

COPAL COCOA *Info*

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance



Issue No. 356

5th – 9th October 2009

Cocoa Producers' Alliance



UP-COMING EVENTS

- ❖ 16th International Cocoa Research Conference, Hyatt Hotel, Nusa Dua, Denpasar, Bali – Indonesia, 16 – 21 November, 2009.

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- NEW YORK (ICE) FUTURES MARKET UPDATE
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Do your health a favour, drink Cocoa everyday
'It's nature's miracle food'

In the News (from Newspapers worldwide)

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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)
5th October	2,113.67	3,340.23	2,153.33	3,253.00
6th October	2,089.41	3,314.09	2,143.00	3,221.67
7th October	2,103.88	3,336.99	2,157.67	3,245.67
8th October	2,111.70	3,359.44	2,143.67	3,271.00
9th October	2,083.97	3,309.00	2,148.00	3,206.00
Average	2,100.53	3,331.95	2,149.13	3,239.47

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

Monday 5th October 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Dec-09	1980	2133	145	2135	1973	10,581
Mar-09	1999	2153	145	2156	1994	4,014
May-09	2018	2174	146	2178	2015	2,156
Jul-09	1964	2118	142	2122	1962	243
Sep-09	1960	2107	136	1994	1959S	154
Dec-09	1945	2076	120	1945S	1944S	250
Mar-09		2070	121			0
May-09		2068	116			0
Jul-09		2068	116			0
Sep-09		2068	116			0
Totals		2104				17,398

Tuesday 6th October 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	2126	2120	-13	2134	2087	7,743
Mar-09	2146	2144	-9	2155	2113	2,428
May-09	2168	2165	-9	2179S	2134	1,600
Jul-09	2105	2110	-8	2118	2087S	1,579
Sep-09	2101	2101	-6	2110	2082	681
Dec-09	2064	2086	10	2064	2064	3
Mar-09	2078	2077	7	2081S	2058	332
May-09	2084	2078	10	2091	2063	157
Jul-09		2078	10			0
Sep-09		2078	10			0
Totals		2104				14,523

Wednesday 7th October 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	2127	2133	13	2147	2120	3,981
Mar-09	2156	2159	15	2173	2142	1,733
May-09	2177	2181	16	2193	2168	375
Jul-09	2117	2129	19	2132	2117S	106
Sep-09	2114	2120	19	2115	2112	30
Dec-09		2105	19			0
Mar-09	2090	2095	18	2090	2088S	9
May-09	2095	2099	21	2095	2095	5
Jul-09		2099	21			0
Sep-09		2099	21			0
Totals		2122				6,239

Thursday 8th October 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	2135	2125	-8	2146	2122	4,347
Mar-09	2161	2143	-16	2169	2141	1,954
May-09	2181	2163	-18	2189S	2160	421
Jul-09	2121	2114	-15	2135	2112S	1,342
Sep-09	2114	2105	-15	2127S	2108S	222
Dec-09	2102	2090	-15	2115	2093S	45
Mar-09	2092	2080	-15	2092	2089S	10
May-09		2084	-15			0
Jul-09		2084	-15			0
Sep-09		2084	-15			
Totals		2107				8,341

Friday 9th October 2009

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	2140	2127	2	2185	2124	5,983
Mar-09	2159	2146	3	2207	2143	3,539
May-09	2178	2171	8	2230	2167	2,045
Jul-09	2145	2121	7	2170	2120S	151
Sep-09	2159	2113	8	2159S	2142	4
Dec-09		2102	12			0
Mar-09		2095	15			0
May-09		2105	21			0
Jul-09		2120	36			0
Sep-09		2120	36			0
Totals		2122				5,739

Average for the week		2112				10448
Total for the week						52,240

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

Monday 5th October 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	3015	3240	239	3268	2967	18,104
Mar-09	3015	3258	235	3286	2990	2,698
May-09	3011	3270	236	3288	3003	479
Jul-09	2995	3261	236	3267	2995	82
Sep-09	3019	3255	235	3262	3019	20
Dec-09	0	3261	233	0	0	0
Mar-09	0	3261	238	0	0	500
May-09	3199	3283	230	3199	3199	1
Jul-09	0	3263	246	0	0	0
Sep-09	0	3263	246	0	0	0
Totals		3262				21,884

Tuesday 6th October 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	3242	3211	-29	3248	3162	9,550
Mar-09	3253	3234	-24	3263	3185	3,829
May-09	3253	3246	-24	3270	3197	832
Jul-09	3214	3241	-20	3255	3207	183
Sep-09	3211	3238	-17	3248	3205	48
Dec-09	3213	3242	-19	3244	3213	671
Mar-09	3242	3232	-29	3242	3200	315
May-09	3254	3240	-43	3255	3211	259
Jul-09	0	3220	-43	0	0	0
Sep-09	0	3220	-43	0	0	0
Totals		3232				15,687

Wednesday 7th October 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	3209	3242	31	3257	3206	4,940
Mar-09	3235	3264	30	3280	3235	1,747
May-09	3269	3272	26	3279	3255	368
Jul-09	3266	3266	25	3268	3262	48
Sep-09	3260	3262	24	3269	3258	139
Dec-09	3255	3262	20	3260	3255	134
Mar-09	3250	3257	25	3259	3245	723
May-09	0	3264	24	0	0	0
Jul-09	0	3254	34	0	0	0
Sep-09	0	3254	34	0	0	0
Totals		3260				8,099

Thursday 8th October 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	3245	3244	2	3280	3232	7,005
Mar-09	3263	3266	2	3303	3258	1,451
May-09	3288	3273	1	3299	3274	567
Jul-09	3286	3269	3	3290	3286	54
Sep-09	0	3265	3	0	0	3
Dec-09	0	3264	2	0	0	2
Mar-09	3276	3260	3	3276	3276	2
May-09	0	3265	1	0	0	0
Jul-09	0	3260	6	0	0	0
Sep-09	0	3260	6	0	0	0
Totals		3263				9,084

Friday 9th October 2009

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec-09	3247	3243	-1	3329	3175	N/A
Mar-09	3266	3265	-1	3350	3200	N/A
May-09	3274	3269	-4	3291	3211	N/A
Jul-09	3290	3272	3	3290	3215	N/A
Sep-09	3217	3270	5	3224	3217	N/A
Dec-09	0	3268	4	0	0	N/A
Mar-09	3272	3255	-5	3275	3261	N/A
May-09	0	3263	-2	0	0	N/A
Jul-09	0	3258	-2	0	0	N/A
Sep-09	0	3258	-2	0	0	N/A
Totals		3262				-

Average for the week		3256				10,951
Total for the week						65,705

Sport Prices (US \$ per tone)

	5th October	6th October	7th October	8th October	9th October
Main Crop Ghana, Grade 1	3763	3734	3765	N/A	N/A
Main Crop Ivory Coast, Grade 1	3623	3594	3625	N/A	N/A
Main Crop Nigeria, Grade 1	3615	3586	3617	N/A	N/A
Ecuador ASE	3377	3348	3379	N/A	N/A
Sanchez F.A.Q.	3428	3399	3430	N/A	N/A
Indonesian F.A.Q. 115/100				N/A	N/A
P.P.P. African Type Carton Cocoa Butter	3399	3314	3345	N/A	N/A

Source: Cocoa Merchant Association

Health and Nutrition

The power of chocolate

gair rhydd - Priya Raj - Oct 9, 2009

Science suggests that the feel-good hormones triggered by the sweet treat actually make it good for your health...Chocolate. Say it slowly and it sounds almost as good as it tastes. Derived from the cocoa bean, chocolate has always been considered a food of pleasure, something to enjoy on occasion as a special treat. But now there is increasing evidence and research into the potential health benefits this divine food may have to offer.

Humans have consumed chocolate for more than 2000 years. It was first discovered by the ancient peoples of Mexico and Central America, where the cocoa tree (technically known as *Theobroma Cacao*) grew in the local rainforests. The cocoa was used to fight parasites, heal snakebites, and as a general antiseptic.

The Maya people of the area harvested cacao beans from trees that grew wild in the rain forest, and went on to farm them in what became the first known cocoa plantations. Later on, Spanish conquistadors took the seeds of the cacao tree to Spain.

The popularity of drinking chocolate soon spread throughout Europe and variations were developed, altering its texture and flavour. In the early Victorian era, a technique was devised to make chocolate solid. From then its popularity as a confectionary soared.

It is important to remember that chocolate and cocoa are two different terms and are not interchangeable. Cocoa is the non-fat component of cocoa liquor (finely ground cocoa beans) which is used in chocolate making or as cocoa powder (commonly 12% fat) for cooking and drinks. Cocoa liquor contains approximately 55% cocoa butter and together this comprises cocoa solids, often referred to on chocolate packaging. Chocolate refers to the combination of cocoa, cocoa butter, sugar, etc. into a solid food product.

Cocoa is rich in molecules called polyphenols, similar to those present in green tea. Those compounds of specific interest are flavanols (also known as flavan-3-ols or catechins). Flavanols are a subclass of flavonoids which are, in turn, a subclass of polyphenols.

In 1996, a letter was published describing an experiment that was to create a whole new area of nutrition and health. It was Waterhouse and his colleagues who extracted polyphenols from commercial cocoa and chocolate. They discovered the flavonoids present to be powerful antioxidants (a group of molecules aimed at protecting cells against damaging molecules produced as a result of environmental exposures). Antioxidants are thought to be effective in helping to prevent cancer, heart disease and stroke. This was the first publication to state that the action and content of polyphenols from cocoa meant that it could be considered as a dietary source of antioxidants.

It was ten years later a group of scientists discovered the predominant antioxidant present to be procyanidin. In addition the researchers found natural cocoa powders (in dark chocolate) contained the highest levels of such antioxidants with milk based chocolate containing the least amount of cocoa solids and thus fewer antioxidants.

This simplified description of dark and milk chocolate is complicated by the fact that polyphenols can be destroyed during the processing of the raw cocoa depending on the manufacturing methods used. So a chocolate may contain 70% cocoa solids but due to processing only contain the same content of polyphenols as a normal milk chocolate.

How would a consumer know that the dark chocolate they are buying is a good source of polyphenols? Unfortunately, there is no easy way of telling.

