

### Thompson named CEO of Ghirardelli



Martin Thompson

Ghirardelli Chocolate Company of San Leandro, California, has named **Martin Thompson** as its chief executive

officer. Thompson joined Ghirardelli in April 2004 as its vice president of sales.

He came to Ghirardelli after 19 years in the consumer packaged goods industry. Thompson succeeds **Andreas Pfluger**, who will relocate to Switzerland to a leadership role at Lindt and Sprüngli, Ghirardelli's parent company.

### Just Born appoints VP

Just Born has announced that **Rob Sweatman** has joined the company as vice president of operations. In this role, he will



Rob Sweatman

work closely with other members of Just Born's executive team to help drive the company's growth.

Sweatman comes to Just Born with 24 years of experience in operations roles at the Kellogg Company. Most recently, he was the vice president of manufacturing, overseeing eight plants. During his tenure at Kellogg, he also served as vice president of supply chain network optimization, senior director of direct store door operations, plant manager and operations manager.

### World Cocoa Foundation African initiatives

#### Sustainable cocoa programs

The World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) announced recently that the new African Cocoa Initiative (WCF/ACI), a Global Development Alliance partnership to invest in sustainable cocoa programs in West Africa, will be launched soon.

WCF/ACI is a five-year, \$13.5 million program in the four producing countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria that will develop their cocoa sector in four areas: foster public-private cooperative investments in cocoa and agriculture, improve the genetic quality and productivity of the cocoa varieties under cultivation, expand farmer education and training programs, and improve the agriculture-input supply chains that serve the farmers.

Through WCF/ACI, the partner institutions USAID, WCF and IDH are contributing funding and expertise to improve farmer incomes, alleviate poverty, strengthen government and regional institutions, and help advance food security throughout the region. This advances the goals of the U.S. government's Feed the Future Initiative to increase agricultural productivity and the economic well-being of smallholder farmers.

The four national governments have each endorsed WCF/ACI and are committing their agencies to participating and investing in its sponsored activities. Additionally, important international organizations will be contributing to its

implementation. These include the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Alliance of Cocoa Producing Countries (COPAL) and the IFDC, which will be instrumental in providing expertise in genetics, cocoa policy and fertilizers, respectively, to the program. The program will be headquartered at WCF's office in Accra, Ghana, to support activities across the region. Private-sector funding for this program comes from WCF member companies ADM Cocoa, Barry Callebaut, Blommer Chocolate Company, Cargill, Continaf BV, Ferrero, Guittard Chocolate Company, The Hershey Company, Kraft Foods, Lindt & Sprüngli, Nestlé and Olam International Ltd.

#### Doubling yields among Farmer School graduates

A recent WCF impact survey has shown a near doubling of yields among farmer graduates who have received agronomic and business management training through WCF Cocoa Livelihoods Program Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Business Schools, as well as access to input supplies.

WCF has worked in partnership with local governments and farmer organizations such as the Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod) throughout West and Central Africa for the past 10 years to create and implement programs that empower cocoa farmers, their families and their communities. Programs are having a significant positive impact on cocoa-farming communities. [www.worldcocoa.org](http://www.worldcocoa.org)