

COPAL COCOA *Info*

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance



Issue No. 376

22nd – 26th February 2010

Cocoa Producers' Alliance



UP-COMING EVENTS

- Workshop on Soil Management of Cocoa Shade and Agroforestry Applied to Cocoa Cultivation in West and Central Africa, Kumasi, Ghana, 16th – 18th March 2010
- Cocoa Conference and Exhibition, Lagos, Nigeria, 1st – 3rd April 2010

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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)
22 nd February	2150.91	3292.81	2255.33	3099.67
23 rd February	2072.79	3170.19	2169.67	2989.33
24 th February	2074.17	3176.55	2180.33	2992.33
25 th February	2041.41	3122.07	2172.33	2946.00
26 th February	2039.12	3125.11	2174.33	2941.00
Average	2076.00	3177.00	2190.00	2994.00

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

Monday 22nd February 2010

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2265	2260	-3	2289	2241	2,477
May 2010	2283	2272	-9	2309	2252	5,187
Jul 2010	2267	2260	-5	2294	2240	1,934
Sep 2010	2258	2234	-5	2273	2215S	1,116
Dec 2010	2244	2217	-5	2246S	2203	126
Mar 2011	2221	2194	-5	2224	2183S	556
May 2011		2182	-15			0
Jul 2011		2180	-16			0
Sep 2011		2179	-16			0
Dec 2011		2179	-16			0
Average/Totals		2216				11,396

Tuesday 23rd February 2010

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2260	2177	-83	2272	2171	4,043
May 2010	2272	2185	-87	2285	2182	8,871
Jul 2010	2257	2173	-87	2271	2170	2,758
Sep 2010	2234	2151	-83	2234	2151	257
Dec 2010	2221	2139	-78	2221	2137	257
Mar 2011	2195	2110	-84	2199S	2112	1,200
May 2011	2167	2104	-78	2167S	2167S	250
Jul 2011		2096	-84			0
Sep 2011		2095	-84			0
Dec 2011		2095	-84			0
Average/Totals		2133				17,636

Wednesday 24th February 2010

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2180	2184	7	2185	2146	3,657
May 2010	2185	2196	11	2199	2156	9,306
Jul 2010	2173	2180	7	2183S	2145S	2,185
Sep 2010	2151	2165	14	2165	2125S	615
Dec 2010	2139	2151	12	2148S	2115	391
Mar 2011	2099	2118	8	2120	2086S	174
May 2011	2095	2116	12	2103	2092S	85
Jul 2011	2095	2113	17	2103	2095	34
Sep 2011	2117	2113	18	2117S	2102S	11
Dec 2011	2115	2113	18	2117	2102S	18
Average/Totals		2141				16,476

Thursday 25th February 2010

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2184	2174	-10	2184	2154S	1,469
May 2010	2192	2188	-8	2198	2167S	5,551
Jul 2010	2179	2173	-7	2180S	2152S	1,997
Sep 2010	2161	2156	-9	2163	2136	560
Dec 2010	2147	2142	-9	2147	2121S	152
Mar 2011	2100	2112	-6	2115	2095	363
May 2011		2110	-6			0
Jul 2011	2110	2107	-6	2110	2110	5
Sep 2011	2100	2107	-6	2113S	2100S	23
Dec 2011	2100	2107	-6	2114	2100S	39
Average/Totals		2138				10,159

Friday 26th February 2010

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2177	2181	7	2199	2174	2,477
May 2010	2191	2189	1	2208	2183	5,578
Jul 2010	2174	2178	5	2194	2172	1,135
Sep 2010	2156	2156	0	2173	2153	735
Dec 2010	2145	2141	-1	2160	2135	347
Mar 2011	2124	2114	2	2126	2116S	13
May 2011		2109	-1			0
Jul 2011		2106	-1			0
Sep 2011		2106	-1			0
Dec 2011		2106	-1			0
Average/Totals		2139				10,285

Average for the week	2139				13190
					65,952

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

Monday 22nd February 2010

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	3099	3074	-24	3141	3054	36
May 2010	3086	3083	-26	3150	3042	6,488
Jul 2010	3120	3110	-23	3175	3077	1,822
Sep 2010	3175	3133	-22	3194	3100	94
Dec 2010	3203	3161	-21	3209	3147	240
Mar 2011	3237	3187	-15	3237	3237	26
May 2011	3237	3188	-15	3237	3237	25
Jul 2011	3237	3200	-15	3237	3237	10
Sep 2011	3239	3209	-13	3239	3239	5
Dec 2011	3240	3219	-13	3248	3240	12
Average/Totals		3156				8758