Chocolate is also capable of affecting the brain via the release of neurotransmitters. Neurotransmitters are the molecules that transmit signals between neurons. The amounts of particular neurotransmitters we have at any

given time can have a great impact on our mood. Happy neurotransmitters such as endorphins and other opiates can help to reduce stress and lead to feelings of euphoria.

As connections between neurons, they are released from the pre-synaptic membrane and travel across the synaptic cleft to react with receptors in the post-synaptic membrane. Receptors are specified to react with particular molecules which can trigger different responses in the connected neurons. The proper neurotransmitter can trigger certain emotions.

Eating chocolate increases the levels of endorphins released into the brain, giving credence to the claim that chocolate is a comfort food. The endorphins work to lessen pain and decrease stress.

Another common neurotransmitter affected by chocolate is serotonin. Serotonin is known as an anti-depressant. One of the chemicals which causes the release of serotonin is tryptophan found in, among other things, chocolate.

One of the more unique neurotransmitters released by chocolate is phenylethylamine. This so called “chocolate amphetamine” causes changes in blood pressure and blood-sugar levels leading to feelings of excitement and alertness. It works like amphetamines to increase mood and decrease depression, but it does not result in the same tolerance or addiction.

Another interesting compound found in chocolate is the lipid anandamide. Anandamide is unique due to its resemblance to THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), a chemical found in marijuana.

Both activate the same receptor which causes the production of dopamine, a neurotransmitter which leads to feelings of well being that people associate with a high.

Anandamide, found naturally in the brain, breaks down very rapidly. Besides adding to the levels of anandamide, chocolate also contains two other chemicals which work to slow the breakdown of the anandamide, thus extending the feelings of well-being.

Even though the anandamide in chocolate helps to create feelings of elation, the effect is not the same as the THC in marijuana. THC reacts with receptors more widely dispersed in the brain and is present in much larger amounts. It would take twenty-five pounds of chocolate to achieve a similar high to that of marijuana.

Chocolate is predominantly a food for pleasure, and many people incorporate it into part of a healthy, varied and balanced diet. However, there is controversy over whether it should be recommended for its health benefits. It is also difficult to establish how much chocolate and what type to recommend for such health benefits. Until there is greater information regarding the long term effects of chocolate on our health, it is best to consume in moderation.

Eat up: Chocolate may reduce risks of heart disease

by Therese Ruiz

Oct 08, 2009

Medill Reports: Chicago

Study: Cocoa's Effects on Heart Disease

Dynamic Confection's Web site Don't pass on that candy bar just yet. A recent study by the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Barcelona says a diet high in dark chocolate can actually help ward off heart disease.

To ward off a potentially life-threatening condition that can require open-heart surgery, participants in a recent study were given 40 g of concentrated cocoa powder, eight times more than the normal serving size found in a chocolate bar.

The study, recently published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, observed 42 volunteers who were considered high-risk for atherosclerosis. The heart disease, also known as Arteriosclerotic Vascular Disease or ASVD, is the result of fatty-acid or cholesterol build-up in the arteries.

The dark chocolate helps boost the body's level of flavonoids, a beneficial compound typically found in tea, vegetables and fruits that promote anti-inflammatory responses, according to the findings of the study. The

boost in flavonoid numbers from the chocolate targets the hardened arterial walls and naturally promotes their elasticity. While almost all participants experienced some sort of positive anti-inflammatory response, the results are still being considered controversial because results from previous studies differed.

But Gale Rudolph, vice president of functional foods at Salt Lake City-based candy company Dynamic Confections, said that chocolate has more than one inherent health benefit.

“Some exciting information on chocolate is it seems to affect the blood vessel lining,” she said. Flavonoids also help to modulate the levels of nitric oxide in the body. Because the study indicates more flavonoids are pumped into the blood stream during chocolate consumption, the nitric oxide would better supply oxygenated blood to the organs. “The effect is such that people who eat chocolate fare better on blood pressure, which is a risk factor when it comes to things like heart disease,” Rudolph explained.

The results from various medical studies on chocolate indicate that cocoa content is a major contributing factor to the positive results. Dark chocolate has a higher concentration of flavonoids than other types with less cocoa content (such as semi-sweet, milk chocolate, Dutch-treated cocoa powders and white chocolate). Darker, richer varieties of chocolates are the ones that will do the most good over time.

The studies don’t indicate the impact other added ingredients have on chocolate’s overall health effects, though. If your favorites involve chopped nuts, fruit, or bits of puffed rice, you’ll still get the heart-healthy benefits from the cocoa concentration, said Dr. Carol Fischer, a solo-practitioner. But she cautioned that the addition of fruit and nuts doesn’t necessarily make the bar healthy. “Dried fruits have a lot more calories because they’re artificially sweetened,” she said.

And what about those extra indulgences, like bacon? Chicago-based Vosage’s infamously decadent Mo’s Dark Bacon Bar combines heart-healthy dark chocolate with bacon, adding more fat. At 16 g of total fat per 43 g serving size, this bar contains almost 10 percent more fat than a Hershey’s Dark Chocolate bar (12 g total fat per 41 g serving size).

The sweet sugary chocolate and salty, sodium-packed bacon pairing makes for an interesting conundrum. But, for Rudolph, the huge flavor impact ensures there’s no worries when it comes to a little indulgence. Moderation is the key.

“It’s like eating pixies from Fannie Mae,” she said. “You can only have a couple. It’s a nibble kind of thing, not like you’re having a meal out of it.”

A Woman’s Heart, Eating Chocolate May Reduce Risk of Cardiac Death After Heart Attack

EmpowHer (blog) - Oct 5, 2009

At last! Science has finally begun to validate my long-held personal belief in the beneficial power of chocolate! We know that chocolate, particularly dark chocolate, is beneficial to our heart health.

Chocolate is loaded with flavonoids which have powerful antioxidant properties known to be beneficial to our heart health and protect and repair against environmental toxins and damage caused by free radicals. What we are just now learning is that chocolate may also be beneficial to your heart health after a heart attack as well.

A joint US-Swedish study recently released results from an eight (8) year program indicating that consumption of chocolate may be beneficial in reducing your risk of dying of heart disease even if you have already suffered a heart attack. This was the first study to specifically track the effects of chocolate on heart health after a heart attack. During the course of the study, the researchers followed 1169 men and women after they suffered their first heart attack. All participants were non-diabetic. The researches controlled for variables such as age, sex, obesity, physical activity/inactivity, smoking, education, etc.

After considering the impact of the various variables, the researchers found that the participants who consumed greater amounts of chocolate had a greater survival rate than those consuming lesser amounts of chocolate. Yes, you heard me right. The relationship was directly proportional to the amount of chocolate the participants consumed. The more chocolate consumed, the better the survival rate!

The researchers reported the following regarding reduction of risk of cardiac death as it related to the consumption of chocolate:

- Chocolate consumed less than once a month: 27% reduction
- Chocolate consumed once a week: 44% reduction
- Chocolate consumed 2 or more times a week: 66% reduction

I don't care how you look at it, a 66% reduction in risk of cardiac death is significant! I like it!

Before stocking up on a year's supply of chocolate, the study did come with a few "buyer-bewares."

- The study was observational and not a randomized trial so cause and effect cannot be "proven."
- Researchers did not control for other variables, such as mental health, which might account for the reduction in the risk of death.
- Researchers did not control for the type of chocolate consumed and no distinction was made between the consumption of dark versus milk chocolate. Dark chocolate is known to possess more flavonoids than milk chocolate and is more beneficial heart health.
- The overall risk of a non-fatal cardiac event was not reduced.

Personally, I like the results. A 66% reduction in the risk of cardiac death after a heart attack sounds great to me even with the "holes" in the study. Of course, I'm bringing my own personal prejudices into this since I'm a confirmed chocoholic! I'm hoping that this study will not be the last and that the next one will prove the relationship! What a sweet way to protect your heart! I have to go eat chocolate now.

Until next time, here's wishing you a healthy heart.

Sources:

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Production & Quality

CORRECTED-POLL-Ivorian 09/10 cocoa crop seen 1 mln-1.15 mln T

Published: 09 Oct 2009

ABIDJAN, Sept 30 - Ivory Coast's cocoa harvest is set to fall again with output for 2009/10 crop likely to range between 1 million and 1.15 million tonnes, a Reuters poll of exporters and traders in the world's top grower found on Wednesday. The eight organisations polled saw the October-March main crop ranging from 800,000-950,000 tonnes and put the smaller mid-crop between 150,000-250,000 tonnes.

Reflecting market perceptions that have already pushed cocoa prices to multi-month highs in New York and London, four of the organisations also predicted a global cocoa supply deficit of up to 100,000 tonnes next year as world demand rises.

The Ivorian crop estimates fall short of the output for the current season ending on Wednesday, with port arrivals already around 1.19 million tonnes. They support perceptions of a slow decline in Ivorian production after output remained stable at around 1.3 million tonnes despite years of political crisis. "There is a lack of support from the structures in the sector for the producers. The quality of the product is often poor and the farms are not well maintained or treated," said an exporter, who like all others, asked not to be named.

Other exporters and traders interviewed echoed analysts' concerns over ageing cocoa trees, the spread of disease and the lack of reform of a poorly managed sector. "Quality is a concern. So is the organisation of the sector," another exporter said.

The Ivorian cocoa sector is being managed by an interim committee after administrators were replaced following investigations into graft last year.

ELECTIONS CONCERNS

Concrete reforms hinge on elections which were first due in 2005 and are now meant to take place on Nov. 29. Most observers say the polls are likely to be further delayed by several months. "It is clear that there is a lot of speculation at the moment because the market is anticipating problems here because of the elections," Paul de Petter, manager of Swiss chocolate firm Barry Callebaut, told Reuters. Four of the organisations polled also gave a forecast on the global cocoa supply and demand balance, foreseeing a deficit ranging between 30,000 and 100,000 tonnes, which was largely dependent on the state of the global economy.

A deficit in 2009/10 would be the fourth in as many crops.

Increased cocoa grindings as the global economic crisis eases and fears over the Ivorian crop have helped support international cocoa futures prices, which have been hitting multi-month highs in both New York and London this month.

The prices have since eased somewhat. London March cocoa was trading at 2,073 pounds per tonne at 1236 GMT while ICE December cocoa was trading at \$3,115 per tonne.

Foreign-based cocoa traders interviewed in the crop poll tended to give estimates at the higher end of the spectrum while Ivory Coast-based firms generally gave figures at the lower end.

