



PELICAN NEWS

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Blue Skies launch new videos with Reggie Yates

Blue Skies have released a series of short videos with actor, television presenter and radio DJ, Reggie Yates. Filmed in Ghana earlier this year, the videos follow the story of Blue Skies dairy-free ice cream from tree to tub and investigate how the Blue Skies approach offers farmers and communities a 'fair scoop'. The videos will be shown across a range of media channels or you can view them right now by heading over to our YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).



More audit successes for our sites



Congratulations to everyone who have been involved in more audit successes this month. Brazil and Egypt both received successful customer audits, and Benin passed their Global GAP surveillance audit with zero non conformances - another perfect result!

The Benin team can be seen pictured above following their audit.

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

- P2** How Blue Skies is a Fair Scoop for farmers and biodiversity
- P4** The impact of the School Farm Competition on ICT in Ghana

FROM TREE TO TUB

How Blue Skies coconut Ice Cream is a Fair Scoop for people and planet.



There have recently been press reports that the growing demand for coconut oil has resulted in large areas of natural habitats being lost to make way for coconut plantations. One report even claimed that coconut oil production threatened five times more species than palm oil. While there are some commentators who challenge the credibility of these claims, we can't simply turn a blind eye to the impact that some of these coconut plantations may be having on biodiversity.

Blue Skies takes biodiversity very seriously, which is why it has strict policies against any form of deforestation or habitat loss, even going to lengths to protect individual trees where they are threatened. This is why coconut supplied to Blue Skies is sourced from established farms, many of which have been in existence for over fifty years. But there are other things that Blue Skies is doing to provide a fair scoop for people and the environment and you can read about some of them on this page.

Supported by the Blue Skies Foundation



The Blue Skies Foundation works in cooperation with Waitrose & Partners and Albert Heijn to fund projects that support staff and farmers involved in the supply of fresh fruit products from Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Senegal and Brazil. For the coconut growing communities, these projects have included a Corn Mill which enables local people to produce staple foods for their community, and a clinic which has brought health services within closer reach to people who would otherwise have had to travel hundreds of miles to the nearest city. This year the Foundation also constructed Teacher's accommodation for a coconut community in the Western Region of Ghana.

Protecting the Environment with LEAF



Coconut Farms that supply Blue Skies are audited to the LEAF marque standard. Blue Skies were in fact the first company in the world to achieve LEAF marque accreditation for a group of farmers. LEAF is a charity which is committed to encouraging viable agriculture which is environmentally and socially acceptable and ensures the continuity of supply of wholesome, affordable food, while conserving and enhancing the fabric and wildlife of the countryside for future generations.

Nothing is Wasted



Blue Skies makes coconut into chunks for its fresh-cut range and cream for its dairy-free ice cream. But what happens to the husks and the shells? Well, the husks are removed at the farm (see picture) where they are supplied for local artisans to craft in to things like bowls and sculptures, while the shells are removed at Blue Skies and supplied to a local company that makes them into sustainable charcoal. So when it comes to coconut, there really is nothing left.

In Loving Memory

Waydu Nhlapo remembers Magdeline and Sibongile from South Africa, who both very sadly died this month



Magdeline Lina Dladla joined Blue Skies on the 09 August 2015. Through her hard work, and dedication she was appointed Label HACCP Control and it was there where she showed her excellence, strong character and ambition in her work. She would often come early to work and leave late to ensure all products were prepared and despatched within the right specification, without any compromise she was authentic and a woman of order. Magdeline inspired a dramatic transformation in the team and everyone aligned themselves to her way of working.

The team will never be same without Magdeline. Blue Skies has lost a very strong

person indeed. She leaves impossible shoes to fill. Mag, you will be always be remembered by all.

She is survived by her sisters and brothers her three children and one grandchild. May your soul rest in power.

Blue Skies family, we would like to thank you all for your contribution, support, prayers and love that you gave to the Dlada family through their grieving moments. May Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord .

Sibongile Christantia Noko started working for Blue Skies in 2015. Working on the juice line she formed a great part of the team. She was always respectful, loved her job and her colleagues. She also loved, singing and dancing and took great pleasure in seeing other people happy.

Blue Skies family again your support, prayers, contribution have really comforted the family and the Siyathemba community applauded you for the great send-off you gave to your Comrade Timbo. You have left a good reputation to our society, keep up the good work.

