of 133.4 mln bags. Large specs as of Jun 30 held a moderate long position of 13,748. USDA coffee summary: 2009-10 world coffee production 127.4 mln bags (-5.5% vs 2008-09's record 134.8 mln bags); 2009-10 world ending stocks at 35.3 mln bags (-12% vs 2008-09's 40.1 mln bags).



COCOA—Sep cocoa prices are moving sideways near the center of a 10-month trading range. Bearish factors include (1) ICO's hike in its forecast for a 150,000 MT global cocoa surplus for 2010, up from an Apr estimate of 100,000 MT, (2) ICO's prediction that global cocoa-bean grindings may drop -6.5% in the year ending Sep, the biggest fall since records began in 1960-61, and (3) weak demand as Q1 North American cocoa bean grindings slid -13% and Q2 European cocoa bean grindings fell -11% y/y, to near a 5-year low. Bullish factors include (1) dollar weakness, and (2) excessive rains in the Ivory Coast that may threaten cocoa crop quality. Large specs as of Jun 30 held a moderate long position of 19,049.

Processing & Manufacturing

EXCLUSIVE-UPDATE 2-Olam sees Euro Q2 cocoa grind down 8-10 pct

Friday July 10, 2009 08:05:14 AM GMT

Forexyard - David Brough - Jul 8, 2009

By David Brough

LONDON, July 8 (Reuters) - The European Q2 cocoa grind is expected to be down 8-10 percent year-on-year, Gerry Manley, managing director of Olam Cocoa, one of the world's leading cocoa bean suppliers, told Reuters television on Wednesday. Manley was speaking a day before the release of the European Cocoa Association's grind figures, a closely watched measure of cocoa demand.

German Q2 cocoa grind fell 15.3 percent on the year, data showed on Monday, signalling the European figures are likely to be weak due to the impact of the global recession.

Manley, head of Olam's global cocoa operation, said in an interview he expected the global cocoa grind to be down around 6 percent this year, depressed by recession. "We are expecting quite a hit on demand," he said. "We have seen the financial crisis really taking hold of markets like Eastern Europe, and less premium chocolates used in markets like the United States."

Manley said he believed a global cocoa deficit was likely in 2009/10 after a deficit of 120,000 tonnes in 2008/09, noting some 600,000 tonnes of stocks had been drawn down over the last three years.

Olam's expectation of a likely deficit next season contrasted with data from the London-based International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), which in April predicted a global surplus of more than 100,000 tonnes in 2009/10. "For production to be stimulated enough to make a large surplus is looking quite difficult for 2009/10," Manley said.

CROP OUTLOOK

He said the mid crop in the world's top producer Ivory Coast was disappointing after a strong main crop, while the mid crop in the second largest producer, Ghana, had a good tail -- meaning good supply towards the end of the crop. He said development of the coming Ivorian main crop was on time, but he said output could fall short of Olam's earlier expectations. "The outlook is one of some constraint in supply."

Manley said he saw no impact on cocoa supply due to the El Nino weather pattern. He said cocoa prices were not expected to fall much, due to tight supplies, adding prices could rise due to the likely global deficit seen next season.

Manley also noted concerns over the impact of diseases such as swollen shoot and black pod on West African cocoa crops. "It (disease) will impact production if it's not contained in any way," he said. "You do need mechanisms and schemes, I believe, to help the farmers and to help production grow."

Olam Cocoa is a unit of Singapore-listed Olam International . Headquartered in Singapore and listed on the SGX-ST exchange in 2005, Olam ranks among the top 40 largest listed companies in Singapore in terms of market capitalisation.

German Q2 Cocoa Grind down 15.3 pct on Year

Source: Reuters

Hamburg, July 6 - Germany's second quarter 2009 cocoa grind fell 15.3 percent on the year to 75,430 tonnes, the association of German confectionery producers BDSI said on Monday. This followed a fall of 21.3 percent on the year in the first quarter of 2009.

No one was available for comment at the BDSI. "A fall had been expected because of low physical demand from chocolate makers as the economic crisis is apparently having an impact on chocolate and confectionery sales," one German cocoa trader commented.

East Europe and Russia have been hit hard by the economic slowdown and both were important markets for German semi-finished cocoa products, the trader said.

Business and Economy

The Agriculture Department to Improve Local Cacao Industry

Saturday, 11 July, 2009

TEMPO Interactive, Jakarta: The Agriculture Department will soon recommend that an export tax be imposed on cacao beans. The Department's Plantations director-general, Achmad Mangga Barani said the policy is needed to stimulate the growth of the domestic cocoa industry. "The domestic cocoa industry must be encouraged, we should not keep on exporting cocoa beans," he said, when asked to comment on Friday.

Cacao beans make up 80 percent of total cacao export, while cacao products only account for the remaining 20 percent. The composition, according to Achmad, is very different from crude palm oil exports. Palm oil products according to Achmad make up around 60 percent of total exports, "even though the palm oil industry started only in the 80's."

Achmad hopes that the export tax will motivate local producers from exporting cacao bean to exporting processed cacao products. "Cacao should be processed domestically, the point is to improve the local industry and there should be value added for the local economy," said Achmad.

However, farmers and other business-people have rejected the idea. The Indonesia Cacao Association a chairman, Halm A Razak, said the export tax would hurt farmers. "The productivity of cacao plantation declining, the government should focus on how to improve production instead of proposing new obstacles."

Data from the association shows the average cacao bean production per year has dropped from 1.5 tons per hectare to 500 kilograms per hectare. This year, total production is expected to go down by around 50,000 tons to around 480,000 tons.

Dutch agricultural minister discusses sustainable trade on visit

Thanh Nien Daily - Jul 6, 2009

Gerda Verburg, Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

The Netherlands' agriculture minister will visit Pangasius and cocoa farms in Ben Tre Province today during a four-day fact-finding tour of Vietnam.

Gerda Verburg, Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, met Monday with her Vietnamese counterpart Cao Duc Phat, who visited the Netherlands almost a year ago, to discuss the sustainability of

agricultural produce trade between the two countries, ways to minimize the environmental impact of local farming production and increase access to the European market.

Vietnam is one of the Netherlands' major suppliers of cocoa and fisheries products, coffee, fruit and vegetables. Many companies in Holland, the largest cocoa processor in the world, have shown interest in buying high quality cocoa from Vietnam, the Dutch Embassy in Hanoi said in a statement.