The estimates from exporters and traders follow a prediction last week by Gilbert Ano, the head of the interim body currently managing the Ivorian cocoa sector, that the 2009/10 crop would be either level with or lower than the 2008/09 harvest.

A leaked report prepared by former colonial power France's embassy in Abidjan this month predicted a 100,000-tonne fall due to poor management and the lack of reforms.

Large-Scale Main Cocoa Harvest Starts In SW Nigeria In Nov

October 10, 2009

ILE-IFE, Nigeria (Dow Jones)--Large-scale harvesting of the 2009-10 main crop of cocoa is expected to begin in southwestern Nigeria next month following the cessation of heavy rain, traders said Saturday. "We will see the big cocoa harvest in November and December when the climate will be dry and sunny, making it possible for pods to ripen," said Tunde Omosola, a trader in Ile-Ife, an important cocoa-growing and marketing center in Osun state. He said farmers will begin "an all-out harvest of ripe cocoa pods next month" while a lack of rain and the dry and sunny weather will make it possible for farmers to dry their beans properly in the sun.

The rainy season is usually seen in the southwest cocoa belt between May and October while the dry season runs from November to April. The pattern of the rains during May and October determines the yield of the main crop, which farmers harvest from September to January or February. The midcrop is harvested from April to July or August.

Cocoa trees seemed to be carrying numerous big, healthy-looking pods in the farms at the villages of Aroko, Isoya, Iyanforogi and Erefe in the Ile-Ife area. There were other pods of various sizes on the trees. Farmers took advantage of the cessation of rain to harvest more main crop cocoa while already-fermented cocoa were spread out on drying slabs.

Omosola said he has bought 25 tons of cocoa since the main crop harvest began in September, adding, "I will buy a bigger volume before the end of the month." He said harvest of the main crop may stretch to February while its marketing could go on until late March, when next year's midcrop harvest is expected to start.

The southwest cocoa belt accounts for 70% of Nigeria's annual cocoa production of 250,000 metric tons.

SW Nigeria Graded Cocoa Rise To 440,000 Naira/Ton -Buyers

October 9, 2009

IBADAN, Nigeria (Dow Jones)--Graded cocoa prices in southwestern Nigeria have risen to 440,000 naira (\$2,913) a metric ton, up from NGN420,000 last week, buyers said Friday. Graded cocoa has been inspected and certified fit for export by government produce inspectors.

A buyer in Akure, capital of Ondo state, attributed the rise to the larger volume of 2009-10 main-crop cocoa (September-January) in the market and the good quality of the beans. "Farmers are harvesting more of the main crop. Sunshine is adequate, but there is occasional rainfall. The weather is generally good," he told Dow Jones Newswires. He said cocoa quality is "excellent, because the occasional rainfall is interspersed by sunny days. Farmers are fermenting the main crop properly and drying the beans well."

Harvesting of the main crop began slowly in mid-September but has picked up considerably, and farmers have more cocoa to sell to local buying agents, or LBAs, who buy on behalf of exporters.

The buyer said the rainy season was at its end, and farmers have no fear of diseases such as the black pod that destroys around 40% of Nigeria's annual cocoa yield if farms are untreated.

The rainy season runs from May to October, while the dry season is between November and April, when cocoa quality is at its best because of adequate sunshine to dry the beans.

Another trader in Ile-Ife, an important cocoa-growing and marketing center in Osun state, said cocoa prices are also higher, at NGN440,000, in the state, the second-largest cocoa producer in the southwest after Ondo state. "We are fully into the main crop period now with the end of the mid-crop cocoa harvest in early September," he said.

The main crop beans are bigger and heavier than mid-crop beans and, as a result, command a higher price. The southwest cocoa belt accounts for 70% of Nigeria's annual cocoa production of 250,000 tons.

ANALYSIS-No quick fix for Ivorian cocoa decline

By Mark John

DAKAR, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Long-term decline in Ivory Coast's cocoa sector is helping to create a stubborn supply shortfall on world markets that will buoy prices, despite efforts by competing growers to exploit the top producer's problems. Cocoa futures have raced to new highs in London and New York this week, brushing aside encouraging news on harvests in world number two grower Ghana and in Indonesia. The London market hit its highest in nearly 25 years on Wednesday. [ID:nL7603494]

While the rally has been largely driven by a wave of automatic buy orders, analysts said concerns over the Ivorian sector provided the backdrop to the surge and would continue to support market prices for the foreseeable future. "It's always going to be the case that Ivory Coast is crucial to setting the dynamic," said Barcap analyst Nicholas Snowden of a country which accounts for around a third of global output, despite years of underinvestment and lack of reform that have hit bean quality and volume.

"Apart from Ghana, the consensus is to be sceptical about the prospect of year-on-year gains elsewhere -- for that you need the political will," he said of aspirations by growers in West Africa and elsewhere to step into Ivory Coast's shoes.

In an investment note, Barcap predicted a deficit of some 164,000 tonnes in the global cocoa market for 2008/09 and a shortfall of 100,000 tonnes in the coming season creating scope for the ICE futures contract to trade over \$3,500/T.

That tallied with the result of a Reuters poll in late September in which four organisations predicted a global supply deficit of up to 100,000 tonnes next year. [ID:nLT706017]

DEADLOCK

While Ivorian farmers braved a 2002-2003 civil war to get their beans to port at the rate of 1.3 million tonnes a year, the subsequent political limbo has slowly taken its toll. Ivory Coast closed the book on its worst harvest in five years on Monday, with 2008/09 port arrivals lagging last year's total by 14 percent at 1.178 million tonnes.

In a first sign that the new season could be even weaker, exporters estimated port arrivals in the week to Oct. 4 at 6,500 tonnes, 3,000 tonnes down on a year earlier. A chronic lack of infrastructure, insufficient efforts to tackle pod disease and a tax regime that makes Ivorian farmers among the worst paid cocoa growers in the world all contribute to a sector stuck in a rut.

Only a newly-mandated government is now seen able to enact long overdue reforms -- but a political deadlock in Abidjan has delayed polls for four years and few analysts seriously believe the latest Nov. 29 target date will be met.

Last week's announcement by Ivorian authorities of a small cut in the DUS (Droit Unique de Sortie) tax paid by exporters and a 35 percent rise in the indicative farmgate price payable to farmers met widespread market scepticism. "The farmgate price is irrelevant because there is no way of enforcing it," said a U.S. based cocoa analyst. "Farmers hear about it but they don't get it, so they become discontented."

BACK TO POLITICS

Growers such as Ghana and Cameroon have spotted a gap in the market, but have not yet persuaded buyers they are capable of transforming supply fundamentals.

Ghana's 2008/09 harvest hit 703,000 tonnes, up from 680,000 the year before and its third best result since 1965, industry sources said on Monday. But that remains short of a target of one million tonnes which it last month pushed back from 2011 to 2012. [ID:nL454500] Fifth-largest grower Cameroon is looking to double output to over 400,000 tonnes a year through subsidies for yield-boosting pesticides and infrastructure improvements, but has so far been coy about when it might achieve that.

News last week showing a six percent drop in Nigeria's cocoa exports to 149,050 tonnes for the 10 months of the season so far only underlined the gradual slump in a sector which at its 1970s peak churned out 400,000 tonnes a year. "West Africa has not replanted enough to renovate the plantations," said Ricardo Santos, senior broker at Fortis Commodities Derivatives, noting that regional efforts to raise yields could be stymied by currently high fertiliser prices.

Against such a backdrop, attention will inevitably focus on the political scene in Ivory Coast.

At present, fears that unrest could lead to disruption of the supply chain are balanced by the more optimistic reading that, after cajoling from international partners, Ivorian authorities will be ready to stage polls in early 2010. "The election could be crucial. If it passes peacefully, it could mark a turnaround for the sector," said Barcap's Snowden, while noting that even then, any sector reform drive would not have immediate results.

Ghana 08/09 cocoa harvest up at 703,000 tonnes

Mon Oct 5, 2009 4:27pm GMT

ACCRA (Reuters) - Ghana's full season 2008/09 cocoa harvest was 703,000 tonnes, up from 680,000 tonnes in the previous season and the third highest since 1965, an industry source said on Monday. "This year, the season has been good and we have hit the 700,000 (tonnes) mark," the source said.

The cocoa season in Ghana, the world's second largest producer after neighbouring Ivory Coast, closed on September 24. Industry regulator Cocobod is preparing to open the 2009/10 cocoa season next week, and is targeting purchases of at least 670,000 tonnes.

Ghana's crop total, up 3 percent on the previous year, comes as Ivory Coast begins its new season with modest expectations after enduring a 2008/09 harvest that finished down 14 percent on the previous year.

The producer price is set at the beginning of each buying season

Joy Online, 6 October 2009

Ghana Cocoa Board says it will soon announce a new cocoa producer price to commence the 2009/2010 produce buying season. The board was reacting to concerns that a delay in the announcement of the new producer price is encouraging smuggling across the border into Cote d'Ivoire, another cocoa producing country where the new buying season has commenced.

The deputy public affairs officer at COCOBOD, Mr Kwesi Kwakye, tells Joy Business a series of meetings to agree on the new price have already been held, adding that the new price should be out before the end of the week. The producer price, which is what farmers in the country are paid for their produce is set at the beginning of each buying season.

At Yaw Matwa, one of the border towns in the Western Region, smugglers are said to be paying as much as GHc170 per bag of cocoa; GHc50, more than the old producer price.

80% Cameroon 2008-09 Cocoa Beans Shipped To Netherlands = NCCB

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (Dow Jones);At least 80% of the cocoa beans output in Cameroon in the 2008-09 season was exported to the Netherlands, data published Tuesday by commodity regulator the National Cocoa and Coffee Board, or NCCB, show. Cocoa output in Cameroon's 2008-09 season, which runs from August to July, hit a 20-year high of 210,605 metric tons, up from 187,500 tons on the year, NCCB statistics said.

The Dutch-bound cocoa beans were mainly shipped by the two leading cocoa exporters in Cameroon, Cargill inc. and Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM), which both have cocoa entry location in the Netherlands, the figures showed.

China, India, the U.K., Belgium and Italy were among the new importers of Cameroon's cocoa in the 2008-09 season. Asian cocoa grower Malaysia imported 4.58% of the Cameroon's cocoa. "If Malaysia is importing our cocoa, we believe it is because Cameroon's cocoa has a rare characteristic - naturally colored with a peculiar dark-red - that makes it highly appreciated by several cocoa consumers," NCCB Managing Director Michael Ndoping told Dow Jones Newswires.

