



# PELICAN NEWS

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## BLUE SKIES ANNUAL PLANNING PROCESS (APP) UPDATE

This month, several members of the executive team gathered in Ghana and South Africa for the Annual Planning Process (APP). The journey was not only a chance to meet face-to-face with key teams but also to witness firsthand the innovation and ambition that are at the heart of Blue Skies' growth.

In Ghana, the executive team met with teams from Ghana Freshcut, Ghana Branded, the Packhouses, Farms, and Benin. Meanwhile, the South Africa visit included teams from Egypt, Brazil, and all South African subsidiaries. UK was covered the week prior in Corby, ensuring all regions were part of the discussion.

A series of comprehensive, forward-thinking plans that will drive Blue Skies into 2025 with confidence and excitement. Each team presented strategies that were not only detailed and innovative but also full of ambition, reflecting the company's commitment to long-term success.

On November 28th, 2024, the CEO, Hugh Pile provided an update to staff on the APP. He concluded his presentation by congratulating each team for their outstanding work and expressed his confidence and excitement for what lies ahead in 2025.

While the final budget numbers are still to be shared, the anticipation for 2025 is palpable. The executive team expressed sincere gratitude for the dedication and passion demonstrated by every team. With such enthusiasm and clarity, Blue Skies is poised for another exceptional year ahead. The future is bright, and the journey is just beginning!

## WAITROSE VISIT GHANA AND BENIN

Blue Skies welcomed the Waitrose team in Ghana and Benin. The visit aimed to deepen their understanding of the company's processes, strengthen relationships, and explore sustainable sourcing opportunities.

During their visit, they toured several farms, witnessing the dedication of local farmers, including coconut growers in Jomoro. They also explored projects supported by the Blue Skies Foundation, such as the Prisons Daycare Center, Adu Suazo Teachers Accommodation, and the Darmang School, which demonstrate the Foundation's commitment to community development.

They described the experience as "fantastic," highlighting the exceptional quality standards and care observed throughout the production process.





## MAJOR SUSTAINABILITY MILESTONE WITH 1900 SOLAR PANELS

In a significant step towards sustainability and energy efficiency, Blue Skies SA has successfully installed 1900 solar panels at its site, generating just shy of 1 megawatt of power. This new installation enables the site to run entirely on solar energy during daylight hours, significantly reducing its carbon footprint and reliance on traditional energy sources. The solar system is expected to cut the site's energy costs by 50%, with a remarkable payback period of just two years. While the system provides full energy needs during the day, the site will continue to draw from the grid at night. This investment in renewable energy has a long-term benefit, with the solar panels having an expected lifespan of 25 years. By setting aside a portion of the savings each month, the company plans to build up a fund to cover any future upgrades or replacements of the system, ensuring that when the time comes, these expenses will be paid for in cash through the savings generated by the solar installation. This latest initiative underscores Blue Skies' dedication to sustainability and its commitment to embracing renewable energy as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce its ecological footprint.



Did you know we make fruit smile? 🍉😊

At Blue Skies, we take pride in ensuring the highest standards of food safety. Yolisa Mbie, one of our dedicated team members in South Africa, carefully prepares orange melon samples for validation. It's part of our ongoing commitment to compiling evidence that our production processes consistently deliver safe and high-quality food for everyone to enjoy!



## HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION IN STYLE

On October 31st, the Blue Skies UK team marked Halloween with a festive celebration. Team members got into the spirit of the season by arriving at work in creative costumes, bringing a fun and festive atmosphere to the office. After work, the celebration continued at a local pub, where colleagues gathered to enjoy games, delicious food, and lively conversation. A big thank you to everyone who joined in and made the evening a memorable one! The event was a great way to unwind and connect outside of the office while celebrating the spooky season together.



## BLUE SKIES UK CELEBRATES WORLD FOOD DAY

On November 19, Blue Skies UK marked its third annual International Food Day with a vibrant celebration of global flavors and traditions. The event brought together employees to enjoy a variety of dishes representing cultures from around the world.

The day served as an opportunity to share not only food but also stories and traditions, fostering a sense of unity and appreciation for the diversity that defines the Blue Skies team. International Food Day has become a cherished tradition at the site, highlighting the power of food in building connections and celebrating cultural richness.



## ANGIE CELEBRATES HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

Angie from our Finance Team celebrated her 70th birthday on November 10th. Known for her dedication and positive spirit, Angie has been a cherished team member for many years. Colleagues extended their heartfelt congratulations, celebrating both her milestone and the wonderful person she is. We look forward to many more years working with Angie and wish her continued happiness, health, and success. Happy 70th, Angie!





## INTRODUCING GREEN FLESH MELON IN EGYPT: THE DESERT FRUIT

We are excited to announce the launch of our Green Flesh Melon in Egypt! This new addition boasts vibrant, bright colors and an amazing taste that has already captured the attention of customers. With its refreshing flavor and eye-catching appearance, the Green Flesh Melon is set to be a standout product. We look forward to seeing its success and bringing even more innovative offerings to the market!



## NEW NURSING TEAM IN EGYPT: PRIORITIZING HEALTH AND SAFETY

In our continued commitment to the health and safety of our team, we are thrilled to announce the appointment of a new nursing team in Egypt. This dedicated team will be available across both shifts, ensuring that expert medical support is always ready to assist with any emergencies. Their presence reinforces our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for all factory members, helping to promote well-being at work every day. We're proud to take this step toward ensuring the health of our team remains a top priority.





