



# PELICAN NEWS

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## Blue Skies leads way in fight against BBS

Blue Skies has been instrumental in the growth of the mango industry in Ghana, having been the main buyer for farmers for the past two decades. In addition, the Foundation has established a regional training centre and the business has helped pioneer agronomy techniques to improve farm productivity and control diseases and pests such as anthracnose and fruit fly.

More recently, Blue Skies have taken a lead role in the fight against a new threat, Bacterial Black Spot (BBS). BBS is a disease which is mainly spread through wind blown rain from tree to tree. It affects fruits by causing black spots on leaves and fruit, that culminate in fruit lesions and rapid crop loss.

There are a number of simple, cost effective measures that can be taken against BBS, such as establishing windbreaks on farms, applying careful pruning and good orchard sanitation, and using copper based fungicides. Led by Chief Agronomist, Ernest Abloh, the business is taking action by raising awareness and providing expert training and support for all its growers to counter this latest threat.

Blue Skies have a long history of reacting quickly and effectively to resolve issues like BBS. By being proactive and providing assistance to growers, the business has played a vital role in the development of agriculture in Ghana. The steps taken by Blue Skies now will play a further important role in safeguarding the future of Ghana's mango industry and the continuing advancement of best-practice agronomic techniques.

It is this approach that has given the business the edge over the years and enabled it to continue offering the best quality fresh fruit products for all its customers.

## Blue Skies wins at 2019 Ghana Shippers Awards



Blue Skies Ghana were recently named Fruit/Vegetable Exporter of the Year at the 2019 Ghana Shippers Awards. The GSA brings together players in the shipping industry and recognize achievements from local and international companies involved in the shipping sector in Ghana.

## Blue Skies up for four FPJ Awards



**7-8 OCTOBER 2019**

Blue Skies have been short-listed in four categories for this year's FPJ Awards, including Innovation, Sustainability, Best Marketing Initiative and Fruit Supplier of the Year. Winners are voted on by FPJ subscribers, so if you have a subscription to FPJ, please vote for us! Winners will be announced on the 7th of October. Vote for Blue Skies at:

<https://www.fpjlive.com/how-to-vote>



## Work starts on Egypt extension



Pictured: the foundations in place for a new factory extension for Blue Skies Egypt to expand its mango processing capacity. The extension is expected to be complete by the 3rd week of August.

## Keeping fit at Blue Skies SA



Pictured above: the South Africa netball team engage in some pre-match exercises on their multi-use games area, which was provided by the Foundation in 2018.

## 100% success in successive audits

It has been a very busy few months of audits for Blue Skies. Both Egypt and UK received zero non conformances for unannounced third-party BRC audits.

Egypt and Ghana also received zero non conformances for the SMETA social audit, which this year included our branded factory in Ghana, demonstrating how we work to the same high standards across all categories.

Finally, Egypt achieved zero non-conformances in their ISO 22000 food safety and OHSAS 18001 health and safety audits, concluding a period of five audits in fifteen days for the team in Egypt.



Egypt team after their BRC audit



Blue Skies UK BRC audit



Blue Skies Egypt, SMETA audit



Egypt, ISO 22000 & OHSAS 18001 audits

## COOP Switzerland visit Ghana with scout group



Photo courtesy of [https://www.instagram.com/travalery\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/travalery_/)

A group of scouts recently travelled to Ghana with the Swiss retailer, COOP, to find out about where their fairtrade fresh and dried prepared fruits came from. As part of their visit, they popped in to Blue Skies and spent a day visiting the factory and farms and some of our social projects. The scouts have been deployed by COOP to learn about the sustainability of their food and post about their experiences on the COOP website and social media channels. You can find out more at: <https://www.coop.ch/de/taten-statt-worte-stories.html>





## BIG BRAND UPDATE

### Blue Skies Egypt impress Four Seasons Hotel



Our team in Egypt welcomed a very important visit from one of the most prestigious hotel groups in Egypt this month, the Four Seasons Group. The visitors included the Four Seasons Italian chef, quality director and procurement director, who were given a tour of the factory with Blue Skies Juice General Manager Ekramy Kamal, Sales Manager, Rafiek Zaher and Operations Manager. The team signed a contract for Blue Skies to start supplying the Four Seasons Group from 13th July.

### Blue Skies to exhibit at UK Speciality Fine Food Fair



Blue Skies will be exhibiting its ice-cream at the Speciality and Fine Food Fair in London on the 1-3 of September. The fair brings together independent retailers, delicatessens, chefs, hoteliers, restaurateurs, importers, distributors & wholesalers to source, network and get up to date with the latest trends.

### Product sampling campaigns make an impact in France & Ghana



To celebrate the launch of our colourful range of products in Carrefour France, we are sampling in store. This activity will introduce our fantastic fresh fruit to new consumers.