Cocoa farming is still small and new domestically but Vietnam aims to expand it by 10 times. Cocoa can be intercropped with other plants to raise farmers' income and improve the biodiversity.

Following Verburg's meeting with Phat she visited Bac Ninh Province just outside Hanoi to see how rapid industrialization has influenced the water quality, thereby agriculture and horticulture production. Bac Ninh resembles the Netherlands as it is based on a river delta, has an intensive land-use and is close to major consumption areas such as Hanoi and Hai Phong.

To protect water for farming, the Netherlands has cooperated with the Vietnamese government to set up a National Strategy for Water for Food and Ecosystems. Bac Ninh was chosen among 10 areas to try the strategy. Following the water for food and ecosystems cooperation will be a joint project aiming to reduce the vulnerability of Vietnam's Mekong Delta to climate change, according to the Dutch embassy statement.

The Mekong Delta would be the worst affected area in Vietnam by climate changes, international and local officials have warned.

Tomorrow in Ho Chi Minh City, the Dutch minister will co-chair a meeting with Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development about fishery issues. They include a joint study by both countries' agricultural ministries to make catfish farming in Vietnam's Mekong Delta more sustainable and to reduce worldwide concerns about the environmental impact of aquaculture in the delta.

The minister's last day in Vietnam, Wednesday, will be spent in talks about Pangasius and tuna farming, food safety and the membership of Vietnam in the international Fisheries Conventions. Agricultural exports from Vietnam to the Netherlands last year increased by 8 percent to almost US\$350 million year-on-year.

US confectionery trends look sweet for 2009

6 July 2009

FOOD Magazine - Australia

US confectionery makers are experimenting with flavours, flexibility and variety, and thinking outside the square to provide consumers with innovative products that will drive consumer purchasing over the next five years, according to the National Confectioners Association's (NCA) Confectionery Industry Trend Report 2009.

Even in economic uncertainty, the industry continues to post gains. With in-depth insight from 40 industry experts, including top manufacturers, market researchers, award-winning chocolatiers, nutritionists and confectionery makers, NCA's Industry Trend Report captures the confectionery trends and influences that will foster growth of the industry through 2014. Top line category trends include: chocolate explosion; health benefits; flavour fusions; and international influences.

NCA says that experts believe the next "big" trend in confections will be healthier confectionery options, specifically a growing demand for health benefits and 'better for you' ingredients, according to almost nine out of ten (88 per cent) experts.

Already, consumers are embracing portion control sized treats and the potential heart health benefits of higher cacao content in chocolate.

As consumers continue to lead healthy lifestyles, health benefits will heavily influence manufacturers to focus largely on developing 'better for you' confections, especially new types of enhanced chocolate treats.

Sixty-five (65) per cent of experts say eco-friendly manufacturing efforts, like recyclable packaging, will influence product development and consumer purchasing.

America's favourite flavour, chocolate, will emerge as one of the largest growth drivers for the industry in new, delicious and exciting ways.

Experts predict consumers can expect to find chocolate and cocoa popping up more frequently as a key ingredient in main courses alongside salmon, chicken and steak, according to 73 percent of experts surveyed. Embracing versatility may mean more of an emphasis on global influences and flavour pairings, according to the survey.

Forty-three percent of experts say consumers are going to become more open to chocolate and flavour infusions that include spices, salts, herbs and floral flavours. And exotic fruit pairings will become more prominent and we will see the emergence of ethnic flavours and herbs being incorporated into chocolate dishes.

Consumers can also expect to see sweet and savoury combinations like chocolate and bacon, as well as chocolate and cheese duos appear in stores and on the menu. In the chocolate and cocoa category, the potential health benefits of the antioxidants found in chocolate will continue to be evidenced as new and positive health-related findings are discovered.

Nearly half of those surveyed say consumers can expect to see more research into the potential health benefits of milk chocolate and dark chocolate, including exploration of naturally occurring cocoa compounds and positive effects on mood and blood pressure levels.

Additionally, one-third of experts say consumers will become more knowledgeable about the global origin of the chocolate they enjoy.

Forty-three percent say health-related influences will be the leading influence on new product development in the confectionery industry overall.

Within the health category, drivers include portion control as the leading influencer. The popularity of snack-sized products and 100-calorie packs, which give consumer the full flavour of their favourites, in smaller, reduced calorie options, is expected to continue.

In 2008 more than 6,000 new confectionery and snack products were debuted to the US market to meet consumer demand. Candy, chocolate and gum continued to lead the snack category in sales and ranked third in food sales overall in 2008. And the confectionery industry posted a 3.7 percent gain for the 52-week period ending April 19, 2009.

International spices and ethnic flavours will also have a large influence on new U.S. products and flavour development overall, 58 percent of experts say.

While Asian and Latin flavours will serve as the biggest influences on U.S. confectionery product launches, insiders point to Europe as the birthplace for international confectionery trends now and in the coming years.

Although Europe is most frequently perceived as the origin of confectionery trends, Japan appears to be an emerging influencer in the candy industry. And when it comes to America's global influence, one in three industry experts say U.S. trends will have the greatest impact on the dark chocolate market.

Twenty percent say the U.S. market for confections will influence product pricing and economic issues overseas.

For more information on emerging trends, chocolate and candy statistics and much more, please visit www.candyusa.org.

Labour Issues

Economic Activities Draw Children Out Of School

Thursday July 09, 2009

By GNA



A community animation programme on child labour held in ten communities in the Obuasi municipality has established that most children are involved in major economic activities to the detriment of their schooling.

Farming, trading and artisinal mining are among the economic activities that engage the attention of the children in the ten communities.

They are Apitikooko, Odumasi, Dokyiwa, Diawuoso, Pomposo, Adaase, Ntonsua, Mampamhwe, Mamiriwa and Kwabenakwakrom.

The programme, which was facilitated by Mr Rexford Asubonteng, the Municipal Labour Officer and Mr Philip Gyasi Afful, Quality Control Officer of the Obuasi office of COCOBOD, was under the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC).

Community members used the occasion to appraise themselves on their roles in child labour associated with cocoa production and other child welfare protection issues and came out with local initiatives to deal with the problems.

The communities agreed to undertake periodic sensitisation of members, enforce local bye-laws and form farmers groups (Nnoboas) to check the involvement of children in farming activities and other economic ventures.