Tuesday 23rd February 2010

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	3068	2931	-143	3068	2906	47
May 2010	3091	2945	-138	3099	2931	12,266
Jul 2010	3120	2973	-137	3123	2958	2,011
Sep 2010	3068	2999	-134	3097	2987	401
Dec 2010	3100	3030	-131	3107	3027	181
Mar 2011	3120	3050	-137	3125	3046	45
May 2011	3125	3055	-133	3130	3124	17
Jul 2011	0	3067	-133	0	0	21
Sep 2011	0	3076	-133	0	0	0
Dec 2011	0	3090	-129	0	0	0
Average/Totals		3022				14989

Wednesday 24th February 2010

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2947	2955	24	2965	2903	29
May 2010	2955	2967	22	2971	2904	6,889
Jul 2010	2973	2993	20	2995	2933	1,185
Sep 2010	3004	3018	19	3019	2959	360
Dec 2010	3030	3047	17	3048	2996	309
Mar 2011	3051	3067	17	3067	3039	214
May 2011	3065	3068	13	3067	3065	2
Jul 2011	3059	3078	11	3077	3047	103
Sep 2011	3064	3080	4	3080	3064	15
Dec 2011	3072	3085	-5	3088	3072	14
Average/Totals		3036				9120

Thursday 25th February 2010

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2963	2917	-38	2963	2896	147
May 2010	2967	2922	-45	2970	2903	5,840
Jul 2010	2982	2949	-44	2982	2931	913
Sep 2010	3010	2974	-44	3010	2955	274
Dec 2010	2993	3004	-43	3008	2988	72
Mar 2011	3009	3023	-44	3036	3005	113
May 2011	3049	3027	-41	3052	3027	13
Jul 2011	3055	3037	-41	3057	3032	13
Sep 2011	3036	3043	-37	3040	3036	22
Dec 2011	3037	3051	-34	3041	3037	47
Average/Totals		2995				7454

Friday 26th February 2010

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Mar 2010	2938	2917	0	2942	2914	46
May 2010	2936	2917	-5	2951	2908	5,670
Jul 2010	2963	2941	-8	2977	2932	1,676
Sep 2010	2985	2969	-5	2991	2965	692
Dec 2010	3007	3001	-3	3026	2999	431
Mar 2011	3032	3023	0	3032	3032	49
May 2011	0	3026	-1	0	0	1
Jul 2011	0	3034	-3	0	0	0
Sep 2011	0	3043	0	0	0	4
Dec 2011	0	3047	-4	0	0	3
Average/Totals		2992				8572

Average for the week		2992				1559
						1559

News

Health and Nutrition

Production & Quality

Cocoa board sees good future in cocoa farming

Malaysia Star

Bernama

February 22, 2010

TAWAU: Farmers have been asked to revert to cocoa farming as an alternative commercial crop as the cocoa industry promises a bright future locally and globally with lucrative returns.

In making the call, Malaysian Cocoa Board chairman Tan Sri Abi Musa Asaari Mohamed Nor said cocoa, being sold at between RM8,000 and RM10,000 a tonne, was certainly a better alternative to other commercial crops. "Apart from being profitable, it's easy to plant and maintain cocoa trees. Many people have become successful cocoa farmers," he told reporters after he led Malaysian Cocoa Board members on a visit to a cocoa smallholding at Ranggu and cocoa beans drying centre at Kampung Andrassy here Monday.

The board members will also exchange views with cocoa growers at a meet-the- farmers session to be attended by government agency officials to map out strategies to inspire farmers to plant cocoa. Proposals made at the session would be forwarded to the government for consideration to further expand the cocoa industry.

Ivorian Turmoil Threatens Needed Cocoa Investment

Source: Reuters

24/02/2010

London, Feb 23 - Ivory Coast's political turmoil is unlikely to seriously disrupt short term cocoa deliveries, but years of strife have already hit supply and may delay reforms badly needed to halt a decline in production. Protests erupted all over the world's top cocoa grower after President Laurent Gbagbo dissolved his government and the electoral commission earlier this month in a row over voter registration.

Political instability has created an even more difficult investment climate in Ivory Coast where producers have struggled to respond to long-term growth in cocoa demand. "We fear that if the tensions persist, we will no longer be able to maintain our farms because we'll be afraid to go into the bush," said farmer Mamadou Kone, from western city Duekoue.

A string of global deficits helped propel cocoa futures in London to the highest level in 32-years last month. Although prices have fallen back slightly from their peaks they remain about double those paid a couple of years ago and the latest unrest sent jitters through a cocoa futures market already nervous about the impact of drier weather. Public anger, already fuming at years of delays to a poll meant to reunite the country after a 2002-03 war, escalated when the military opened fire on demonstrators in the western cities of Gagnoa and Daloa, capital of a region producing a quarter of its national cocoa output, in recent days.

Cocoa prices on Liffe closed at 2,185 pounds on Tuesday, still within striking distance of the 32-year peak of 2,356 pounds. The West African country supplies 40 percent of the world market, currently around 1.2 million tonnes a year.

EXPORTS STILL FLOWING

Farmers are concerned violence could take on an ethnic dimension in country that fought a war largely over land and identity disputes, especially in the volatile west.

