



COPAL COCOA Info

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance

Issue No. 197

18th – 22nd September 2006

ICCO Daily Cocoa Prices

	ICCO daily price (SDRs/tonne)	ICCO daily price (US\$/tonne)	London futures (£/tonne)	New York futures (US\$/tonne)
18 th September	1022.75	1509.59	829.33	1458.33
19 th September	1028.72	1519.78	834.33	1466.00
20 th September	1048.64	1550.30	848.67	1495.00
21 st September	1084.60	1608.82	874.00	1558.00
22 nd September	1062.36	1580.57	856.00	1531.67
Average	1,049.41	1,553.81	848.47	1,501.80

Up-coming Events

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

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Have you had your cocoa today?

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

Monday 18th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Sep 2006		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec 2006	835	812	-25	837	809	9,338
Mar 2007	853	831	-23	853	828	5,296
May 2007	863	845	-22	865S	842S	2,087
Jul 2007	878	858	-22	879	856	1,342
Sep 2007	892	873	-20	893	870	2,601
Dec. 2007	904	884	-20	904	883	1,294
Mar-08	909	895	-19	911S	895	920
May-08	903	905	-19	903	903	6
Jul-08		915	-19			0
Sep-08		924	-19			0
Totals		874				22,884

Tuesday 19th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	808	817	5	822	807	5,429
Mar 2007	829	836	5	841	827	3,371
May 2007	841	850	5	855	840	678
Jul 2007	858	863	5	865	854	414
Sep 2007	870	877	4	876S	869	545
Dec. 2007	884	889	5	888	883	706
Mar-08	894	901	6	902S	894	220
May-08	908	911	6	911	908	10
Jul-08		921	6			0
Sep-08		930	6			0
Totals		880				11,373

Wednesday 20th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	815	833	16	835	815	8,280
Mar 2007	838	850	14	852	838	2,188
May 2007	848	863	13	863	848	749
Jul 2007	868	876	13	874S	866	209
Sep 2007	878	890	13	887S	878S	130
Dec. 2007		903	14			0
Mar-08		915	14			0
May-08		925	14			0
Jul-08		935	14			0
Sep-08		944	14			0
Totals		893				11,556

Thursday 21st Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	832	858	25	862	826	9,089
Mar 2007	849	876	26	877	845	2,251
May 2007	861	888	25	888	861	1,416
Jul 2007	881	900	24	901	875	2,486
Sep 2007	887	914	24	915S	886S	155
Dec. 2007	901	926	23	925	901	231
Mar-08		938	23			0
May-08		948	23			0
Jul-08		958	23			0
Sep-08		967	23			0
Totals		917				15,628

Friday 22nd Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	858	840	-18	858	833	4,782
Mar 2007	874	858	-18	876	851	731
May 2007	884	870	-18	886S	866S	50
Jul 2007	899	883	-17	899	880	545
Sep 2007	896	897	-17	896S	895	32
Dec. 2007	910	911	-15	910	906	85
Mar-08	917	922	-16	917S	917S	1
May-08		932	-16			0
Jul-08	941	942	-16	947	940	339
Sep-08		951	-16			0
Totals		901				6,565

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

Monday 18th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	1462 1466	1420	-53	1468	1415	19450
Mar 2007	1499 1500	1459	-49	1502	1454	5614
May 2007	1525 0	1483	-49	1525	1479	864
Jul 2007	1550 0	1509	-48	1550	1505	521
Sep 2007	1572 0	1533	-47	1572	1530	853
Dec 2007	1593 0	1555	-47	1593	1557	401
Mar 2008	1615 ^B 1625 ^A	1580	-47	0	0	0
May 2008	0 0	1602	-47	0	0	1
Jul 2008	0 0	1624	-47	0	0	0
Totals		1529				27,704

Tuesday 19th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	1418 1422	1435	15	1440	1418	6289
Mar 2007	1461 1463	1473	14	1475	1458	2528
May 2007	1487 1488	1497	14	1502	1484	570
Jul 2007	1513 0	1524	15	1526	1513	293
Sep 2007	1538 1540	1547	14	1543	1538	332
Dec 2007	1558 ^B 1570 ^A	1570	15	0	0	70
Mar 2008	1582 ^B 1591 ^A	1597	17	0	0	50
May 2008	0 0	1619	17	0	0	0
Jul 2008	0 0	1641	17	1624	1624	506
Totals		1545				10,638

Wednesday 20th Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	1445 1448	1467	32	1470	1445	6129
Mar 2007	1486 1488	1502	29	1503	1483	1722
May 2007	1510 0	1525	28	1515	1510	104
Jul 2007	1530 ^B 1540 ^A	1550	26	1550	1538	131
Sep 2007	0 0	1573	26	0	0	0
Dec 2007	0 0	1600	30	0	0	150
Mar 2008	0 0	1623	26	0	0	0
May 2008	0 0	1645	26	0	0	0
Jul 2008	0 0	1667	26	0	0	0
Totals		1572				8,236

