



PELICAN NEWS

Blue Skies Newsletter | February 2022 | Issue 185 | www.blueskies.com |

Blue Skies launches the Fresh Produce Impact Hub to solve the plastics problem

Blue Skies have teamed up with Waitrose & Partners and the University of Northampton Centre for Sustainable Business Practices to launch an industry Research and Development Hub to find ground-breaking solutions to sustainability challenges, with its first focus being on plastics.

The Fresh Produce Impact Hub (FRESHPPACT) will collaborate with retailers, manufacturers and agribusinesses operating within food supply chains rooted in developing or emerging economies to identify shared high priority social and environmental challenges, and work with research partners to accelerate the adoption of the most promising solutions through a process of rapid evaluation, testing and adoption.

FRESHPPACT is being implemented by Blue Skies and supported by UK retailer Waitrose & Partners who have been awarded a UKAid grant to develop the operating model and launch three challenge funds to find solutions to problem plastics found in Agricultural Mulch, Workwear and Packaging. Find out more at www.global.blueskies.com/freshppact



UK Trade envoy visits Blue Skies



Pictured: The Right Honourable The Baroness Hoey, talking to Blue Skies Chairman Anthony Pile, during a visit to Blue Skies on the 24th of February with the British trade envoy to Ghana

Happy Anniversary



Congratulations to Blue Skies Ghana who celebrate their 24th anniversary on the 26th of February, the date when Blue Skies delivered its first ever consignment of fruit from Ghana to the UK in 1998. Next year, it will be a big one as the business will celebrate its 25th anniversary!

Airfrance KLM visit Egypt



Pictured: Senior representatives of AirFrance/KLM recently visited Blue Skies Egypt to see how we operate and discuss solutions to some of our logistics challenges.

Ghana Chief Whips drops in on Blue Skies Ghana



Blue Skies Ghana recently received a visit from the local Member of Parliament, Chief Whip and former Blue Skies employee, Frank Annoh Dompseh (pictured centre).

Mr Annoh Dompseh came to understand challenges faced by the business and how the government could help. The team discussed support for mango and pineapple farmers, especially given that mango has been listed as a cash crop for Ghana. He also toured the factory and granted an interview with the research team who are in Ghana conducting our social impact study.

Sites come up with fresh ideas



Staff across all sites have submitted ideas for an innovation challenge launched earlier this month with the aim of finding new working practices and techniques that can help us to improve operational efficiency across the business. Thirteen ideas have been short-listed and the winner, who will receive a new smart phone, will be announced within the next few weeks. Staff in Egypt are pictured above discussing ideas after details of the challenge was announced!

Sites excel in technical audits



February has been another busy month for audits across Blue Skies sites. Customer audits across UK, Brazil and South Africa have taken place, Benin passed a remote BRC audit and Blue Skies UK completed another successful FEMAS audit, ensuring fruit residues can continue to be supplied for animal feed.

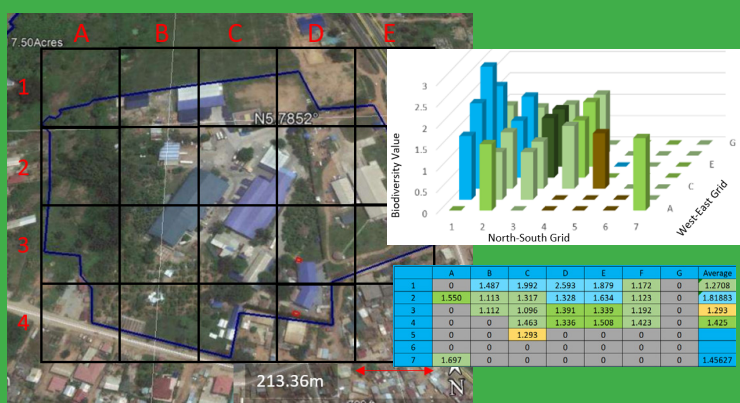
Pictured above is Marta from the Pitsford office at the Brazil factory with Sueli Dias (High Care team leader), Flávia Mometti (GM) and Julia Molina (Technical). Marta has reviewed our processes, controls, CCPs procedures and provided various training sections to Low Risk and High Care operators ahead of their recent audit.

University team visit Ghana to assess impact on communities



A team of researchers from the University of Northampton Centre for Sustainable Business Practices are in Ghana this week to conduct a study on the impact of Blue Skies on the local community. Dr Ebenezer Laryea, Dr Chijioke Uba, Dr Seyi Omoloso and Miss Kelechi Ndudi-Okoro have been interviewing staff, farmers and local community members as part of their research which will assess the impact of Blue Skies model and Foundation projects. The study has been commissioned by Blue Skies, Waitrose and Albert Heijn and the results are expected in April.

Biodiversity Pilot launches in Ghana



A pilot scheme to test a new methodology for measuring biodiversity levels was launched this month by James Garnett-Letts, an intern student from the University of Birmingham who is working with Blue Skies to help the business monitor its impact on biodiversity. Remote training was conducted with Mawuli Dogbo and Mary Aka in Ghana and the first results are expected over the next few days. The full pilot and a plan for site roll-out will be completed in June.

Veganuary Team complete plant based challenge



Some of the Blue Skies team took part in the Veganuary Workplace challenge, and shared their experiences and recipes through a shared group. Some of the favourite dishes included Vegan Thai Green Curry with crispy tofu, mushroom risotto, Black Bean, Butternut Squash & Jalapeno Enchiladas and Portobello Wellington. Many of the participants commented how the challenge has made them feel healthier and inspired them to make changes to their diets.

Family of 5,000



Founder and CEO, Anthony and Hugh Pile recently featured in a family special edition of industry magazine, the Fresh Produce Journal. You can view the full article by clicking [here](#).



FOUNDATION FOCUS

AN UPDATE ON OUR LATEST PROJECTS

Foundation partners Mastercard and Kosmos Innovation Centre to scale up school farm project



The Blue Skies Foundation has partnered the Kosmos Innovation Centre (KIC) in Ghana and the Mastercard Foundation to develop a platform that can enable the expansion of the School Farm Project. Together through training programmes, investment in resources and critical funding, this partnership will aim to reach even more young people by supporting and empowering them to embrace the exciting opportunities available within the agriculture sector.

Foundation Manager, Alistair Djimatey said “the School Farm Competition is so important to us as it gives students the chance to develop hands on experience in how to manage a farm and build practical skills. Through this competition, we hope to engage more young people and have a lasting positive impact on the community. We are very happy to be working alongside the KIC and look forward to our partnership together raising awareness of the opportunities within the agriculture sector.”

Egypt staff evacuate in fire drill



Pictured: Staff at Blue Skies Egypt congregate in the assembly area during a routine fire drill at the factory

Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday to all our staff who recently celebrated birthdays, including our West African Director Ruth Adjei (pictured top, centre) and Solomon Lamptey (pictured middle) who both reached the tender age of 50, and Joseph Kpabitey (pictured bottom) who shares his special day with the commemoration of Saint Valentine on the 14th of February.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Eid Al-Hossary, juice sales supervisor at Blue Skies Egypt Juice who married his partner Dina this month. We wish Eid and Dina many years of happiness as they embark on their lives together.