Yet traders and analysts point out that even through the worst of the war and protracted political crisis that followed it, cocoa has largely kept flowing to Ivory Coast's ports. "We are not overly concerned," said Lisa Lewin, Africa analyst at London-based Business Monitor International. "Cocoa exports have held up well in recent years, in spite of the unstable political backdrop."

Demonstrators have not succeeded -- or not tried -- to block cocoa trucks' access to ports. But even if they did, the interruption would not necessarily be long-term. "The worst case scenario, if things start to go really bad, is it can only delay shipments of cocoa," said Eric Sivry, director and head of cocoa brokerage at Fortis Bank Nederland.

Analysts also note that much of the cocoa from the main crop has left the bush, as farmers await the May mid-crop. "The timing could be far worse," said Tobin Gorey, soft commodities strategist with J.P. Morgan. "The main crop season is largely past. A lot of it has been moved on already."

The mid crop, which farmers start to harvest in May, goes through the port of San Pedro, which is less prone to unrest than Abidjan.

REFORMS DELAYED

High prices have encouraged farmers to keep producing, regardless of political unrest, but the real problem lies in the long term impact. "The key problem is without stability you're not getting the necessary investment to keep those plantations up to scratch," said Markus Schneider, Africa strategist at UBA Capital.

Ageing, fragile trees susceptible to drought and black pod disease are already having an impact on production and the political crisis has deterred farmers from investing in new trees and blocked urgently needed reforms to the cocoa sector.

Ivory Coast's cocoa output is running about 4 percent below the five-year average.

Last season's harvest barely scraped 1.2 million tonnes, a 10 percent drop on the previous season. "Long term, the issues remain structural in nature, whereby on a net basis, they are not replacing the tree population at a ratio high enough to maintain output stable," said Marcelo Dorea, partner of hedge fund Round Earth Capital in New York.

Plans for sector reform are on hold until the elections, which are certain to be delayed beyond a March deadline. "The biggest risk is policy," said a cocoa exporter in Abidjan. "During the whole crisis there has not been any sustained political reform needed to turn things around."

\$63M injection into the cocoa industry

radiojamaica.com

Friday, 26 February 2010

The Cocoa Industry Board has secured a \$63 million grant from the European Union for the rehabilitation of the sector. The money is to be used in the Board's drive to boost the earnings of cocoa farmers and to maximize its foreign exchange earning potential.

According to Dr Christopher Tufton, Agriculture Minister, the primary objectives of the two year project which targets small cocoa farmers in St. Thomas, Portland and St. Mary are in keeping with a modernization thrust aimed at achieving sustainability in the agricultural sector.

The project aims to execute the necessary interventions along the cocoa-supply chain, including the rehabilitation of a total of 1,500 acres of cocoa fields and increasing yields by 50%. An estimated 650 small farmers involved in the industry will benefit directly from the project. Dr. Tufton said 15 to 20 thousand individuals in the three targeted parishes are expected to be impacted financially.

The Market

Cocoa Drops to Five-Month Low on Supply Concern; Coffee Rises

BusinessWeek

By Elizabeth Campbell

February 23, 2010,

Feb. 23 (Bloomberg) -- Cocoa tumbled to the lowest price since September in New York on speculation that ample supplies will limit the price users are willing to pay for the chocolate ingredient. Coffee futures rose. "There's plenty of supply right now," said Bill Frejlich, a Fox Investments broker in Chicago. "We're still a little overpriced."

Cocoa futures for May delivery plunged \$138, or 4.5 percent, to \$2,945 a ton on ICE Futures U.S. in New York in the biggest drop since Dec. 18.

Earlier, the most-active contract touched \$2,931, the lowest price since Sept. 16. Cocoa jumped 23 percent in 2009, partly on speculation that global output would slump.

Based on this season's cocoa crop, a fair price is probably around \$2,500, Frejlich said. The most-active futures contract may fall to about \$2,850 during the next week, he said.

In the past season, Ivory Coast produced about 35 percent of the world's cocoa in the 12 months through September, according to an estimate by the International Cocoa Organization last year.

Rising Dollar

Cocoa prices also slid as the dollar climbed, Frejlich said. The dollar rose as much as 0.7 percent against the euro. A stronger dollar lowers the appeal of some raw materials as an alternative investment. The Reuters/Jefferies CRB Index of 19 commodities fell 1.6 percent, and a close at that level would be the biggest decline since Feb. 5.

Recent movements in cocoa are "typical of a market that's pretty much finished on the upside and is working its way down," Frejlich said.

Also in New York, arabica-coffee futures for May delivery rose 0.35 cent, or 0.3 percent, to \$1.3225 a pound on ICE. Coffee has gained 17 percent in the past year as supplies tightened from South America.

