

JUNE 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



How fantastic to celebrate another Ebenezer graduation this month! On 18 June, 40 second years graduated from our Advanced Course along with 49 first years who completed our Intermediate Course. Many parents, community leaders and friends of Ebenezer joined us to mark the occasion and we were grateful to Senior Reverend Dr. S. Nyathi from Harvest House who attended as our Guest of Honour and shared an encouraging and challenging message with our graduates. Our graduates leave us at a tricky time in Zimbabwe where opportunities are few and so we are grateful that a good number of them have managed to secure employment; please pray with us for good opportunities for all our graduates.



Team leader Renée had the opportunity to visit Ebenezer Mozambique in June. It is always good to connect with the team there and Renée was especially encouraged to see the spiritual growth of their apprentices.



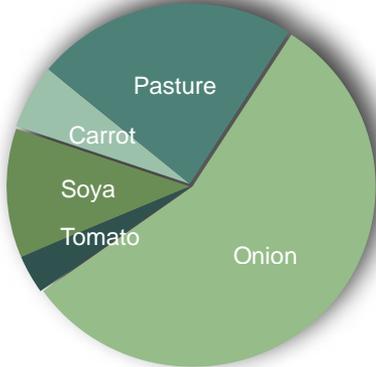
At Ebenezer Matobo we continue to host many Turning Matabeleland Green trainings which of late occur almost weekly. It's great to have so many people passing through Ebenezer, learning from what we're doing and returning to their communities equipped to bring about agricultural transformation in the small-scale farming arena!



An interesting development this month was the installation of the first of our eight new bio-digesters. Taking kitchen waste and manure, these digesters produce gas that can be used by our kitchen stoves or for heating chicken houses. We're excited to experiment with this first digester, and to demonstrate to the community around us an alternative way to produce fuel for cooking and heating. Watch this gassy space!

CROPPING

8.65 hectares currently under irrigation



June saw an Ebenezer record-breaking planting of one hectare of onion in 6 days with 17 people working to plant. Our onions are looking good and we are pleased with how they are progressing.

We also started harvesting onion this month and we are getting a good response to them at the market. In total this month we harvested 1657 bunches.

Preparation for the coming Summer season is well underway and our apprentices are doing a good job of preparing land for summer planting.

We finished our butternut and tabletop harvests this month with 12,460kg of tomato harvested and 1500kg of butternut.

Our kitchen garden continues to supply us with a wonderful variety of vegetables - this month we have been enjoying green peas!

LIVESTOCK



With our number of apprentices onsite reduced following graduation, all have been working hard to maintain standards and good production in our Productive Learning Areas.



The new second years working to finish off the latest batch of broiler birds have worked with love and joy to take on the challenge left to them by recent graduates. 12038 birds were sent for slaughter and we await results.



We were pleased this month to acquire a new Dairy customer. We have agreed to supply 6000 litres of milk per month to Dairibord, one of the biggest milk processors in the country. This is an excellent step forward for us as we continue to link in with the wider Dairy industry in Zimbabwe.

The total milk produced in our dairy in June was 15,243 litres, an average of 11.3 litres per day for each of the 48 cows we were milking.

Dairy coach, Nokuthula, has been particularly impressed with apprentice Buitumelo who has shown a great attitude and built good friendships with the animals!



As one of our 3 layer flocks ages, we have seen a slight drop in our lay rate, with a total of 380,663 eggs produced in June. We will be looking to replace the ageing flock in August or September.