



COPAL COCOA Info

A Weekly Newsletter of Cocoa Producers' Alliance

Issue No. 236

18th – 22nd June 2007

Cocoa Producers' Alliance

ICCO Daily Cocoa Prices

	ICCO daily price (US\$/tonne)	London futures (£/tonne)	New York Futures (US\$/tonne)
18 th June	2054.33	1077.67	1978.00
19 th June	2052.65	1070.67	1982.00
20 th June	2018.34	1050.33	1949.67
21 st June	2024.61	1055.67	1952.67
22 nd June	2050.50	1065.67	1979.00
Average	2040.00	1064.00	1968.00

Up-coming Events

- ✓ Improving Cocoa Quality Workshop, CAISTAB Building, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 16th Julv 2007.

In the News (from Newspapers worldwide)

Production & Quality

- ✓ Farmers in Cross River get 15% fertilizer subsidy
- ✓ Ghana cocoa farmers short of cash to buy fertiliser

Business & Economy

- ✓ Indonesia expects cocoa production to reach 1 million tons in 2012

Processing & Manufacturing

- ✓ Barry Callebaut Announces Increased Cooperation With Cadbury Schweppes
- ✓ Barry Callebaut says Cadbury deal to boost sales by 2-digit million sfr sum

Labour Issues

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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 June 2007

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	Daily High	Daily Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1050	1058	11	1059	1037	3514
Sep 2007	1070	1079	11	1080	1058	5722
Dec 2007	1068	1076	11	1077	1059	1287
Mar 2007	1065	1078	10	1079	1063	547
May 2008		1085	10			0
Jul 2008		1093	10			0
Sep 2008		1100	10			0
Dec 2008		1109	10			0
Mar 2008		1118	9			0
May 2009		1126	9			0
Totals		1092				11,070

Tuesday 19th June 2007

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1059	1045	-13	1063	1037	2932
Sep 2007	1079	1071	-8	1087	1061	6840
Dec 2007	1079	1070	-6	1083	1062	1528
Mar 2007	1080	1071	-7	1083S	1064	506
May 2008	1090	1078	-7	1090	1076	9
Jul 2008	1087	1085	-8	1087	1087	1
Sep 2008	1092	1092	-8	1092	1092	4
Dec 2008		1101	-8			0
Mar 2008		1110	-8			0
May 2009		1118	-8			0
Totals		1084				11,820

Wednesday 20th June 2007

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1042	1024	-21	1043	1014	3739
Sep 2007	1068	1050	-21	1069	1043	8941
Dec 2007	1065	1050	-20	1068	1043	4004
Mar 2007	1067	1051	-20	1067	1044	1013
May 2008	1061	1058	-20	1061	1052	22
Jul 2008	1073	1065	-20	1073S	1058S	2602
Sep 2008	1075	1072	-20	1075	1075	1
Dec 2008		1080	-21			0
Mar 2008		1089	-21			0
May 2009		1097	-21			0
Totals		1068				20,322

Thursday 21st June 2007

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1022	1030	6	1030	1013	2156
Sep 2007	1045	1056	6	1056	1041	3820
Dec 2007	1046	1055	5	1055	1040	3230
Mar 2007	1048	1056	5	1056	1045S	382
May 2008	1054	1063	5	1063	1054	104
Jul 2008	1065	1070	5	1065S	1064S	937
Sep 2008		1077	5			0
Dec 2008		1085	5			0
Mar 2008		1094	5			0
May 2009		1102	5			0
Totals		1069				10,629

Friday 22nd June 2007

Month	Opening Trans	Settle	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1030	1043	13	1044	1030	679
Sep 2007	1058	1068	12	1069	1056	3,836
Dec 2007	1054	1064	9	1065	1054	804
Mar 2007	1060	1065	9	1065	1057	395
May 2008	1063	1072	9	1069S	1063	61
Jul 2008	1071	1079	9	1073	1071S	267
Sep 2008	1080	1087	10	1081	1080	287
Dec 2008		1095	10			0
Mar 2008		1104	10			0
May 2009		1112	10			0
Totals		1079				6,329