Addressing the people of Kwabenakwakrom to round off the programme, the Municipal Social Welfare Officer, Mr Emmanuel Akoto-Sarpong said some of the children even suffer physical harm as a result of their participation in those activities. He pointed out that children constituted the future of the nation and that it behoved all stakeholders to ensure that they were protected from all forms of child labour related activities.

Mr Akoto-Sarpong, who is also the Field Co-ordinator of the Child Labour programme in the municipality advised against involving children in excessive and harmful jobs especially on the farm that affect their education.

Environmental Issues

SOFTS-Cocoa soars on El Nino worries

By Sharon Lindores and Marcy Nicholson

LONDON, July 9 (Reuters) - Cocoa futures rallied on Thursday on worries over the potential impact from the El Nino weather pattern on crops as investment bank Fortis warned of risks of very serious disruption. Arabica coffee futures edged up on investor buying on the back of a softer dollar and firmer crude oil price, while sugar was rangebound and well-supported with the market focused on Indian demand for the sweetener, dealers said.

Cocoa futures surged as traders talked of fears that El Nino could erode cocoa output.

Fortis investment bank said in a report on Thursday it saw potentially very significant disruption to the cocoa sector from El Nino. "We are going into this high risk period without the comfort of large world stocks," the bank said. "As a consequence, the potential disruption to the cocoa sector should be regarded as very significant," it added.

Fortis said recent deficits had reduced the stock to consumption ratio to levels not seen since the late 1980s.

A dreaded El Nino phenomenon is developing according to the U.S. government, as countries in the Asia-Pacific region warily gauge its potential to unhinge weather patterns around the world.

London September cocoa was up 38 pounds at 1,700 pounds per tonne at 1619 GMT, while ICE September cocoa powered up over 5 percent, and then lost some ground to stand at \$2,648, up \$106 or 4.1 percent.

COFFEE CONSUMPTION THREAT

Coffee futures rose under pressure from outside macroeconomic influences, notably the weaker dollar, a coffee futures trader said. "It's more to do with the dollar, what equities do and what the crude market does," the trader said. "That's brought all commodities down over the last couple of days generally because of a bit more of a pessimistic view on the world economy.

"The general view is that if the world economy does not recover as quickly as some people felt then that's going to have implications on consumption (of coffee)," the trader said.

London's September robusta coffee was up \$11 at \$1,354 per tonne in moderate volume of 4,085 lots. New York's September arabica contract rose 0.6 cent to \$1.1580 per lb.

Vietnam's robusta beans were offered at around \$90 over London futures on Thursday, the first premium since August 2006, as farmers held back stocks following a drop in the international market, dealers said.

Sugar futures were little changed in modest volumes, while remaining rangebound, underpinned by a strong South Asian appetite for the sweetener, notably from concerns about top consumer India's sugar requirements.

Two days of good rainfall in India's top sugarcane producer, Maharashtra, and forecasts of more would boost the crop, lessening chances of a sharp drop in yields, a top official said.

"Generally this market is well supported and can have another look on the upside," a sugar futures dealer said.

London August white sugar futures rose \$2.40 to \$439.80 per tonne. The contract climbed as high as \$465.20 on July 1, a three-year peak for the front month.

October raw sugar futures on ICE fell 0.21 cent to 17.00 cents per lb, well below the three-year peak of 18.09 cents touched on June 30.

El Nino Could Delay Indonesia's Cocoa Replanting

Source: Reuters

Jakarta, Jul 10 - The growing prospect of an El Nino weather pattern could delay Indonesia's \$350 million cocoa replanting plan by two months to November, an agriculture official said on Friday.

Darmansyah Basyaruddin, a director responsible for seeds development at the ministry, said while cocoa trees normally grow in the shade of taller trees, such as coconut, replanting should wait until the rainy season starts for better results. "We hope to start replanting in September but it could be delayed to October or November," Basyaruddin told Reuters.

"At this stage, we still think the plan will run on schedule, but we will continue to evaluate it on day to day basis."

The U.S. government said on Thursday a dreaded El Nino weather pattern was developing, putting countries from Asia to North America on alert for meteorological havoc to crops, infrastructure, ports and mines.

The phenomenon, caused by a warming of the seas in the Pacific, has already brought drought to Australia and a delayed monsoon to India.

Fortis investment bank said on Thursday it saw a potentially significant disruption to the cocoa sector from the El Nino weather pattern.

Such concerns triggered a 4.13 percent rally in New York's cocoa futures on Thursday to \$2,1674 a tonne, a benchmark used by Indonesian farmers to sell their beans.

A government sponsored cocoa replanting and rehabilitation programme aims to replant about 70,000 hectares of cocoa plantations over three years starting in 2009, in a move that may boost the country's bean output to more than 1.3 million tonnes by 2013.

For this year, the government has disbursed around \$100 million from the state budget, among others, to finance the planned replanting of 20,000 hectares across the main producing island of Sulawesi.

Indonesia, the world's third biggest cocoa producer after Ivory Coast and Ghana, has 1.46 million hectares of cocoa plantations, with smallholders accounting for 93 percent, Basyaruddin said.

The agriculture ministry estimated nationwide cocoa output at around 700,000 tonnes in 2008, much bigger than industry's estimate of about 500,000 tonnes.

The replanting will use better quality seeds, which will be more resistant to pest and diseases, including a deadly fungal disease the Vascular Streak Dieback (VSD) that attacked leaves and tree trunks in Sulawesi.

The government uses Nestle SA's advanced technology enabling mass production of seeds through somatic embryogenesis. The technology enables the propagation of high-yielding, disease-resistant plants.

El Nino forming in Pacific, could strengthen-NOAA

Onet.pl - Jul 9, 2009

A dreaded El Nino phenomenon is developing according to the U.S. government, as countries in the Asia-Pacific region warily gauge its potential to unhinge weather patterns around the world.

The Climate Prediction Center, an office under the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, said in a monthly report on Thursday that the equatorial Pacific Ocean has "transitioned ... to El Nino conditions."

Named after the Christ child because it was first noticed by Latin American anchovy fishermen in the 19th century, El Nino causes an abnormal warming of waters in the Pacific and wreaks meteorological havoc from Asia to North America.

This El Nino is striking just as global economies are struggling to overcome the impact of the world's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression in 1929.

The 1997/98 El Nino killed more than 2,000 people and caused billions of dollars in damage to crops, infrastructure, ports and mines.

