



PELICAN NEWS

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2017 School Farm winners announced

Blue Skies has awarded winners of the 2017 School Farm of the Year during a ceremony at the GNAT Hall in Koforidua, Ghana on the 30th of November.

Over 600 students attended the ceremony representing sixty schools who participated in this year's School Farm of the Year Competition.

The School Farm of the Year competition was launched by Blue Skies in 2015 as a way to encourage more young people to take an interest in farming, and help raise the profile of agriculture.

In the competition, schools are required to setup and manage their own 'School Farms' and submit business plans to ensure their sustainability. Teams of inspectors made up of agricultural experts visit the participating schools periodically to assess their performance and ultimately determine the winners.

This year the SHS School Farm of the Year was awarded to Krobo Girls Senior High School (pictured below), and the JHS School Farm of the Year was awarded to Ankwanne Dobro MA JHS.

The full list of winners can be found on the School Farm of the Year web page at www.blueskies.com/schoolfarm



Blue Skies named Best Food Business in AGI Awards.

Blue Skies been named best company in the Food Sector in the 6th AGI Ghana Industry Awards during an awards ceremony in Accra.

The awards are organised by the Association of Ghana Industries recognises businesses that continue to support the local economy irrespective of the challenges.

Pictured presenting the award on the left is former President of AGI, Mr Seth Adjei Baahl. In the middle is Sales and Marketing Manager Juliana Agyemang and on the right is HR Manager Emily Addo Boateng.



www.instagram.com/blueskiesproducts



www.facebook.com/blueskiesafrica

Blue Skies hosts Dutch Minister



On November 28th, Blue Skies Ghana hosted the new Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Sigrid Kaag. Minister Kaag was given a tour of the factory and saw an exciting new product line which has been co-funded by the Dutch Government. We'll be revealing more news on this new product in the next edition of Pelican News! Minister Kaag is pictured above with Anthony Pile.

Blue Skies named Agro Business of the Year



Blue Skies Ghana has been awarded the Pan African Agro Business of the Year. The award was presented at the factory by Professor Kojo Yankah, Pro Vice of the-Cape Coast University who thanked Blue Skies for the job opportunities offered to Africans and people over the world.

Danish Royal State Visit drops in at Blue Skies



On November 25th the Danish Minister for Environment and Food, Mr. Esben Lunde Larsen, visited Blue Skies Ghana with a delegation of twenty four representatives of Government. He visited the factory and a pineapple farm where he participated in some pineapple planting (pictured above).

The visit was part of the Danish State Visit to Ghana by Her Majesty, the Queen of Denmark.

Local MP visits Ghana factory



Hon. Frank Annor Dompfeh, MP for the Nsawam Adoagyiri Constituency is pictured third from the right during a visit to Blue Skies Ghana with representatives from the Ghana Freezones Board.

Group Conference unveils exciting plans for 2018



After a tumultuous 2017 which has seen a weakened pound, rising costs and dwindling consumer confidence, delegates at the Blue Skies Annual Conference have presented their plans to counter the negative impacts of Brexit and propel the business forward in 2018. Watch this space over the next twelve months to find out about some of the exciting plans that will see yet more innovation and differentiation from the great minds of Blue Skies.

Blue Skies showcase Papaya at Albert Heijn Christmas Expo



On the 8-10th of December Blue Skies joined the Albert Heijn Fresh Produce Team at their annual Christmas Exhibition. Albert Heijn invited all their regular customers to come and visit to taste and trial new and exciting products. At the fruit section Blue Skies highlighted Papaya which it believes has great potential in Albert Heijn. For this occasion a famous Chef in Holland made a recipe for papaya chutney served with smoked chicken. European Account Manager, Paul van Breukelen said "It was a great opportunity to be among this team and jointly speak with so many different customers who do their daily shopping at Albert Heijn".

Pictured above from left to right: Ties Leeksma (Category Manager), Joost Cleassens (Buyer), Stefan Kastanja (Sr. Category Manager), Peter Nuyten (Ripening at Bakker) and Paul van Breukelen.

Joe talks Fruit



Fruit Technologist, Joe Revell, recently spoke on an expert panel hosted by the Great Fruit Adventure at Food Matters Live in the UK. Food Matters Live is an annual event that brings together thousands of professionals dedicated to food, health and nutrition.

