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Department of Environmental Health and Science

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2 December, 1997

Dear Tony,

I trust all is well, and not too hectic!

Our plans for the cocoa project next summer are developing well. We've now formulated a detailed proposal outlining the intended activities and objectives, and I enclose a copy of the proposal for you. Vic Jennings who graduated from UWE last year, and is very confident in meeting the objectives is leading the project.

Last month I approached Brigadier Jo Sing of the Guyana Defence Force requesting logistical assistance, especially in order to collect cocoa from the very southern parts of Guyana, which will be most difficult to access. He's response was most encouraging and with discussions with NARI we are hoping the GDF will provide all the necessary logistic support.

I am still pursuing the idea of training at CRU prior the project, and I have approach Dr. Butler on the matter. I'm also hoping to obtain Royal Society funds to cover these costs, plus perhaps funds for a CRU member to visit Guyana to assist in the Germplasm bank re-establishment.

I was most interested to read the growing interest and awareness in Guianan-type cocoa in the latest edition of INGENIC. I understand that Philippe Lachenaud is also hoping to get to Guyana at the same time as our project.

If I can provide any further copies of the proposal, and any further details please do let me know.

My very best wishes.

Seasonal greetings!

Yours sincerely,

Mark Johnston (Dr.)

cc. Michelle End, BCCCA/University of Reading



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The first name in chocolate

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9th January 1998

Dr Mark A. Johnston
Lecturer in Biodiversity and Plant Resources
Department of Environmental Health & Science
University of the West of England (UWE)
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

Dear Mark

This is to acknowledge receipt of your proposal for continued work on cocoa in Guyana during 1998. We will discuss the proposals within BCCCA in coming weeks and be in touch with you if we are able to assist in financial arrangements.

Meanwhile, I enclose a brief paper from a report written in 1959 concerning cocoa on Bookers estates in Guyana.

With all good wishes for 1998.

Yours sincerely

R.A. Lass

Head, Agriculture and Environmental Affairs
Technical Development Department, V52

cc Dr. Michelle End, BCCCA

BRITISH GUIANA

I visited British Guiana in 1959 and reported on it then. Briefly, conditions are not such that cocoa-growing is easy; Bookers, with the skilled guidance of Dr. Evans, have shown that it can be grown and they may make a commercial success of it, but it seems doubtful whether it will be a successful peasant crop.

Bookers Estates

Dr. Evans planted cocoa in two different areas soon after his arrival in 1953. By 1959 he had shown that cocoa could be grown, but development was held up by the appearance of Cushion gall disease in one of the areas. Although the cause of this disease is still unknown, they are no longer so concerned about it, and hope to proceed with their planting programme.

Some of their major difficulties start at this point. During the past year they have appointed J.F. Archibald to the position of Research Officer. He is a horticulturist who was one time at WACRI and later in Uganda; he will spend much of his time on sugar cane, but his considerable experience with cocoa will be valuable. Another appointment is that of G.A. Jones, one-time Scientific Assistant to the Director at WACRI. He has been appointed Chief Cocoa Superintendent, but, unfortunately, he does not possess much practical experience.

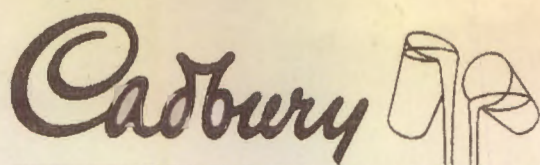
Apart from these two men and Dr. Evans there is an almost complete absence of any people with experience of cocoa or any tree crop. Labour, too, is not familiar with this type of work. Labourers are used to working with cane and are paid by task, earning high wages during crop months. Furthermore, they live in their own houses which have been built on estate land with loans from the Company. On the cocoa areas a separate labour force will have to be built up and housed; overseers and headmen will have to be trained. All this will take time and will be the limiting factor in their programme.

As wage rates are 15/- a day, labour is expensive, particularly so if it is inexperienced and if the supervision is not fully trained. Development will therefore be costly, and the financial success of the whole venture will depend on high yields over a considerable area. In addition to high yields, Dr. Evans hopes to equal the best Trinidad quality and thereby achieve a premium for his cocoa.

Department of Agriculture

During the past year the Department of Agriculture has instituted a planting subsidy of £30 (£6) an acre, which is paid in instalments after satisfactory establishment of the cocoa plants. As plants are sold at 30 cents apiece, the subsidy amounts to the provision of free plants. The introduction of this subsidy has led to a considerable increase in the demand for plants, of which there was at one time a surplus.