Average for the week	1087					12034
Total for the week						60,170

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

Monday 18th June 2007

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1902 0	1959	55	1955	1899	1702
Sep 2007	1928 1932	1964	31	1967	1920	6385
Dec 2007	1950 ^B 1956 ^A	1990	31	1985	1955	758
Mar 2008	0 0	2015	32	0	0	62
May 2008	0 0	2031	33	0	0	12
Jul 2008	0 0	2049	33	0	0	0
Sep 2008	0 0	2066	32	0	0	0
Dec 2008	0 0	2080	31	0	0	0
Mar 2009	0 0	2100	31	0	0	0
May 2009	0 0	2120	31	0	0	0
Totals		2037				8919

Tuesday 19th June 2007

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1970 0	1948	-11	1970	1947	530
Sep 2007	1960 1964	1950	-14	1970	1938	8026
Dec 2007	1992 0	1976	-14	1992	1978	2036
Mar 2008	0 0	2000	-15	2012	2012	1012
May 2008	0 0	2015	-16	0	0	0
Jul 2008	0 0	2033	-16	0	0	0
Sep 2008	0 0	2051	-15	0	0	0
Dec 2008	0 0	2065	-15	0	0	0
Mar 2009	0 0	2085	-15	0	0	0
May 2009	0 0	2105	-15	0	0	0
Totals		2023				11604

Wednesday 20th June 2007

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1931 ^B 1945 ^A	1925	-23	1940	1921	293
Sep 2007	1937 1940	1918	-32	1950	1911	6627
Dec 2007	0 0	1943	-33	1968	1937	1982
Mar 2008	0 0	1967	-33	1989	1989	245
May 2008	0 0	1982	-33	0	0	11
Jul 2008	0 0	2000	-33	0	0	0
Sep 2008	0 0	2018	-33	0	0	35
Dec 2008	0 0	2032	-33	0	0	100
Mar 2009	0 0	2052	-33	0	0	0
May 2009	0 0	2072	-33	0	0	0
Totals		1991				9293

Thursday 21st June 2007

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1916 ^B 1917 ^A	1935	10	1940	1920	36
Sep 2007	1915 1919	1936	18	1938	1911	4936
Dec 2007	1940 ^B 1945 ^A	1960	17	1955	1955	2322
Mar 2008	0 0	1984	17	0	0	577
May 2008	0 0	1998	16	0	0	109
Jul 2008	0 0	2016	16	0	0	0
Sep 2008	0 0	2033	15	0	0	26
Dec 2008	0 0	2051	19	0	0	31
Mar 2009	0 0	2071	19	0	0	0
May 2009	0 0	2091	19	0	0	0
Totals		2008				8037

Friday 22nd June 2007

Month	Open	Price	Change	High	Low	Volume
Jul 2007	1940 ^B 0	1958	23	1955	1954	66
Sep 2007	1942 1945	1955	19	1958	1937	4315
Dec 2007	0 0	1979	19	1978	1970	1336
Mar 2008	0 0	2003	19	0	0	24
May 2008	0 0	2017	19	0	0	5
Jul 2008	0 0	2035	19	0	0	7
Sep 2008	0 0	2052	19	0	0	65
Dec 2008	0 0	2070	19	0	0	125
Mar 2009	0 0	2090	19	0	0	0
May 2009	0 0	2110	19	0	0	0
Totals		2027				5943

Average for the week	2050				10949
Total for the week					43,796

Spot Prices (US\$ per tonne)