COMMODITIES-Markets tumble on confidence data, dollar

Forexyard

By Barani Krishnan

February 25, 2010

NEW YORK, Feb 23 (Reuters) - Oil, cocoa and sugar tumbled on Tuesday, leading commodities lower, as U.S. consumer confidence dropped to its lowest level in 10 months and German business sentiment fell too, sparking worries about demand.

The stronger dollar was also a major influence, sending prices broadly lower as dollar-denominated raw materials became costlier for investors using currencies like the euro. Dollar vs commodities: http://graphics.thomsonreuters.com/0210/US_CRBVUSD0210.gif

"The common denominator here is the dollar strengthening, particularly against the euro," said Robin Bhar, an analyst at Credit Agricole CIB.

"There is probably a bit of buying of the dollar or short-covering -- the market is just a big jittery ahead of what Bernanke says."

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will give testimony to Congress on Wednesday and Thursday, helping currency traders decide direction for the dollar.

Oil fell as the drop in U.S. consumer confidence dented hopes for economic growth in the United States.

Cocoa prices sank to a 5-1/2-month low amid selling by funds. Sugar prices fell more than 2 percent to an 11-week low in a second day of sharp losses amid concerns over demand after a run-up earlier this month to 29-year highs.

The Reuters-Jefferies CRB index fell 1.6 percent, reflecting weakness in most of its 19 commodity markets.

U.S. crude oil futures for April closed down \$1.45 at \$78.86 per barrel.

With the weak readings in U.S. consumer confidence and German business sentiment already weighing heavily, oil prices came under further pressure from forecasts of a rise in U.S. crude inventories.

However, data from the American Petroleum Institute late Tuesday showed crude stockpiles slumped 3.1 million barrels last week, against the 2.0 million barrel increase forecast in a Reuters poll. That helped oil prices to recover slightly in post-settlement trade.

The traders will await figures from the government-run Energy Information Administration on Wednesday to see if the API data can be confirmed.

U.S. cocoa futures for May settled down 4.5 percent at \$2,945 a tonne in New York, reacting to the higher dollar, and political instability in top producer Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast's opposition parties vowed on Tuesday that protests in which at least seven people have been killed by security forces would continue until President Laurent Gbagbo reinstated the electoral commission.

Raw sugar futures fell to a 11-week low, extending Monday's sell-off when the market posted its biggest one-day loss in almost two years on worries of a bumper crop in Brazil.

New York's raw sugar for May finished down 0.44 cent, or 1.8 percent, at 23.68 cents per lb after dropping to 23.49 -- its lowest price since the week of Dec. 13.

Processing & Manufacturing

Business and Economy

Nigerian cocoa exports jump 72 pct in December: agency

Reuters South Africa

By Tume Ahemba

Feb 23, 2010



LAGOS (Reuters) - Nigeria's cocoa exports jumped 72 percent to 43,585 tonnes in December 2009 from a year earlier, official data showed on Tuesday, in line with expectations for a far bigger October-March main crop because of good weather.

Exports from the world's number four producer have risen over 60 percent to 89,261 tonnes in the three months to December 2009 from 56,661 tonnes the previous season, according to the Federal Produce Inspection Service (FPIS).

"We expect the trend to continue for at least the rest of the main crop," said Abang Neji Abang, secretary general of the Cocoa Association of Nigeria, a grouping of growers, buyers and exporters.

"The weather conditions were better this season than in the previous year," he told Reuters by telephone from the southeastern port city of Calabar.

The four months to January are traditionally the peak period for Nigerian cocoa production.

Exports fell by 1.8 percent to 164,230 tonnes in the 2008/09 season as a whole, according to data from the FPIS, the government agency which certifies cocoa and other farm produce fit for export to Western and Asian markets.

Nigeria produces around 300,000-350,000 tonnes of cocoa a year, according to the Cocoa Association of Nigeria, but government officials put the figure higher, at about 400,000-450,000 tonnes. Some cocoa is processed locally.

Nigeria has been keen since 2005 to raise its annual output to over 600,000 tonnes to rival Ghana as the world's number two grower, but a cocoa revival programme launched four years ago has had little success. West African neighbour Ivory coast is the world's top cocoa producer.

Nigeria's cocoa production peaked at around 400,000 tonnes a year in the 1970s, but became neglected in favour of oil. The industry's decline accelerated after deregulation in 1986.

'Cocoa fetching higher price than palm oil'

Daily Express

February 24, 2010

Tawau: Cocoa enjoys better potential than before, according to Malaysia Cocoa Board (LKM) Coordinators' Board Chairman Tan Sri Abi Musa Asaari Mohamed. He said the present market price had reached between RM8,000 and RM10,000 per metric tonne, which was even higher than palm oil.

In addition, he said, the cocoa-based food like chocolates are very popular and a favorite of many people worldwide. "In previous years, many cocoa farmers turned to planting oil palm because the market price dropped but now the situation has turned around. "That is why I am urging farmers in Sabah to return to cultivating cocoa on their land apart from planting oil palm as a way of diversifying their economic resources. "In fact, the Government provides various incentives to cocoa farmers like fertiliser subsidies and others.

