



# PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | March 2020 | Issue 163 | [www.blueskies.com](http://www.blueskies.com)

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

### Going the extra mile to continue supplying fresh fruit to the world

With coronavirus (COVID-19) forcing governments around the world to close borders and restrict movement, Pelican News takes a look at what Blue Skies is doing to protect its people and its business.

There have been over 180,000 reported cases of coronavirus since it was first discovered in December. It is a new virus that is considered to be highly contagious, and while the majority of people who catch it display only minor symptoms, there are some who will develop more severe symptoms. This is why we are seeing such stringent measures being introduced to slow down its spread.

For Blue Skies, the top priority is the health of its people. This is why the company has taken steps to brief staff on advice provided by the World Health Organisation and local health authorities on personal hygiene and measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of the virus. This is on top of the strict hygiene measures already practiced by the business.

Another area where Blue Skies is taking decisive action is logistics. As a business that relies on passenger airlines to get its products to market, Blue Skies is affected by the increasing number of airlines that are reducing their schedules and grounding flights. To address this, steps are being taken to use air cargo services and move production where necessary, in order to ensure that customers remain supplied during these challenging times.

Head of Operations, Vijay Gulati said "It is by no means an easy task to overhaul our logistics amidst such a volatile situation, but we are doing everything within our means to find alternative arrangements, and we are confident that we will be able to keep supplying the vast majority of our key lines"

Chairman and Founder of Blue Skies, Anthony Pile, said "These are indeed unprecedented times for the world, but we know that with the flexibility of our fresh from harvest model, and the adaptability of our culture, we will come through this crisis a stronger and more dynamic business than we have ever been before".



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS



### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands thoroughly for about 20 seconds with soap and hot water or use a sanitizer gel.



### USE A TISSUE FOR COUGHS

Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes. If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve. Immediately dispose of tissues.



### AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



### AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS

Avoid handshakes and close contact with others, especially people who are unwell.

## INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- P2** It's Water Conservation month for our Blueprint monthly campaign
- P3** Students present ideas for the future of fruit to Blue Skies
- P4** A poster for protecting yourself and others against coronavirus

# BLUEPRINT 2020

## MONTHLY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Our March theme is...  
**Water Conservation**

### The Facts

- Over 2 billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress.
- 20 percent of the world's population walks an average of 3.5 miles a day to get drinking water.
- By 2030 it is predicted that global demand for water will grow by close to 30% and 4 billion people will live in areas of high water stress.

### Blueprint Commitment

We are committed to using as little water as possible and ensuring that as much of it as possible comes from a sustainable source.

### What we've been doing

- In Benin, we have invested in new technologies to help us reduce the volume of water we need to sanitise our fruit and keep our factories clean.
- We've implemented measures to help us reduce the water we consume, such as self-closing taps on sinks and dual flush systems on our loos. We've also carried out training to raise awareness among our people of the importance of conserving water.
- We've introduced new systems to help us recycle our water. Our new water plant at our factory in Benin will be able to recycle over 90% of the water we use.

For more information, visit our Blueprint 2020 special reports at:  
[www.blueskies.com/blueprint2020](http://www.blueskies.com/blueprint2020)



## Celebrating International Womens Day

Sunday 8th of March was International Women's Day. This years theme was "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights". The campaign which is run every year by the United Nations, brings together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve.

At our new factory in Benin, all our women got together to celebrate International Women's Day. They are pictured below outside the canteen.



### How can we do better?

Send us your ideas for how we can do ever better to meet our Blueprint Commitments.

You can submit them at:  
<http://www.blueskies.com/ideas/>



## Senegalese mango trees begin to flower following extreme heat



Pictured: The human world may appear in turmoil right now but nature continues to overcome adversity. Mango trees in Senegal have had a tough start to the year with first flower flushes lost to extreme heat, but the trees are not giving up. Second flower flushes are expected to produce a late, but decent crop. By Guy Murfitt.

# Students pitch ideas for the Future of Fruit



Students from the University of Northampton's Faculty for Business and Law recently pitched their ideas for products that could help a locally based fruit business meet the needs of the future.