Thursday 21st Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	1467 1469	1529	62	1535	1467	17560
Mar 2007	1502 1503	1561	59	1563	1500	3302
May 2007	1525 ^B 1527 ^A	1585	60	1583	1535	174
Jul 2007	1548 ^B 1553 ^A	1610	60	1610	1582	421
Sep 2007	1570 ^B 1576 ^A	1633	60	1635	1610	200
Dec 2007	0 0	1657	57	1656	1608	140
Mar 2008	0 0	1682	59	1650	1650	1
May 2008	0 0	1705	60	1665	1665	543
Jul 2008	0 0	1728	61	1680	1680	543
Totals		1632				22,884

Friday 22nd Sept. 2006

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Dec 2006	1528 1534	1499	-30	1534	1485	8583
Mar 2007	1560 1561	1534	-27	1561	1525	2179
May 2007	1583 ^B 1588 ^A	1559	-26	1570	1560	201
Jul 2007	1605 ^B 1615 ^A	1584	-26	1594	1578	231
Sep 2007	1631 ^B 1638 ^A	1607	-26	1618	1597	414
Dec 2007	0 0	1632	-25	0	0	50
Mar 2008	0 0	1657	-25	0	0	0
May 2008	0 0	1677	-28	0	0	0
Jul 2008	0 0	1697	-31	1708	1687	339
Totals		1605				11,997

Spot Prices (US \$ per tonne)

	18 th Sept.	19 th Sept.	20 th Sept.	21 st Sept.	22 nd Sept.
Main Crop Ghana, Grade 1	1792	1807	1839	1901	1871
Main Crop Ivory Coast, Grade 1	1713	1728	1760	1822	1792
Main Crop Nigerian, 1	1695	1710	1742	1804	1774
Superior Arriba	1895	1910	1942	2004	1974
Sanchez f.a.q.	1653	1668	1700	1762	1732
Malaysian 110	1410	1425	1457	1519	1489
Sulawesi f.a.q.	1457	1472	1504	1566	1436
Ecuador Cocoa Liquor	2409	2435	2489	2594	2543
Pure Prime Press African Type Cocoa Butter	3749	3788	3873	4037	3957
10/12% Natural Cocoa Press Cake	805	813	831	866	849

Source: Cocoa Merchants' Association-

News

DCE warns cocoa spraying gangs

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

-GNA-: Leader Benjamin Anane Asamoah (rtd), Dormaa District Chief Executive (DCE) has warned of stiff penalties for any cocoa sprayer or supervisor who would attempt to divert any chemicals meant for the cocoa spraying exercise. Such acts, he said, has the tendency not only to derail government policy but also to discredit the government, defeating the laudable objectives of the programme. The DCE gave the warning at a meeting with 90 spraying gang members and supervisors at Nkwantaso, near Kwaku-Anya in Nkrankwanta cocoa district to acquaint himself with their problems and how to address them.

Squadron Leader Asamoah acknowledged President J.A. Kufuor's personal commitment to seeing that the cocoa industry regained its glory in quality and production. He said the District Assembly and the district directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture would collaborate to strengthen the process of monitoring and supervision of all segments of agriculture in the district to ensure that farmers received their fair share of technology and market. The DCE called on farmers, opinion leaders and traditional authorities to support government efforts at revamping the agricultural sector and making Ghana self-sufficient in food and foreign exchange earnings.

The chief cocoa farmer, Nana D.D. Opong, called on his colleague cocoa farmers to work hand-in-hand with the gangs to ensure maximum coverage of their farms. He appealed to government to add chemicals for 'Akate' during subsequent exercises to rid their farms of all pests and diseases.

Ghana takes big loan to buy cocoa

Sep 21, 2006,

Accra - Ghana's state-owned Cocoa Board has signed a trade finance loan valued at 810 million dollars to be used to finance cocoa purchases for the 2006-07 crop season, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) reported Thursday. It said that the agreement of the syndicated loan arranged by Standard Chartered Bank and Natexis Banque Populaires, the mandated lead arrangers, was signed in Paris.

GNA said that the Ghana International Bank plc was also among the syndicating banks. 'This amount has become necessary because of the increase in cocoa output and its attendant working capital requirement,' Isaac Osei, chief executive of COCOBOD, said at the signing ceremony. Didier Locquet, head of syndication for Natexis Banques Populaires, cited the bank's confidence in Ghana Cocoa Board over the years as reason for offering the facility for the third time. The amount is the second highest since the Ghana Cocoa Board started arranging loans in 1993.

In 2004-05, an amount of 850 million dollars was arranged but only 550 million was drawn by the COCOBOD. Ghana is one of the world's three leading cocoa producers, and the crop has been one of the country's top foreign exchange earners since independence in 1957. Total cocoa production for the 2005-06 season is around 600,000 tons.

Cocoa committee to spend N250m on agro-chemicals

Thursday, Sep 21, 2006

The National Cocoa Development Committee (NCDC) will spend N250 million on agro-chemicals to boost cocoa production this year, says the Minister of State for Agriculture, Otunba Bamidele Dada. Dada made this known in Umuahia, while inaugurating farmers' field schools for 10 cocoa producing states. The assorted agro-chemicals would be sold to farmers at 50 per cent subsidy, he also announced at the opening of a two-week workshop for master trainers and supervisors. He said the trainers were expected to anchor the programme in Ekiti, Cross River, Abia, Ondo, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Kogi, Kwara and Adamawa states.