	18 th June	19 th June	20 th JUNE	21 st June	22 nd June
Main Crop Ghana, Grade 1	2367	2353	2321	2339	2358
Main Crop Ivory Coast, Grade 1	2266	2252	2220	2238	2257
Main Crop Nigerian, 1	2246	2232	2200	2218	2237
Superior Arriba	2681	2667	2635	2653	2672
Sanchez f.a.q.	2251	2237	2205	2223	2242
Malaysian 110	1976	1962	1930	1948	1967
Sulawesi f.a.q.	2037	2023	1991	2009	2028
Ecuador Cocoa Liquor	3666	3640	3580	3614	3649
Pure Prime Press African Type Cocoa Butter	5676	5636	5543	5595	5650
10/12% Natural Cocoa Press Cake	877	871	857	865	873

Source: Cocoa Merchants' Association

News

Production & Quality

Farmers in Cross River get 15% fertilizer subsidy

BusinessDAY Media Ltd

BEN EGUZOZIE,

Calabar

June 17th, 2007

Farmers in Cross River State have secured a grant of 15 percent fertilizer subsidy from the state government, as part of efforts to boost food production in the state. Governor Liyel Imoke announced this in Calabar recently while receiving the state executive members of the All Farmers Association in Nigeria (AFAN) Governor Imoke said the decision was to boost food production, create wealth and jobs for the unemployed population. Imoke said there is need to take agriculture beyond subsistence farming, to a level where it could sustain the economy of the state; stressing that state government desires to make Cross River a leading agricultural state in Nigeria.

The governor promised to work with the farmers association to achieve its goals and to look into their request for certain items to enable them increase their production. Imoke said there is a state policy that makes every member of the incoming state executive council to own not less than 10 hectares of land. And the time has come for young people to understand that farming can be a source of wealth.

The governor said it was disheartening to see young graduates of agriculture opting for banking jobs rather than creating jobs for themselves through farming. He said the state would go into agreement with corporate bodies and investors to partner with Cross River citizens in large-scale farming. "Farming if well done is a good way to do business, and goes with the message that government appreciates farming, and that our state will not only be sufficient in food production but in food exportation, while cocoa may be processed here before export," Imoke said.

The state chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Sam Inyang said the association is a product of an advice by former president Olusegun Obasanjo, for farmers to form themselves into one body so that the country could get back to the good old days when the economy of the country was sustained by agriculture. Inyang commended the erstwhile governor of Cross River State, Donald Duke for creating an economic base for pineapple and cocoa farmers and facilitating the distribution of seedlings and empowerment of cashew and pineapple farmers with micro credit facilities.

Ghana cocoa farmers short of cash to buy fertiliser

Thu 21 Jun 2007,

ACCRA (Reuters) - Cocoa farmers in Ghana are struggling to buy subsidised fertiliser as a shortage of beans due to poor rainfall has left many short of cash, buyers and farmers in the world's No. 2 cocoa producer said on Thursday.

In recent weeks, Ghana's industry regulator Cocobod has subsidised fertiliser for sale to growers to help sustain and improve production. It wants to boost output from current levels of about 600,000 tonnes a year to one million tonnes by 2010.

But prospects have been thin for Ghana cocoa farmers this season as poor rainfall earlier in the year left many cocoa trees bare. Total output for the 2006/07 harvest is expected to fall short of an original forecast of 700,000 tonnes.

In an unusually lean cocoa season, farmers were unlikely to spare money for fertiliser, even at the cheaper subsidised price of 147,300 cedis per bag, down from about 240,000 cedis previously. "It doesn't look like the farmers are buying the fertiliser as expected. They are being offered it at an excellent price but they say it's still too expensive," one Kumasi-based buyer said. "Some serious farmers are buying," a depot manager in Nyinahin in the Ashanti cocoa-growing region added. "Most of them are not. Farmers complain they don't have money, they fail to plan towards the purchase of fertiliser," he added.

Ghana's main crop closed at the end of May and while expectations are low for the mid crop, which will officially open in the next few weeks, many anticipate a strong and early start to the 2007/08 main crop. "We

have some cocoa on the trees, but a lot of the mid crop will eat into the main crop for 2007/08," another buyer said.