## BLUE SKIES KEEP FIT CLUB EXCELS AT 2024 AFRICAN SPORTS DAY FITNESS GAMES

The Blue Skies Keep Fit Club demonstrated exceptional strength and community spirit at the 2024 African Sports Day National Health Walk & Fitness Games on November 16th in Aburi. A team of 70 members from Blue Skies completed a total of 770 kilometers on the challenging Aburi terrain.

In addition to the endurance walk, the team excelled in the event's fun games, winning first place in Bendball and securing third in "Kofi Says."

Blue Skies also supported the event with their nutritious products, promoting health and wellness. Their active involvement highlighted their commitment to fitness, community engagement, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.



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## BUILDING A SAFER WORKPLACE: TRAINING OF THE NEW CIPA MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR 2025

This month, we launched the training for the new CIPA (Internal Commission for Accident Prevention) management team for 2025, reinforcing our commitment to workplace safety and well-being.

The training equipped team members with essential skills to identify risks, prevent accidents, and foster a culture of safety.

CIPA serves as a vital link between employees and management, addressing safety concerns and encouraging collective responsibility. This initiative strengthens our shared mission to create a safer, more inclusive work environment.

Together, we can ensure the well-being of all as we move toward a thriving workplace in 2025. Stay tuned for updates!



## EMERGENCY BRIGADE TRAINING

Hydrant activation training, conducted every three months, is crucial for maintaining emergency readiness and ensuring equipment functionality. This hands-on program covers every step, from assembling the hose line to rolling the hose (aduchamento) efficiently, equipping participants with the skills to handle hydrants safely and effectively.

The training familiarizes participants with realistic scenarios, teaching them to troubleshoot issues, avoid equipment damage, and work collaboratively under pressure. By fostering confidence and teamwork, this regular exercise enhances operational readiness and prepares the team for swift, precise responses in emergencies, underscoring our commitment to safety and excellence in emergency preparedness.

# ALBERT HEIJN DONATES 20 COMPUTER TO 4 SCHOOLS IN GHANA



Albert Heijn, has made a significant contribution to the educational development of the Nsawam-Adoagyiri constituency. A donation of 20 computer laptops was made to four community basic schools in the area.

This generous donation is expected to have a profound impact on the educational experience of the students in these schools. The laptops will provide students with access to digital learning resources, enabling them to develop essential skills in computer literacy, research, and critical thinking.



## THE FOUNDATION BREAKS GROUNDS FOR A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK IN GHANA.

The Foundation Board on the 27th of November, approved the construction of a new Junior High School block for the Panpanso Krokese MA School, established in 2007 by the Foundation. The project commenced with a groundbreaking ceremony attended by community members, stakeholders, and distinguished guests. Alistair Djimatey, the Foundation Manager, emphasized the importance of education and urged the community to engage in climate-resilient agriculture and avoid environmentally harmful practices like indiscriminate sand winning.

The ceremony featured cultural performances by traditional drummers and dancers, celebrating the positive impact of the project on future generations. The deputy Director of the Ghana Education Service expressed gratitude, symbolically breaking the ground with a shovel. Community leaders also lauded the Foundation's efforts and highlighted the transformative potential of the school.

The event concluded with thanks to all contributors, particularly the Waitrose and Albert Heijn Foundation, for their investment in Ghanaian education. The Foundation reaffirmed its dedication to completing the project, which aims to serve as a pillar of learning and opportunity for the Panpanso community. Media coverage, including Pelican Media and local outlets, documented the occasion.





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## EXPLORING THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF FLORICULTURE: FAIRMILES AT FLORIFOUM EVENT

At a recent industry event, a dynamic platform was created to discuss the far-reaching benefits of floriculture, which has often been underestimated in broader sustainability and trade conversations. According to Fairmiles' research, the airfreighting of flowers and fresh produce into Europe alone supports the livelihoods of at least 18 million people in the Global South.

This finding sparked lively discussions among the 200+ attendees, underscoring how the flower trade goes far beyond aesthetics, providing economic and social benefits. An inspiring keynote by Jan van Dam, CEO of Dutch Flower Group, He set the stage for a rich exchange of ideas, which continued in a thought-provoking panel discussion with panelists including Simon Derrick.



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## FRESHPPACT: MULCH TRIALS UPDATE

In March 2024, The Fresh Produce Impact Hub (FRESHPPACT), in collaboration with Coco360 Ghana and Blue Skies, trialed an innovative coconut coir mulch on a 4-acre plot at Blue Skies farms. The trial involved 80,000 pineapple suckers and showed promising results after 7 months.

The first set up named plot one is matured at 8 months and flower induction has been carried out on this plot.

The team on their visit to Ghana, was impressed by the results so far and will continue to develop and optimize the mulch.

"This innovation has huge potential for future generations in Ghana and beyond." Dr. Ebenezer Laryea stressed. The team, including Dr. Oluwaseyi Omoloso, Amin Hosseinian-Far, and others, aims to transform mulching practices to promote sustainability.

Click [here](#) to read more



mulch trials initial stage



mulch trials Now



ZERO POVERTY



ZERO BIODIVERSITY LOSS



ZERO WASTE



NET ZERO EMISSIONS