So far, 15,000 cocoa farmers had been trained in cocoa husbandry and post-harvest activities, leading to a boost in production from 170,000 tonnes to 400,000 tonnes in 2005, he said. Dada said that "with the planting of 20 million seedlings of short gestation varieties of cocoa, rehabilitation and replanting of old farms, production will increase to 600,000 tonnes in due course. "The adoption of the farmers' field school is aimed at institutionalising a participatory method of training to involve the farmer in both training and decision making."

The minister advised the trainers to pilot the programme in the 10 states for the active participation of other stakeholders. In his address, Chief Mike Oghiadome, the Edo Deputy Governor, said the NCDC placed a high premium on training and re-training of cocoa farmers to boost production. Oghiadome, who is the Chairman of the

NCDC Sub-committee on Sensitisation and Training, appealed to the federal government to sustain the farmers' school.

Cocoa alliance urges African growers to up yields

(Reuters)

YAOUNDE (September 21 2006): African cocoa plantations are much less productive than their competitors in Asia and must do more to increase output such as ripping out old trees to make way for new high-yield strains, a key producers' group said. "If Malaysia can produce 1.5 metric tonnes of cocoa per hectare, why is it that Cameroon produces only 450 kg?" Hope Sona Ebai, secretary-general of the cocoa Producers' Alliance (COPAL) said in an interview with Reuters late on Tuesday. "We cannot continue to have a situation where only 20 trees in a farm are producing 80 percent of the cocoa. This means the rest of the trees are useless and we should cut them down and replace them," he said. Ebai urged African governments and farmers to undertake a complete census of cocoa farms and plan a step-by-step replacement of no longer productive trees with new ones, including high-yield hybrid varieties.

COPAL groups 10 cocoa-growing countries around the world including top producers Ivory Coast and Ghana and aims to increase scientific and technical co-operation between its members and promote cocoa consumption. Ebai, who was speaking on the sidelines of an African Commodities Roundtable in Cameroon's capital Yaounde, said African farmers also needed better access to funding like bank loans to allow them to increase output and profits. But he said many commercial banks in Africa were not making enough funding available to farmers. "Cameroon banks need to realise that their counterparts abroad are making millions from cocoa and coffee sectors. So they need to lend to the sector, they need to learn the trade so that they can make money from the sectors," he said.

Cocoa production in Cameroon, the world's fourth biggest producer over recent years, slipped to 164,553 tonnes in the 2005/06 season which ended in July, from over 177,000 the previous year. Ebai said he would be addressing cocoa farmers in Cameroon in November to urge them to increase output, not just by expanding plantations but by increasing yields per hectare.

Poll: Israeli chocolate consumption doubles

Yehudit Yahav

Published: 09.21.06,

Dun and Bradstreet survey ahead of Rosh Hashana finds that Israelis consume an average of 3 Kgs of chocolate per capita per year. A survey carried out by the Dun and Bradstreet business information company ahead of the Rosh Hashana holiday found that Israelis consume an average of 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) of chocolate per capita per year. The past five years has seen a 100 percent increase in the per capita chocolate consumption, the study found. The study also revealed that Israelis eat twice as much chocolate in the winter months as in the rest of the year. D&B economists said the increase in chocolate consumption resulted from the increasing number of chocolate products on the market, as well as the entry of new competitors into the market.

In 2005, about 68 percent of purchased chocolate was bought from chain supermarkets, while the remaining 32 percent was bought from specialty shops, kiosks and gas stations. Individually wrapped chocolate snacks constitute 50 percent of sales, chocolate bars account for 25 percent, chocolate spreads for 15 percent and gift boxes of chocolate for 10 percent. According to statistics, Switzerland is the largest per capita consumer of chocolate, eating 10 kilos of the cocoa confection yearly. Although Israel trails behind the Swiss standard, it far surpasses the Chinese, who eat a mere 50 grams of chocolate per year. According to the Hershey food co., American eat roughly 4.7 kilograms of chocolate each year.

Drinking cocoa for science

By Christopher Loh/ Newton Tab

Friday, September 22, 2006

Dr. Naomi Fisher holds a vial of cocoa in the courtyard of the Harvard Medical Buildings. The Newton resident hopes to show that flavanol-rich cocoa can help prevent high blood pressure.

NEWTON -- Naomi Fisher is looking for volunteers to drink cocoa in the name of science.

The Harvard researcher and Newton Centre resident, along with colleague Norman Hollenberg, are hoping to show whether flavanol-rich cocoa can help prevent high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems. Fisher said that advanced aging in humans is often accompanied by an increased prevalence of cardiovascular problems, including hypertension, myocardial infarction and stroke. The root of all these conditions is the aging of the blood

vessels, damaged by a dysfunctional endothelium -- the inside sheath of the vessel which, when damaged, can block blood flow and cause high blood pressure.