CPC said current trends favor development "of a weak-to-moderate strength El Nino" into the northern hemisphere winter of 2009, "with further strengthening possible thereafter."

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said in a report Wednesday there was "very little chance of the current development (of an El Nino) stalling or reversing."

"It doesn't look weak, but then again, it doesn't look like it will be at the levels of the 1997/98 even either," said the bureau's Andrew Watkins in Sydney.

NINO TARGETS ASIA-PACIFIC CROPS

An El Nino-spawned drought would pose a major risk to wheat production in Australia, affect palm oil output in major producers Malaysia and Indonesia, and hit rice production in the Philippines, the world's biggest importer of the staple. News over the past few days that this El Nino may be weak to moderate led to a sell-off in Malaysian palm oil futures, which slid to a three-month low on Tuesday.

On Thursday, cocoa futures in New York soared more than 5 percent amid jitters that El Nino could affect cocoa supply, much of which comes from Indonesia and West Africa.

The main source of worry for commodity market players is India, where the weather cycle seems to have contributed to a weaker-than-normal monsoon rain season considered critical to the country's sprawling farm economy.

While rains have now covered all of India, its Meteorological Department said that as of July 1, the rains were running at 29 percent below normal.

A U.S. Agricultural attache report said the country may be hit by a severe drought if the monsoon remains weak since plantings for its major crops like soybeans, rice and sugar are closing by the middle of July.

An El Nino-induced dry spell in South America may hit soybean exports from Argentina and Brazil to China and India at a time when U.S. soybean stocks are at a 32-year low -- less than two weeks of normal commercial supplies.

Research & Development

Germany - Mars plays key role at meeting of Nobel Laureates and summer-long sustainability exhibition in Germany

05.07.2009 |

Lindau, Germany (ots) - - Querverweis: Bildmaterial ist abrufbar unter

Mars will showcase its cocoa sustainability program as part of a summer-long sustainability exhibition on Mainau Island, one of Germany's most popular tourist destinations. The exhibition, which opens today, follows on from the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany last week, in which Mars played a significant role.

The Nobel Laureate Meeting at Lindau which ended today, saw 23 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry and more than 500 of the world's most promising young scientists and researchers come together to share ideas on the topic of sustainability. Mars involvement in this year's conference builds on a strong relationship with the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings. Mars became a prominent supporter of this globally-recognized forum in 2007 and Mars family member, Pamela Mars, was appointed to the Honorary Senate of the Lindau organization last year.

"The meetings are a unique opportunity to share ideas and interact with the world's brightest minds across various disciplines," said Pamela Mars. "Our relationship with Lindau stems from our mutuality principle; by working collaboratively we can realize and share science-driven innovation to benefit everyone involved".

Mars will also play a major part in today's formal opening of the sustainability-themed "Discoveries Exhibition". Established by the Lindau Nobel Laureates organization, the exhibition will be held on Mainau Island - a botanical island famed for its flora and fauna and located in the middle of Lake Constance, Germany. Mars is one of 20 exhibitors hosting pavilions to demonstrate innovative sustainability concepts. The Mars pavilion, set in a large sunflower field on the island, showcases the future of sustainable cocoa farming.

"The Mars pavilion will tell the compelling story of the cocoa crop and its importance to the 40 million people worldwide who depend on it for their livelihood," said Howard Shapiro, Global Director, Plant Science and External Research for Mars. "The pavilion charts the course of cocoa throughout history - from its origins and impact on ancient cultures, to how we are using ground-breaking science to improve the sustainability of the crop for the generations to come."

As part of today's exhibition opening ceremony, Mars will donate three cocoa trees to Mainau Island, renowned for its excellent environmental practices. These cocoa trees are the same variety used by Mars in sequencing the cocoa genome, a project launched in June 2008 to better understand and improve the sustainability of the cocoa crop.

About cocoa sustainability at Mars

For nearly 30 years, Mars has pursued a cocoa sustainability strategy with a goal to secure responsible cocoa production and the future supply of the crop. During this period, Mars has helped bring together the cocoa industry with leaders in related fields to create and fund beneficial research programs. These programs include

education and training for farmers, development of pest and disease resistant cocoa crops, and other pioneer avenues for cocoa research.

For more information, please see: <http://www.mars.com/global/Who+We+Are/Cocoa+Sustainability.htm>

About the cocoa genome

In June 2008, Mars, Incorporated, the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), and IBM announced that they would sequence, annotate and assemble the cocoa genome. A genome is essentially a map of all the components that make up the characteristics of an organism - in this case, cocoa. By understanding the exact location of these characteristics, it is easier to breed cocoa plants that have beneficial characteristics.

The public-private collaboration may enable farmers to plant better quality cocoa and, more importantly, help create healthier, stronger cocoa crops with higher yields, pest and disease resistance, and increased water and nutrient-use efficiency.

For more information, please see:

www.mars.com/global/News+and+Media/News+archive/Cocoa+Genome.htm

About The Nobel Laureate Meetings at Lindau

The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings are a globally recognized forum which has been bringing Nobel prizewinners and promising young scientists and researchers together since 1951. The week-long, annual event consists of panel discussions, seminars and social events. This year's meeting (28 June to 3 July 2009) is dedicated to chemistry and has a special focus on sustainability.

Mars entered into its engagement with the Lindau organization in 2007. In 2008, Pamela Mars was invited to join the Honorary Senate of the Lindau Foundation of Nobel prizewinners.

For more information, please see: <http://www.lindau-nobel.de/>

About the Discoveries Exhibition on Mainau Island

The sustainability exhibition on Mainau Island is entitled "Entdeckungen/ Discoveries" and takes place from 3 July to 31 August 2009. The exhibition showcases sustainable ideas and concepts that will shape the future.

Mars is one of 20 exhibitors that will host pavilions to showcase sustainable ideas and concepts that will shape the future. The exhibition is part of Germany's 'Year of Science 2009' and marks the 100th birthday of Count Lennart Bernadotte (1909 - 2004), who was the driving force behind the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings.

Chocolate Biodiesel: an Unexpected New Horizon in Fuel Sourcing

CafeSentido.com - J.E. Robertson - Jul 11, 2009

11 July 2009 :: J.E. Robertson

Biodiesel is a controversial area of energy sourcing. Many believe it is a poor choice for breaking human dependence on carbon-based fuels, since it is essentially, yet another way of burning carbon to produce energy. But others say it is a healthy, incremental step, which can burn cleaner than petroleum fuels and will help diversify the scope of recycling and related inputs to the energy economy. Now chocolate is making its way into the biodiesel game.