She will be missed by all especially her juice team members. She is survived her two children, her mother, her siblings and friends.



Ghana mourns the loss of two colleagues



Paul Atweri (pictured) was born on 29th June 1970 in Nsawam. He joined Blue Skies as temporary member of staff on 20th November, 2002 as a Food Operative. He soon moved to a permanent position where he worked at Despatch before later being transferred to Intake and then FIAT. He worked at FIAT until his untimely death on 29th July 2021. Paul was a committed and hard-working colleague. He was welcoming and friendly and always quick to greet those around him. He will be sadly missed.

Mr. Yaw Awudi, affectionately known as Wofa Yaw, joined Blue Skies in 2010 and was appointed as security guard at the farm at Harriet Land. He did his work diligently to the great admiration of all who visited the site. He was friendly, jovial and respectful, always ready to assist whoever needed his help. He also proudly spoke of his wife and eight children who he leaves behind. His death took us all by surprise. We had seen him on the farm on Friday only to receive the bad news on Monday morning. We were all spell-bound and for many hours we were all contemplating as to the circumstance that might have led to his sudden death. We have missed a hardworking and selfless man. May his soul rest perfectly in His arms till we meet again. Wofa Yaw, da yiye!



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

How the School Farm Competition impacts ICT

The story of Kwakyekrom M/A Basic School



Seated on a hill in the town of Kwakyekrom, in the Nsawam-Adoagyiri Municipality of the Eastern Region, is the Kwakyekrom M/A junior High School which provides formal education to the indigenes of Kwakyekrom and its environs. The school has a population of about two-hundred and seventy students. The school applied to compete in the School Farm Competition run by the Blue Skies Foundation in 2019 with little expertise on farming, but what it did have was a small portion of land, lots of zeal and a passion to gain positively from the competition.

With a few students, the school would go on to win 2nd Runner Up in the JHS Best School Farm Category as well as the Best Teacher in the JHS Category in 2019. They received a brand new laptop and two brand new desktops as prizes.

Fast forward to 2020 and the Kwakyekrom School through the learning experiences acquired in 2019 competition, pulled a surprise again, when they were adjudged the overall Best School Farm in the JHS category in 2020, the Most Entrepreneurial School, and the Best Male Student. As prizes, the school received 4 desktop computers and a tablet for the Best Male Student. In an interview, the Headmaster of the School indicated that the computers have improved the teaching and learning of ICT in the school. He confirmed that the school recorded an increase in the number of students who passed ICT in the Basic Education and Certificate examinations in 2020 with zero fails compared to results received in 2019.

The ICT Teacher of the school expressed his elation about the computers the school had gained as a result of the School Farm Competition. He expressed that the teaching of ICT is more enhanced now since students are able to visualize the concepts taught by practicing with the desktops.

Since ICT is perceived to drive growth in modern economies, it is a core examinable subject in all basic schools across Ghana. The delivery of ICT teaching and Learning is handicapped by the lack of ICT learning materials required by schools in Ghana to embrace this global phenomenon. As a result, the Blue Skies Foundation through its School Farm Project is contributing by awarding ICT learning materials as prizes to help improve the teaching and learning of ICT in Ghana.

The Kwakyekrom School can currently boast a total 8 desktop computers (6 received as prizes from Blue Skies Foundation) which aids in the learning of ICT.

The school is currently participating in the 2021 School Farm with the primary objective of educating its students about the importance of farming while also working hard to win yet more desktops to enhance the teaching and learning of ICT for its students.

Report by Victoria Asamoah

Senegal update



Work has started on the construction of a new IT block for a secondary school located near to the Blue Skies packhouse in Senegal. Progress has also been made on a new maternity ward for the local town, which is expected to be completed this year. The photos above show the foundations of the IT block and the Foundation committee meeting at the packhouse to review project proposals for next year.

And finally...



Ms Amel Sabeh of Blue Skies Ghana turned 50 this month. Not looking her age, at the peak of the Senegal Season, colleagues and friends organised a surprise sitting for her which actually ended in tears. She indicated that in spite of COVID, this birthday has been her best ever with memories she will keep forever. Happy birthday Amel!
By Alistair Djimatey