It is believed flavanol-rich cocoa prevents the sheath from becoming damaged. "There are certain communities in the world that have no high blood pressure," said Fisher while sitting inside her office on Longwood Avenue, Boston's medical mecca.. About a decade ago, researchers discovered that among the Kuna Indians of Panama, hypertension is virtually unknown. The finding was especially curious since that specific community loves salt, which is normally a major cause of human hypertension. So scientists turned elsewhere in the Kuna diet to see what may be the source for the community's strange feat. They did not have to look too hard to stumble across the fact that the Kuna love cocoa.

"They drink 25 to 30 cups a week,"Fisher said.

But it is not the same kind of cocoa you buy at the local supermarket on a cold December evening before watching "Home Alone." Kuna cocoa is rich in flavanols - the key ingredient responsible for a host of beneficial actions such as fighting inflammation and thinning the blood and widening blood vessels. The "trigger mechanism" that cocoa flavanols activate is the potent antioxidant molecule nitric oxide.

A Snickers or Three Musketeers bar does not contain the same antioxidants.

"By the time most confectionary chocolate are manufactured, the flavanols have essentially been eliminated," said Fisher, who became involved with the research in 2000. Fisher said she is provided with the flavanol-rich cocoa for clinical research patients by the Tacoma, Wash.-based Mars Inc., one of the largest candy makers in the world. Flavanols are not only located in the cocoa bean, but in tea and fruits as well. They just happen to be more abundant in cocoa. After bench trials yielded good findings, human trials began and results poured in. But there is still more research to be completed, even though chocolate companies are taking seriously the discoveries -- seriously enough to consider the production of flavanol-rich chocolate. We're still exploring other possible vascular beds," said Fisher, explaining researchers are trying to pinpoint other areas the cocoa may affect. "We're trying to find out what metabolites are active and which one is responsible at a molecular level."

Mass cocoa spraying is free and non-partisan – DCE

Sept. 22,

Wassa-Akropong (W/R),

GNA - The mass cocoa spraying exercise initiated by the government to boost cocoa production is still free and does not attract any fee from farmers and it is without any partisan consideration. Madam Doris Gyapomah Oduro, Wassa Amenfi East District Chief Executive (DCE) also maintained that, the exercise had created jobs for thousands of people and increased cocoa yield tremendously to sustain the economy. She was briefing the Ghana News Agency on the outcome of a meeting she held with mass cocoa spraying gangs and their supervisors at Wassa-Akropong on Wednesday.

The meeting was necessitated by reports she received from some farmers and spraying gangs during a recent familiarisation visit to some communities in the district. The DCE explained that, those who took money from farmers for spraying their farms were those engaged by the farmers themselves and not those engaged by the Government for the exercise. Madam Oduro mentioned inadequate supply of chemicals, broken-down spraying machines that needed to be repaired and insufficient allowances to the workers as some of the complaints. She warned against stealing and diversion of materials and chemicals meant for the exercise and said those caught involved in these vices would not be spared. She expressed concern about the tendency of some farmers, who sold their produce to licensed buying agencies in neighbouring districts after receiving support from the Amenfi East District Assembly, thereby denying the district of revenue for its development. She advised farmers and gang supervisors not to hesitate to approach her for assistance, whenever they faced difficulties.

Madam Oduro appealed to the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to construct and rehabilitate roads from remote communities to the district capital to enhance cocoa evacuation to buying depots. Fifteen people would be engaged to beef up the present 103 spraying gangs in the district to enhance the exercise. The DCE disclosed that the District Assembly supplied 4,000 bags of fertilisers valued at 900 million cedis to cocoa farmer at the beginning of this farming season. The farmers are expected to pay 50 per cent of the cost, while the assembly pay the remaining cost from its share of the common fund.Source:

Cocoa growers complain over lack of pesticides

By staff reporter

22/09/2006 - Cocoa production could be set for a downturn after farmers in Cameroon claim they are under-supplied with the necessary pesticides. Growers from the South West province of the country, which is the world's third largest producer of cocoa, told Reuters they had been given only 40 per cent of the chemicals that were needed. Most cocoa farmers depend on state funds or farming federations to supply them with pesticides but some communities have claimed they are not getting enough to ensure the crops are protected from potentially devastating diseases such as Black Pod and this will impact on productivity.

In addition, the South Western farmers said chemicals from a government-organised fund had not arrived in time for the start of the cocoa season in August. Head of a local co-operative David Molonge Kinge told Reuters: "They told us there were stocks for us, but now we will get them for next season." The cocoa plant is particularly susceptible to disease with the virulent fungus Black Pod responsible for the destruction of between 30 and 90 per cent of the bean each year.

The spread of Black Pod is usually contained by using copper-based fungicides and selectively pruning diseased pods but the effectiveness of the pesticide depends on climatic conditions in the crop area and, due to heavy rains, the amount of chemicals needed can vary. Currently, 4 million metric tons of cocoa worth more than \$4 billion (€3.1bn) are produced each year. The global chocolate market is worth \$75 billion (€58.5bn) annually. African cocoa producing countries, which include Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda and Ghana, account for around 80 per cent of global exports of the bean.

