



Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

Ten top food trends for 2017

While the world gets used to Donald Trump and Brexit, Pelican News contemplates what we're all apparently going to be craving in 2017 according to a number of sources including Mintel, Whole Foods Market and Market Watch. So as you tuck in to your Kale and Beetroot Smoothie that you thought was all the rage, think again! Here are ten food trends predicted for 2017...

1. Jackfruit: Speaking of plant-based proteins, jackfruit is becoming a very popular substitute for meat. (Food & Drink Resources)
2. Dragonfruit: Dragonfruit is another notable fruit. It's the new acai with its powerful antioxidant content. (Food & Drink Resources)
3. Souping: Instead of smoothies nowadays, it's all about fruit soups. (Food & Drink Resources)
4. Mocktail Mixology: From nonalcoholic happy hours to standalone mocktail menus, beverages are being positioned as intricate and unique experiences that can be had without the hangover. (Food & Drink Resources)
5. Waste Not: The focus of sustainability zeros in on eliminating food waste. (Mintel)
6. Moringa: Move over, kale - there's a new super green. The leaves of the Moringa oleifera tree, grown in Haiti, parts of Latin America and Africa, are drawing interest from trend watchers for their nutritional content. (Market Watch)
7. Tropical fruits and flowers were starting to float onto the radar last year, but we're seeing these flavors combo'd with grains for concepts perceived as "healthier" indulgence. (SensortEffects)
8. Coconut Everything: Virtually every component of this versatile fruit-nut-seed (coconuts qualify for all three!) is being used in new applications. (Whole Foods Market)
9. Clean labels: lists of ingredients consumers can understand and pronounce (MarketWatch)
10. Plant waters: From aloe water and maple water to artichoke water and cactus water, they are replacing more sugary sports drinks and artificially flavoured waters that don't appeal to consumers' desire for nutritious and natural beverages. (MarketWatch)

Ghana's UK Ambassador visits UK HQ



H.E. Victor Emmanuel Smith, Ghana's High Commissioner to the UK visited our UK Head Office in Pitsford on the 28th of December. He is pictured above with Procurement Director, Guy Murfitt.



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2017 Foundation projects approved

Eleven Foundation projects have been given the green light at a Board Meeting in Ghana on the 17th of January. These include the Foundation's first project for Egypt, which involves the renovation and provision of IT equipment for an education centre. Other projects include the provision of kitchen and playground equipment for local schools in South Africa, and a project in Senegal to support a local orphanage. Five projects were approved for Ghana including a KVIP toilet, a classroom block, two water projects and our third School Farm of the Year Competition.

In the photograph: the Foundation Board with Council Members. After projects are approved, the Board normally feedback their decision to the Foundation Council. The Council is made up of elected representatives of the areas where our staff live and where we source our fruit.



2017 School Farm project kicks off



The 2017 School Farm Competition is open for applications in Ghana. The competition is open to JHS and SHS level schools in the Central Region from Cape Coast through Swedru to Winneba, and Greater Accra from Medie to Amasaman and Ada, down to Dodowa. Schools can apply by completing a form available from www.blueskies.com/schoolfarm

More Audit success for Egyptians



It was a pleasure to be with Ali and Mohamed Bahgat last week in Egypt travelling to farms all over the country, and to meet everyone at the factory again.

Another successful audit for Global Gap and LEAF was the result. Thanks very much to Jonathan Southwood for his professional work, and very well done to Blue Skies Egypt! Pictured left to right are Mohamed Abdul-Razik, Mohamed Bahgat, Jonathan Southwood, Ali Saqr and Osama Hasanin
Report and photo by Stephan Morris.

Foundation completes new water system for fire station



A borehole and water dispensing system has been officially handed over to a firestation in the town of Nsawam in Ghana. Previously fire fighters had to head out of town to find water, sometimes having to travel over 25km.

Blue Skies welcomes Delhaize to Ghana



Pictured left to right: Alistair, Sara, Paul, Dirk and Ernest at Canaan Coconut farm

On January 9-13th Blue Skies had the pleasure of welcoming Dirk Dens (Sr. Category Director) and Sara Nasri (Category Support Specialist) from Delhaize, Belgium. We had the opportunity to introduce them to the people of Blue Skies in Ghana, see the factories and visit the Farms and the Growers.