Chocolate fuel: the phrase is charismatic, it draws the ear, alerts the mind, it wakens the attention of people who have rarely thought about what the development of alternative fuels really means. So, how does chocolate biodiesel work? It is actually the waste byproducts made by industrial production of chocolate for human consumption. Those waste byproducts —often simply small chunks, flakes or “misshapes” of chocolate— are concentrated into biodiesel, which can be burned to produce locomotion in motor vehicles.

While some intuitively class biodiesel as inherently different from petro-diesel, in technical terms, properly refined biodiesel should work in a standard diesel engine. In November 2007, two men set out to demonstrate the power of chocolate biodiesel, using it to power their journey, overland, from England to Timbuktu. The truck would carry all the biodiesel necessary, as well as two smaller vehicles to economize the last leg of the journey across the Sahara.

As reported by ENN:

Leaving from England on a ferry across the English channel, the team of Andy Pag and John Grimshaw plan to make their 4.500 mile journey in approximately three weeks. Using cocoa butter extracted from a confectioner's misshapen chocolate "rejects", the truck will carry 454 gallons of biodiesel fuel.

The Ford Iveco Cargo truck is carrying two smaller vehicles for the final hard slog across the Sahara desert, all powered with standard engines fueled with biodiesel. The final cost of the fuel is calculated at about \$1.16 per gallon.

Pag told the press their goal was to demonstrate that everyday drives would easily be biodiesel fuelled, by making a journey far beyond what any ordinary motorist would assume possible: "If we can make it [to Timbuktu] with bio-fuel there's no reason why motorists can't use it on the school run or on their commute to work".

On their website, they billed the trip as "the world's first carbon-negative expedition". They report that a study by Carbon Aided showed that the entire project, starting from the waste-chocolate's transport to the refinement site, including their complete drive and their flights home, actually saved 14.99 tons of CO2 that would have been generated had they not organized the chocolate to Timbuktu expedition.

This is in part because Carbon Aided measures the overall carbon footprint, including offsets —carbon-neutral solutions to third-party services (like buying wind energy instead of coal-fired)— which balance out or completely override all carbon emissions related to one's activity. The film *Syriana*, for instance, has been billed as the world's first "carbon neutral" feature film production, an honor won by purchasing clean energy to offset all carbon emissions related to the film's production.

Practical Environmentalist reported:

In addition to raising awareness to the benefits of bio-fuels to people in the UK (and elsewhere) Ecotec donated one of their biodiesel production units so that the local women in Mali can use it to re-cycle their used cooking oil into biofuel.

In addition, all the equipment used for this journey was salvaged from scrap yards and will remain in Mali where it will be put to good use. This even includes the chocolate powered truck itself.

Biodiesel is not, in itself, carbon-neutral, so offsets and emissions-filtering devices are needed to make the recycled fuel more environmentally friendly. There are more environmentally-friendly diesel engines, with are either more fuel-efficient or more capable of filtering out and "capturing" any carbon-dioxide that would otherwise be emitted, so choosing biodiesel as a fuel source in hopes of reducing one's carbon footprint requires research and choices regarding those more or less advanced technologies.

Chocolate shortage? Better not be!

By Kim Margolis | Monday, July 6, 2009, 05:59 AM

Middletown Journal - Kim Margolis - Jul 6, 2009

The Ivory Coast could lose one-third of its cacao tree crop this year due to a virus, according to New Scientist magazine. Here's why you should care: Chocolate comes from the cacao tree. Seventy-percent of the world's chocolate comes from west Africa.

Scientists are working to find genes in the trees which are resistant to disease and find a way to use those to create disease-resistant trees. Those scientists better be working feverishly.

Promotion

Chocolate for Obama in Ghana'

Entrepreneurial West African Cocoa Farmers Seek to Honor President Obama by Extending Special Invitation during Historic Visit to Africa

WASHINGTON, July 7 /PRNewswire/ -- Kuapa Kokoo, co-owners of Divine Chocolate, the pioneering fair trade chocolate brand, proudly extends an invitation for President Obama to come visit them during his upcoming trip to Ghana. The invitation includes the opportunity to learn not only about cocoa from Ghana, but

how this dynamic group of 45,000 cocoa farmers is using democratic cooperation and Fair Trade as a way to improve the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and to invest in their future.

"We wish to show Mr. Obama how cocoa farmers have joined together to build our communities, invest in education, clean water and health. We urge him to join our call for fair and dignified trade so that we farmers can be a greater part of the solution to problems facing Ghana and all of Africa," says Mr. Paul CK. Buah, President of Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Cooperative.

Kuapa Kokoo has been internationally recognized for its pioneering efforts in Fair Trade. It is also an example of how African led social enterprises can be leading forces for achieving development goals on the continent. "The Obama administration has helped Americans see their relationship to the world in a different way. This is a great opportunity to shine a light on ways Americans can partner with Africans in practical solutions to poverty. Kuapa's story, Divine's story, is one delicious place to start." Says Erin Gorman, CEO of Divine Chocolate.

At its core, Divine Chocolate is an amazing story of how cocoa farmers from Ghana came to own their own chocolate company. After 10 short years of existence, Divine now counts several major brands as commercial partners in its mission to improve the livelihoods of West African cocoa farmers through Fair Trade including The Body Shop, Whole Foods, Virgin Atlantic, Wegmans, Landmark Theaters and Borders Bookstores.

Members of the general public can join Kuapa Kokoo's invitation to President Obama to see the impact of social enterprise in Ghana by emailing the White House at www.whitehouse.gov - and encouraging him to accept the invitation of Kuapa Kokoo.

Chocolate Trails: An Exhibit at USBG Reveals the Origins of Every Candy Lover's Fave Treat

Express from The Washington Post - Jul 10, 2009



MOST PEOPLE HAVE NO idea where their chocolate comes from. Sure, it's a 79-cent Hershey's bar that you grab as an impulse buy in the grocery store, but it's also much more complicated than that. An exhibit at the U.S. Botanic Garden, "[The New Age of Chocolate](#)," aims to teach chocolate lovers where exactly their sweet treat hails from.