Nigeria: UN Meeting for Cote d' Ivoire Fails

Daily Trust (Abuja)

September 22, 2006

A U.N. mini-summit convened to set a future course for the peace process in divided Ivory Coast flopped on Wednesday when the West African nation's president carried out a threat to boycott it. Ivory Coast rebel leaders showed up at the session as well as officials from the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations. But the most important player, President Laurent Gbagbo, stayed home after announcing a day earlier that he was drafting an alternative peace plan and U.N. peacekeepers were now free to leave. U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno told reporters no decisions had been made.

Instead, he said, future moves would have to be charted in the U.N. Security Council in consultation with Ivory Coast and regional leaders. Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa producer, was split into a rebel-held north and government-controlled south by a brief 2002-2003 civil war launched by rebels hoping to oust Gbagbo from power. Some 7,600 U.N. peacekeepers and 4,000 French troops monitor a buffer zone between the two sides and support the peace process. A string of peace deals aimed at reuniting Ivory Coast have foundered as the parties bicker over the implementation of the agreements. All sides have acknowledged that presidential elections due by October 31 will have to be postponed for a second time because there is not enough time left to prepare for them. Gbagbo's five-year presidential term initially ran out last October 31, but the Security Council extended it for a year after concluding free and fair elections would be impossible at that time. Among the challenges facing the mini-summit were how to deal with the presidency when the year-long extension ran out. Gbagbo, in an interview with the French newspaper Le Monde, said the current situation was worse than war and he was drafting his own peace plan to submit to the African Union. Asked if his plan was intended to force out the international peacekeepers, he said their plan had failed. "If they want to leave, let them leave," he said.

FG flags off Farmers' Field school

Friday, Sep 22, 2006

The Tide Online

The Federal Government has formally flagged off the Farmers Field School (FFS) programme aimed at boosting cocoa production in the country. The FFS is a bottom-up approach method in which cocoa farmers will directly participate in training and other decision making process in production of cocoa crop with modern technology. Under the FFS scheme, cocoa farmers are expected to be meeting every two weeks throughout the crop cycle to learn, through simple experimentation, production techniques. The scheme is aimed at developing and adapting environmentally friendly, economically sustainable and socially responsive training programme for improving cocoa production in Nigeria substantially as well as its quality.

The flagging off of the FFS also coincided with the commencement of a two week workshop for the training of FFS master trainers and supervisors, for 10 of the 14 cocoa producing states, including Abia, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta. The rest are Ekiti, Kogi, Kwara, Ekiti and Taraba, for the 10 states. A similar workshop has already been done in Edo, Ogun, Osun and Oyo states.

Performing the flagging off ceremony at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia, Monday, the Minister of state for Agriculture, Otumba Bamidele Dada, said FFS promotes adoption of productivity - enhancing, sustainable, environmental friendly and cost effective cocoa production practices among small holders. Dada enumerated goals expected to be achieved in adopting FFS to include provision of framework in developing capacity of extension services and farming communities of cocoa producing states, among others. In his keynote address, Deputy Governor of Edo State, Chief Mike Oghiadomhe who is also the, chairman of National Cocoa Development Committee (NCDC), subcommittee on sensitization, training and implementation support, noted that training cocoa farmers has helped to boost cocoa production, adding that there was need to build on the achievements already recorded. "Although the yearly training activities had led to a remarkable improvement in increased cocoa production in the country, it has become evident that our cocoa farmers require new production technologies and information to develop more result oriented production system and provide planting materials for increased production. This of course led to introduction of FFS programme which is a sustainable and cost effective training method" Oghiadomhe explained. He said the circular of FFS was adapted to local communities and well tailored to address crop, pest and disease management, cocoa rehabilitation and post harvest activities, among others.

Welcoming the guests, Deputy Governor of Abia State, Chief Acho Nwakanma, said Abia has paid its 60 percent counterpart fund which qualifies her to participate in FFS. He said Governor Orji Uzor Kalu has pursued aggressive cocoa revolution and has distributed more than 1.5million improved cocoa seedlings to farmers in the state. The FFS programme is being implemented through the collaboration of NCDC and the Sustainable Tree Crop Programme (STCP) of International Institute for Tropical Agriculture.

Cocoa Declines in London after Biggest Increase in Seven Months

By Marianne Stigset

Sept. 22 (Bloomberg) -- Cocoa prices fell in London, paring a gain yesterday that was the biggest in seven months. Cocoa for December delivery dropped 2 pounds, or 0.2 percent, to 856 pounds (\$1,630) a metric ton at 10:31 a.m. on the Euronext.liffe exchange in London. Yesterday prices rose 3 percent, the most since Feb. 7. Cocoa has dropped 22 percent since reaching a high of 1,097 pounds on July 13.

Among other so-called soft commodities traded in London, refined sugar futures for December delivery gained \$2.50, or 0.6 percent, to \$394 a ton and robusta coffee for November delivery climbed \$15, or 1 percent, to \$1,463 a ton. To contact the reporter on this story: Marianne Stigset in London at mstigset@bloomberg.net

Govt promises to boost export

Story by Daniel Gumm Vanguard Media Limited

Friday, September 22, 2006

THE Federal Government has pledged to remove all constraints militating against the promotion of non-oil export trades in the country. Special Adviser to the President Export Promotion, Mrs. Modupe Sasore made the pledge during her official tour of OLAM Nigeria Ltd., a cashew processing factory in Oyo, Oyo State. Sasore, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), said government was now determined more than ever before to develop the agricultural sector with the hope of making it the backbone of the nation's economy. "This was the case before we switched over to crude oil. We need to return to to what we used to do and improve on it and stop being a monolithic economy," Sasore said.