In Ghana, Blue Skies sampled at three Melcom supermarket branches in Accra, where Blue Skies juice has recently been launched. 280 cups were sampled to shoppers every day, reaching over 800 people per store over the course of a week. The stores reported increased sales as a result of the sampling.

### Egypt receives licence to supply Saudi Arabia

This month, Blue Skies Egypt received a visit by a delegation from the Saudi Food and Drug Safety Authority. Following the visit, the business has been granted a licence to supply the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.





# Foundation Focus

## AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS



## School moves in to new classrooms and Egypt give talk on Foundation

Students at Nsumia Primary School have moved in to a new classroom block which was provided by the Blue Skies Foundation in Ghana and opened in June. The classroom (pictured) has new furniture and provides a significantly improved learning environment for the teachers and students. Meanwhile in Egypt, Mohamed Bahgat (pictured right) recently briefed staff at Blue Skies Egypt about the Foundation's 10 Year Anniversary and its importance in supporting the local community.



# BLUEPRINT BULLETIN



## Ghana and UK trial reusable aprons

Blue Skies Ghana and UK are trialling new reusable aprons as part of the company's drive to reduce plastics. The aprons are made of recyclable polyethylene. If successful, the new aprons will be introduced at all our sites, helping us to reduce plastic use and waste to landfill. Ghana GM Janet Lutterodt is pictured with Anthony Pile modelling the new aprons.

## FOUNDATION 10YR VOICES

## Growing Ghana's Mango Industry



Victoria Boateng is convinced: "If it was not for Blue Skies, the mango industry would not have grown". Victoria established Green Dove Farms in Ghana 17 years ago with no idea about marketing. Like many other farmers, she did not know where to sell her fruit. She was very lucky that Blue Skies not only approved the quality of her fruit, but also invested in training and a long term partnership with her and other mango farmers in the area. Together, with its main customers and Foundation partners Albert Heijn and Waitrose & Partners, they have been of continuous help. "We know that they are always doing their best" she says.

The Foundation built the Somanya Centre of Excellence in 2012. She remembers how much persuasion was needed to convince the Council and the Board of their project's merit. But in the end, it was approved and it became a success. The centre (pictured) has helped to make the mango farmers more visible and attract people. The farmer association grew stronger, more united and the joint space enables them to share ideas. It is used for training and demonstrations. New buyers and suppliers also present themselves there. "The centre is helping to grow mango activity in this area. We are always striving for more." Victoria says.



## Physiotherapy provided for staff in Ghana



Staff at Blue skies Ghana have recently benefited from free physiotherapy treatment from PRMD in collaboration with George Fox University in the USA. The sessions took place on the 12th of June and included treatments for back pain, arthritis and knee pain.



# Charlotte brings to life her dream to drive



Pictured: Charlotte backing a compost trailer into its docking position.

Charlotte joined Blue Skies in 2018. At the end of her five month contract, she decided to learn a trade so got enrolled in a driving school to learn how to operate a tractor, because that was her dream. Charlotte went through the driver training for a month and was attached to Zulu Farm for eight months. She was finally employed again by Blue Skies on the 1st of June where she started working in her dream job as a tractor operator. Her next ambition is to drive an export truck!

## Dinkie embarks on twelve month internship scheme



Congratulations to Malebakeng Motaung from Blue Skies South Africa (known as "Dinkie") for securing a 12 month internship with Sasol, an international integrated chemicals and energy company, in the HR department.

Dinkie enrolled with Gert Sibande College in Balfour to obtain the National certificate N6 in Human Resources management. She joined Blue Skies SA in 2014 as a seasonal employee where she worked in High Care before being moved to the Laundry department in support of her career ambitions and to allow her the flexibility to attend her afternoon classes. She will start her internship with Sasol on the 22nd of July. Dinkie is thankful to Blue Skies SA for supporting her during her years of study and giving her the opportunity to develop.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to our Chief Sales and Marketing Director, Hugh Pile, who this month tied the knot with Aneta in the beautiful surroundings of the Dordogne in southern France. The happy couple celebrated their wedding in some of the warmest weather ever recorded in France, but were refreshed by the world's best freshly squeezed orange juice, courtesy of Blue Skies South Africa. We wish Hugh and Aneta many congratulations.

## Brazil appoint new health & safety teams

Blue Skies Brazil recently had a renewal of the Internal Accident Prevention Commission and Fire Brigade for 2019/2020. Following is the list of the members of each Committee:

**Fire brigade** from left to right bottom: Maria, Bryan, Jessica, Zelia, Bruna, Jhennifer, Jackeline, Fernanda, Gabriel, Lucas. From left to right top: Gustavo, Antonia, Aline, André, instructor, Eric, Tamires, Gabriela, Fladimir and Sara.

**Internal Accident Prevention Commission** from left to right: Fabiana, Maria, Cristiane, Sueli, Reinaldo, Anderson, Josi and Gislaiane.