Cocoa plantation to double by 2020

Published: 2009/10/06

Business Times - Malaysia

MALAYSIA'S cocoa plantation is expected to double to 40,000 hectares by 2020, said Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry Deputy Minister, Datuk Hamzah Zainudin. He said the cocoa industry not only had good prospects for further development but had the potential to improve the nation's economy.

Hamzah also said RM83 million has been allocated under the Ninth Malaysia Plan for the cultivation of cocoa plantations. While saying that 2,000 hectares will be developed each year, he added that each cocoa smallholder would be given an incentive of RM6,500 per hectare and provided with high quality cocoa clones.

Hamzah was speaking to reporters after opening a cocoa course for 150 cocoa growers at the Malaysian Cocoa Board's research and development centre in Jengka, Pahang today. He, however, said Malaysia still had to import cocoa as the country's output was limited. "Cocoa can bring in good returns if it is cultivated aggressively as demand was growing for the commodity in the chocolate and cosmetic industry. " The commodity is now fetching almost RM10,000 per metric tonne and the price could soar further if high quality clones are used to cultivate cocoa," he added.

Rain misses some Ivory Coast cocoa plantations

Mon Oct 5, 2009

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's cocoa plantations got a patchy mix of sun and rain last week, leaving some growing regions well-watered and others too dry, farmers said on Monday. Healthy rainfall amounts in October, the start of the October-September season, are key to good early-season output through December and January, the growers said. "It rained in places last week and it was very hot," said farmer Marcel Aka, who grows near Daloa. "In my zone, many farmers are not happy with the level of rainfall."

The Daloa region accounts for about a quarter of Ivory Coast cocoa production. Similar growing conditions were reported by farmers in the southern region of Divo, and in the central regions of Yamoussoukro and Toumodi. In the western region of Soubre, at the heart of the cocoa belt, farmers reported no downpours last week -- just sunshine conducive to drying beans. "I did not see any rain last week. The sun was shining a lot and that's good for drying," said Roger Tano who farms on the outskirts of Soubre. "I think it is too early to worry about the lack of rainfall, he said.

The 2008-09 season ended with cocoa arrivals at 1,178,526 tonnes, their lowest in at least five years, with plantations dogged by poor growing conditions and years of underinvestment. A Reuters poll last week showed exporters expect the 2009-10 season to be worse, with arrivals totalling some 1-1.5 million tonnes.

Ivory Coast cocoa season ends 14 pct below last year

Mon Oct 5, 2009

By Ange Aboa

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - The world's biggest cocoa supplier, Ivory Coast, closed the book on its worst harvest in at least five years on Monday, and exporters aren't expecting the new season to be any better. Loads of cocoa

beans arriving at ports from the West African nation's plantations lagged last year by nearly 14 percent, reaching just 1,178,526 tonnes during the October 1 through September 30 season, according to official data.

Weak production from the key world exporter, scarred by a 2002-03 civil war and racked by years of underinvestment, can bolster cocoa prices on the London and New York exchanges by restricting supply to market.

Last year, cocoa arrivals at the main ports of Abidjan and San Pedro hit 1,367,877 tonnes -- the second best performance since the 2004-05 season thanks to good growing weather. But black pod disease and crumbling infrastructure have weighed heavily on Ivory Coast cocoa output.

Exporters polled by Reuters last week said they projected the 2009-2010 season to run between 1 and 1.15 million tonnes. During the first four days of the new season, cocoa arrivals hit 6,500 tonnes, according to exporter estimates, well below last year's 9,692 tonnes for the same period. "The quality is good and there's no evidence of problems with the beans. We hope it continues like that. Last year there were too many problems," said the director of an export company in San Pedro.

Indonesia Sep Cocoa Bean Exports Down 64% On Mo At 17,264 Tons.

JAKARTA, Oct 06, 2009 (Dow Jones Commodities News via Comtex) -- Indonesia's September cocoa bean exports fell 64% from August to 17,264 metric tons, according to data from Indonesia's Cocoa Association Tuesday. Exports dropped sharply in September as exporters had depleted stocks after large shipments the month before, and August had marked the end of the main harvest season, said an association official.

Compared with last September, the exports were up 35%, according to the data. Exports during the first nine months of 2009 reached 193,576 tons, almost unchanged from 193,711 tons during the same period last year. Indonesia mainly exports cocoa beans to Malaysia, Brazil and the U.S. It is the world's third-largest producer of cocoa after the Ivory Coast and Ghana.

The Market

Cocoa prices at highest for two decades

- 11 Oct 2009

Cocoa prices have been quietly but steadily rising in London, this week reaching their highest point in the last two decades. Grindings for December delivery have climbed 11pc over the past year reaching £2,133 per ton. During Friday's trading it rose as high as £2147 per ton. Shortages have been caused by poor harvests on the Ivory Coast, which grows 40pc of the world's beans, and El Nino turbulence in Indonesia and Ecuador. Macquarie Bank has predicted that the market will be undersupplied by 38,000 tons in the 2009 to 2010 season which began on October 1.

Cocoa Hits a 15-Month High

Printed in The Wall Street Journal, page C9

5 Oct. 09

By TOM SELLEN



U.S. cocoa futures rallied to a new life-of-contract and 15-month high on speculative fund buying attributed mainly to strong technical charts and bullish fundamental news. Nearby December cocoa on ICE Futures U.S. gained \$239, or 8%, to settle at \$3,240 a metric ton, near the session top of \$3,268 a ton. This was the highest price nearby cocoa futures have reached since July 2008, when the market rallied to \$3,385 a ton, the exchange record for an intraday high. Bulls spurred the rally when they pushed prices through Friday's high and then through significant technical chart resistance at \$3,155-\$3,158 a ton.

The move activated preprogrammed buy orders, which attracted a wave of technical chart-based buyers to the market, said Boyd Cruel, senior softs analyst at Vision Financial Markets in Chicago.

Concerns about global crop production also lent support. Significant losses have been seen in the 2008-09 crop in the Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer of cocoa beans.

"The Ivory Coast harvest is reported 14% below last year's number, which the market has been digesting for a while," said Sterling Smith, analyst and broker at Country Hedging in St. Paul.

The current 2009-10 global cocoa deficit of 56,000 tons could widen in theory if the El Niño weather phenomenon hampers production in Indonesia, the world's third-largest producer, BNP Paribas Fortis said in a research note. El Niño, a warming of Pacific equatorial waters, can affect weather patterns. Drought in Indonesia is one possible effect.

In other commodity markets:

GOLD: Prices surged when initial gains inspired by dollar weakness triggered buying as the market rose above last week's high, analysts said. Nearby October gold rose \$13.50 to settle at \$1,016.70 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, while most-active December gold gained \$13.50 to \$1,017.80

NATURAL GAS: Benchmark futures rose to their highest since mid-January, briefly rising above \$5 a million British thermal units as traders eyed forecasts for cold weather in major gas-consuming regions in coming weeks. Gas for November delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange settled 26.9 cents higher, or 5.7%, at \$4.987/MMBtu.

Cocoa jumps on poor African crops outlook

By Chris Flood, The Financial Times Limited 2009

October 5 2009

Cocoa prices jumped sharply on Monday, outperforming other soft commodities, as concerns about the outlook for this year's harvest in Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, encouraged fund buying. Liffe March cocoa leapt 7.4 per cent to £2,156 a tonne while ICE December cocoa jumped 8.3 per cent to \$3,250 a tonne. Some traders are concerned that the cocoa market could face a supply deficit for a fourth year in succession as yields from ageing cocoa trees in the Ivory Coast have been affected by disease.

Later this week, analysts should see third-quarter grindings (wholesale demand) data which should give a clearer idea as to whether the market has ended destocking and demand is improving.

Market talk suggested Friday's price rise could be down to buying by Deutsche Bank following a reweighting of some of its agricultural and commodity index funds as a result of US regulators' push to impose position limits.

Sugar prices rose amid more concerns about bad weather affecting output in Brazil and India, the world's largest producers. Sugar output in Brazil's Centre South, the largest cane-growing region, will be at least 2m tonnes less than the 32.2m tonnes estimated in July, according to FCStone, the consultancy.

In India, floods have affected sugar production in parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. These southern states historically produced almost a quarter of India's sugar. "About two-thirds of the 54 sugar mills [in Karnataka] have been forced to delay crushing by a week to 10 days as cane fields are submerged," said Govind Reddy of the Southern Indian Sugar Mills Association.

ICE March sugar rallied 1.6 per cent to 24.15 cents a pound. Liffe December white sugar rose 1.4 per cent to \$598 a tonne after hitting a record \$621 a tonne last Thursday. "How much damage has been done [in India] is unclear so far but 'material' in a very tight sugar market isn't very large," said Tobin Gorey, commodity strategist at JPMorgan.

Coffee prices were little changed with ICE December arabica up 0.2 per cent at \$1.3025 a pound.

Crude oil prices were mixed with Nymex November West Texas Intermediate up 46 cents at \$70.41 a barrel while ICE November Brent dipped 3 cents at \$68.04 a barrel. Francisco Blanch, head of global commodities research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, says crude prices could spike above the \$100 a barrel level entering 2011 without firm policy action to reduce global oil demand. He said oil prices were the rope in a tug of war between the US and Asia over energy supplies which could put recovery in the global economy at risk as early as the second half of next year.

Spot Gold rose 0.3 per cent in New York to finish at a new high of \$1,017.60. a troy ounce.

SOFTS-London cocoa sets 24-1/2 yr peak, sugar also up

By Nigel Hunt

LONDON, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Cocoa futures soared to a 24-1/2 year high in London on Monday with fund buying possibly providing the spark to trigger a wave of automatic buy-stops against a backdrop of bullish fundamentals. Prices on both Liffe and ICE suddenly surged with the U.S. market rising almost \$200 within a minute. "It could have been buying by a big fund (which triggered the rise). We're a bit bemused," one London dealer said.

December cocoa on ICE rose to a peak \$3,268 a tonne before the exchange cancelled all transactions at or above \$3,256. The front month ended nearly eight percent higher at \$3,240 a tonne after subsequently setting a new peak of \$3,259 a tonne. March cocoa futures in London ended 145 pounds higher at 2,153 pounds a tonne after setting a 24-1/2 year high for the benchmark second month of 2,156 pounds. NYSE Liffe said all trades in the London market would stand.