The presidential aide praised the the owners of OLAM Nigeria Ltd. for identifying with government's desire to take agriculture to a greater heights and urged other investors to emulate them. "Iam pleased with what I saw, especially the company's expansion plan, which is targetted at the improvement of its export profile. OLAM is a shinning example for other investors to emulate," Sasore added. She urged other produce exporters to emulate OLAM by ensuring that their products comply with quality standards imposed on products by importing countries. "Products meeting quality standards is increasingly becoming an integral part of global trade, it is important for Nigerians to it and boost export," she stated.

Managing director of OLAM, Mr. Venkaratamani Srivathsan, expressed delight over the growth of the two-year old company and commended the Federal Government for creating a climate for business to thrive. "I am very happy and proud of this remarkable growth. From few workers two years ago, we now have over 700 workers in the main factory in Oyo and another 700 workers in other six mini-processing factories" he said. He said his company would continue to demonstrate faith in Nigeria's economy by injecting more resources that would enable it to remain in the forefront of cashew, cocoa, cotton and sesame export in the country.

Swedes to help revive industry

ASHWINI PRASAD

Saturday, September 23, 2006,

Fiji Times Limited

MOVES are underway to revive the cocoa industry in Tailevu with the aid of a Swedish non-government organisation. The province has embarked on an exchange project with Cocoa Bello, a Swedish NGO, to help farmers in the province cultivate cocoa. Spokesman for the Tailevu Province Cocoa Growers and Producers Co-operative Association Ltd, Joseva Serulagilagi said the exchange project was aimed at increasing exports in the industry, which has been in decline since the early 90s.

The exchange project aims to create a greater understanding of the need for sustainable cocoa cultivation and fair trade within the cocoa industry. Mr Serulagilagi said cocoa farmers were exporting countries but small quantities and the exchange project would help farmers earn money. "Farmers get very little after their farm produce is exported. Most of the money is used to buy farming materials," said Mr Serulagilagi. He said as part of the exchange project, people from the Swedish NGO would spend two weeks with farmers in Tailevu to develop technology. "Farmers will also go to Sweden and the cocoa will be used by the Sweden people to make chocolate," he said.

Mr Serulagilagi said many farmers were showing initiative in the project, even former cocoa farmers who had left the industry after it went into decline. Cocoa Bellos chairman Fabian Rimfors is in the country to work out a cultural and knowledge exchange between the cocoa industries in the two countries. "The reciprocal exchange will consist of two delegates, one Swedish and one Fijian, which will visit each country respectively for two weeks," he said. Mr Rimfors said the delegations would have representatives from the industry in both countries and would cover the whole process of chocolate manufacturing, from farming to retailing.

Ivory Coast's ruling party tells French peacekeepers to leave

The Associated Press

September 23, 2006

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Ivory Coast's ruling party told French peacekeepers to leave the divided country and called for the dissolution of a group of foreign mediators overseeing the struggling peace process. The Ivorian Popular Front "demands the departure of all military French forces" guarding the cease-fire between rebels in the north and government troops in the south, chairman Pascal Affi N'Guessan said in a statement read on state television late Friday. He also called for the dissolution of a group of mediators known as the International Working Group, set up last year to oversee the introduction of a U.N.-backed peace plan meant to reunite the West African nation.

Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, has been split into regional factions since a failed coup sparked civil war in 2002. About 7,000 U.N. peacekeepers and 4,000 French troops help patrol the country and maintain a buffer zone between the camps. N'Guessan's comments come ahead of the Oct. 31 expiration of a peace plan which extended President Laurent Gbagbo's mandate by twelve months. Delayed presidential and legislative elections have been postponed twice and West African leaders are working out a new peace plan for discussion at a U.N. Security council meeting in mid-October. N'Guessan, a close aide to Gbagbo, called on supporters to "engage, as of today, in the principal struggle, that of the departure of the French armed forces — forces of occupation, exploitation and enslavement."

Gbagbo supporters in southern Ivory Coast accuse the former colonial power of France of supporting the rebellion and preventing loyalists from taking back control of rebel-held territory. Earlier this month, Gbagbo said the U.N. and French peacekeepers were free to leave because the peace process had failed. Gbagbo boycotted a mini-summit on Ivory Coast between rebels, opposition leaders and U.N. and African mediators held on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York last week. The head of U.N. peacekeeping operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, called the meeting Wednesday at the United Nations "useful," but cited no major breakthroughs. The pro-Gbagbo Young Patriot movement has staged scores of violent demonstrations against the French military and went on a massive looting spree in 2004 which resulted in the departure of some 8,000 expatriates. A spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday the United Nations had not received a formal notification from Gbagbo requesting the departure of the U.N. peacekeeping mission.