The FBL (Faculty of Business and Law) Challenge, has been devised by the University in partnership with Blue Skies. The initiative challenges students to come up with innovative products and solutions that are designed to address a series of future scenarios put forward by Blue Skies. The scenarios include predictions on social, environmental, political, economic and technological changes that could affect the world in 2025, some of which are already becoming reality!

Four finalists pitched their ideas to a panel of judges from the University of Northampton and Blue Skies. Each team had to present details on the product concept, marketing plan, distribution and technical and legal considerations.

A number of ideas were pitched, including freeze dried fruit and strawberry & cream sandwiches. The winning team called Teen Patti pitched an idea for Amla Candy, a traditional Indian sweet made using gooseberries and date syrup.

Many thanks to Lana, Jayne, Jill and Sonya for volunteering as judges on the panel. In the picture is the winning team 'Teen Patti', flanked by Dean of the Faculty for Business and Law at the University of Northampton, Dr Mairi Watson (right) and Head of Sustainability at Blue Skies, Simon Derrick (left)

## Greetings from Blue Skies Benin



Pictured above: the team at Blue Skies Benin pose for a group photograph outside the new factory



## A scoop of success!

This month we should 'raise a cone' to celebrate our delicious ice cream. We are now in advance talks with two nationwide distributors: one in the UK and another in the US. Both distributors have been bowled over by the 'fantastically smooth' texture alongside the 'insanely creamy' taste... famous for transforming tasters into instant dairy-free advocates!

This allows us to recognise a number of firsts: We enter new markets with our restaurant focused offering for chefs. We also celebrate the arrival of four new flavours: Salted Caramel, Strawberry & Banana, Caffe Latte and Vanilla Bean. These, alongside our current range (Simply Coconut, Chocolate & Orange, Mango & Passion Fruit), will arrive in exciting new packaging – watch this space!

*Update from Brian Bircham*

## And finally...



Stephan Morris recently reported how Technical Manager, Hella Lipper, turned up at a hotel in Cairo confused to find Lynx aftershave in her suitcase! Upon further investigation it was realised she had collected the wrong bag at the airport, and so with the assistance of the hotel and the airport authorities, Hella returned to the carousel to find her bag waiting for her. Unfortunately it would have meant that someone, somewhere would have been missing their aftershave!



# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS



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### USE A TISSUE FOR COUGHS

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### AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

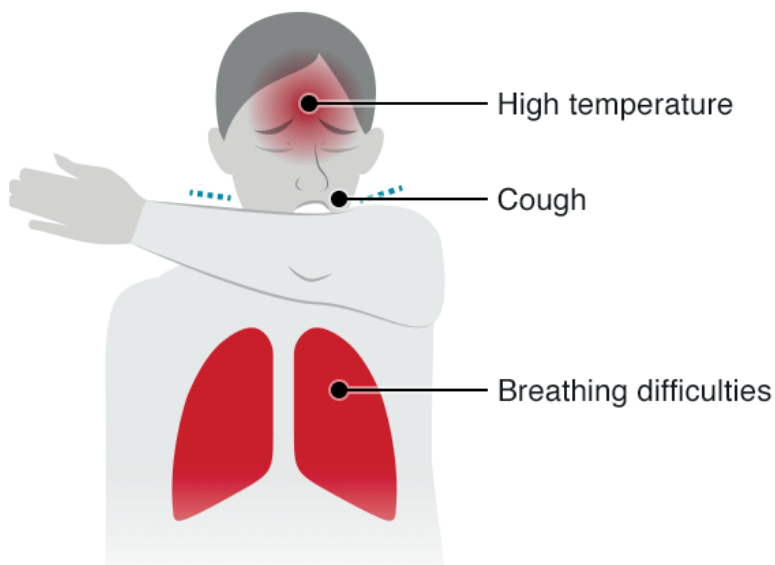
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



### AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS

Avoid handshakes and close contact with others, especially those who are unwell.

## LOOK OUT FOR THESE SYMPTOMS



### IF YOU HAVE THESE SYMPTOMS:

**CALL YOUR GM OR HR MANAGER AND LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES**

- If possible, try to isolate yourself in a room or a car.
- Avoid visiting doctors in person, instead try and seek advice via phone