The paucity of mid crop beans may mean that declared purchase figures are revised downwards. Some buyers overdeclare their purchases to Cocobod in anticipation that they will buy more cocoa. Cocoa purchases declared by private buyers to Cocobod reached 567,908 tonnes between October 13 and May 24, an industry source said on Tuesday. That compared with 594,089 tonnes declared in the first 32 weeks of last season's main crop. "Some of the companies are struggling to account for everything that has been declared. I do expect a slight decrease in declared production figures, but nothing significant," the Kumasi-based buyer said.

Business & Economy

Indonesia expects cocoa production to reach 1 million tons in 2012

06/19/07

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - Indonesia expects its cocoa production to reach one million tons in 2012 to make the country the world's second largest cocoa producer after Ivory Coast. The chairman of the Indonesian Cocoa Association (Askindo), Halim Abdul Razak, said here on Tuesday the country's production at present reached 590,000 tons a year or below Ivory Coast's (1.3 million tons) and Ghana's (650,000 tons).

He said the country's low cocoa production was caused not by a shortage of land for plantations but by the low productivity of cocoa plantations in the country. He said the productivity of cocoa plantations only reached an average of 600-800 kilograms per hectare a year while ideally it should reach 1.5 to 2 tons per hectare a year. He said Indonesia would be able to become the world's second largest cocoa producer producing up to one million tons of cocoa per hectare a year if the government would seriously encourage farmers to improve their management of cocoa plantations.

He said the world's cocoa production in 2006 reached 3.3 million tons a year, mostly contributed by Ivory Coast, Ghana and Indonesia in the third place. "The world's increasing demand for cocoa at present serves a good condition for increasing the country's cocoa productivity," he said. Halim said Askindo plans to stage an International Cocoa Conference and Cocoa Dinner in Bali on June 28-29 which will be attended by representatives from 18 countries.(*)

Processing & Manufacturing

Barry Callebaut Announces Increased Cooperation With Cadbury Schweppes

Source: Barry Callebaut AG

ZURICH, Switzerland,

June 19 2007 --- PRNewswire ---

- Barry Callebaut, Cadbury Schweppes Expand Outsourcing Cooperation

- Barry Callebaut AG Announces That it has Signed a Memorandum of Understanding With Cadbury Schweppes for Supply to its Production Sites in Poland, Thereby Doubling its Annual Deliveries to Around 30,000 Metric Tonnes

- Barry Callebaut Confirmed as the Outsourcing Partner of Choice in the Chocolate Industry

Barry Callebaut, the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality cocoa and chocolate products, announces the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cadbury Schweppes plc to double its supply volumes of cocoa liquor and liquid chocolate to around 30,000 metric tonnes a year. Barry Callebaut will supply approximately an additional 14,000 tonnes a year of liquid chocolate and cocoa liquor to Cadbury Schweppes' production facilities in Poland.

Barry Callebaut anticipates deliveries of the additional volumes to start towards the end of its fiscal year 2007/08.

Patrick De Maeseneire, CEO of Barry Callebaut says: "The MoU with Cadbury Schweppes is another milestone in our strategy to take advantage of the ongoing outsourcing trend. This is again an excellent example of how Barry Callebaut has established itself as the outsourcing partner of choice in the chocolate industry."

Barry Callebaut and Cadbury Schweppes also intend to increase their cooperation in areas such as cocoa bean sourcing in origin countries, quality and innovation, and corporate social responsibility. The two parties have decided not to disclose any financials of the transaction.

Barry Callebaut (www.barry-callebaut.com):

With annual sales of more than CHF 4 billion (EUR 2.7 billion) for fiscal year 2005/06, Zurich-based Barry Callebaut is the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality cocoa, chocolate and confectionery products - from the cocoa bean to the finished product on the store shelf. Barry Callebaut is present in 23 countries, operates more than 30 production facilities and employs approximately 8,000 people. The company serves the entire food industry, from food manufacturers to professional users of chocolate (such as chocolatiers, pastry chefs or bakers), to global retailers. It also provides a comprehensive range of services in the fields of product development, processing, training and marketing.