'Fair trade' reaches consumers, marketers

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writer

September 23, 2006

The Columbia Daily Tribune

Q: I have seen the term "fair trade" in stores. What does it mean, and what products are available? A: Fair trade describes organized efforts to give small growers in other countries - often in Central America, Africa and Asia - a price for their products that provides a decent living. That leads to flourishing communities and more sustainable farming practices, say fair trade proponents.

In the past two years, the term has become more of a household name as major companies such as Procter & Gamble Co. and fast-food chain McDonald's Corp. have marketed fair trade products, particularly coffee, in response to increased consumer demand. The fair trade movement has been active longer in Europe, with stores like British supermarket operator J. Sainsbury PLC offering fair trade food products in the early 1990s, according to Nicole Chettero, spokeswoman at TransFair USA, a nonprofit organization that certifies which products can carry a fair trade label in the United States. "European consumers are a lot more savvy about food origins than the U.S. consumer, but that is changing," said Chettero.

TransFair USA, which opened its doors in 1998 and is based in Oakland, Calif., began certifying in 1999 fair trade coffee, the fastest-growing segment. In recent years, the organization has certified tea, cocoa, rice, sugar, fresh fruit and, more recently, vanilla. Plans are under way to certify wine and eventually apparel, though the category is challenging given that every level of production has to be certified, starting from how such materials like cotton are grown. To date, 100 million pounds of fair trade coffee have been imported to the United States, and retail value of fair trade coffee in the United States has ballooned from just \$50 million in 2000 to more than \$500 million in 2004, according to TransFair USA. Still, Chettero says that fair trade coffee makes up only 2 percent of the U.S. coffee market and 4 percent of the U.S. specialty coffee market.

Momentum is building, however. Last year, McDonald's announced that it began selling coffee with the Fair Trade moniker at its New England restaurants. Two years ago, P&G expanded sales of its fair trade coffee from the Internet to supermarkets to meet increased consumer interest. Starbucks Coffee Co. began selling fair trade certified coffee in 2000. In apparel, much of the fair trade apparel has been limited to a few mom-and-pop stores that sell indigenous designs, but that's changing. This fall, former executives of Lands' End Inc. unveiled Fair Indigo, which sells stylish clothing and accessories like slim jeans and satchel handbags, made at factories where wages exceed minimum wage and workers receive such benefits as free health care. The clothing is being sold through its catalog and Web site fairindigo.com. The Middleton, Wis.-based company also plans several stores, according to Bill Bass, CEO of Fair Indigo. Bass had been senior vice president of e-commerce at Lands' End.

As for price, experts say that fair trade products like coffee are no more expensive than specialty versions. Fair Indigo's jeans are priced at \$59 and cashmere sweaters are around \$170, in line with what can be found at Ann Taylor Stores Corp. or J. Jill Group Inc., said Bass. That's because Fair Indigo and other companies eliminate the middleman by working with the factories directly, investing those savings back into the workers, Bass said.

CHOCOLATE EVENTS

- World Chocolate Masters the 2005 winners and their products are now available.
<http://www.worldchocolatemasters.com/en/>
- World Pastry Forum,
Takes place every July in Las Vegas and brings pastry arts chefs and instructors together.
<http://www.worldpastryforum.com/>
- National Candy, Gift & Gourmet Show
This traditional event takes place January and September.
<http://www.phillycandyshow.com/>
- Salon du Chocolat
Chocolate Festival that takes place in Paris, New York, Tokyo and Lausanne.
<http://www.chocoland.com/>
- NY Annual Chocolate Show
New York City - World class exhibitors, chefs demonstrations, chocolate fashion and showpieces, tantalizing gifts, activities for children, and more !
<http://www.chocolateshow.com/>
- Choco-Laté, The Bruges Chocolate Festival happens in late Spring in the historic city centre of Bruges, Belgium.
<http://www.choco-late.be/>
- Eurochocolate Perugia and Roma
Chocolate Festivals in Italy - what could be nicer.
<http://www.eurochocolate.com/>
- Altrocioccolato
Fair Trade chocolate show in Gubbio, Italy
<http://www.altrocioccolato.org/>
- Sweet Brazil International Trade Show is held at the Pernambuco Convention Center, Recife, Brazil, under the sponsorship of ABICAB, the Brazilian Chocolate, Cocoa, Peanuts and Sugar Confectionery Manufacturers Association
<http://www.abicab.org.br/>
- Choco-Story
A new museum dedicated to chocolate in Brugge, Belgium.
<http://www.choco-story.be/>
- Museu de la Xocolata
When in Barcelona don't miss this wonderful museum.
<http://www.museuxocolata.com/>
- Musee du Chocolat Biarritz - France
<http://www.lemuseeduchocolat.com/>

