

APRIL 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



This month we experienced a first for Ebenezer - a cross-border visit from one of our Zambian apprentices! Our Matobo apprentices were super excited to welcome Youngson Sinkala, a second year apprentice from Ebenezer Kazungula. During his 10-day visit, Youngson got stuck into all areas of life at Ebenezer Matobo, transplanting onions, sharing in Bible studies and teaching us some great Zambian dances! We look forward to more such exchanges in the future.



Another celebrated arrival this month was baby Grace Ncube, the latest addition to the Ebenezer Family born to team members Smanga and Fortune!

While we celebrated new arrivals, we also said some sad good byes this month. Layer coaches Emmanuel Masuku and Silibaziso Bhebhe are both moving on to new ventures. Both are Ebenezer graduates and we are excited to see where their next steps take them.



April saw us finalising our preselection interviews and preparing for Selection Camp which is the next step of our selection process. We have had over 200 applicants this year - of these we have invited 120 to our Selection Camps to be held in May, from which we will make our final selections.

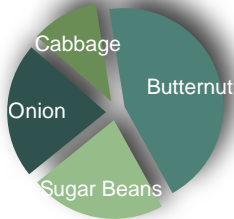
There has been a good atmosphere at Ebenezer this month with boost weeks providing a break from lessons and the chance for some apprentices to visit their families. Towards the end of the month, we launched into our final training block of the year, with apprentices now excitedly counting down the days until graduation in June!



During the boost weeks, a group of apprentices competed in the local annual WAGES (We are God's Eager Servants) competition where they showcased dancing, drama and Bible knowledge, winning the trophy for the second year running!

PRODUCTION

4.5 hectares under irrigation



Our milk production in April was similar to that of March. 35 milking cows produced an average of 13.1 litres of milk each per day, totalling 12,762 litres of saleable milk in April.

In order to raise working capital, we have been selling some of our dairy cows and we have seen a good response to our advertising. This month we sold 2 bulls, 1 cow and 3 heifers.

Our cropping team hoped to plant 3 hectares of butternut this month in partnership with an investor. Sadly, inputs came late and with winter coming, it is too risky to plant with temperatures dropping. We did, however, transplant 1 hectare of onions which are doing very well. We also planted half a hectare of cabbage, with more cabbage planting planned for May.

Our green house tomatoes are looking fantastic. Many Zimbabwean farmers have been hit by the tuta absoluta pest, meaning tomato prices are high in the market - we hope this remains the case as our fruits ripen in the next couple of months!

With our layers struggling to hit their lay-rate targets in the past few months, in April we sold some of our birds and placed new point of lay birds, which we hope will improve our production in the weeks ahead.

Apprentices have been doing a great job with our current batch of broilers with a mortality of only 1.4% 3 weeks into the batch!

