



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | March 2023 | Issue 198 | www.blueskies.com



BLUE SKIES AHEAD

BLUE SKIES

Spring is around the corner, and we're feeling excited about the opportunities in the commercial world and possibilities for the year ahead.

Despite the hurdles and challenges we as a business face, it is a time to seize the moment, and discover new ways to move forward in an ever-changing climate. At Blue Skies there is much to look forward to, with the official 25th Anniversary celebrations coming up in June in Ghana, new product launches on the horizon with new customers, sustainability progression, and new developments, it's a time for real collaboration, innovation, and celebration.

SPOTLIGHT ON 2022 SAVEUR DE L'ANNÉE

INDUSTRY AWARDS

TASTE OF THE YEAR



Last year, Blue Skies won the Saveur de l'Année "Taste of the Year Award" across 3 products; Pineapple Smooth Cayenne, Pineapple Sugarloaf PGI and Pomegranate. Pictured above are some of the French team at the Saveur de l'Année event on 14th March, where they received the official awards for the products under the Blue Skies brand. Congratulations to all of the team for this incredible achievement!

OPPORTUNITIES IN BRAZIL

BRAZIL

NPD



Kirsty Haynes, NPD Manager from our Pitsford site recently took a trip to our Brazil site to explore options and build an understanding of the availability of new fruits from our Brazil site. During her visit, Kirsty was able to visit the factory site and take a tour around the facility from Flavia, General Manager. The site has seen lots of expansion of the facilities in recent months to accommodate more storage space for mangoes as customer demand has increased. Kirsty was able to meet with various producers, visit local markets and discover the opportunities with fruits availability within Brazil. It's an exciting time for the team with lots of developments in discussion!



KIRSTY HAYNES, NPD MANAGER



The site is set in a beautiful location surrounded by lots of varieties of trees and some fruit trees planted within the factory site



The CEAGESP market in Sao Paulo, which is the largest supply centre for fruits, vegetables, flowers and fish in Latin America



Some of the team in Brazil with our GM, Flavia



Floresta do Araguaia, State of Para - largest pineapple grower in Brazil



A huge variety of fruit was available, with many sellers offering samples to try the variety of new and exotic fruits



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER IN RSA

RSA

GRADUATION CEREMONY



Below is a short story written from Blue Skies employees who have recently attended their graduation ceremony in South Africa.

"We would like to thank Blue Skies SA for giving us an opportunity to go back to school. When we grow up we were willing to graduate one day but due to our poor background and our family situations we failed to achieve that goal. We were given a golden opportunity by Blue Skies to make our dreams come through. Learning was never easy to work and to study at the same time that was difficult but we persisted. We are so happy and looking forward to grab another opportunity for learning we are so inspiring ♡.

We will like to thank our HR manager for her amazing supporting and believing in us showing us love and encouragement from the beginning of our learning till the end."

Story written by Learners from SA.



MARCH CELEBRATIONS ACROSS BLUE SKIES EGYPT

EGYPT



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Blue Skies Egypt recently celebrated International Women's Day across their site. The women of Blue Skies enjoyed a morning exercise session and gathering to celebrate this day.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

The team in Egypt celebrated Mother's Day on 21st March, and came together to share happiness for the Mothers of BS Egypt, of which there are 60!



Ramadan

Blue Skies Egypt have welcomed this holy month with Ramadan decorations in most of outdoor areas to spread happiness among all people and create a happy Ramadan atmosphere. We wish all of our colleagues a happy Ramadan month, may it bring you all joy.



UON SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

BLUE SKIES

FRESHPPACT

UON

Blue Skies and FRESHPPACT will be participating at the forthcoming Sustainability Summit being organised by the University of Northampton on 15-16 May. The summit will feature talks and presentations from organisations including Weetabix, Mellow Yellow, Bambino Mio, Innovate UK, CIWM and IEMA. Alongside this. Our CEO Hugh Pile will be delivering a key-note speech.



The event will provide a platform which brings together academia, businesses, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to identify shared sustainability challenges (environmental, social and governance) mainly within but not limited to, the food/drink, logistics and footwear sectors, and devise a roadmap to address these challenges.

For more details on this event, you can scan or click the QR code.



BENIN SUGARLOAF PROJECT

INNOVATION

BENIN GRANT

Blue Skies are excited to announce we have been awarded a grant by develoPPP, a 3-year project which aims to develop our Sugarloaf Pineapple operations in Benin. The project will focus on expanding sales of Benin sugarloaf pineapple both locally and to European markets, as well as provide training and development for farmers and women in business, contributing to the local community and economy.



The project will start in April and end in March 2026.

For more details on the project, you can follow our monthly updates through this newsletter. For further details on the grant funding programmes, scan or click the QR code here -->>



MEANINGFUL WORK PROJECTS

HR

MEANINGFUL WORK CAMPAIGNS

As part of a wider business goal, Blue Skies has committed to engaging staff across our sites in our "Happier Healthier People" initiative. As we look to create programmes, campaigns and initiatives, we hope that this will actively encourage everyone to live more mindfully, adopt healthier habits and share best practices for wellbeing. Below are just a few of some recent campaigns across the business.