Dealers said market fundamentals remained bullish, buoyed by declining production in Ivory Coast and talk that demand may be beginning to revive after a downturn earlier this year. The world's biggest cocoa supplier, Ivory Coast, closed the book on its worst harvest in at least five years on Monday, and exporters aren't expecting the new season to be any better.

BNP Paribas (BNPQY.PK - news - people) Fortis (FORSY.PK - news - people), in a report issued last week, forecast a global cocoa deficit of 56,000 tonnes in 2009/10 versus a shortfall of 28,000 tonnes in 2008/09. "We know there is not going to be enough, it is just (a question of) how far short we fall," one London dealer said.

SUGAR REBOUND

Raw and white sugar futures also rose as markets rebounded after steep losses on Friday with concern about excessive rains in top producer Brazil providing background support. Dealers said the sugar market may struggle to revisit recent highs unless there was renewed offtake from key importers. "We've had a bit of a bounce but I don't think we are going anywhere fast. There is a lot of selling above \$600 (on December whites in London)," one London dealer said.

December whites in London were up \$7.80 at \$597.60 a tonne at 1627 GMT. The contract fell \$19.50 on Friday and now stands well below a record peak for the front month of \$621.00 set on Oct. 1. Dealers said the rise had been driven partly by reduced crop prospects in Brazil following excessive rains. Sugar output in Brazil's centre-south in 2009/10 will be down at least 2 million tonnes from the 32.2 million tonnes estimate in July as rains reduced cane quality, trader-consultant FCStone said on Friday. Dealers said, however, that much of the bullish news was already factored into prices.

They also noted that Brazilian sugar exports remained well above year-ago levels. "I do think the bullish fundamentals have got the upper hand but I would like to see a bit more real demand developing at these levels," said Rabobank soft commodity trader Nick Hungate. March raw sugar futures on ICE stood 0.37 cent higher at 24.15 cents a lb. The contract briefly slid below its 40-day moving average of 23.78 cents on Friday but finished at that level. "If we take that out (support at the 40-day moving average) we will get more long liquidation," one dealer said.

Coffee futures were little changed with the market's run-up late last week showing signs of stalling. Dealers said the coffee market's advance had been fuelled largely by an expected build-up in the fund long position, driven partly by a rebalancing by Deutsche Bank (DB - news - people).

Fundamentals remain bearish, however, with a large Vietnamese crop expected to start arriving in Europe in the next few weeks while Brazil's next harvest a higher output year in its biennial cycle. "There is going to be plenty of it and there are millions of bags sitting in Antwerp (warehouses)," one dealer said.

December arabica coffee rose 0.50 cent to \$1.3020 per lb while November robustas were \$7 lower at \$1,376.

SOFTS-Cocoa powers to new highs on flurry of buy-stops

By Marcy Nicholson and Nigel Hunt

NEW YORK/LONDON, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Cocoa futures raced higher on Monday, on a volatile wave of automatic buy orders that pushed the London market to a 24-1/2-year high and ICE to a 15-month peak against a backdrop of bullish fundamentals.

Prices on both Liffe and ICE suddenly surged with the U.S. market rising nearly \$200 within a minute. "We have the cut in supply, the 14 percent drop. It looks like we're going to be slow getting this to market," said Sterling Smith, market analyst for Country Hedging in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The world's biggest cocoa supplier, Ivory Coast, closed the book on its worst harvest in at least five years on Monday, lagging nearly 14 percent from the previous year, while arrivals for the new 2009/10 crop year started slowly. The supply concerns attracted light commercial buying earlier in the session, but the fund buying that followed triggered multiple buy stops, traders said.

The ICE December cocoa finished up 8 percent, or \$239, at \$3,240 a tonne, the highest settlement in 15 months for the spot contract.

The contract soared to a peak \$3,268 a tonne before the exchange canceled all transactions at or above \$3,256.

It later returned to this original peak, making \$3,268 the December contract's intraday high. "We're seeing the short end of the market getting crunched hard. There are no sellers, really, around to counter it and it forces this market higher in this rather violent fashion," Smith said.

March cocoa futures in London ended 145 pounds higher at 2,153 pounds a tonne after setting a 24-1/2-year high for the benchmark second month of 2,156 pounds. "It could have been buying by a big fund (which triggered the rise). We're a bit bemused," one London dealer said.

SUGAR REBOUND

Raw and white sugar futures also rose as markets rebounded after steep losses on Friday with concern about excessive rains in top producer Brazil providing background support. Both markets had inside days.

Dealers said the sugar market may struggle to revisit recent highs unless there was renewed offtake from key importers. "We've had a bit of a bounce but I don't think we are going anywhere fast. There is a lot of selling above \$600 (on December whites in London)," one London dealer said. December whites in London closed up \$8 at \$597.80 a tonne, while March raw sugar futures on ICE finished up 0.41 cent at 24.19 cents a lb.

Dealers said the rise had been driven partly by reduced crop prospects in Brazil following excessive rains. "I do think the bullish fundamentals have got the upper hand but I would like to see a bit more real demand developing at these levels," said Rabobank soft commodity trader Nick Hungate.

Coffee futures were little changed with the market's run-up late last week showing signs of stalling. December arabica coffee eased 0.25 cent to close at \$1.2945 per lb while November robustas eased \$7 to finish at \$1,376 per tonne.

Processing & Manufacturing

Pay Cocoa Farmers Attractive Price - Prez Mills
Ghana News Agency -

President John Evans Atta Mills has directed Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to come out with attractive cocoa producer price to encourage farmers to increase production. A tonne of cocoa currently sells at GH¢1,632. Inaugurating a 30,000-tonne a year capacity state-of-the-art cocoa processing plant in Kumasi on Friday, President Mills said the Board should also ensure that fertilizers are supplied to the farmers in good time to maximize crop yield. "It is time COCOBOD came out with bold and innovative measures to support the nation's hardworking farmers," he said.

The plant is the third processing facility in the country and is owned by Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), which has other cocoa processing and manufacturing factories in Europe and America.

President Mills commended the previous Government for initiating the process for the establishment of the factory and said the plant's inauguration would not only add value to the country's cocoa but also help to create job opportunities for the people. His Administration, he said, is committed to encouraging direct foreign investment, and that the Government would remain focused in making sure that the necessary interventions were made to promote investment flow.

President Mills said the Company's presence fed into the Government's agenda of job creation and investing in the people.

Madam Hannah Tetteh, Minister of Trade and Industry, spoke of the Government's determination to sustain investor confidence in the national economy, adding that, efforts were being made to address the challenges industries were facing, especially, those operating in the Free Zones to enhance efficiency.

Ghana needs to sustain cocoa production to provide enough raw materials for industries in the sector, she said and appealed to the Management of ADM to consider venturing into other areas like Soya bean processing in the northern parts of the country to improve the incomes and living conditions of the farmers.

The Akyempimhene, Oheneba Adusei Poku, who represented the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, said the establishment of the plant had put Kumasi on the map of ADM, which was one of the world's renowned chocolate and confectionery producers and commended the Management of the Company for the decision. He noted that the factory would encourage cocoa farmers to increase output and thereby improve their living standards and urged the Company to provide support to cocoa farmers by way of inputs supply.

Oheneba Adusei Poku asked the Company to take cognizance of the rich culture and heritage of the Asante Kingdom and to accord respect for cherished values and traditions of the people.

The Akyempimhene appealed to the Government to give serious consideration to the re-activation of some abandoned industries in the Ashanti Region to help to create jobs for the youth.

Mr Tony Fofie, Chief Executive of COCOBOD, said the Board was poised to diversify the cocoa sector to promote the processing of the cocoa beans locally for export and domestic consumption. It has targeted to process about 60 per cent of cocoa beans locally. He asked cocoa processing companies to go beyond the intermediate processing to the tertiary level to enable the country to derive maximum benefits from their operations.

Mr Fofie said COCOBOD would work to increase cocoa production without compromising on quality.

Mr John D. Rice, Executive Vice President, Commercial and Production of ADM, said the new plant would enhance the ability of the Company to source high quality cocoa beans from Ghana and position the Company to become the preferred global supplier of cocoa and chocolate solutions. He said the Company would initiate programmes with other partners to promote the welfare of Ghanaian cocoa farmers.

Mr Kofi Opoku Manu, Ashanti Regional Minister, expressed the appreciation of the chiefs and people to the Company and expressed the hope that it would live up to its social responsibilities and work to support the people in the Region in their socio-economic endeavours.

UPDATE: German 3Q Cocoa Grind Up 11.2%; No 09 Outlook -Assoc

7October 7, 2009

FRANKFURT (Dow Jones)--German cocoa bean grindings in the third quarter rose 11.2% to 98,315 metric tons, compared with 88,426 tons in the same period last year, the Association of the German Confectionary Industry said Wednesday. There is no outlook for the full-year 2009 because the development of the first three quarters was "inconsistent," a spokesman for the association told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said that despite the rise in the third quarter, German cocoa grind in the first nine months of the year were 9.1% lower on the year. Details on European cocoa bean grindings in the third quarter are expected to be released in the coming days.

Chocolates to become dear as cocoa prices soar

Economic Times - Pk Krishnakumar - Oct 8, 2009

KOCHI: Chocolate companies are under pressure to raise the product costs with cocoa bean prices showing no signs of letup. The prices of dry cocoa beans are ruling in the range of Rs 130 to 135 per kg in Kerala, the largest cocoa producing state in the country. A year ago the prices hovered between Rs 110 to 115 per kg.

Prolonged dry spell with scanty rains during summer has led to a sharp fall in the crop during peak harvest period that stretched from June to August. The crop is said to be down by 20 to 30 %, while some buyers say it could be much higher.

The upswing in prices has put the chocolate companies depending entirely on domestic supply in a tight spot. Mr Madusudan Rao, managing director of Mangalore-based Campco told ET that the co-operative has raised the prices of intermediary products like cocoa powder, butter etc to compensate the high prices of raw materials. "There is a severe scarcity of beans and as a result the prices have gone up to even Rs 150 per kg or more," he said. The monthly consumption of cocoa by Campco comes to around 250 tonnes.

Chocolate majors like Cadbury India has not made any recent changes in the product prices but may be forced to do if the current price trend persists. Cadbury, the largest buyer of cocoa from the domestic market, is meeting a large part of its requirement through imports from West African countries. But bullish trend in international cocoa prices coupled with import duty of 30 % has made cocoa imports to India a costly affair.