- **Eurochocolate 2006 In Perugia, Umbria** 15 October 2006 - 22 October 2006
15.10.2006 to 22.10.2006 Eurochocolate
Perugia, Italy
Internet: <http://www.eurochocolate.com>
- **SIAL Paris 2006** 22 October 2006 - 26 October 2006
Paris, France
Food fair
Internet: <http://www.sial.fr>
- **Salon du Chocolat Paris** 28 October 2006 - 1 Novemebr 2006
Paris, France
Internet: <http://www.chocoland.com>
- **World Food Ukraine 2006** 31 October 2006 - 3 Novemebr 2006
International Exhibition Centre, Kiev
The 9th International Exhibition for the Food & Drink Industry
Internet: <http://www.worldfood-ukraine.com/home.htm>
- **Schokoladensalon XOCOLADE** 10 November 2006 - 12 November 2006
10.11.2006 to 12.11.2006
München
E-Mail: info@xocolade.de Internet: <http://www.xocolade.de>
- **Salon du Chocolat New York** 11 November 2006 - 12 November 2006
New York, USA
big, anual Chocolate exhibition
Internet: <http://www.chocoland.com>
- **"WellFood 2006" Forum Fair for Health & Functional Food** 14 -15 November 2006
Köln
+49 221 821-3245
+49 221 821-3410
E-Mail: d.eiden@koelnmesse.de
Ansprechpartner: Herr Dietmar Eiden
Internet: <http://www.wellfood-cologne.de>
- **SWEETS Ukraine' 2006**
The 12-th International specialized exhibition of confectionery industry
Duration: September 12 - 15, 2006
Venue: Ukraine, Kiev
ACCO International Exhibition Center
Peremohy Ave., 40-B

Organizers of the exhibition:
ACCO INTERNATIONAL
UKRKONDITER
- **EXPO CHOCOLATE 2006**
Nov. 25 - Dec. 03, 2006 > in Porto (Portugal - Europe) > Exponor
Nov. 24 - Dec. 01, 2007 > in Porto (Portugal - Europe) > Exponor
Venue : Exponor, 4450-617 Leça da Palmeira, Portugal
+351 229 981 400
+351 229 957 499
Organizers : Exponor (Feira Internacional do Porto), 4450 Leça da Palmeira, Portugal
+351 22 998 14 00
+351 22 9957499

- **Chocolate Festival (CioccolaTo), Turin, Italy** **01 Mar 2007 - 30 Apr 2007**
Various locations in Turin, Piazza San Carlo, Piazza Carignano and Piazza Castello
Email info@cioccola-to.it Website www.cioccola-to.it
- **Obidos Chocolate Festival, Obidos, Portugal** **07 Nov 2006 - 12 Nov 2006**
Edificio Pacos do Concelho Largo de Sao Pedro 2510-086
Tel +351 262 955 561
Email festivalchocolate@cm-obidos.pt Website www.festivalchocolate.cm-obidos.pt
- **Chocolate Festival, Baltimore, United States** **01 Oct 2006 - 31 Oct 2006**
The Lexington Market, 400 West Lexington Street Baltimore MD 21201
Tel +1 (1)410 685 6169
Email info@lexingtonmarket.com Website www.lexingtonmarket.com
- **International Chocolate & Confectionery 2006** **25 Oct 2006**
Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, London

International Chocolate & Confectionery 2006 provides a unique opportunity to formulate strategies for growth in this increasingly competitive market. Discover how traditionally niche products such as organic chocolate have become mainstream and are now sustaining steady growth. Could the same thing happen to the rapidly expanding premium chocolate market in Europe? Can you expect long-term growth in the market for sugar-free confectionery and healthier snack bars?

Carla Ogeia, Mintel GNPD consultant, will feature among expert speakers examining the latest market and consumer trends, with a special focus on Asia and Latin America.

To find out more visit agra-net.com.

- **Sweets Global Network Information Confectionery Chocolate Candy Biscuits Snacks Import**
3 - 9 October 2006
München / Munich, Germany
TEL +49 89 9 49 55 -110
FAX +49 89 9 49 55-119
E-Mail: katnani@ghm.de
Ansprechpartner: Nadja Katnani
Internet: <http://www.iba.de>

TIT BITS

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

US MIDDAY: cocoa futures gain

NEW YORK (September 21, 2006): US cocoa futures rose more than 2 percent Wednesday, with speculative and trade buying amid a weak dollar pushing the benchmark position further north from a contract low hit earlier this week, traders said.

cocoa alliance urges African growers to up yields

YAOUNDE (September 21, 2006): African cocoa plantations are much less productive than their competitors in Asia and must do more to increase output such as ripping out old trees to make way for new high-yield strains, a key producers' group said.

New York cocoa rebounds on industry

NEW YORK (September 21, 2006): US cocoa futures ended on positive ground on Tuesday, propelled by light industry buying and arbitrage-related activity amid a sliding dollar, market sources said.

US MIDDAY: cocoa futures up

NEW YORK (September 22, 2006): US cocoa futures sprinted more than 4 percent to settle at a 4-week peak Thursday, boosted by fund buying, speculative short-covering and limited producer selling amid continued dollar weakness, traders said.

Africa eyes cocoa hybrids

YAOUNDE (September 22, 2006): A global commodities fund plans to use cocoa gene technology pioneered in Brazil to head off a possible outbreak of the devastating witches' broom fungus in West African plantations, its managing director said.

New York cocoa futures gain two percent

NEW YORK (September 22, 2006): US cocoa futures rose more than 2 percent on Wednesday, with speculative and trade buying amid a weak dollar pushing the benchmark position further north from a contract low hit this week, traders said.