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Cargill produces the first sustainable UTZ Certified chocolate – just in time for Easter

The Netherlands — 15 March 2010 – Cargill's Cocoa & Chocolate business has produced the first sustainable UTZ Certified chocolate, which is now on sale to consumers – in the form of Easter eggs.

Baronie, a leading Easter egg producer for the European market, has launched a range of eggs made with UTZ Certified chocolate produced by Cargill. The eggs are now available to buy from Dutch supermarkets.

Jean-Marie van Logtestijn, managing director of Baronie, said: “It has been a pleasure to work with Cargill to produce Easter eggs using the first UTZ Certified chocolate. Consumers will be able to enjoy these great products knowing that they contain certified sustainably produced cocoa, which is helping to improve the lives of the farmers that produced it.”

Harold Poelma, managing director of cocoa, Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate, explains: “We are very proud to bring the first sustainable UTZ Certified chocolate to market. It is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of our people and the cocoa farmers of Côte d'Ivoire. Availability is limited at the moment, but these

Easter eggs are just the beginning. Production is rising and we expect to buy 10,000 tonnes of UTZ Certified cocoa beans this year, as more of the co-operatives which are part of the programme become certified. This will enable us to produce more certified chocolate and cocoa products in the years to come.”

The UTZ Certified cocoa programme has introduced independent certification to improve agricultural, environmental and social practices in cocoa production. The first UTZ Certified cocoa beans arrived in Holland for processing in November 2009. This was the result of an intensive 10 month training programme run by Cargill for 1,690 farmers, after which the first two co-operatives were granted certification following an independent audit. Cargill's Cocoa & Chocolate business has made a commitment to train a further 10,000 farmers in 300 Farmer Field Schools across 35 co-operatives in Côte d'Ivoire by the end of this year.

Harold Poelma continues: “We are totally committed to sustainable farming practices. We believe that training farmers is the key to building a sustainable supply chain, helping increase farmers' incomes, realising future growth of cocoa farming, and supporting the cocoa communities. We want to make cocoa farmers successful for generations to come.”

The UTZ Certified cocoa programme was initiated in 2007 by a multi-stakeholder group which included Cargill, UTZ Certified, Dutch development organisation Solidaridad, Heinz Benelux, Ahold, Mars, Nestlé, Ecom, WWF and Oxfam Novib. Together with partners in Côte d'Ivoire, the founding members have developed a code of conduct that forms the fundamental basis for the certification of cocoa co-operatives. The programme is now working to scale up its activities in Côte d'Ivoire and to explore opportunities to expand into other markets.

Daan de Vries, UTZ Certified programme manager cocoa concludes: “Cargill has proven itself as a leading partner in the UTZ Certified Good Inside cocoa programme. With its many years' experience of training cocoa farmers, and its extensive presence on the ground in the cocoa growing countries, Cargill is a vital partner in the UTZ programme.”

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About Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate:

Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate offers the food industry a wide range of both standard and customised cocoa and chocolate ingredients to be used in delicious bakery, confectionery, and dairy applications all over the world. Our product range includes high quality Gerkens® cocoa powders, chocolate including Wilbur®, Peter's® and Veliche®, coatings, fillings, cocoa liquors and cocoa butters. With years of experience in technical food expertise Cargill supports its customers in new recipes and new product development.

Our facilities in Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Ghana, the Netherlands, UK and the USA are fully dedicated to produce in accordance with the highest food safety standards.

To secure a good quality and sustainable supply of cocoa beans we have our own cocoa bean sourcing operations for buying, handling and/or exporting of cocoa beans in Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Vietnam. Presence in all the leading producing countries allows Cargill to oversee the supply chain from beans at origin to cocoa and chocolate products on our customers' doorstep. In addition, extensive market research and analysis proves to be a source of valuable information to our customers.

For more information visit: for EMEA www.cargillcocoachocolate.com and for North America www.cargill.com/food/cocoachocolate

About Cargill:

Cargill is an international producer and marketer of food, agricultural, financial and industrial products and services. Founded in 1865, the privately held company employs 159,000 people in 68 countries.

Cargill helps customers succeed through collaboration and innovation, and is committed to applying its global knowledge and experience to help meet economic, environmental and social challenges wherever it does business. For more information, visit www.cargill.com.

About UTZ Certified *Good Inside*:

Since 2002, UTZ Certified has become the leading standard for professional coffee growing and sourcing with care for local communities and the environment. UTZ Certified co-operatives, estate farms and producer groups comply with the UTZ Certified Code of Conduct and are annually inspected by independent third party auditors. In 2007 Cargill, Heinz Benelux, Ahold, UTZ Certified, Mars, Nestlé, Ecom, Solidaridad, WWF and Oxfam Novib founded the UTZ Certified cocoa programme for a sustainable cocoa chain in Côte d'Ivoire. UTZ Certification helps farmers become more professional and provides a guarantee to buyers and consumers alike that cocoa is produced in a sustainable, responsible and safe way.

For more information visit: www.utzcertified.org

Baronie Group

The Baronie Group is a leading chocolate manufacturer in Belgium and the Netherlands, owning three production sites and one distribution centre.

The group offers, mostly European customers, a wide range of chocolate products such as bars, tablets, sticks, pralines, seashells and seasonal specialities like chocolate eggs and chocolate initials.

The Baronie Group supports initiatives in order to contribute to the revitalisation of the cocoa sector and participates in the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative on sustainable consumption and cocoa production. For more information, visit: www.baronie.com

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