

FEBRUARY 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



We are cooking on gas! Last month we installed our new biogas digester to produce gas for our kitchen, and at the beginning of February we installed gas burners and started cooking using our new source of fuel. With no more need to collect, chop and transport dead trees for firewood, as you can imagine our Farm and Kitchen Teams are very happy!



Second year apprentices have been very busy in their business lessons as they work through a very practical Advanced Finance module. As part of this module they are working in teams to grow chickens from day-old to four weeks, at which point they must market their birds. Along the way they are making budgets, recording their cash flow and calculating their profit and loss. As well as giving them a real feel for the financial side of a business, they are gaining some good production experience in managing chickens!



Other news this month has been the arrival of some serious rains! We have had plenty of showery days this season, but only this month did heavy rains come, flooding local rivers and filling the Ebenezer dam to overflowing.

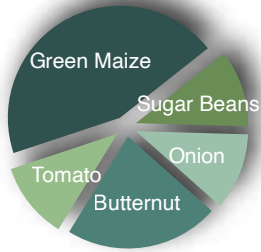


We have still been facing a serious challenge in covering our costs and keeping our production going this month, but it has been amazing to see God provide both practically and with many people joining us in prayer. As we continue to work to reduce our overheads as well as increase our production sales and efficiency, we are grateful for those who have partnered with us in providing inputs and donations - thank you!

Weekend sports fixtures have been providing a welcome break from work for our sports teams and their fans! Congratulations are especially due to the Ebenezer Soccer Team who have been smashing all of their matches and tournaments recently. At a recent tournament, our team won 3 out of 4 matches and drew on the 4th!

PRODUCTION

9 hectares under irrigation



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Congratulations to Mr Nyams, Godfrey and their teams who have been doing a great job driving into the communities around Ebenezer to sell milk! Despite ongoing challenges with our dairy generator meaning we haven't been able to sell as much milk as we would like to our normal processing customer, we have still have hit our sales targets for the month because of these daily community sales! In total our dairy produced 14,850 litres of saleable milk in February, an average of 15.4 litres per cow per day.

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Earlier this year we were blessed with a grant to install two new greenhouses at Ebenezer. This month we were blessed with tomato seedlings to plant in them! Planting now means we can grow tomatoes into the winter months and hit the market when supply from elsewhere is low and the buying price is good!

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As well as tomato, in February we planted 2 hectares of butternut and 1 hectare of sugar beans.

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With a more consistent feed supply to our layer birds, we are pleased to see lay rates beginning to increase again. In total we produced 398,501 eggs in February.

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Our latest batch of broilers was sent for slaughter at the end of February. Despite a limited feed supply, the batch has done well with an average weight of 2.18 kg per bird and a low mortality of 3.5%.

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