Contacts for investors and financial analysts: Daniela Altenpohl, Head of Investor Relations Barry Callebaut AG Phone: +41-43-204-04-23 daniela_altenpohl@barry-callebaut.com for the media: Gaby Tschofen, VP Corporate Communications Barry Callebaut AG Phone: +41-43-204-04-60 gaby_tschofen@barry-callebaut.com

Barry Callebaut says Cadbury deal to boost sales by 2-digit million sfr sum
ZURICH (Thomson Financial)

Barry Callebaut AG said its new supply agreement with Cadbury Schweppes will boost annual sales by a two-digit million Swiss francs sum, further strengthening its existing business-to-business segment.

Although a spokeswoman for the Belgian-Suisse cocoa and chocolates manufacturer declined to comment on the exact size of the deal, she said it was 'certainly smaller' than its recent agreement with Nestle SA, which analysts have estimated to contribute sales of around 300 mln sfr. The Nestle deal was significantly larger because it also comprised the takeover of production facilities whereas today's agreement only includes production, the spokeswoman said.

Barry Callebaut earlier today said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Cadbury to double its supply volumes of cocoa liquor and liquid chocolate to around 30,000 metric tonnes a year. The Swiss chocolate producer said it will supply approximately an additional 14,000 tonnes a year of liquid chocolate and cocoa liquor to Cadbury Schweppes' production facilities in Poland.

'Outsourcing is clearly a trend. Our business model is based on this and we have traditionally been strong in business-to-business,' the spokeswoman said. Production of chocolate for food manufacturers already makes up the largest part of Barry Callebaut's sales, she added. 'Therefore today's deal is a confirmation of our strategy,' she said, while declining to comment on further acquisition plans. 'I don't want to speculate given we just announced three major deals,' she said. johanna.treeck@thomson.com jmt/jsa/at/slm

Labour Issues

Children In Commercial Agriculture

Samuel Dowuona

DAILY GRAPHIC

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

The definition of child labour as contained in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Child Labour Convention 182, Ghana Children's Act 1998 (Act 560), and indeed Article 28 of the 1992 Constitution, which focus on child labour, clearly capture children in commercial agriculture. In fact, commercial agriculture is listed as one of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL).

Simply put, commercial agriculture is the cultivation of cash crops as against food crops — or, if you like, an agricultural activity strictly meant for commercial other than subsistence purposes. Cocoa is top on the list of

cash crops in this country. As a matter of fact, in Ghana, cocoa is THE CASH CROP. To wit, nobody cultivates cocoa in Ghana for any other purpose, domestic or subsistence other than commercial.

Obviously, when one engages the services of children on a cocoa plantation, the law and international conventions like the ILO Convention 182 on Child Labour, to which Ghana is a signatory, calls it “children in commercial agriculture” and that is child labour. In spite of the existence of that international protocol, the Children’s Act and Article 28 of the 1992 Constitution, it is still a very common practice in Ghana to see children below the age of 18, working on farms with their parents.

While for a few Ghanaians, working on the farm as a child is just for fun, for the great majority it is actually a necessity. At least, that is the argument of some thinkers who would rather want to maintain that it is part of our culture for parents to train their children in farming skills in addition to whatever formal education the children may acquire from school.

Recently, the Minister of Tourism and Diasporan Relations, Jake Obetsebi Lamptey, strongly debunked claims by the international community that Ghanaian cocoa farmers employ children to work on large cocoa plantations and for that matter our farmers are violating the international and domestic laws against child labour.

The minister argued that more than 90 per cent of cocoa plantations in Ghana are small family holdings and not large plantations as our accusers falsely claimed. Moreover the children who work on the farms do so as a matter of household chores and not as jobs, in that they do menial work on the cocoa farms after school and on weekends. The rationale for his argument is that so long as the children do not work on large plantations, and the work they do on the farms does not affect their education, health and general development in any negative way, we cannot describe it as child labour.