At the same time, the agency (LKM) is also finding ways to encourage farmers in Sabah to venture into cocoa cultivation," Abi Musa said. He spoke after visiting farmers in Kg Runggu and Kg Andrassy, near here, Monday. He was accompanied by LKM Director-General Dato' Dr. Azhar Ismail and Malaysia National Smallholders Association Vice-President Haji Eusope @ Yusoff Ismail.

Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP), LKM had developed a total of 1,454 ha of cocoa land through its Technology Transfer Division of Tawau covering the East Coast of Sabah including, Sebatik Island, Merotai, Semporna, Kunak and Lahad Datu.

Labour Issues

Ghanaian cocoa farmers to benefit from becoming UTZ CERTIFIED

Modern Ghana

By Ms. Brooke Nuwati

26 Feb 2010

Ghana will be the first country in the world to have a National Guidance Document for the UTZ CERTIFIED cocoa standard. A special workshop held in Accra earlier this week brought together key stakeholders in the Ghanaian cocoa sector to develop the guidance, and to discuss the opportunities created for the cocoa sector by this exciting new sustainability initiative.

The main purpose of the UTZ CERTIFIED initiative is to support cocoa farmers to implement good agricultural practices, leading to higher yields, better cocoa farming businesses and enhanced rural livelihoods.

UTZ CERTIFIED is a worldwide certification initiative that sets voluntary standards for responsible production and sourcing in coffee, cocoa, and tea. The UTZ CERTIFIED voluntary standard for Cocoa was developed with

the cocoa sector. It sets out a number of economic, environmental and social factors, and requires intense training to bring cocoa farmers to the required level.

Through learning improved farming practices, quality and yield of cocoa beans will increase, resulting in better income for Ghanaian cocoa farmers and therefore bringing enhanced sustainability to the Ghanaian cocoa supply chain.

An increasing number of chocolate and cocoa companies are committing to cocoa certification initiatives, like UTZ CERTIFIED, seeing them as a key step on the path towards more sustainable cocoa production. MARS Inc., one of the largest global chocolate companies and a founding member of UTZ CERTIFIED, last year announced that they will source 100% of their cocoa from certified sources by 2020.

The objectives of the workshop, organised by West Africa Fair Fruit (WAFF), were to raise awareness about the UTZ CERTIFIED voluntary standard amongst the key cocoa industry stakeholders, and to create a “National Guidance Document” for Ghana.

The National Guidance Document will inform farmer associations, extension officers and others in the cocoa industry, on how the individual criteria within the standard are to be understood and implemented in a way that makes sense in Ghana.

The workshop was formally opened by the Acting Director of Research, Marketing and Evaluation at COCOBOD, Mr. Osei-Owusu, and the Chief Cocoa Farmer, Mr. Opoku Danso. Mr. Osei-Owusu welcomed the initiative, expressing his hope that voluntary standards like UTZ CERTIFIED will have a significant positive impact on cocoa farmers, and encouraging farmers to find out more about this opportunity.

Mr. Richard Perrin, Cocoa Programme Manager at WAFF (a Ghana based not-for-profit company), explained that WAFF plays a representation role for UTZ CERTIFIED in Ghana, supporting groups of Ghanaian cocoa farmers to work towards the UTZ CERTIFIED voluntary standard. “UTZ CERTIFIED represents an opportunity for the Ghana cocoa sector to build on its existing reputation for high quality, by demonstrating the sector's commitment to enhance the sustainability of cocoa production.”

He added, “By encouraging cocoa farmers to improve their practices, both on and off the farm, certification initiatives like UTZ CERTIFIED support farmers to achieve higher yields, and to better the livelihoods of their families and communities.”

At the end of 2009, Cocoa Abrabopa Association, with support from WAFF, became the first cocoa farmers' association in Ghana to attain the UTZ CERTIFIED standard, with over 500 cocoa farmers successfully meeting the required level. In 2010, WAFF is continuing to support cocoa farmer groups across Ghana in their certification efforts, and by 2011, it is expected that over 4000 Ghanaian cocoa farmers will be UTZ CERTIFIED.

Over 100 participants took part in the UTZ CERTIFIED workshop, representing a wide range of stakeholders including COCOBOD, Government ministries and agencies, cocoa farmers and their associations, cocoa and chocolate companies, NGOs active in the cocoa sector, agrochemical companies and international guests from Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Europe. The workshop was funded by Solidaridad - a Dutch NGO that promotes responsible trade.

About West Africa Fair Fruit (WAFF)

WAFF is a not-for-profit company that supports the sustainable and economic development of farmers and workers in Ghana and other countries in West Africa, and the sustainable environmental development of their production systems through access to value chains of fresh and processed agricultural commodities under fair-trade conditions. Our activities are focused on the fresh fruit, oil palm and cocoa sectors.