"When I'm talking to people, they don't think of chocolate as something that's a plant product or a crop," said exhibit curator **Beth Burrous, Ph. D.** "A lot of people probably don't even know that it comes from so near the equator." Chocolate's journey is an international one that starts in the far reaches of Africa and South America. In fact, almost 80 percent of the world's chocolate

goodness exists thanks to African harvesting of the crop.

From the vibrant oranges and purples of the cacao tree's pods comes the rich chocolate so many people crave. The process to create a bar of chocolate isn't as simple as crush it up and melt it down. From harvesting the cocoa pods to meticulously sun-drying them, every intricate step dictates the difference between whether the sweet is actually pleasant.

"One of the unusual things about chocolate is that it's a reluctant crop," said Burrous. "It's not made to be a mass-market commodity."

Since most of the world's chocolate is imported, the concept of politically correct chocolate is explored in the exhibit. From the various seals of approval, like fair trade or organic chocolate, to the harvesting practices in other countries, the exhibit explains the difference between a cheap bar of chocolate and an organic, fair trade bar that costs twice as much. Most organic or otherwise certified bars of chocolate usually cost two times as



much as a Hershey's bar and can be found at stores like Whole Food and Harris Teeter, but you usually get more for your buck.

Burrous and the Botanical Garden sponsor free classes to the public on the chemical process of chocolate and its health benefits, complete with taste testing.

The impressive greenhouse that houses the exhibit even boasts own cocoa tree even though it is incapable of producing the colorful pods of trees abroad. Burrous says all of that will change in a few years. Since the Botanical Garden's tree isn't able to self-pollinate it can't produce pods, so the staff have begun growing additional trees to promote cross-pollination and, hopefully tasty Washington, D.C.-born chocolate in the process.

Others

Five top Ivory Coast officials questioned in cocoa scandal

Fulton Valley News - Andrew Henderson - Jul 7, 2009

Five top government officials were scheduled to be interrogated last week in connection with the probe into alleged embezzlement in the coffee and cocoa industry in the Ivory Coast, according to the U.S. Embassy in the African country.

A government-based Ivory Coast consortium still owns the former Nestle chocolate plant in Fulton, which has remained essentially idle since ownership changed hands several years ago.

Citing a report in L'inter, an independent daily newspaper in the principally French-speaking country, the U.S. Embassy noted that the five officials are all ministers in the current administration and that they had been questioned earlier in connection with the scandal.

According to the paper, the five ministers are Antoine Bohoun Bouabre, former Economy and Finance Minister and current Minister of Planning and Development; Amadou Gon Coulibaly, Minister of Agriculture; Alphonse Douaty, Animal Resources and Fishery Minister; Sebastien Dano Djedje, former Minister of Animal Resources and Fishery, and Charles Diby Koffi, current Economy and Finance Minister.

Several individuals working in the cocoa-bean sector of the Ivory Coast were arrested in June of 2008, including former New York Chocolate board Chairman Louis Okaigini Okaigini. In all, 23 people were indicted. Each indictment included charges of embezzlement, breach of trust, looting of corporate assets, swindling, and forgery.

"There would be surprises in the coming days in the case of financial scandals, embezzlement and other wrongdoing in the coffee-cocoa," according to a translation of the article published in L'Inter. "And what appeared previously as mere noise corridor may become reality. Indeed, very confidential sources (say that) magistrate Joachim Gnakadjé, the judge in charge of investigations in the cocoa-coffee sector, is preparing to convene again before him five ministers of the current government from the Accord Politique de Ouagadougou (APO).

"It is the same that he had five ministers convened in October 2008 and who had to manage the sector between 2000, (with) the accession of President Laurent Gbagbo to power, and 2008, the year of the arrest and then imprisonment of more than twenty senior management (people) of the same chain," the translation continues.

In addition, the newspaper Soir Info reported that Ivorian officials who have been jailed since 2008 in connection with the alleged embezzlement in the coffee and cocoa industry were scheduled to appear for a hearing in an Abidjan court.

Among those who have been jailed are Angeline Kili, who was the chairwoman of the Fonds de Régulation et de Contrôle Café Cacao (FRC)—a cocoa and coffee marketing cooperative created by the government of the Ivory Coast and comprised of growers, banks, insurance companies, investors, and the government—and board president Firmin Kouakou.

At one time, Ms. Kili and Kouako were board members of New York Chocolate and both visited the chocolate plant in Fulton. After Nestle pulled out in 2003, the FRC decided to fund the purchase of the Fulton plant, which has remained virtually idle since.

The Ivorian paper said the decision to hold a hearing for these officials resulted from several protests denouncing their “illegal” imprisonment. The paper further said that human rights groups recently denounced “this long preventive detention.”

The 2008 arrests in the Ivory Coast came one month after a visit to Fulton by a delegation from that country. Those officials conducted a fact-finding investigation at the New York Chocolate and Confections plant and met with county and economic-development officials.

Representatives of the president of the Ivory Coast traveled to Oswego County primarily to confirm that the chocolate plant does indeed exist. One of the visiting representatives is the equivalent of the U.S. attorney general. Other representatives included judges and magistrates.

The Valley News first learned of the money-laundering allegations from a French reporter who contacted the newspaper about the Fulton plant in October of 2007. The Valley News became the first American media to break the news of the alleged scandal that affected the local plant.

In June of 2007, Global Witness, an organization that exposes the corrupt exploitation of natural resources and international trade systems, and drives campaigns to end impunity and human rights and environmental abuses, issued a report that stated more than \$118 million from the cocoa trade had funded both sides of the recent armed conflict in the Ivory Coast.

The report, “Hot Chocolate: How Cocoa Fuelled the Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire,” traces how international cocoa-exporting companies have contributed significantly to the finances of both the Ivorian government and the Forces Nouvelles, the rebel group holding onto the northern half of Côte d'Ivoire.

Since September 2002, the fighting in Côte d'Ivoire has claimed thousands of civilian lives and led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Poverty is now affecting more than 40 percent of the population.

“Hot Chocolate” documents patterns of mismanagement of revenues, opacity of accounts, corruption, and political favouritism in the cocoa sector in the Ivory Coast.

Government will not sit unconcerned for spraying exercise to be undermined

July 09, 2009

Koforidua, July 9, GNA - Mr Samuel Ofosu-Ampofo, Eastern Regional Minister, on Thursday said the mass cocoa spraying exercise was dear to the hearts of the Government and would therefore not sit down unconcern for it to be undermined.