Companies like Nestle, which are not procuring directly from farmers, could also be hit as the processing companies it is depending on are facing acute shortage of cocoa beans. The prices could witness further jump as some of the middle men buying from growers are resorting to hoarding, according to market sources

The prices are likely to remain at high level in the short term given the expectation of low output for the next peak season during October- November period. The heavy rains during July have caused some damage to the crop in the flowering period. Consequently, the growers have predicted a lower crop for the season.

The annual cocoa production in the country is between 11,000 to 12,000 tonnes, of which Kerala accounts for over 6000 tonnes. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are the other major producers. Tamil Nadu is fast catching up in production with increasing acreage under cocoa cultivation.

Business and Economy

Nigeria cocoa grinders appeal for govt export grant

Fri Oct 9, 2009

By Tume Ahemba

LAGOS (Reuters) - Cash-strapped Nigerian cocoa grinders called on the government on Friday to pay them billions of naira in back-dated export incentives, saying that failure to pay the arrears would leave them struggling to survive. The government in the world's fourth-biggest cocoa grower introduced the incentives, known as the export expansion grant (EEG), in the 1990s to try to encourage exporters to increase their volumes and diversify their products and markets.

But the Cocoa Processors Association of Nigeria (COPAN) said its members had not been paid the EEG since 2007, compounding difficulties caused by the global economic crisis -- which has led to a sharp decline in bank lending -- as well as by the high cost of beans and Nigeria's chronic power shortages. "We therefore wish to draw your attention to the plight of our members ... which if not immediately ameliorated will spell complete doom for the cocoa sector and the Nigerian economy as a whole," COPAN said in an appeal to President Umaru Yar'Adua.

Nigerian cocoa processors had expanded capacity rapidly in the three years before the global economic meltdown last year thanks to incentives introduced by former president Olusegun Obasanjo, buying up about 20 percent of Nigeria's annual output of around 300,000-350,000 tonnes.

But capacity utilisation among processors has declined to around 20 percent and their purchases have also fallen sharply.

Grinders that took bank loans to grow capacity are under pressure to pay back. Nigerian banks have intensified their recovery of debts a financial sector audit by the central bank showed nine lenders were undercapitalised. "Many factories borrowed funds from the Nigerian banks for export transactions concluded over two years ago and had planned to offset the loans substantially at least with the expected proceeds from these grants," COPAN said.

"Any further delay in releasing the outstanding export grants will pose further liquidity problems to the ailing factories and their bankers."

Most of the plants are either running skeletal services or have completely closed down because of the cash crunch after laying off thousands of workers, COPAN National Secretary General Felix Oladunjoye told Reuters this week. "Everybody is stuck now especially with the banking problem. In fact, the banks are not giving new loans and are trying hard to recover the ones they gave out...Virtually all factories are closed down because of the liquidity problem," he said.

Cadbury Chocolate Rejects Kraft's \$16 Billion Offer

NPR - Oct 5, 2009

A member of the family that founded the British chocolate company Cadbury has spoken out about a possible takeover by the American food company Kraft. Cadbury's management recently rejected a \$16 billion offer from Kraft. Felicity Loudon said she feels "particularly saddened by the possibility of one of the last remaining British icons disappearing into an American plastic cheese company."

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And today's Last Word in business comes from a Cadbury. A member of the family that founded the British chocolate company has spoken out about a possible takeover by the American food company Kraft. Cadbury's management recently rejected a \$16 billion offer from Kraft and talks are continuing.

Yesterday, Felicity Loudon, whose grandfather Egbert Cadbury was a managing director of the company, made clear her distaste for the possible deal. She told a British newspaper that as a Cadbury, she feels quote, "particularly saddened by the possibility of one of the last remaining British icons disappearing into an American plastic cheese company."

Ivory Coast Cuts Taxes on Cocoa Products

Source: Reuters

Abidjan, Oct 6 - Ivory Coast has cut the main export tax on cocoa products, the economy ministry announced on Tuesday, a week after the world's top grower cut taxes on beans in a bid to boost stagnating production.

The across-the-board cuts represent reductions of just under five percent on existing levies, with for example the DUS (droit unique de sortie) tax on cocoa butter falling from 210 CFA per (47.2 U.S. cents) per kilo to 200.

Ivory Coast last week informed exporters of a 4.5 percent cut in the DUS for cocoa beans to 210 CFA francs for the new season, which started on Oct. 1. The high level of taxes on Ivorian growers has been cited as a factor behind a gradual slump in output, as some farmers leave the sector to pursue more remunerative crops.

London Cocoa Sets 24-1/2 Year High as Funds Buy

Source: Reuters

London, Oct 5 - Cocoa futures in London rose to a 24-1/2 year high on the benchmark second position on Monday, driven higher by fund buying against a backdrop of bullish fundamentals, dealers said.

March cocoa climbed to a peak of 2,124 pounds a tonne, up 116 pounds or nearly 6 percent.

Dealers said declining production in top grower Ivory Coast had led to heightened concern about a global supply shortfall. "We know there is not going to be enough (cocoa), it is just (a question of) how far short we fall," one dealer said.

INDONESIA TO IMPOSE EXPORT TAX ON CACAO BEANS

JAKARTA, Oct 5 Asia Pulse - The Indonesia government plans to slap export tax on cacao beans to save domestic cacao processing industry, an official said. The government is drafting a regulation to restrict cacao bean exports, Bayu Krisnamurti, a deputy at the office of the chief economics minister, said. "Other countries have their policies including slapping of import duty to protect their domestic industries," Bayu said, adding Indonesia should also have one to guarantee supply on the domestic market.

The government, however, was still waiting for the result of studies and inputs more comprehensively. The plan drew opposition from the cacao bean producers saying export tax will hurt the growers.

Cocoa To Hit New Highs On Supply Concerns, Demand Rebound

October 8, 2009

By Sarah McFarlane and Alex MacDonald

LONDON (Dow Jones)--Cocoa futures prices in the U.S. and Europe are hitting fresh highs due to expectations that Ivory Coast will harvest a disappointing crop, at a time when world demand is seen rebounding, traders and analysts said Thursday.

Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, is expected to see its 2009-10 production fall below 1.0 million metric tons, due to aging trees and problems with disease, according to the president of the country's coffee and cocoa management committee, Gilbert N'Guessan Anoh.

At the same time there are signs that world cocoa demand may be picking up.

Earlier this week Germany cocoa grind figures - an indicator of demand - showed third quarter grindings were up 11.2% compared to the same period a year ago, the first rise this year after two consecutive quarters of falling grind figures in the wake of the global economic slowdown.

These figures come ahead of the European Cocoa Association figures due to be published Friday, "which are also expected to show an increase (and) thus provide further support to the bull camp," said brokerage Sudden (U.K.) Limited in a cocoa note published Thursday.

London's NYSE Liffe nearby cocoa futures contract has gained almost 20% in value since the beginning of the year, hitting a 24-and-a-half year high Wednesday of GBP2,147/ton. Meanwhile nearby ICE Futures U.S. cocoa have risen by around 24% since the beginning of the year, to trade at a 15-month high of \$3,268/ton Wednesday.

The recent rise may be partly due to restocking by chocolate manufacturers, but improving gross domestic figures in the U.S. and Europe may also indicate that cocoa demand - which is strongly correlated to economic growth - is improving, said Nicholas Snowden, commodities analyst at Barclays Capital.

"There are enough signals from fundamentals to justify these price moves," said Snowden.

Macquarie Bank forecasts world cocoa demand will outstrip production in 2009-10, leaving a deficit of 38,000 tons which will need to be met by world cocoa stocks.

While brokers warned that the recent run-up in prices has led the market to become "technically overbought" - which could lead to a downward correction in the short-term - the underlying bullish fundamental picture remains intact for higher prices yet, they said.

Labour Issues

Parliamentary Select Committee visits cocoa growing communities

Ghana News Agency

Adinkrakrom (ASH), Oct. 9, GNA - The Parliamentary Select Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises has paid a day's working visit to Adinkrakrom and Dwease, both cocoa growing communities in the Asante Akim North Municipality. The visit aimed at assessing the progress made in the fight against child labour on cocoa farms under the National Programme for the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa.

Led by its Chairman, Mr. Prince Jacob Ahiabor the committee interacted with cocoa farmers to ascertain the veracity of some labour issues that had been brought to its attention.

Mr. Ahiabor who is also the Member of Parliament for Hohoe North said it was imperative for cocoa farmers to invest in their children's education, who are their source of hope for the development of their communities. He said exploiting children on cocoa farms at the expense of their education was tantamount to destroying their future and called on stakeholders to help arrest the canker. He charged the Child Protection Committees at the

Municipal and community levels to double their efforts in the fight against child labour and assured them of the committee's support.

Mrs. Frema Osei Opare, a member of the committee observed that though a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Employment did not confirm the child labour allegations by the international community, there were isolated cases, which needed to be addressed. She entreated Child Protection Committees not to focus only on cocoa farms but all forms of labour that could retard the growth of children and also deny them access to education. She noted that the committee would collaborate with the sector ministry to resource the municipality to sustain their efforts to eliminate child labour.

Nana Owusu Banahene, Chief of Dwease said the committee's visit would inspire the community to strive to eliminate child labour, adding that the people were gradually accepting the programme. He disclosed that he had mandated the Child Protection Committee to summon parents who engage their children in hazardous activities to his palace for the necessary action to be taken against them.

Environmental Issues

Chocolate Manufacturers Earn Fairtrade Certification

By Steve Baragona

Washington, DC

06 October 2009

Eco-friendly and socially responsible "green" chocolate has been a niche product for several years. But now, some of the world's biggest chocolate manufacturers are entering the sustainable cocoa business. A few products from big chocolate makers go "green"

The giant British chocolate maker Cadbury recently announced that one of its chocolate bars had received a stamp of approval from Fairtrade, an organization that promotes socially and environmentally responsible business practices.

In September, Cargill, a big U.S. agribusiness firm, said that two of its African cocoa suppliers received a similar endorsement. Harold Poelma, manager of Cargill's cocoa business, says the two farmers' cooperatives in Ivory Coast met rigorous sustainability criteria spelled out in a code of conduct. "The code of conduct really touches upon all of the elements which are important when you talk about sustainability," Poelma says. He adds, "So it's the economic factors, but it's also the social factors as well as the environmental factors." The code of conduct was written by cocoa processors, non-governmental organizations, and the farmers themselves. An independent auditor certifies when producers have met the standards.