Indeed, if the minister’s claim is really so, then at first glance he is not far from right because the law clearly distinguishes between the concepts of child work and child labour. According to the law, child labour other than child work is any kind of job that negatively affects the child’s education, health and general development.

So, if the child does any kind of work that helps him or her to develop additional skills to his or her formal education that is child work, which is different from child labour, which impacts the child’s general development negatively. For instance, whereas hawking by a child on busy streets is child labour, hawking within one’s vicinity (from house to house), where there are few or no motorists and as well as after school table-top trading for children is considered child work which helps the child develop accounting and trading skills.

Again, helping one’s parents or guardians at home after school to do some less burdensome household chores is child work and not child labour. There are more. The minister’s argument is that most children working on cocoa farms do so after school and as household chores so their parents cannot be accused of practising child labour, even though he would agree that cocoa farming is commercial agriculture, which is clearly described by the law as child labour.

I have personally had a dialogue with some literate folk in this country on this subject and was surprised to learn that most of them had at one point in their childhood worked on their parents’ cocoa farms and they considered that as a learning experience rather than burdensome labour. The argument then was that their parents sweated on the farms to send them to school and so it was only fair that anytime they returned from school, they had to lend their parents a helping hand on the farms.

Indeed, the practice is replicated in even the non-farming communities where children join their parents in trading, fishing and other forms of commercial activities out of necessity. In some cases, the children actually need to do that in order to raise some money to support their parents to provide for them (the children). If you live in such communities, you often heard parents threaten their children who refuse to join in the family business with statements like “if you do not send these items on hawking there will be no money for you to take to school tomorrow morning.”

I am not against the culture that instils a sense of belonging in Ghana, where the whole family, children and adults alike, join hands in the family business to see it flourish for the benefit of all. But the law is very emphatic on what is child labour and what is not. The international conventions ratified by our governments and the national laws on children’s rights and child labour clearly list children in commercial agriculture, and for that matter cocoa farming, as child labour.

The co-ordinators of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the ILO in Ghana argue that unless the Ghanaian government changes its position on the international conventions and amend the national laws to exclude commercial agriculture from the list of WFCL it would remain wrong for anyone to use children on cocoa farms, no matter how menial the work they do. Indeed, laws are not just for the books but to be observed and in this case the law is against children working on cocoa farms and we need to uphold it as a nation instead of behaving like ostriches and behaving as if the law should apply in one case and not in the other.

The question I want to ask the Minister of Tourism and those who argue that children working on cocoa farms do menial jobs is, Who determines what is a menial job and what is not? What is the definition of a menial job? Is it possible, for instance, for those who use children on the Volta Lake as divers to argue that the children have been trained for it and so we cannot say that they are being subjected to child labour? Can they claim that the children are not made to do what is beyond their skills and strength and so they are not into labour?

What about those who send their children to hawk on the streets, those pushing trucks, those engaged in industrial work, those in 'galamsey', in domestic servitude and other seemingly harmless activities listed as child labour? Can they also argue that those activities do not affect the children negatively as the law claims? Where do we draw the line?

I am sure we all do agree that children in commercial sex, in ritual servitude, in drug peddling and child trafficking are obvious culprits of child labour, but because the others seem harmless we could probably argue against their inclusion in the list of WFCL. There is probably only one way to lay all these to rest: Ghana must be bold to opt out of being a signatory to the ILO Child Labour Convention 182 and the others, amend Article 28 of the 1992 Constitution and the Children's Act (Act 560), 1998, to exclude all the activities that we think are culturally part of us. Otherwise we owe it a duty to our children to ensure that we keep them out of all activities listed as child labour in the list of WFCL.

