What could be the impact of Covid-19 on the global cocoa market?

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27 May 2020

Figure 1. Indexes of the ICCO Price, the S&P-GSCI Commodity Index Futures, the S&P-500, all denominated in US dollar, and the US dollar index. The indexes take the value 100 on 1 October 2020

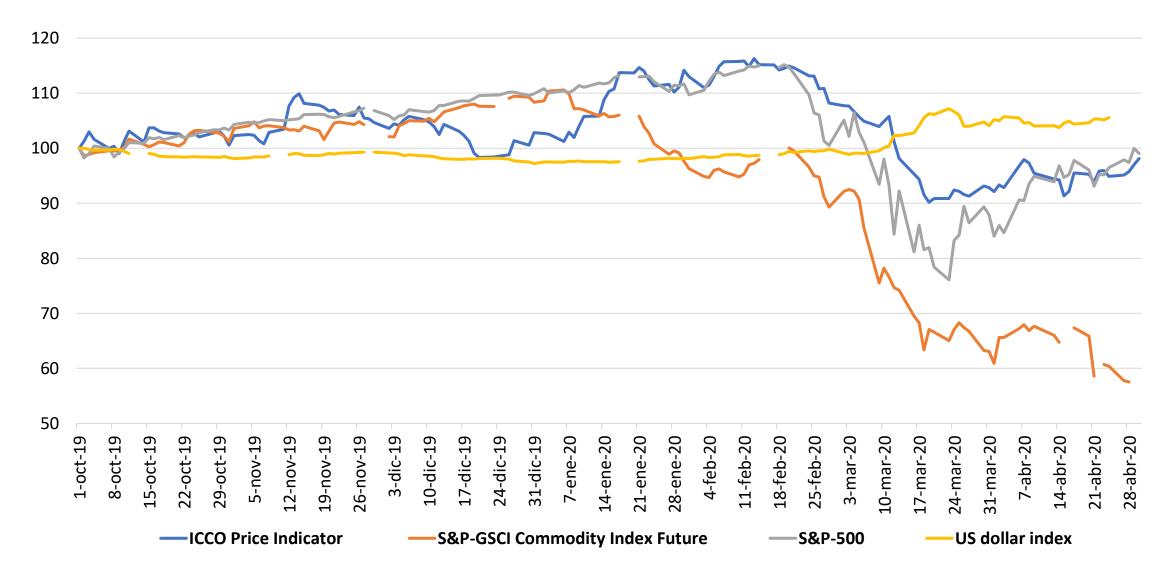
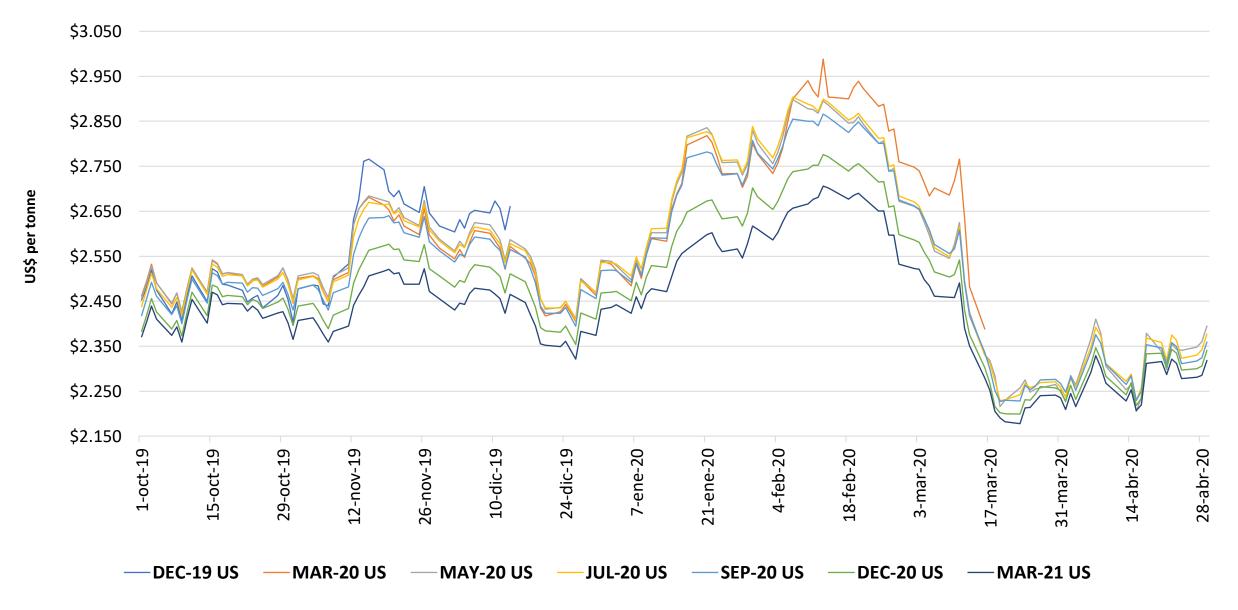