Declining crop output spurs training effort

Cargill trained the 1,500 members of the two Ivorian cooperatives to help them get certified. Poelma says the company was partly motivated by years of stagnant productivity and by the declining quality of the harvest in the world's largest cocoa-producing country. He says, "We saw that over time the growth of the crops would not keep pace with the growth of the demand."

So, he says, Cargill brought in experts to teach farmers best agricultural practices designed to boost production as well as protect the environment. Farmers also learned about safety practices including responsible use of chemicals. And child labor, an issue that has been problematic for the industry, was restricted.

Sustainable cocoa farming promises sweet success

Poelma says training has been a big investment for Cargill, but the company is seeing improvements in quality and quantity of cocoa from these farms. And he says, "So far, farmers are really excited because they do see how productivity has been going up."

The farms even look better, Poelma adds.

Cargill expects about 10,000 metric tons of cocoa from these cooperatives next year. That is a tiny fraction of the 3 million metric ton global cocoa crop but Poelma says, "It's a start." He expects other companies and other cooperatives to come on board soon and raise the sustainability standard for the entire cocoa industry.

World-first Sustainable Racing Car Runs On Chocolate, To Take On Formula 3

ScienceDaily (Oct. 5, 2009) — Can the idea of 'green motorsport' actually work? Yes, according to EPSRC funded researcher, Dr Kerry Kirwan at the University of Warwick, who led the research team which designed and built the worldfirst fully sustainable Formula 3 racing car.

The car is made from woven flax, recycled carbon fibre, recycled resin and carrot pulp for the steering wheel. It runs on biofuel made from chocolate and animal fats and is lubricated with plant oils. But it's not just an environmentally friendly car, it is also fast. The car has a top speed of 135 mph, can achieve 0-60 in 2.5 seconds and is turbo charged to give it more torque.

Having got the seal of approval from drivers such as Lewis Hamilton and Adam Carroll as well as F1 team boss Ross Brawn, the car will make its first competitive debut in the Formula 3 Championship final at Brands Hatch on 17th October. The team hope to prove that high performance, competitive cars can be built from sustainable materials.

According to Dr Kirwan the idea behind the project is to show that: "being sustainable and green can be incredibly sexy, fun and fast." He goes on to say that even though people's perception of motorsport is that it's wasteful, this project is "aiming to show ways for the future, for people to race and be green."

A video of the car in action can be found at IMPACT! World <http://www.impactworld.org.uk>. The website also features a variety of other films and case studies highlighting the impact of science and research technology in the UK.

Research & Development

Cocoa Research Finds a Place in the Global Health Dialogue

International Experts Convene to Discuss the Health and Sustainability Impact of Cocoa

BANGKOK, Oct. 6 /PRNewswire/ -- As thousands of experts around the world converge to discuss the state of global health and nutrition at the International Congress of Nutrition (ICN), top experts from the University of California, Davis and Mars, Incorporated are acknowledging the important impact of cocoa on human health. During a session entitled "Cocoa Science - Flavanols and Sustainability," scientists will present evidence from recent research on cocoa flavanols and highlight the global advancements and future goals for cocoa sustainability.

Often linked to chocolate and indulgence, researchers around the world are taking a serious look at this much-loved "super" fruit. Some of the oldest civilizations were likely the first cocoa lovers, but only recently have we truly begun to understand the power of this unique plant. Most are surprised to learn that cocoa is actually a fruit. In fact, it's a super fruit, packed with unique active plant compounds called flavanols, linked to healthy circulation.*

"Our understanding of cocoa and potential health benefits has grown exponentially over the last few years," said presenter Carl Keen, PhD, chair of the Department of Nutrition and professor of Nutrition and Internal Medicine at the University of California, Davis. "The research clearly points to a specific benefit from cocoa flavanols - and the global potential is definitely noteworthy." Numerous scientific research papers on cocoa flavanols demonstrate a positive impact on circulatory health and related conditions.

In fact, Mars, Incorporated has published or supported more than 100 scientific publications and holds more than 80 patents resulting from work with institutions including Harvard University and the University of California, Davis. Since 1982, Mars, Incorporated has operated the Mars Center for Cocoa Science in Bahia, Brazil as a research partner with federal, local, and non-governmental organization (NGO) communities working on a broad range of issues in cocoa. Lessons learned at the center have benefited farmers around the globe.

"There's a lot to learn about cocoa as a crop, especially since cocoa supply and demand has increased steadily over the past century," said Peter van Grinsven, cocoa sustainability manager at Mars, Incorporated, which helped sponsor the ICN symposium. "By advocating for sustainable cocoa farming systems we can contribute positively to future health goals." Cocoa is grown around the globe in hot and humid climates - 20 degrees north

or south of the equator. Using sustainable farming systems in these communities can not only help maintain crop supply, but it could also affect global health, beyond the benefits of the cocoa itself by:

- promoting responsible land use and crop diversification (cash and food crops) and farming strategies that negate the needs to abandon ageing farms and cultivate new lands,
- generating funds to invest in (rural) communities for education, sanitation, health services and general infrastructure,
- helping cocoa farmers become the 'local market' for food crop farmers, and
- contributing to carbon sequestering.

Mars Cocoa Commitment

As a family-owned business, Mars, Incorporated's approach has always been hands-on and holistic. The company works closely with native cocoa farmers, pursuing the best ways to plant, cultivate and harvest their fruit - ultimately increasing the profitability and improving the quality of life for local communities.

Through involvement in programs like the Cocoa Sustainability Partnership (CSP) in Southeast Asia, Mars is helping to deliver a cocoa revitalization program that not only educates and supports cocoa farmers, but is also helping to planting millions of cocoa trees over the next few years in cocoa growing regions. . .enabling these communities to thrive. This is all part of the Mars, Incorporated global commitment to ensure their entire cocoa supply is certified as sustainably sourced by 2020.

Mars Patented Technology - Cocoapro(TM)

Cocoa flavanols can be easily destroyed during normal chocolate processing. Building off of years of manufacturing experience, Mars, Incorporated scientists have perfected a process to reduce the cocoa bean's exposure to high temperatures, helping protect the cocoa extract. The proprietary, patented Mars, Incorporated Cocoapro process ensures delivery of a cocoa extract ingredient guaranteed to have consistently high levels of cocoa flavanols.

About Cirku(TM) and CirkuHealth(TM)

This fall, Mars Botanical, a scientific division of Mars, Incorporated, introduced Cirku, a cocoa extract ingredient guaranteeing a concentrated source of cocoa flavanols, and CirkuHealth, a great-tasting dietary supplement cocoa extract powder mix. CirkuHealth is available online in the U.S. at www.CirkuHealth.com in original and sweetened varieties as a month's supply of 28 single-serve packets for \$44.95.

If you'd like to arrange a meeting with a Mars, Incorporated expert at ICN or beyond, please contact Onanong Pratakphiriya in Bangkok (T: +662.343.6059 | M: +668.1828.1002 onanong@webershandwick.com) or Lori Fromm in the United States (312-988-2436 lfromm@webershandwick.com).

"Cocoa Science - Flavanols and Sustainability" will take place on Thursday, October 8th at the International Congress of Nutrition (ICN) in Bangkok, Thailand.

SOURCE Mars, Incorporated

Chocolate passes clinical trial test for artery and heart health

By Stephen Daniells, 29-Sep-2009

<http://www.nutraingredients.com/>

Daily supplements of a flavonoid-rich chocolate may reduce biochemical markers of arterial hardening and boost heart health, say results of a randomized controlled trial.

Consumption of the antioxidant-rich chocolate containing 495 mg of polyphenols led to reductions in levels of inflammatory compounds which contribute to development of atherosclerosis, according to results published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Researchers from the University of Barcelona in Spain recruited 42 people with an average age of 70 to consume either skim milk, or skim milk plus the cocoa powder for four weeks.

All the participants were deemed to be at high risk of coronary heart disease (CHD), since they were diabetic, smokers, hypertensive, obese, and/or had raised LDL or low HDL cholesterol levels, and a family history of early CHD.

The health benefits of antioxidant-rich chocolate have received much recognition in recent years, with positive findings from a number of studies impacting on consumer awareness. Chocolate manufacturers are using high cocoa content (over 70 per cent) as a means of differentiation, and cocoa has also received attention for its potential in functional food applications.

"However, few human feeding trials have focused on the study of anti-inflammatory effects of cocoa, and the results obtained have been contradictory," explained the researchers.

"We embarked, therefore, on a randomized, crossover, controlled clinical trial to evaluate the effects of chronic cocoa consumption on the expression of soluble adhesion molecules and pro-inflammatory cytokines related to the early stages of atherosclerosis in a series of subjects at high risk of CHD," they added.

Study details

The high-risk participants were randomly assigned to receive either the skim milk (500 ml, Lactalis) or skim milk plus cocoa powder (40 grams per day containing 425.7 mg proanthocyanidins, Nutrexpä). After four weeks they were switched over to the other intervention group for another four weeks. A washout period was deemed unnecessary because of the fast elimination of flavan-3-ols from the body.

Results showed that blood levels of biomarkers such as soluble endothelium-derived adhesion molecules P-selectin and intercellular adhesion molecule-1 were significantly lower following consumption of the cocoa plus milk intervention than following consumption of the milk alone. Both molecules play a role in the migration of white blood cells in to the cells lining blood vessels (endothelium), promoting inflammation.

A reduction in the expression of adhesion proteins in white blood cells (monocytes) was also observed following consumption of the cocoa milk. "Our results suggest that regular consumption of nutritional doses of cocoa may have an effect on all initial phases of the atherosclerotic process in subjects at high risk of CHD," wrote the researchers.

"These anti-inflammatory effects may contribute to the overall benefits of cocoa consumption against atherosclerosis," they concluded.

Source: American Journal of Clinical Nutrition

Published online ahead of print, doi:10.3945/ajcn.2009.27716

"Effect of cocoa powder on the modulation of inflammatory biomarkers in patients at high risk of cardiovascular disease"

Authors: M. Monagas, N. Khan, C. Andres-Lacueva, R. Casas, M. Urpi-Sarda, R. Llorach, R.M. Lamuela-Raventos, R. Estruch

Promotion & Consumption

Brits are European chocolate champions

By Ruki Sayid

Mirror.co.uk - Ruki Sayid - 09 October. 09

Britain is the chocolate-chomping capital of Europe - annually eating our way through £3.5billion worth of the sweet treat. We consume six times more than the top chocmaking Belgians, a study by analysts Mintel found.