Others

Uganda: Cocoa Controls Bacteria Wilt in Banana And Coffee

New Vision (Kampala)

John Kasozi

Kampala

20 June 2007

Planting cocoa with coffee and banana helps in controlling the bacteria wilt which attacks banana and coffee plantations. Henry Lwanga, a field extension officer, says this is because cocoa, a cash crop, is resistant to the bacteria wilt. Lwanga says cocoa grows well in areas, which receive high rainfall, such as Buikwe and Ntenjeru counties in Mukono district.

The most known cocoa varieties: trintario and upper Amazon have a high fat content. Lwanga says cocoa is first planted in a nursery, which should be close to a permanent source of water. The two-feet by two-feet cocoa seedling holes are filled with manure and cave in to trap water. A shade should also be erected above the plant nursery to control exposure to sunshine.

He says during the dry season, especially in October and November, seeds are potted using the top forest (alluvial) soils and watered. The first field planting season for cocoa is March and April and the second season begins in September. The seeds stay in the nursery for six months. A seedling costs between sh300 and sh500. The recommended spacing is 10 feet by 10 feet. An acre of land can accommodate up 435 trees.

Fifteen Musizi trees are recommended for inter-cropping on one acre of land to provide a shade for the cocoa trees. The Musizi trees should be spaced at 40 feet by 40 feet. Cocoa can also be planted in open grassland or forest plantations. After the cocoa trees have grown, they suppress the grass or any plant beneath them. Cocoa takes between 30 and 36 months to mature.

Lwanga says the first harvesting season is in July and the second is between November and December. Between 600kg and 800kg of cocoa beans are harvested from one acre of land every season. It takes between four to seven days for cocoa beans to dry depending on the intensity of sunshine. One kilogramme of inorganic cocoa beans costs between sh1,500 and sh1,800 while the organic one costs sh3,000 a kilo.

Ghana: Another 'Cocoa Season' Style for SSS Admissions?

Ghanaian Chronicle (Accra)

EDITORIAL

21 June 2007

SINCE THE introduction of the Computerised School Selection And Placement Systems (CSSPS), some Heads of second cycle public schools have not been comfortable with the System. In fact, it was not a secret that admissions of JSS Graduates to SSS at the reopening of the academic year, was described as the 'cocoa season' for the Heads of those educational institutions.

So The Chronicle was not surprised to learn that Heads of 103 out of the 496 public second cycle schools nation-wide have failed to declare vacancies in respect of admissions of first year students for the 2007/2008 academic year, which begins in September. And what marvels this paper is the refusal to declare the vacancies by these Heads. Is there any sinister motive behind this flagrant violation of the Ghana Education Service (GES) regulations pertaining to admission of first year students or is it just a deliberate attempt to revive the 'cocoa season'?

It is really amazing that as at June 17th, out of the 73 SSS in the Volta Region, 21 had not declared their vacancies while in the Brong Ahafo Region, only 18 of 55 had declared their vacancies. In the Ashanti Region, 12 out of 87 had declared; Eastern had only 8 out of 78 going according to the rules while in the Central Region, only 6 declared vacancies out of 49.

The Western Region did not fare any better as out of 41 SSS, 8 declared vacancies; In Northern region, 11 declared out of 49; Upper West, 9 out of 19; Upper East, 7 out of 21 and in the Greater Accra region, only three out of 388 declared vacancies; an appalling statistic for the nation's capital region. These recalcitrant Heads can never plead any alibi because they have been fully aware of this obligation since SSCPS was introduced in 2005 and therefore have no excuse to give for flouting the directive.

One is tempted to read a lot of things into the behaviour of these Heads but it seems there is something burning under the kettle. For how could the Co-ordinator of the CSSPS, Mr. Andrew Asare know that some Heads deliberately declare vacancies to parents who in turn rush to the GES to request for placement into such schools? And this paper can bet you with all the tea in China that that gesture would never be free.