Figure 2. Prices of the cocoa futures contracts with expiry in December 2019, March 2019, May 2020, July-2020, September 2020, December 2020, March-2021 in New York from 1 October 2019 to 29 April 2020



Source: Reuters

Figure 3. The prices of the first and second position on the New York cocoa futures markets (ICE Futures US) against the available volumes of tenderable cocoa from 1 October 2018 to 13 May 2020



Source: ICE Futures US; Reuters

Figure 4. Forecast of the 2019/20 production at national level vis-à-vis the corresponding estimated volumes for the 2018/20 season

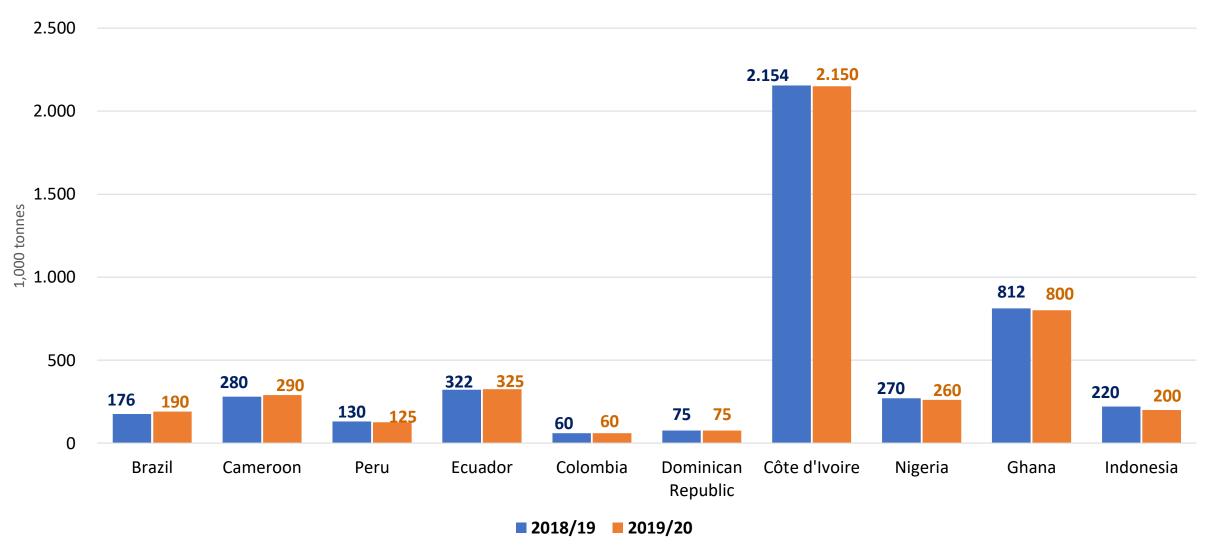


Figure 5. Forecast of the 2019/20 production at regional level. Forecast volumes are in bold font, 2019/20 world shares in italic, and the year-on-year percentage changes in red font