Joe spoke on a panel exploring about how eating fresh fruit and veg can help address the obesity crisis affecting kids in the UK.

Hilario visits South Africa



Business Development Manager Hilario Jesus recently travelled to South Africa to see the new factory and collect data for costing the current range of products.

Speaking to HR Manager Waydu Nhlapo, Hilario said "the staff made me feel at home and the sun re-charged my internal batteries in order to have energy to face the European winter. Keep doing the great job. Very impressive in all respects."



Foundation Focus

An update on our latest projects

New Eye Clinic opened in Ghana



A new clinic providing specialist eye care has just been officially commissioned. Nawule clinic in the Western Region of Ghana is the first of its kind in the region and will provide the local communities with health care where they previously had to travel for several hours for treatment in the city of Takoradi.

The new clinic can be seen pictured above near to some coconut farms. Foundation Advisory Director, Abena Antwi, is pictured on the right officially opening the new facility.



Foundation supports clinic in South Africa



In South Africa, the Foundation has recently completed a new reception desk for Balfour Clinic, which is located near to the factory. The new desk will provide increased security and a better working environment for staff.

Pictured above: the new reception area can be seen on the left with the waiting area located behind (showing the seats which were also provided by the Foundation). The clinic team are pictured on the right.



12 Foundation Projects get the green light

The following Foundation projects have been approved for 2018.

1. School Farm of the Year Competition, Ghana
2. Dobro East Mechanised Borehole, Ghana
3. Kindergarten Block for Anoff Junior High School, Ghana
4. Water storage tanks for Ada and Gome Schools, Ghana
5. A KVIP latrine for Nsumia, Ghana
6. Kintampo School, Ghana
7. Dobro JHS WC Toilet Block, Ghana
8. Many Krobo Agricultural Resource Centre, Ghana
9. Degueu Basic School, 2 Classroom block and toilet, Senegal
10. Alamal Community Development Treatment Centre, Egypt
11. Blue Skies Multi Purpose Sports Facility for Blue Skies South Africa
12. New Kitchen unit and sink and Zizameleni Educare Centre, South Africa

Cup Cake Day raises money for the Samaritains



Staff from Blue Skies HQ in Pitsford got baking again for 'Cup Cake Day' on the 31st of October to raise money for the Samaritains. Together everyone raised £242.00, which is enough money to keep open a local branch of Samaritans for 48 hours.

Samaritans is a UK charity which provides a free confidential telephone and email service for anyone in emotional distress. Samaritans can be called from the UK on **116 123** or by emailing jo@samaritans.org.

Introducing: Jolien Janse



For a couple of months I'm now working for this beautiful company. I really feel close to the thought that together we can brighten the world. In these few months I've met a lot of inspiring colleagues and learned the way how Blue Skies works. At the moment I work from my home in Haarlem- Holland surrounded with my two cats. Outside there is snow and coldness, but in the spring and summer I like to produce my own vegetables and fruit in my (roof) garden. Previously I worked for several logistics companies and also for a cosmetic Dutch brand called Rituals. But I feel myself more at home

between the fruits and the veggies and especially the warm feeling I get when I hear or read about the Foundation behind all this. I hope for now and in the future we can expand the brand together in Europe so that the world can be even more brighter. Happy Christmas everyone!

Jolien Janse is pictured inset together with Ties Leeksma the Junior Category Manager Fruit in Albert Heijn.

Come on you Blues!



On the 10th of November Blue Skies FC in South Africa played Rotek FC in the industrial soccer league for companies around this Divaliseng. Last week our team played against Municipality and our team won 5-0, and yesterday we played Rotek where we drew 3-3. The game was good and the support was good, the team building for Blue Skies personnel and management was good! Justice/David and Waydu were also part of the supporting team. The boys played good soccer but in the next match we are expecting a win not a draw. Well done! *By Waydu Nhlapo.*

Farewell



In November and December we said farewell to some familiar faces at Blue Skies. Our NPD Coordinator, Cath Maskell (pictured top at her farewell lunch), left us to go travelling and start her own business, we said goodbye to our weekend Ops Manager Lynsey Ingamells (pictured middle on the left with Claire), and our Finance Director, Iain Highlands (pictured bottom), left to travel North and move a step closer to retirement. We shall all miss Cath, Lyndsey and Iain very much and wish them all the best for the future.