



PELICAN NEWS

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School Farm of the Year Awards 2023

BLUE SKIES ANNOUNCES SCHOOL FARM WINNERS

FOUNDATION

SCHOOL FARM AWARDS

Blue Skies, KIC and Mastercard Foundation have announced award winners of the 2023 School Farm Competition at a ceremony held on 24th November 2023 in Kumasi. In attendance were Nana Yaw Sarpong Siriboe I, 2022 National Best Farmer, Mr. Joe Mensah, Board Chair, KIC. Representatives from the Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, KIC and this year's participating schools also graced the event with their presence. The School Farm project piloted in 2016 with 12 schools in the Eastern region to create awareness about agriculture among young people in Ghana. In 2022, through its partnership with KIC, Blue Skies Foundation scaled up the programme to reach over 200 schools nationwide. To learn more head over to page 5.

ANTHONY PRESENTED WITH GIFT FROM DAVID ARNOLD

BLUE SKIES PIONEERS



Anthony was proudly presented a book named 'Long days in the Sun (The Dobro Mission) 1998 & Beyond' by David Arnold in November. David was the very first General Manager in Ghana when the business was set up, and this journal is a reflection of the early days of Blue Skies. David retired in 2011, but has long remained a close part of the Blue Skies family.

BLUE SKIES ATTEND ITM TRADE SHOW



BLUE SKIES

TRADE SHOW

The team at Blue Skies France took attended the Intermarché trade show on 7th November. This event was an opportunity to present Blue Skies and its products and have them tasted by the Intermarché team. More than 300 visitors including buyers, category managers, product managers, and store owners attended and were impressed by the quality of our products. This day was an opportunity for a number of fruitful exchanges and for contacts to be made with a view to a future partnership. The team warmly thanks everyone at Blue Skies who helped them organise this event!



MEDRID VISITS SHANGHAI

BENIN

SUGARLOAF PINEAPPLE

Our agronomist in Benin Medrid Laly recently visited Shanghai to represent Blue Skies Benin at the China International Import Expo, which took place between 2nd - 11th November. This participation was organised through the Benin government to help us promote Benin and our Sugarloaf pineapple. The Chinese market offers huge potential for us so this opportunity to explore the market and position Blue Skies pineapple as premium pineapple was highly welcomed.

Medrid has said that fresh cut will do very well in the market, which was further supported by the long line of people looking to taste our sugarloaf pineapple at the event! We are excited to what we can offer the market and looking forward to the future opportunities this may bring.



Here you can listen to Medrid at the event talking about our sugarloaf pineapple.

MONTHLY FOCUS IN GHANA



BLUE SKIES SUPPORTS FLOOD VICTIMS

In a heartfelt gesture of support, Blue Skies has come forward to provide much-needed relief to the victims of the devastating Akosombo floods which has affected many communities downstream the Volta Lake. With a commitment to serving communities in times of crisis, Blue Skies with support from staff and some of our farmers, has generously presented a range of essential items to assist those affected by the calamity. Blue Skies delivered a significant quantity of non-perishable food items. Canned goods, rice, beans, gari, toiletries, and boxes of clothes the victims have access to nutritious meals and clothes.



Blue Skies, through its compassion and commitment to the wellbeing of those afflicted by the Akosombo floods, has provided essential supplies and support to help the victims rebuild their lives. This efforts stand as a testament to the power of solidarity and the transformative impact that can be achieved through humanitarian initiatives. We wish to thank our farmers, staff, friends and families for their timely intervention in this support.

MONTHLY UPDATES IN BRAZIL



SOCIAL ACTIONS HONOURED IN BRAZIL

BRAZIL

SOCIAL IMPACTS



In November, Blue Skies was honoured at the Mogi das Cruzes City Council by councilor Milton Lins, recognising our social actions in support of families, mainly with the donation of mangoes to NGOs in the region. In the person of our GM Flávia, we received a diploma from the councilor himself with the applause of the city hall for the company's social actions, especially the donations of mangoes that do not meet our process standards but are still in usable condition. From left to right we have: Natachi, Neusa and Milton Lins representatives from the city hall, next we have Flávia Mometti our GM and Angelo Silva HR coordinator.