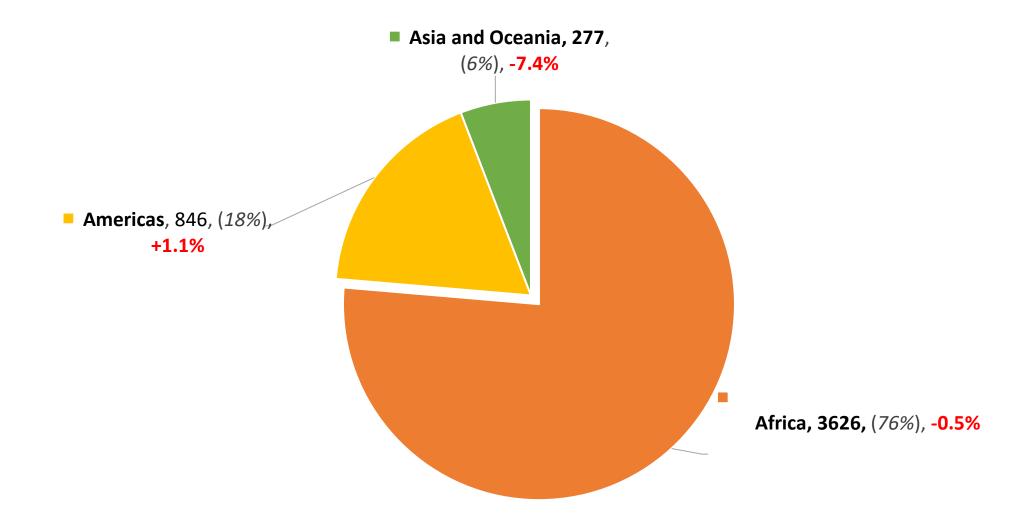


Figure 6. Forecast of the 2019/20 grindings at national level vis-à-vis the corresponding estimated volumes for the 2018/20 season

