

DECEMBER 2022



EBENEZER RAPALE

NEWS



Our new apprentices who joined us in November have continued to settle well into the new routines and rhythms they have found at Ebenezer. They are a happy and positive bunch of youngsters who are encouraged to find themselves as part of the Ebenezer family and who are throwing themselves into all aspects of Ebenezer life with enthusiasm!



While December is a busy month for us in terms of cropping and production, in other ways it has been a quieter month, with staff and apprentices taking the opportunity to take some leave, especially over the Christmas and New Year period.



Those apprentices who were on site over Christmas enjoyed a fantastic time of celebrating together. As you would expect, this involved lots of good food and drink and making the most of being able to spend good quality time together, even if away from their families.



Training has continued to be enlightening and interesting for our new apprentices. Field Coach, Fernando - who we introduced in our last report - has continued to enthuse the apprentices about conservation farming as he teaches them Foundations for Farming, and team member Ilda has been delivering our business training.

As well as the business and agriculture training going on, team leader Alberto has been teaching our apprentices the Five Values of Family: Everyone in Family; Committed Couples; Valued Children; Sexual Purity; Christ-Centred. These have been good sessions which have led to some interesting discussions.

PRODUCTION

We have been heartbroken this month to see our tomato crop hit by tuta! We started the month with an excellent harvest of tomatoes, but as the weeks have passed and we have battled to prevent and treat this pest, we have lost almost 10 tons of produce. While we can put this down to some good experience and learning, it is painful for our apprentices after all their hard work managing the crop so beautifully.

We currently have three other main crops in the ground that are all doing well. We are experimenting with half a hectare of maize intercropped with pigeon pea - this should be very good for the soil. We also have half a hectare of butter bean and a full hectare of maize alone.

Our layer birds are reaching the end of their cycle, yet are still hitting good lay-rates for their age. We have 3,673 birds which are laying at around 88%. This means they are producing around 3,212 eggs per day.

INTRODUCING

Meet Artino, one of our new intake of apprentices. Artino is from Zambezia province, south-west of Nampula. In the short weeks he has been at Ebenezer, we have already noticed that Artino is a sharp learner who enjoys lessons and catches new concepts easily. He is a humble young man who is always willing to help. Artino says he is enjoying his time at Ebenezer so far and that he feels at home. Adjusting to field work has been challenging but he really loves Family Nights, especially playing games and hearing words of encouragement.