It is really a shame that our Heads of institutions, training our future human resource personnel to man this country, could plug their ears to educational directives and indulge in their own thing. It is on this note that The Chronicle supports the assertion of the CSSPS Secretariat that it will have no option than to use the undeclared vacancies by the defaulting schools last year to place qualified candidates who wrote this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination when the results are released. This behaviour of the Heads of the defaulting schools is a big dent on their reputation and the earlier they change this attitude and declare their vacancies, the better it will be for them.

Boost for Tetteh Quarshie's original cocoa farm

GNA

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

A-450 million cedis reception facility for the Tetteh Quarshie Cocoa Farm has been commissioned at Mampong Akuapem in the Akuapem North District, to host tourists who visit the site. The facility has a mausoleum, an information centre, catering facilities, artifacts of cocoa and an facilities for private convenience.

Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey, Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, who inaugurated the facility, said it would help boost tourism in the area and encourage investment into the sector. He said historical monuments and artifacts must be well kept so that passing on history to future generations would be much easier. He said such information was vital to identify one's historical and cultural background for easier ancestral identity.

Mr. Edward Adu Aboagye, District Chief Executive (DCE) for Akuapem North said the District was endowed with some major tourist sites such as the water falls at Akyeremateng, Asenema, Nsuta, Dawu and Obosomase and the Okomfo Anokye Shrine at Awukugua. He said to fully harness the tourism potential, the district was putting together a tourism development plan to boost the sector. The DCE called on private investors to invest in the sector to yield better economic dividend for the country.

Nana Kofi Asuama I, Goantuahene for the area commended the Ministry for providing the facility, adding “this is an honour to Mampong natives”. He appealed to government to rehabilitate the road that link the town to Dodowa and Ashaiman to make transportation easier.

TIT BITS

(Source: Business Recorder – www.brecord)

New York cocoa climbs to three-week high

NEW YORK (June 20, 2007): US cocoa futures closed at a three-week high on Monday, on fund and speculative buying, supported by the delayed mid-crop out of Ivory Coast due to hot, dry weather this year, traders said.

New York cocoa futures lower

NEW YORK (June 21, 2007): US cocoa futures finished lower on Tuesday, retracing after recent gains and weighed by London's weak market and origin selling, traders said. "We followed London down completely, there's just no buying. There's good hedging coming out of Indonesia. There's nothing coming out of West Africa of any consequence," one trader said.

Brazilian cocoa arrivals down

SAO PAULO (June 21, 2007): Brazilian 2007/08 (May/April) cocoa arrivals from Bahia and other states totalled 384,259 60-kg bags by June 17, down 29 percent from 542,129 bags a year ago, Bahia Commercial Association said Wednesday. Bahia state, Brazil's main cocoa producer, delivered 58,912 bags in the latest week, down from 90,966 bags during the same period last year.

Ivorian cocoa arrivals fall

ABIDJAN (June 21, 2007): cocoa arrivals at Ivory Coast's port of San Pedro reached 439,269 tonnes by June 10, according to data from the Coffee and cocoa Bourse (BCC) obtained by Reuters on Wednesday. That compared with 467,176 tonnes delivered to the port during the same period of the 2005/06 season, the data showed.

New York cocoa slides

NEW YORK (June 22, 2007): US cocoa futures closed down on Wednesday, on pressure from speculative long liquidation and the weak London market, traders said. "We feel there might have been a little origin pressure on the market today," one trader said.

New York cocoa futures climb

NEW YORK (June 23, 2007): US cocoa futures closed firm and near session highs on Thursday, recouping some of the losses from Wednesday on chart-based support, traders said. "We're finding some support at that \$1,900-level. The market's trading on technical, (there's) just really not much news going on right now," one trader said about the key contract September.

Rains pave way for good Ivorian cocoa crop

ABIDJAN (June 23, 2007): Ivory Coast's 2007/08 main cocoa harvest could begin ahead of its official October start and produce an abundant crop if good rainfall seen in recent weeks keeps up, exporters and analysts said this week.

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