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Cargill launches 82 Farmer Field Schools – 10,000 farmers to be trained this year

The Netherlands — 19 February 2010 – Cargill’s Cocoa & Chocolate business has committed to doubling the number Farmer Field Schools it operates in Côte d'Ivoire to 300 by mid 2010. Initially the company will launch another 82 schools this month building on the 150 already established and overall the program will train 10,000 farmers by the end of the year.

The commitment celebrates 10 years of successful farmer training by Cargill in Côte d'Ivoire and underlines the company’s belief that training farmers successfully is key to building a sustainable supply chain, helps increase farmers’ incomes and supports the future growth of cocoa farming.

Harold Poelma, managing director of Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate explains, “Providing training and support enables farmers to increase yields, improve quality and through these - most importantly – to increase their incomes. By raising awareness of environmental, health and social issues our program is also helping local farming families and communities. In short, the training is directly benefiting farmers today and supports them in becoming successful entrepreneurs for the longer term.”

As a result of the training, farmers are benefitting from a 30% increase in their incomes from higher yields, as well as an improvement in the quality of their crop. This quality improvement also leads to an increase in farmers’ earnings as they receive a quality-related bonus payment from Cargill.

During the 10 month Farmer Field School training program, farmers are trained in good and safe practices focusing on farming techniques and post-harvest

activities such as pruning, plantation renewal and cocoa fermentation methods. In addition the program also stresses broader social aspects, such as the importance of ensuring children's education and HIV awareness.

Since February, 82 of the additional 150 schools have started to be put in place and the remainder are expected to be operational by mid-year. In total, the 300 schools will train 10,000 farmers spread over 35 farmer co-operatives by the end of 2010.

Cargill established in Côte d'Ivoire in 1998 and has built an extensive network on the ground. Shortly after establishing its operations Cargill began its farmer training program initially as one-day quality seminars to inform farmers about better agricultural and post-harvest practices. This led to the current intensive 10 month training program which enables farmer cooperatives to improve their incomes and achieve UTZ Certification.

The UTZ Certified cocoa program – founded by Cargill, along with Dutch development organisation Solidaridad and others in the cocoa sector – has introduced independent certification to improve agricultural, environmental and social practices in cocoa production. The Farmer Field Schools will enable co-operatives to become UTZ Certified, and this means that by the end of this year more than 10,000 tonnes of cocoa beans will be available for use in sustainably certified chocolate and cocoa products.

“We are wholeheartedly committed to sustainable farming practices”, asserts Harold Poelma. “Our training has proven to be truly beneficial to cocoa farmers and their communities, as well as benefiting our customers. We are continuing to build on the success in Côte d'Ivoire by expanding our farmer training activities to the cocoa growing regions where we operate in Asia.”

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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.

In September 2009 the first 2 farmer co-operatives received UTZ Certification after 1,690 farmers received an intensive 10 month training by Cargill. It delivered the first UTZ Certified cocoa beans, which were officially presented on November 7th 2009 by Cargill, UTZ Certified and Solidaridad to Mr. Bert Koenders, Dutch Minister of development and Co-operation in the Netherlands. Soon, Cargill expects the first UTZ Certified cocoa and chocolate products to be available in the market.

For more information visit: www.utzcertified.org

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 160,000 people in 67 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 <http://www.cargill.com>.

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