Since July 2008, WAFF has been funded by Solidaridad (a Dutch NGO that promotes sustainable production and responsible trade) to play a representation role for UTZ CERTIFIED in Ghana. WAFF's cocoa programme is mainly focussed on advocating and establishing the UTZ CERTIFIED cocoa initiative in Ghana, and supporting groups of cocoa farmers to achieve the voluntary standard.

Visit our website for more information: www.waffcompany.com

About UTZ CERTIFIED

UTZ CERTIFIED is dedicated to creating an open and transparent marketplace for agricultural products. UTZ CERTIFIED has established a strong profile in the coffee sector, and has now developed sustainability models for the production of cocoa and tea, and offers traceability services for palm oil. Partners of UTZ CERTIFIED are among others Cargill, Barry Callebaut, Armajaro, Mars and Nestlé. UTZ CERTIFIED's vision is to achieve sustainable agricultural supply chains in which farmers are professionals, the industry takes responsibility by demanding and rewarding sustainably grown products, and consumers buy products that meet their standard for social and environmental responsibility.

UTZ means 'good' in a language of the Mayans, who were thought to be the first humans to consume cocoa. Visit the website www.utzcertified.org for more information.

About the UTZ CERTIFIED Cocoa Standard

The internationally recognised UTZ CERTIFIED Code of Conduct has been specifically designed for the cocoa sector, based on a thorough consultation of more than 100 cocoa stakeholders worldwide, including farmers, farmer organisations, government officials, NGOs, traders, chocolate companies and other experts. Specialists on key topics like agronomy, deforestation and child labour were involved to ensure optimal incentives and controls on all fronts. The official version of the code of conduct for cocoa is available on www.utzcertified.org/cocoa

Research & Development

Lindt USA Cocoa Bean Shells Help Produce Renewable Energy

SOURCE Lindt & Sprungli

PR Newswire (press release)

Feb. 23 /PRNewswire

STRATHAM, N.H., / -- Lindt USA, the world's leading producer of premium chocolate, and Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), New Hampshire's largest electric utility, today announce a partnership helping to produce renewable power in New Hampshire. The chocolate company will provide PSNH with cocoa bean shells which will be burned to produce electricity.

Lindt, based in Stratham, N.H., is one of the only U.S. chocolate manufacturers to manage the chocolate making process from raw material to final creations. During chocolate production, raw cocoa beans are roasted and crushed, extracting a richly-flavored pulp which is blended with a variety of fine ingredients, depending on the recipe. As a result, the cocoa bean shells become a byproduct and in the state of New Hampshire they are a designated biomass fuel source. Lindt will now deliver the shells to PSNH's Schiller Station power plant in Portsmouth, N.H., to be used as a supplementary fuel source. "Lindt controls every aspect of the chocolate making process, from the choice of cocoa beans to the finished product," said Thomas Linemayr, chief executive officer and president, Lindt USA. "Our partnership with PSNH provides us with an opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint by disposing of a byproduct in a responsible manner."

The cocoa bean shell concept was first tested in March 2009 and is now being officially implemented following approval from New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services. The burning of biomass, such as cocoa bean shells, reduces the amount of carbon dioxide a power plant would otherwise emit through the burning of fossil fuels. "This is one of many steps we've taken to continuously improve our environmental programs," said Bill Smagula, PSNH Director – Generation. "It will allow us, with the help of Lindt, to replace a portion of coal with a portion of biomass, and that's another step in the right direction." According to Smagula, every ton of cocoa bean shells used to generate electricity for PSNH customers will displace the need to burn one half-ton of coal.

For more information on Lindt, please visit www.lindt.com. For further details on the renewable power partnership, please visit www.psnh.com.

About Lindt & Sprungli

Founded in 1845, Lindt & Sprungli is a global leader in the premium chocolate category, offering high-quality products in more than 80 countries. Lindt & Sprungli operates eight production facilities in Europe and the United States and employs 6,300 worldwide. Lindt USA operates more than 70 retail stores throughout the

country and maintains wide distribution through extensive retail and wholesale channels. For more information on Lindt, visit www.lindt.com.

About Public Service of New Hampshire

Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, generating and distributing clean electricity for more than 490,000 homes and businesses in an environmentally friendly manner. Each year, PSNH supports dozens of forest protection, energy conservation, and environmental organizations through both financial contributions and generous employee volunteerism. PSNH is proud of its commitment to the environment and willingness to create innovative solutions to environmental issues. For more information on PSNH, please visit www.psnh.com.

Lindt Recycles Cocoa Bean Shells into Biomass Energy

Environmental Leader

February 25, 2010



Chocolate maker Lindt USA and Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), New Hampshire's largest electric utility, will soon be producing renewable power from cocoa bean shells. PSNH's Schiller Station power plant will produce supplemental electricity from cocoa bean shells, considered a biomass fuel source in New Hampshire, supplied by the chocolate maker, according to a press release.