He said the cocoa industry was the backbone of the economy and government would do all it could to assist farmers to maximize their yield.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo gave the warning when he met with district cocoa officers, coordinators of the mass cocoa spraying exercise, metropolitan, municipal and district chief executive from cocoa growing areas in his office in Koforidua.

The meeting followed concerns raised by a section of the public about attempts by some people to undermine the mass spraying exercise.

The Regional Minister said the spraying exercise was one project that the government would like to continue with, adding that, it should be seen as a national exercise and not to be politicized.

He advised the spraying gangs not to discriminate in the course of their work on grounds of one political affiliation or tribe, but rather they should help eliminate the swollen shoot disease on cocoa farms.

Mr Ofosu-Ampofo said the mass spraying exercise was also meant to create jobs and urged that all Ghanaians should be brought on board irrespective of ones political affiliation.

Mr Antwi Bosiako-Sekyere, Deputy Minister of Employment and Social Welfare, said if the country was to reach a middle income status in 2015 then the cocoa industry must not be toyed with.

He observed that the cocoa industry is one area in the informal sector, which provides employment for a lot of people and urged that nothing should be done to create unemployment.

Stealing of inputs, discrimination in the spraying of farms, and inadequate spraying machines were identified as some of the challenges facing the spraying exercise in some districts.

A new hope, a new source of income

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Island Business - Jul 7, 2009

For decades, the whole of the Markham Valley in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea was famous for its betel nut.

It was good betel nut for those who liked chewing the golden green nuts. The people who grew and sold betel nut made thousands of kina from it each year.

Highlanders descended upon the valley with thousands of kina and bought bags of the infamous nuts which they took back to the Highlands and made huge profits out of it.

For the Markham Valley people, it was easy money which they did not really have to work hard for it. The betel nut palms just kept on producing bunches of nuts every week throughout the year.

One day a little beetle arrived. It was deadly and the economy of the Wampar people stretching down to Labu and on to Salamaua in the Huon Gulf District was wiped out in no time.

Betel nut palms stood headless everywhere. It was a disaster no one could fix. It came like a cyclone and the whole betel nut industry which thousands of families depended on disappeared overnight.

Today, the situation remains the same. The headless palms are still standing reminding the owners of the disaster that had struck them.

Then came Bris Kanda—the bearer of the good news and hope for a brighter future ahead. Villagers who were resigned to a hopeless future are now sitting up and listening. They are now working—turning their land into hectares of cocoa trees.

The headless betel nut trees still stand but below them the cocoa seedlings are growing. Bris Kanda, a non-profit organisation funded by the New Zealand Government, was invited by the Member for Huon Gulf, Sasa Zibe, to help his people.

It is a success story for New Zealand Aid agency NZAID and the Huon people. The programme which now sees thousands of village people in the Huon Gulf receiving expert help to create economic wealth for themselves and their families to sustain a livelihood that will last for generations to come.

Through Bris Kanda, thousands of villagers who have never planted one cocoa seedling in their life are now growing cocoa in hectares.

The Markham Valley kunai grass is now being turned into plantations of cocoa to give the people a new hope and a new source of income.

Paul Winias, a Sepik man who is married to a woman from Gabsongkeg village near Nadzab Airport, has never grown cocoa in his life. Now he is become a true cocoa farmer expanding the family cocoa plantation at Tanam on the way to the airport.

Winias says he is a happy man now because cocoa is now giving his family the confidence they need to live their lives. The income from cocoa is making a great difference to their lives, he says.
Winias says the future of the area now depends on cocoa and it is the young people who can make it happen.

Many young men—many of whom have their own young families—have taken up the challenge from Winias and Bris Kanda.

Bris Kanda General Manager, Lukis Romaso, says his organisation is fully committed to helping young people throughout the Huon District undertake cocoa planting, inland fishing and other economic projects that will help sustain their livelihood.

Bris Kanda has made 2009 as the year to implement its Industrial Development Plan and the main activities are cocoa growing and fish farming.

Vanilla is also being given a lot of attention as there is now a demand for it.

Romaso stressed that Bris Kanda stands ready to help them source funds through the Wau Microbank to improve their farms.

“There is money available but we need to apply for it,” he said.

He has encouraged farmers to talk less and put into action what they have learnt.

His final words to them was: “If you are financially independent, you will have less need to ask politicians for handouts.”

These days truck loads of betel nuts are making their way down the Highlands highway past the Markham Valley into Lae picking up none from the valley of the golden nuts. Today, cocoa is fast replacing betel nut as the main source of income for the Wampar people.

Now there is more good news on the way. Cocoa from the Huon Gulf could soon be turned into chocolate in Germany, according to Romaso.

Romaso has told cocoa farmers that negotiations so far are looking positive and that the German chocolate producers want more samples of the cocoa produced in the Huon Gulf for analysis.

Romaso meets regularly with farmers from the Gabsongkeg area to talk about their farms and plans to improve the quality and quantity of cocoa produced by them.

He has praised farmers for the hard work they are putting into developing their land to produce more cocoa.

“There is more money in the land if you are prepared to work for it,” Romaso told them.

Romaso keeps telling farmers they need to work extra hard to ensure they maintained the high quality of their cocoa in order to meet strict export standards. He said German chocolate producers demand consistent high quality cocoa and it was up to the Huon cocoa farmers to ensure they met those conditions.

Romaso has urged Huon District people not to sit back and expect things to happen for them but to utilise the expertise of Bris Kanda to set up economic projects to sustain their livelihood.

New Zealand aid is certainly having an impact on the lives of people in the Morobe Province in Papua New Guinea.—By Oseah Philemon

TIT BITS

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

Vietnam robustas at premium

SINGAPORE (July 12, 2009): Vietnam's robusta beans were offered at around \$90 over London futures on Thursday, the first premium since August 2006, as farmers held back stocks following a drop in the international market, dealers said. London's September robusta contract fell \$9 to end at \$1,343 per tonne on Wednesday - not far from a lifetime low of \$1,250 a tonne struck in late June, when worries about a global surplus ignited heavy fund selling.

US MIDDAY: coffee, cocoa and sugar down

NEW YORK (July 11, 2009): Coffee September arabica contract was down 0.80 cent at \$1.1485 per lb at 11:09 am EDT (1509 GMT). Session range from \$1.1720 to \$1.1335, the lowest for the second position since April 22. October raw sugar contract was down 0.06 cent at 17.04 cents per lb at 11:10 am. Trading range from 16.88 to 17.21 cents.