It is hoped to increase the supply of plants from the present level of 100,000 per annum to 400,000. At present rooted cuttings are being produced, but a hybrid seed garden will be established to augment supplies.



The first name in chocolate



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14h May 1998

Vic Jennings
Guyana Cocoa Research Institute 1998
c/o University of the West of England (UWE)
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

Dear Mr Jennings

Thank you very much indeed to both yourself and Spencer Thorne for taking the trouble to visit me in Birmingham on Friday last week. I very much appreciated the opportunity of talking over your proposals entitled "Guyana Cocoa Research Initiative 1998". As I indicated to you, the UK Chocolate Confectionery Industry maintains a cocoa research fund which has charitable status and allocate money to selected research initiatives to improve the prospects and productivity of world cocoa production. In order to maintain the charitable status, we have to act with caution and prudence in the management and allocation of the funds which we expend. I was impressed by the thought and planning which has so far been undertaken by the expedition members and feel that your proposed work programme is likely to produce beneficial results. In the light of this, we are prepared to make a grant to your expedition funds of £5,000 which is made up of £4,700 for internal travel expenditure on your cocoa collecting expeditions and £300 for the preparation of a report of your work. We would anticipate the report being completed by the 1st of March 1999 and hopefully appropriate arrangements could be made for its publication. We would hope that just before, or at the time of, completion of the report you will be able to make a presentation to the Cocoa Research Committee of BCCCA at one of its routine meetings in London.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Page 2/...

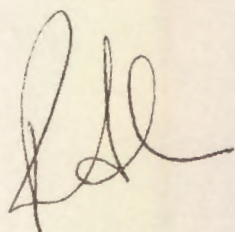
We note that the advanced guide of your team will be departing the UK on the 4th of July 1998 and it is anticipated that we will be leaving Georgetown on the 15th of September 1998. We would request you to ensure that all expedition members are suitably covered for medical insurance and repatriation expenses during the expedition.

We agreed that prior to your departure, you would get certain team members to develop skills in budding, and in planting of cocoa during planned visits to the University of Reading and the Cocoa Research Unit in Trinidad. It will also be necessary for team members to acquire knowledge on the establishment and management of cocoa nurseries. In view of the time constraints, it maybe necessary for budding of cocoa plants to be done at a very young age.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information. Meanwhile, may I wish you well in the continued preparations for your expedition.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely



R.A. Lass

Head, Agriculture and Environmental Affairs
Technical Development Department, V52

cc Michelle End, BCCCA

Michelle,

Please make arrangements to send a cheque for £5,000 payable to Guyana Research and attach any other conditions that you might wish to add any administrative arrangements etc.

Tony

Cadbury Limited Memorandum

To: Members of Cocoa Research Sub-Committee

From: Tony Lass
Technical Development Department, V52

Date: 2nd July 1998

Please find enclosed a self explanatory note for your information from Vic Jennings, the Co-ordinator of the Guyana Cocoa Research Initiative 1998.

I believe that they have been prudent in preparing a risk assessment which each member has signed and understands.

I have today sent them a message of goodwill for the successful outcome of their activities.

M Thomas

PP

RAL

(Dictated by RAL and signed in his absence)

Encl.



GUYANA COCOA RESEARCH INITIATIVE 1998

TEL: 0117 9240998 FAX: 0117 9763871 E-MAIL: COCOARESEARCH@HOTMAIL.COM

Guyana Cocoa Research Initiative 1998,
c/o Dept. of Env. Health & Science,
University of the West of England,
Frenchay Campus,
Coldharbour Lane,
Bristol.
BS16 1QY.
19/6/98

23 JUN 1998

Re: For the attention of the BCCCA.

Dear Mr Tony Lass,

Many thanks for your recent interest in the groups progress to date, I would take the opportunity to outline our position and to bring to your attention some points that have recently come up. Firstly, may I just confirm that the GCRI project is going ahead as planned, as we now have sufficient funds to set about achieving our objectives as discussed at our last meeting on May 8th. Following up on some of the issues raised from that, please find enclosed a copy of a Risk Assessment that each member has read and taken appropriate action towards, specifically the travel insurance including repatriation to the UK I do hope that you received our letter shortly after the meeting, if not please could you pass on the groups thanks to the BCCCA for making such generous funds available to us. Could I also take up the offer of a copy of a paper by Allen? that was mentioned, who I believe undertook similar work on cocoa, it would be very much appreciated. Finally, I would like to underline the groups commitment to keeping the BCCCA up to date and informed of our progress, before, during and after the project. To this end please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any more assistance.

Yours sincerely,

(Vic Jennings - Co-ordinator)