

WORLD COCOA FOUNDATION AGRICULTURAL LOGISTICS SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



For Immediate Release

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First Class of Students Graduate through WCF Agricultural Logistics Skills Programme

November 19, 2011, ACCRA, Ghana – The first class of students of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) Agricultural Logistics Skill Development Programme graduated today and were recognised in a ceremony at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. Through this certificate programme, students have been trained in logistics, transportation, supply chain, warehousing, information technologies, and other skills to help qualify them for employment as logistics/warehousing technicians, especially in the cocoa industry. This programme is part of the ongoing WCF Empowering Cocoa Households with Opportunities and Education Solutions (ECHOES) Alliance.

Thirty students were selected from the Kaase community to participate in this pilot programme which began in June 2011. Since that time, students have undergone a rigorous academic training programme at the KNUST School of Business (KSB). All thirty students have excelled and have successfully graduated.

The next phase of the programme is a three-month internship with programme sponsors – ADM and Safmarine – as well as other companies within the cocoa industry. There, students will gain essential practical experience and will see first-hand how the industry operates daily.

This logistics programme has been well-received by the agricultural industry, and in particular the cocoa industry, as the industry generally needs more knowledgeable and skilled workers to drive continued success. Additionally, this programme develops and builds the technical competencies of Ghanaian youth and supports overall national development.

Ashanti Regional Minister, Dr. Kwaku Agyemang-Mensah said “There is the need for Ghana to continue developing skills in the cocoa industry since the sector continues to play a predominant role in the country's economy”.

Professor William Ellis Otoo, Vice-Chancellor of KNUST said, “I am hopeful that the program will be sustained and the training programme expanded to include other problem areas of the cocoa production sector so that we can reap maximum benefit from the sector.” Margaret Odotei, Technical Coordinator of the WCF ECHOES Alliance added of the programme, and graduates, “The programme offers beneficiaries a very useful career which will certainly enhance their living circumstances.”

As programme partners, WCF, ADM, Safmarine, and KNUST have been wholly committed to the success of these students and have pledged to ensure sustainable development and positive impact to local communities through education and skills development.

About the Partnership

*The **World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)** is an international membership foundation that promotes a sustainable cocoa economy by providing cocoa farmers with the tools they need to grow more and better cocoa, market it successfully, and make greater profits. These efforts help increase the supply of cocoa and help guarantee chocolate lovers access to their favorite products. WCF's membership includes cocoa and chocolate manufacturers, processors, supply chain managers, and other companies worldwide, representing more than 80% of the global cocoa market. For more information, visit www.worldcocoa.org.*

For more than a century, the people of **Archer Daniels Midland Company** (NYSE: ADM) have transformed crops into products that serve vital needs. Today, 30,000 ADM employees around the globe convert oilseeds, corn, wheat and cocoa into products for food, animal feed, chemical and energy uses. With more than 265 processing plants, 400 crop procurement facilities, and the world's premier crop transportation network, ADM helps connect the harvest to the home in more than 160 countries. For more information about ADM and its products, visit www.adm.com.

Shipping line **Safmarine** specialises in the sea transportation of both containerised and non-containerised cargoes to and from Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Sub-Continent. Safmarine, which is present in 110 countries, uses its extensive knowledge of these markets to serve its growing customer base, the Safmarine Way. Safmarine recognizes that continued success depends on the growth and health of its communities and partners. They are committed to investing in, engaging with and respecting the cultures of the communities where they live and work to promote sustainable and responsible economic development, to create growth that improves living standards and promote vibrant, stable communities. Since the beginning of 2010 Safmarine has been a member of WCF.

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology School of Business (KSB) was established in 2005 as an outgrowth of the 29-year old Department of Economics and Industrial management which began by offering a Post-graduate Diploma in Industrial Management, followed by an M.A. in Industrial Management and MBA programmes (in 2002). KSB has been established to fulfill the vision of KNUST to provide the environment for excellence in teaching, learning, and research.

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