Only Germany comes close to matching us, with £3.4billion spent.

But that is only £41 a head against our £57 each.

So we are well in front of France's £27, Ukraine's tenner and the less-than-a-fiver's worth in Romania.

And experts, who predict the market will have grown almost 6% by the end of the year, say our Top of the Chocs position will be even more chunky by 2013 when we'll be spending £4.4billion.

Bars such as Dairy Milk, Kit Kat and Mars make up 34 per cent of UK sales and boxes almost 23 per cent.

A Mintel spokesperson said: "The fact that we buy more chocolate than any other European country, despite recessionary pressure and our comparative lack in size, shows where the priorities of sweet-toothed Brits lie."

Top Nine Chocolate Nibbling Nations: 1 UK £3.5billion; 2 Germany £3.4bn; 3 France £1.7bn; 4 Poland £912million; 5 Switzerland £858m; 6 Spain £738m; 7 Belgium £511m; 8 Ukraine £497m; Romania £211m.

Social Development

Government urged to focus on rural farming

Posted on: Tuesday, 6, October, 2009

Source: GBC NEWS

The Member of Parliament for New Juaben South, Beatrice Bernice Boateng, has called on government to focus on rural farming as a means of reducing poverty. Speaking to Radio Ghana in Koforidua, she said reducing poverty is critical to the development of the country.

Madam Boateng suggested to government and other agencies to give loans to farmers and small scale industries within the communities. Another area she mentioned was, cocoa which is the main cash crop that earns a lot for the country, she said it must be made attractive and expensive so as to sell well on the international market.

Madam Boateng suggested that, incentives and scholarship packages must be given to cocoa farmers to enable their children to have good education to enhance their living standards. She appealed to the government to provide the people in the rural areas with the basic social amenities to enable the youth stay and work for the development of themselves and the country as a whole. She noted that if these are put into action, it will help reduce poverty to the barest minimum if not totally eliminated.

West Africa to benefit from youth program

Bizcommunity.com - Oct 5, 2009

Csi News

WASHINGTON: The World Cocoa Foundation, late last week, announced a public-private partnership for rural education with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Africa Education Initiative and its members as well as The Jacobs Foundation and the Norwegian Association of Chocolate Manufacturers.

The initial two-year program began in October 2007; the US\$5.6 million cash and US\$2 million in-kind contributions will extend the program for an additional two years through September 2011.

Members of the World Cocoa Foundation include; Kraft Foods; The Hershey Company; Mars, Incorporated; Starbucks Coffee Company; Fazer Confectionery; Olam International Ltd.; The Hain Celestial Group, Inc.'s SunSpire brand; Guittard Chocolate Company and Barry Callebaut.

The Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions (ECHOES) Alliance in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana has already reached many young people directly through vocational agricultural training and indirectly by training teachers in interactive teaching approaches. The program aims to develop a replicable, scalable model for improving education in rural West Africa.

Dr. Sarah Moten, coordinator of USAID's Africa Education Initiative, commented, "We're very happy about what ECHOES has been able to accomplish in just two years and we look forward to even more dramatic success as we bring access to the world's sources of knowledge to young people in rural Africa. They are the next generation of leaders and the future of the continent. We need to give them every chance for success."

In its second phase, the program plans to place more of an emphasis on directly reaching youth and young adults. Activities will focus on in-school education at the primary and secondary school levels; training for out-of-school youth; agriculture-related extracurricular activities; family support scholarships; and literacy training. Additionally, the program plans to train teachers working in cocoa-growing communities. Overall, these activities aim to directly benefit over 20,000 young people and indirectly impact an additional 140,000 people across both countries.

The program plans to incorporate new elements such as using information technology to improve learning, encourage community education, and private education activities.

“Improving the quality and relevancy of education in cocoa-growing communities is essential to expanding opportunities for young people and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the cocoa sector. It is wonderful that USAID, the private sector and the governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana have been so supportive of our efforts to continue this important work,” said WCF President Bill Guyton.

Others

Do you want to Balance your Cholesterol Level? Read this...

Peace fm Online - Oct 5, 2009

The Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Mr Anthony Fofie, has urged Ghanaians to increase their chocolate intake to balance their cholesterol level. Mr Fofie underscored that eating of chocolates can help the immune system, adding that it can also prevent diabetics and other cardiovascular diseases.

Speaking at the Cocoa Day in Suhum, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of COCOBOD assured that COCOBOD is trying to help government to construct roads for easy transportation of cocoa by farmers.

Mr Fofie advised Cocoa Processing Company (CPC) to reduce the cost of chocolates on the market for the less privileged to buy.

Donating hundred pieces of mosquito nets, two cartons of chocolates and four cartons of Royale cocoa power to the Suhum Paediatric Ward of the government hospital, the CEO of COCOBOD encouraged parents to feed their children with the cocoa powder for strong bones.

Mr Fofie urged cocoa farmers not to apply agro-chemicals that have not been certified by COCOBOD.

On his part, the Okyenhene, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, recounted that Tetteh Quarshie brought cocoa to the country, saying through the dint of work of some farmers, Suhum and its environs were praised by all Ghanaians.

The Okyenhene remarked that cocoa has been beneficial to the country in many ways, saying that the proceeds from cocoa should be used for infrastructural development in the Suhum communities.

Osagyefuo Ofori Panin advised Ghanaians to reduce food intake which causes obesity and cholesterol, charging them to consume more chocolate for better health.

TIT BITS

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

US MIDDAY: sugar down; coffee, cocoa up

NEW YORK (October 10, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets. December arabica coffee contract rose 0.75 cent to \$1.3865 per lb at 11:13 a.m. EDT (1513 GMT). Session range from \$1.3650 to \$1.3880. March raw sugar contract slipped 0.08 cent to 22.46 cents per lb at 11:13 a.m.

London cocoa off peak

LONDON (October 10, 2009): March cocoa in London surged to a 24-1/2 year high of 2,207 pounds a tonne on unexpectedly positive third-quarter Europe grind data on Friday, but then fell to settle up 3 pounds at 2,146 pounds after the report was withdrawn due to an error. December white sugar ended \$16.3 lower at \$559.5 per tonne. Lack of physical demand is weighing on the market.

US MIDDAY: coffee and cocoa higher

NEW YORK (October 09, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Thursday. December arabica coffee contract gained 2.35 cents to trade at \$1.3660 per lb at 11:08 am EDT (1508 GMT). Session range from \$1.3490 to \$1.3715. Arabica coffee futures were buoyed by the weak US dollar and firm commodity complex, said brokers.

London cocoa and sugar lower; coffee up

LONDON (October 09, 2009): March cocoa at Liffe ends 16 pounds lower at 2,143 pounds a tonne on Thursday. Market hovering just below 24-1/2 year peak for the second month of 2,173 pounds set on Wednesday as third quarter European grind data awaited on Friday. December white sugar ended \$11.00 lower at \$575.80 per tonne. Lack of physical demand weighing on the market but prices rebounded strongly from an early low of \$553.90.

US MIDDAY: coffee, cocoa higher; sugar sinks

NEW YORK (October 08, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Wednesday. December arabica coffee contract rose 1.00 cent to \$1.3460 per lb at 11:09 am EDT (1509 GMT). Session range from \$1.3305 to \$1.3535. Arabica coffee futures firm on a lack of selling interest in Brazil and on firm technicals, but hitting strong resistance at \$1.3535 in December delivery, said brokers.

London cocoa higher, sugar slides

LONDON (October 08, 2009): March cocoa at Liffe ended 15 pounds higher at 2,159 pounds a tonne on Wednesday after earlier climbing to a 24-1/2 year peak for the second month of 2,173 pounds. Market buoyed by rise in German third-quarter grind. December white sugar ended \$18.70 lower at \$586.80 per tonne with the market technically overbought after recent strong advance to a record high for the front month.

London sugar and coffee end higher

LONDON (October 07, 2009): December white sugar at Liffe ends \$7.70 higher at \$605.50 per tonne on Tuesday, boosted by excessive rains in the Indian sugarcane belt and Brazil. Weaker dollar was also supportive. November robusta coffee ends \$43 higher at \$1,419 a tonne, boosted by broad-based gains in commodity markets and a weaker dollar.

US MIDDAY: coffee rallies, cocoa down

NEW YORK (October 07, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Tuesday. December arabica coffee contract jumped 4.60 cents or 3.6 percent to \$1.3405 per lb at 11:07 am EDT (1507 GMT). Wide session range from \$1.2970 to \$1.3480. Arabica coffee futures surged on the weak dollar, speculative buying on inflation concerns and lack of origin selling, said brokers.

London cocoa surges to new high, sugar rises

LONDON (October 06, 2009): March cocoa ended 145 pounds higher at 2,153 pounds a tonne on Monday, just below a 24-1/2 year peak for the second month of 2,156 pounds set earlier in the session. Market buoyed by declining supplies from top producer Ivory Coast.

US MIDDAY: cocoa hits 15-month top, coffee down

NEW YORK (October 06, 2009): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Monday. December arabica coffee contract eased 0.05 cent to \$1.2965 per lb at 11:20 am EDT (1520 GMT). Session range from \$1.2885 to \$1.3165. Arabica coffee futures felt earlier strength from positive chart signals but reversed as light origin selling entered, said brokers.

Ivory Coast cocoa season ends 14 percent below last year

ABIDJAN (October 06, 2009): The world's biggest cocoa supplier, Ivory Coast, closed the book on its worst harvest in at least five years on Monday, and exporters aren't expecting the new season to be any better. Loads of cocoa beans arriving at ports from the West African nation's plantations lagged last year by nearly 14 percent, reaching just 1,178,526 tonnes during the October 1 through September 30 season, according to official data.

Indonesia cocoa exports up

JAKARTA (October 06, 2009): cocoa bean exports from Indonesia's main growing island of Sulawesi rose 35 percent from a year ago to 17,264 tonnes in September, trade data showed on Monday, indicating improving demand. Exports in the first nine months of 2009 reached 193,576 tonnes, steady from 193,711 tonnes shipped out in the same period of last year.