It was also an excellent opportunity for us to go into detail about the business and discuss new opportunities with our brand, the Juice, Smooth Cayenne Pineapple and other exciting new products.

In addition to visiting the farms and the factories we also introduced Delhaize to some of the Foundation projects. At the Mango Centre of Excellence in Somanya, Alistair made a presentation on the Foundation which has been very useful for Sara and Dirk to understand how it works. We hope that the Delhaize team will also join us in the Foundation as it will be a great opportunity to work closely together in the communities where we source the fruit for Delhaize.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to making this visit a success. Special thanks to Joyce and her team for another excellent presentation on new products. Alistair, Denzil, many thanks for introducing Delhaize to the Foundation. It was a great visit and we are in the middle of following up on a long list of action points. *Report by Paul van Breukelen*

New mango chiller and washing line for Ghana



Pictured: the recently installed washing line at Blue Skies Ghana with the new cold rooms in the background. The new facility will increase the factory's capacity to process mango in 2017.

Ode to the pineapple



I am the Pineapple, the King of Fruits,
The Khan of Kamasutra, Grand Pasha of the Night,
Mikado, Shah and Emperor, the Ruler Absolute
Of all Dominions, near and far, in which my plant takes root.

Ananas Comosus is, botanically, my name,
Amazonia is my birthplace, the cradle of my fame,
The tribe Tupi Guaranis, four thousand years ago,
First nurtured and refined me as the finest fruit on show.

Columbus on his voyage under Ferdinand's burgee
In Guadeloupean rapture – in Fourteen Ninety Three –
First savoured the sweet flavours which beguile my devotees
And brought me back to Europe, to the King's enormous glee.

The Pineapple became THE fruit, preferred above all other,
On raptured nights of great delight when Isabella's Mother
Was far from Court and secret thoughts – too delicate to embellish –
Aroused the King and incensed Queen in aphrodisial relish.

The fruit of Fibonacci blends proportions pure, divine,
With taste at once ambrosial, scented and sublime,
A marriage beyond measure, the guarantee of pleasure,
No lover could discover a sweeter Valentine.

For the Pineapple is sensuous, Byzantine by design,
Awesome and exotic and erotic all combined,
Theatrical, magnificent, with yellow flesh aflame,
Yes! I'm proud to be a Pineapple, the King of Fruits declaims.

By John Campbell. Many thanks to George Hutton for spotting this poem!

Blue Skies works with municipality to support schools

South Africa. The Mayor of the Municipality of Dipaliseng, Mr Mafunda Makhubo, invited representatives of Blue Skies South Africa us to join him in a visit to local schools with the aim of identifying challenges faced by these schools and work together with local businesses to find solutions.

The Mayor encouraged learners to be on their best behavior at all times, respect educators and do their homework because this will bring good results to their educational endeavours.

The Mayor in his closing remarks announced he would adopt one child in each grade from one to seven from disadvantaged and vulnerable families. He committed to provide them with full school uniforms, pay for school trips and cover all their educational needs for a year. What a good gesture we need more leaders like Mr Makhubo in our community to better the lives of our children at Dipaliseng.

As reported in this month's Pelican News, the Blue Skies Foundation will be supporting two local schools and a day care Centre by providing kitchen equipment and a Jungle Gym (playground).

Report by Waydu Nhlaop, Blue Skies South Africa



Pictured: The Mayor addressing leaders at school

#fairmade



We make the finished product in the countries where the fruit grows so we can return more benefit to those parts of the world.

Baby News



Congratulations to Shazia and Kamran of Blue Skies UK who are now proud parents. Ayesha (pictured) was born in the morning of Friday 13th weighing 3kg.

Congratulations to Business Development Manager Hilario Jesus and his wife Ines on the birth of their son Eduardo. Eduardo was born on January 25th at 6pm

Blue Skies Birthdays



Happy birthday Lindi Ngema of Blue Skies South Africa who celebrated her birthday on the 16th of January.

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