During the diploma delivery, they showed us a video of a social action they carried out in a poorer neighbourhood in the region, where in partnership with an ice cream manufacturer, part of the mangoes donated by Blue Skies were transformed into ice lollies and distributed among the children of the community.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

BLUE SKIES SOUTH AFRICA

The team of Execs visited South Africa last month to discuss the strategy plans for 2024. They had a range of excellent conversations, exploring a number of critical topics covering local business development, possibilities for fresh cut and freshly squeezed juices, sales of avocados, and improving our profitability for our fresh-cut exports. Sustainability was high on the agenda, as we increasingly look for ways to accelerate our Blueprint journey, through initiatives such as installing solar panels as well as increasing biodiversity hotspots in the local area.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In October, the team in South Africa united to champion Breast Cancer Awareness Month. By gathering together, they aimed to empower, educate, and raise awareness to accelerate the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Dressed in vibrant pink, the team are proudly stood as a unified force, passionately advocating for this crucial cause.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ITUMELENG!

TRAINING

BLUE SKIES SOUTH AFRICA

Training and development are vital for the growth and success of any organisation. It helps employees acquire new skills and knowledge, improve performance, and stay motivated. In South Africa, we celebrate and congratulate Itumeleng Buthelezi-BSSA stock administrator, for completing a short course in Operations Management as part of BSSA training programme. This will enable efficiency and make an impact in her workspace. Congratulations to Itumeleng!



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: BLUE SKIES FOUNDATION UNVEILS TOP SCHOOL FARM IN GHANA

FOUNDATION

SCHOOL FARM AWARDS

On the morning of November 24th, 2023, at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, in Kumasi was abuzz with excitement as the highly anticipated School of the Year awards ceremony took place. This prestigious event celebrated the outstanding achievements and contributions of School in the Junior and Senior High levels in Ghana. The awards ceremony was a momentous occasion, gathering stakeholders, educators, students, farmers, and community leaders to recognise and honour schools that have demonstrated excellence in various categories. The awards assemblies over 800 students, 300 teachers and guests from 11 regions in Ghana. The School of the Year awards aimed to highlight schools that went above and beyond in providing quality agricultural education and fostering exceptional practical training for students. This year's awards featured 20 categories, including Best School Junior High, Best School Senior High, Best Male and Female Teachers, Best Male and Female Students, and the Overall Best School.

Read the full article here



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY

BLUE SKIES CORBY

On the 15th November, the team at Corby celebrated International Food Day. This was a great way to taste a variety of food from different countries, where everyone could bring in something for all to enjoy. On the day, the team tasted a range of English, Romanian, Moldavian, Bulgarian, Polish, Lithuanian, Hungarian and Bangladesh style of food. The team want to say a big thank you to MIAH MD HIRON as he went above and beyond by bringing in a huge bowl of curry rice which was enough for those involved in this activity. A fantastic day to celebrate culture and enjoy lots of delicious food with colleagues.



FAIRMILES: A FAIR APPROACH TO NET ZERO



UPCOMING EVENTS

Stakeholder Roundtable Event

15th December 2023 at 3pm (Hybrid)



Fairmiles, an initiative supported by a consortium of organisations in industry and academia, is calling for science-based Net Zero guidelines which balance social and economic impacts with the drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fairmiles argues that in the absence of such guidelines, there is a significant risk that businesses adopt decarbonisation policies which overlook wider sustainability benefits and impacts, including Climate Justice implications for vulnerable communities within global supply chains.

Fairmiles has been formed to support industry in ensuring a fair transition to net zero that does not marginalise vulnerable people in low- and middle-income countries. It follows past initiatives that have sought to raise awareness of the benefits of airfreight for developing countries. This includes a report published by IIED and Oxfam in 2009 which estimated how 1 to 1.5 million livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa depended directly and indirectly on UK-based supply chains. The consortium aims to publish research to provide updated data on the impacts of airfreight and hold an industry roundtable on the 15th of December to discuss how to ensure a fair approach to Net Zero is followed.

To learn more and to register your interest to sign up, visit <https://blueskies.com/global/fairmiles> or scan the QR code.



University of Exeter

UoN University of Northampton