EGYPT WELLBEING CAMPAIGN

Mohamed Bahgat recently introduced a Stop Smoking Initiative to encourage people to be healthier by stopping smoking. He announced this at the start of Ramadan in Egypt. The campaign hopes to encourage smokers to give up smoking during the 30 days in Ramadan, in the hope they won't go back to smoking. The campaign aims to provide clear and useful information about the health benefits, as well as financial and social benefits. Congratulations to the team on this wellbeing campaign!

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN IN CORBY

CORBY

FOUNDATION

Blue Skies Corby have recently started to support a local homeless charities with useable surplus fruit twice a week. So far, the team have been able to support 1420 individual families in the community. The Corby Homeless Project are a 24/7 staffed provision that provides their residents with everything that they need from a toothbrush to a hot meal. They are 60% funded through housing benefits and 40% fundraising, so they do need to rely on local businesses, schools, and members of the public to come forward and help support them financially.



Additionally, we continue to support our people to resolve any problems with which they struggle with as part of our Live in the UK support scheme. This includes helping people to register at a GP, open bank accounts and resolve financial issues. A huge well done to the team for all of their dedication and support in their local community work!

ORGANISATION SURVEY IN BRAZIL



Blue Skies Brazil have recently completed their "Organisational Climate Survey" with their staff to try to identify points of demotivation and act internally on improvements to make people happy at Blue Skies. This ownership of their site climate and conditions in itself is excellent.

Congratulations to the team in Brazil for sharing their results, and demonstrating leadership values, with an action plan for growth and improvement.





SPRING MAKEOVER FOR CORBY

HR

Our Corby offices have recently had a refresh with some newly painted work spaces. This has given the breakout office rooms a refreshing colour boost, creating a much more inviting space for the teams to work in. This spring makeover has been well received by the team in Corby.



FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS



Waydu Nhlapo, of BS South Africa recently received an appreciation letter thanking Waydu and the Foundation for engaging with Dipaleseng academic achievements for 2022, where the Foundation donated a laptop to the top performing learner in Dipaleseng. Waydu contributed in hosting the 2022 Dipaleseng Circuits Awards Ceremony, pictured below with several members from schools attending the ceremony to receive awards. The contribution to the schools from Blue Skies and the Foundation has contributed to improved results, which the education team have expressed their gratitude. A big congratulations to the team for all of their hard work in supporting organisations and schools and receiving such positive feedback.



PROJECT UPDATES IN BRAZIL



In February we had a donation of watermelons that were out of our standard process. In addition to helping social institutions in the region, we allocated part of the donation to victims left homeless by floods and landslides caused by the heavy rains that hit the coast of São Paulo in early February. - Angelo Silva, HR Coordinator.



COMMUNITY SUCCESS IN SENEGAL

Lots of good news and few challenges with projects in Senegal, including completing the installation of computers at a school café, classroom extensions, and a borehole project which is due to be start in May. Congratulations to the Senegal team led by Gloria Asare for this exciting Foundation success.



A TRIBUTE TO RIANA

RSA

EMPLOYEE TRIBUTE



Riana Croukamp joined the Blue Skies sales team in South Africa on 1st October 2015. It is with a heavy heart that we announce that sadly Riana passed away earlier this month.

Through her determination and hard work, Riana was a key contributor to the growth and development of the Local Sales business. She started off her journey in the sales team by selling juice at festivals and events over weekends. She persevered, and the long hours and hard work were rewarded when she was promoted into a sales management role and became the Key Accounts Manager for our 3 largest retail customers: Woolworths, Checkers and Spar.

Riana developed strong relationships with the various buying and technical teams over the years across all three these customers.

We will always remember Riana for her big smile and willingness to help and support with whatever was needed to develop our business. Riana was still hard at work planning around the implementation of the 2023 Sales Strategy, just a few weeks before her passing.

Riana will be greatly missed by all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Tribute written by Trevor.



WELCOME TO THE BLUE SKIES FAMILY

HR

This month we're welcoming new members who have recently joined our Pitsford site. L-R Charlotte Morgan joins us as new Account Manager within the Commercial team. Tejinder Rijat joins us as a Category Manager also within the Commercial team. Iwona Salamon joins us as a Planning Coordinator, and Carole Fowkes who joins as a Technical Compliance Manager. We welcome you all into the Blue Skies family and wish you every success in your roles.



CONGRATS TO THOKOZILE IN SA



Congratulations Thokozile Yende SA for completing the Cape Gate Vaal 10km's marathon, where the race was held at Vereeniging town on the 5th of March. Pictured above with the medal. Well done Thokozile!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SOMBU

Best wishes to Sombu Nkosi SA Financial manager celebrating her birthday on the 29th of March.



TWINS ARRIVE ON BLUE SKIES ANNIVERSARY

These beautiful twins were born Sunday 26th Feb 2023 The very day Blue Skies marked its 25yrs of operations in Ghana. Nicholas Appiah Boateng is the father of the twins, who works in the production department (*HIGH CARE)* and has been with Blue Skies since 2001. He is the current chairman BSSA. -



Nicholas Appiah Boateng.