

DECEMBER 2022



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

NEWS



Like so many others around the world, a highlight of December for us was celebrating Christmas and New Year! While apprentices took it in turns to visit their families over the Festive Season, those on site enjoyed some good feasting and partying together.



Another cause for celebration this month was the marriage of team member, Alice, to her now husband Patrick! Several staff members enjoyed attending the wedding held in Lusaka on 17th December. We are so pleased for Alice and Patrick and we pray they know God's presence with them and guidance as they start their married life together.



Maybe not as exciting as a wedding, but cause for celebration nonetheless was the installation this month of a stainless steel sink in our kitchen! With so many staff and apprentices living on site, not having a proper washing up area has long been a problem and so we are delighted to be ending 2022 with our new sink installed!



With the graduation of our second years at the end of November, it has been quiet on site this month. We have taken a break from lessons and entered 6 boost weeks. These weeks allow us to focus our energy on production, especially in these busier summer months. They also mean staff and apprentices can take the opportunity for some leave, meaning hopefully we all enter 2023 refreshed and energised for the new year to come.

It has been wonderful seeing our recent graduates settle into new jobs and enterprises. Several have taken on positions as trainee field officers in broiler, layer and cropping out grower schemes and we're excited to see them grow in these roles as they adjust to life beyond Ebenezer!

PRODUCTION

Last month we reported on land preparation that was happening to increase our cropping area to 5 hectares. Since then, our four apprentices on the cropping team have been busy planting and weeding, and with the timely arrival of some recent rain, our maize is already looking established and our sunflower is just beginning to germinate. This is so encouraging, especially for our apprentices who are having their first experience of cropping!

Our kitchen garden continues to supply us with okra, onion and cabbage, with the rape crop coming to a close. Work is underway to extend our kitchen plot so we look forward to even more tasty vegetables in our diet!

This month has seen apprentices managing two batches of broilers. Four apprentices who placed 10,184 birds at the end of November, have done well to keep their mortality below 5%. As their birds approached 6 weeks of age, they were hitting weights of 1.5 kg which is not ideal but is an improvement on previous batches. They say a highlight of the batch has been learning the importance of walking around inside the house, which stirs the birds and makes them active.

Another group of three apprentices placed 9,959 birds on the 26th December. They say feeding the birds has been a highlight and in these early days they are seeing a good mortality of 1%. Let's hope this continues!

The building of our thatched layer house continues, though the pace has been hindered due to transport challenges which have delayed the delivery of poles for the house. We are still aiming to complete the house and place birds in March.