Using cocoa bean shells as a fuel source was first tested by PSNH in March 2009 and is now officially being implemented following approval from New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services. The burning of biomass reduces carbon dioxide emissions that would have been emitted through the burning of fossil fuels, say the companies.

Every ton of cocoa bean shells used to generate electricity will replace the need to burn one half-ton of coal, which also helps the utility reduce a portion of its coal-producing power with biomass, says PSNH.

Lindt says the partnership will allow the company to reduce its carbon footprint by responsibly disposing of a manufacturing byproduct.

Lindt's biomass partnership is one of many that are being planned or have rolled out over the past month. As an example, Tesco announced that its new distribution center in Widnes, England, will be 100-percent powered by renewable energy generated from food waste.

Other projects include an on-site biomass-fueled combined heat and power (CHP) energy station at the University of British Columbia campus, and a potential partnership between Mitsubishi and Weyerhaeuser, which are evaluating the potential of biomass and possibly bio-pellet production facilities in the U.S.

Promotion & Consumption

Cadbury transfers 500,000 pounds to farmers

Ghana News Agency

February 24, 2010

Accra, Feb. 24, GNA - Cadbury Dairy Milk has transferred over 500,000 pounds in premium to cocoa farmers in the country as a result of the company's purchase of Fairtrade cocoa.

Mr. James Boateng, Managing Director of Cadbury Ghana, who announced this, said the premiums will go directly into projects that farmers had determined, including building wells and mobile health clinics and funding for carbon reduction schemes. "Alongside the community investment, the money is also being used to fund farmer training, incentives and provision of tools," Mr Boateng said at the release of "Big Swap Songs" album, which featured a Ghanaian group, the Big Ghana Band. The launch coincides with Cadbury campaign to celebrate a Fairtrade fortnight to encourage more people to get involved in the fair trade movements.

Mr Boateng said despite Cadbury's acquisition by Kraft, the company would remain committed to the partnership to improve the lives of cocoa farmers in the country.

In January 2008, the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership was established in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, governments, farmers and communities. The partnership aims to secure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of around one million cocoa farmers and their communities in Ghana, India, Indonesia and the Caribbean.

Over 10 years, 45 million pounds will be invested through the partnership to improve farmer incomes, develop communities and build partnerships.

In January 2009 Cadbury announced that the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership was active across 100 Ghanaian communities, marking the 100th anniversary of cocoa trading with Ghana.

The programme will focus on investing in farmer education that develops best cocoa management practices, and explore carbon reduction techniques to secure more sustainable cocoa farming.

Others

Sagging cocoa 'unlikely' to languish for long

Agrimoney.com

24th February 2010,

Cocoa prices look unlikely to stay for long around their five-month lows, as the impact of political unrest further slows supplies from Ivory Coast, Commerzbank analysts have said. The bank blamed the falls in fellow soft commodities coffee and sugar, which has been dented by demand fears, for the slide of 5% in benchmark London cocoa values this week and 6% in New York's. "The cocoa price was drawn into the downtrend," the German bank said, also noting the impact of an exit by speculative investors, who have cut their net long positions by 40% in three weeks.

The chocolate ingredient, which hit a 30-year high in New York in December and a 32-year top in London last month, was poised to rebound as a rapid slowdown in deliveries from growers to Ivory Coast ports hit home.

'Massive slowdown'

Deliveries, which had been running above last year's by 15% in January, were now, at 836,000 tonnes, only 3.5% ahead. "This is an indication that the cocoa crop in the world's largest cocoa producing country has seen a massive slowdown during the past five weeks, implying that this season's crop volume will not meaningfully exceed that of last year," the bank said.

Political unrest in Ivory Coast, where at least 12 people have died in protests against President Laurent Gbagbo's decision to dissolve the government and the electoral commission, meant "additional temporary delivery disruptions are likely".

With the cocoa market on course for what some analysts have said is a fourth successive year of production shortfall, "cocoa prices are unlikely to remain below the US\$3,000 [a tonne] mark for a long period of time".

'Favourable' supply outlook

However, Terry Roggensack, the Hightower Report analyst, said that the lack of market reaction to the Ivory Coast protests "clearly showed" that they were not, as yet, a serious impediment to supplies.

This was in part down to the timing of the demonstrations, at the end of the main production season. "Since the main harvest is nearly complete and production continues to outpace last year's levels, the political turmoil has not become a bullish catalyst," Mr Roggensack said. "Good" growing conditions for the mid-crop, due later in the year, meant the outlook for supplies looked "favourable" too.

London cocoa for May, the best-traded contract, traded 15 tonnes lower at £2,170 a tonne in lunchtime deals in London.

New York's May contract stood down \$24 at \$2,921 a tonne.

Ivory Coast was on Wednesday reported has having announced a new government that includes opposition politicians and fewer ministers, although some major posts, including agriculture, have yet to be filled.