El Nino could delay Indonesia's cocoa replanting

JAKARTA (July 11, 2009): The growing prospect of an El Nino weather pattern could delay Indonesia's \$350 million cocoa replanting plan by two months to November, an agriculture official said on Friday. Darmansyah Basyaruddin, a director responsible for seeds development at the ministry, said while cocoa trees normally grow in the shade of taller trees, such as coconut, replanting should wait until the rainy season starts for better results.

London cocoa up on El Nino fears

LONDON (July 11, 2009): London cocoa futures rose on Friday boosted by a soft pound and fears over the potential impact of the El Nino weather pattern on crops, which had triggered a rally late on Thursday, traders said. Coffee futures were little changed, testing recent lows with some industry buying, and sugar was flat in a well-supported market, buoyed by expectations of strong Indian demand after a poor domestic crop this year, dealers said.

US MIDDAY: coffee and cocoa up; sugar down

NEW YORK (July 10, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Thursday. September arabica coffee contract up 0.30 \$1.1550 per lb at 11:19 am EDT (1519 GMT). Session range from \$1.1445, the lowest since April 30, to \$1.1880. Market moved

up on heavy short-covering ahead of forecasts for rain followed by a cold front in top grower Brazil, said traders.

Nigerian cocoa arrivals rise

LAGOS (July 10, 2009): Nigeria's October-March 2008/09 cocoa main crop arrivals in the port city of Lagos reached 138,000 tonnes, exporters said on Thursday. This season's cocoa main crop arrivals were 13.39 percent higher than the 121,700 tonnes delivered in Lagos, Nigeria's main export route, for the same period of last season, they said.

London cocoa jumps on El Nino worries

LONDON (July 10, 2009): September cocoa settled 38 pounds higher at 1,700 pounds a tonne on Thursday, having touched a three-week high of 1,719 pounds a tonne earlier. The market staged a late rally on worries over the potential impact from the El Nino weather pattern on crops.

London cocoa and sugar up

LONDON (July 09, 2009): September cocoa settled 53 pounds higher at 1,662 pounds a tonne on Wednesday, having touched a three-week high of 1,664 pounds a tonne earlier, on a weak pound. Traders were also digesting a Reuters interview with Olam, a leading supplier of cocoa beans, predicting falls in European grind due out on Thursday morning.

US MIDDAY: cocoa and sugar climb; coffee steadies

NEW YORK (July 09, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Wednesday. September arabica coffee contract up 0.10 cent at \$1.168 per lb at 11:00 am EDT (1500 GMT). Session range from \$1.161 to \$1.174. Market consolidates but still in technical bear pattern, said traders.

London sugar falls

LONDON (July 08, 2009): August white sugar closed \$4.20 lower at \$436.50 on Tuesday pressured by investors' caution over prospects for economic recovery and tracking a weaker Reuters/Jefferies CRB index, a global commodities benchmark. September robusta coffee settled \$7 higher at \$1,352 per tonne while traders digested news that the International Coffee Organisation had revised upwards its global output forecast in 2008/09.

US MIDDAY: sugar and coffee down

NEW YORK (July 08, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Tuesday. September arabica coffee contract down 0.80 cent at \$1.1730 per lb at 11:08 am EDT (1508 GMT). Session range from \$1.1705 to \$1.1930. Reversed lower as the US stock market turned down on worries about the US economic recovery, said traders.

Vietnam coffee sales slow to a trickle

HANOI (July 08, 2009): Coffee sales in Vietnam, the world's top robusta producer, slowed to a trickle this week as farmers held back stocks because of low prices, traders said on Tuesday. They said most farmers wanted to sell at 24,000-25,000 dong (\$1.35-\$1.4) per kg while exporters could buy at 22,500 dong this week, almost unchanged from last week, following sharp falls in London future markets late last month.

London sugar lower; coffee, cocoa up

LONDON (July 07, 2009): August white sugar closed \$5.70 lower at \$440.70 a tonne on Monday on the firm dollar, which makes dollar-denominated futures more expensive in terms of other currencies. The market touched a contract high of \$465.20 per tonne on July 1.

US MIDDAY: sugar, cocoa dip; coffee up

NEW YORK (July 07, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Monday. September arabica coffee contract up 0.65 cent at \$1.1845 per lb at 11:10 am EDT (1510 GMT). Session range from \$1.1880 to

\$1.1665, the lowest for the second position since May 1.

Vietnam's coffee sale plan may not work

HANOI (July 07, 2009): A plan to halt sales of coffee from Vietnam's next 2009/2010 crop in a bid to boost prices will fail on lack of punitive measures and consensus among exporters, traders said on Monday. They said the Vietnam Coffee and cocoa Association, which put forward the sale withholding plan after a meeting late last week, did not have powjy to halt export of the commodity.

Commodity markets stumble onjyS &S omic woes

LONDON (July 05, 2009): World commodity markets were rocked this week by weak data in the United States, a leading consumer of raw materials, which cast doubt on the prospect of a global economic recovery. Data released Thursday showed US job losses surged to 467,000 in June, pushing the unemployment rate to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent.

Indonesia June cocoa exports fall

JAKARTA (July 05, 2009): cocoa bean exports from Indonesia's main cocoa-growing island of Sulawesi dropped 23.36 percent to 32,703.04 in June from a year ago due to lower output, trade data showed on Friday. Bean exports in the first six months of 2009 also fell 25 percent to 99,460.21 tonnes from the same period last year, according to data compiled by the Indonesian cocoa Association (Askindo).

25 reasons to take cocoa products

1. Loaded with more than 300 chemically identifiable compounds
2. Reduces blood pressure
3. Lowers cholesterol
4. Improves insulin levels
5. Contributes to weight loss
6. Loaded with antioxidants
7. Contains fiber
8. Cleanses and detoxifies
9. Strengthens blood vessels
10. Builds cells
11. Supplies crucial minerals
12. Scavenges free radicals
13. Helps fight cancer
14. Fights cellular mutation
15. Restores antioxidant power
16. Strengthens memory
17. Filled with essential oils
18. Strengthens the heart
19. Inhibits platelet formation
20. Boosts sense of well being
21. Rich in fiber and iron
22. Fights dental decay
23. Tastes great
24. Boost sex appetite (Aphrodisiac)
25. Provides energy