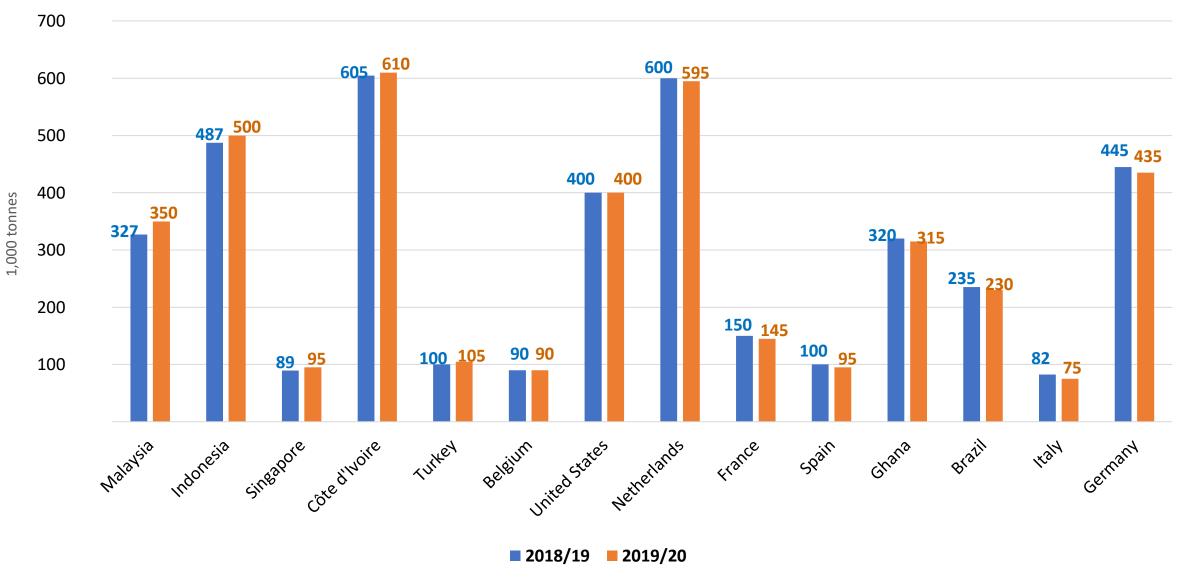
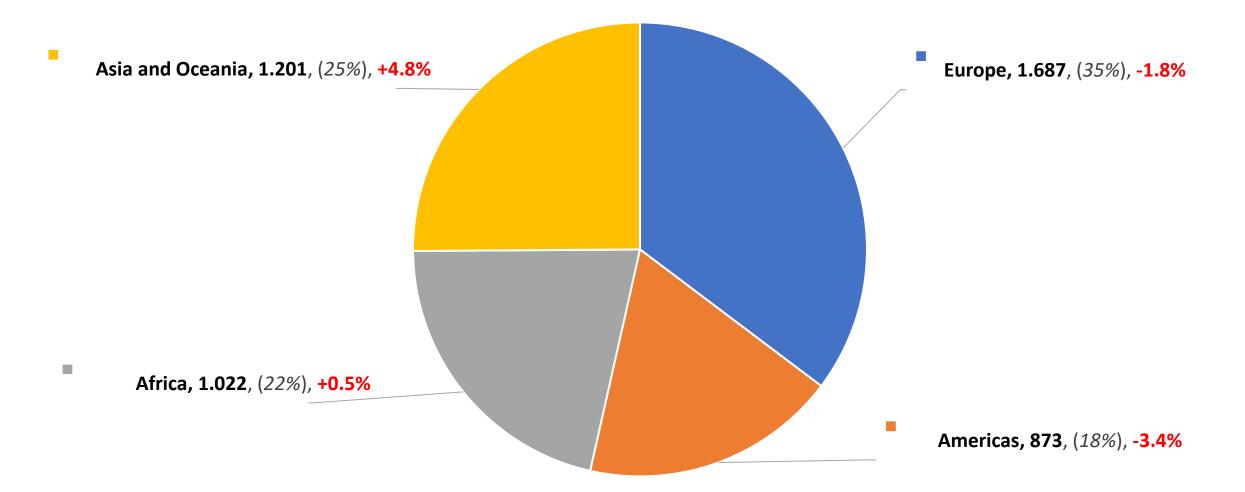
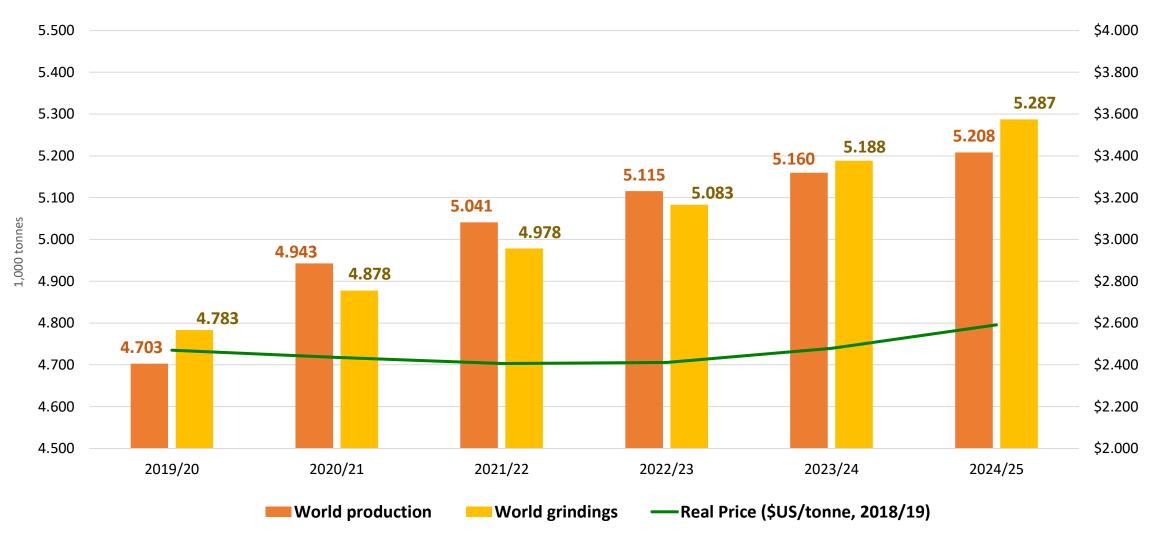


Figure 7. Forecast for the 2019/20 grindings at regional level. Forecast volumes are in bold font, 2019/20 world share in italic, and the year-on-year percentage changes in red font





- Covid-19 has initially disrupted the supply chain but also triggered a series of unintended economic consequences:
 - higher production costs
 - lower grindings
 - lower demand for chocolate confectionery products
- Lower margin of contributions which penalize mostly the small and medium enterprises
- Smallholder farmers and cocoa-dependent economies will suffer from a reduction of farm income and in export revenues
- Improving the living income of farmers and diversification should remain top priorities
- The dust has yet to settle before we can assess the impact of Covid more accurately