Workshop On Cocoa Sector Opened Ghana

Source: ISD (Faith Junko-Ogawa).
25 February 2010

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Fiifi Kwetey today opened a workshop on the New Cocoa Sector Development Document. He indicated that it is not by coincidence that the Cocoa Sector Strategy Development Document is being reviewed during the tenure of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Government, since the first sector development strategy document was approved in April 1999 during the tenure of the same Party Government. "It is also worth noting that the core structural reforms and strategies have been so beneficial to the Cocoa Sector", he noted.

The minister assured all that, the Government attaches much importance to the Cocoa Sector and will support COCOBOD in the implementation of the outcome of the workshop.

Mr. Anthony Fofie, Chief Executive of Ghana Cocoa Board said the need for a strategic plan for such a critical sector of the Ghanaian economy cannot be overemphasised. He remarked that the objectives of cocoa strategy are to ensure increased and sustainable production, enhance the incomes of farmers and maintain the quality of Ghana's cocoa beans. These are to be achieved through effective internal and external marketing

Mr. Anthony Fofie noted that having operated the first strategy document for ten years and in the light of current happenings in both the world cocoa economy and domestic scene, it has become necessary to review the exiting strategy document

TIT BITS

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

US MIDDAY: sugar and coffee sink

NEW YORK (February 23, 2010): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Monday. May arabica coffee contract sank 4.95 cents or 3.6 percent to \$1.3210 per lb at 11:15 am EST (1615 GMT). Wide session range from \$1.3170 to \$1.37. Arabica coffee tumbled after breaking through a double-bottom at \$1.3360, on technical selling, said brokers.

US MIDDAY: sugar at 11-week low

NEW YORK (February 24, 2010): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Tuesday. May arabica coffee contract inched up 0.20 cent to \$1.3210 per lb at 11:06 am EST (1606 GMT). Narrow range from \$1.3130 to \$1.3280. Arabica coffee consolidated higher after stumbling Monday, said brokers. May raw sugar contract fell 0.42 cent, or 1.7 percent, to 23.70 cents per lb at 11:07 am.

Liffe sugar and cocoa weaker

LONDON (February 24, 2010): May white sugar ended \$33.20 weaker at \$653.90 a tonne on Tuesday after sinking to a two-month low for the benchmark front month of \$653.30. Market weighed by a strong dollar and a lack of offtake in the physical market. May robusta coffee ended up \$1 at \$1,264 per tonne. Market weighed by a lack of demand from roasters who appear to have taken plenty of cover during the prolonged slide in prices.

Liffe sugar, coffee and cocoa rise

LONDON (February 25, 2010): May white sugar ended \$19.80 higher at \$673.70 a tonne on Wednesday. Market supported by signs that demand in the physical market may be starting to pick-up after the sharp decline in prices earlier this week. May robusta coffee ended \$7 higher at \$1,271 per tonne. Market hovering above contract low of \$1,256 set earlier this week. Business dominated by rolling forward of positions out of the front month ahead of Monday's first notice day.

US MIDDAY: cocoa recovers

NEW YORK (February 25, 2010): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar

markets early on Wednesday. May arabica coffee contract climbed 0.65 cent to \$1.329 per lb at 11:05 am EST (1605 GMT). Ranging from \$1.318 to \$1.333. Arabica coffee range-bound, awaits leads, said brokers.

Sugar, coffee and cocoa drop

NEW YORK (February 26, 2010): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Thursday. May arabica coffee slid 3.35 cents to \$1.2950 per lb at 11 am EST (1600 GMT). Range \$1.323 to \$1.2825, lowest intra-session level in more than five months. Firm dollar sparked investor sales and then futures ran into stop-loss selling before rebounding, said brokers.

Liffe sugar and coffee down

LONDON (February 26, 2010): May white sugar ended \$12 lower at \$661.7 a tonne on Thursday, pressured by a stronger dollar and weaker equities driven by worries over Greece's debt crisis. May robusta coffee ended \$12 lower at \$1,259 per tonne. Market hovering above contract low of \$1,251 as the stronger dollar and weakness across the commodities spectrum had infected the soft commodities complex.

US MIDDAY: sugar loses ground; coffee, cocoa firmer

NEW YORK (February 27, 2010): Summaries of the ICE Futures US cocoa, coffee and sugar markets early on Friday. May arabica coffee contract rose 1.20 cents to \$1.309 per lb at 11:00 am EST (1600 GMT). Ranging from \$1.302 to \$1.322. Coffee rebounds on modest short-covering, said brokers.

Brazilian cocoa arrivals up four percent

SAO PAULO (February 27, 2010): Brazil's 2009/10 (May/April) cocoa arrivals including imports reached 3.3 million 60-kg bags by February 21, up 4 percent from the same period last year, Bahia Commercial Association said. The country's main cocoa state, Bahia, delivered 9,445 60-kg bags while other states turned out 4,129 bags in the week ending February 21.

