

MAY 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

# NEWS



As always our main event in May was Selection Camps! This year we received over 200 applications for our course starting in July. We whittled that number down to 100 hopeful candidates who were invited to one of our two-night camps, during which we put them through their paces - sending them on a 5km run, checking their weeding skills and seeing how they handled an hour of bagging chicken manure! It wasn't all hard work, our applicants also enjoyed team building games, sports and plenty of entertainment put on by our current apprentices. We have been so impressed with the calibre of applicants this year, it was tough making our final selections but we are delighted to be able to offer places to 60 new first years who will be joining us in July!



As our week of Selection Camps came to an end, we enjoyed a visit from a team of students from the Oral Roberts University in the States. They got stuck into work and play at Ebenezer, working alongside apprentices, playing lots of sport, and sharing testimonies and encouragements while with us.



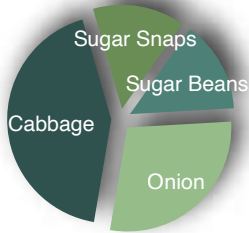
Last month we told you about our first cross-border apprentice visit with Youngson coming to see us from Ebenezer Kazungula. This month, two Matobo apprentices accompanied two members of staff for a return visit! Second years Mthelisi and Mthabisi crossed the Zambezi and spent a fantastic week helping our Zambia team welcome their new apprentices into first year! They loved experiencing life in a different Ebenezer and different country!



As our year draws to a close, we have been counting down the weeks and days to our graduation in June. It's going to be a special one this year, as we mark 15 years of graduating apprentices from Ebenezer Matobo! We have been gathering lots of stories and news from those who have graduated over the past 15 years - check our facebook page ([/ebenezeratc](#)) for encouraging updates of what our graduates are doing and how they remember their time at Ebenezer.

# PRODUCTION

3.5 hectares under irrigation



We saw an increase in our milk production in May, from an average of 13.1 litres of milk per cow per day at the start of the month, to 16.2 litres by the end of the month. This is great in comparison to our production at the same time last year, when we were hitting an average of 8 litres per cow per day. In total our cows produced 15,050 of saleable milk over the month.



This month we have been harvesting some beautiful butternuts! So far we have sent 20,000 kgs to market, hitting our target and receiving a good price for them as not many other farmers are supplying the market during this season. We also harvested the first fruits from our greenhouse with 340 kg of excellent quality tomatoes harvested so far. On the planting front, we have planted 1 hectare of cabbage.



With ongoing challenges in our layer houses affecting our lay-rates we have decided to downsize our number of birds from 14,000 to 3,500 to increase our efficiency. We then intend to grow our own point of lay birds later in the year.

We suffered a disappointing end to our latest broiler batch when our birds were hit with severe coccidiosis just days before we were sending them to slaughter. We lost 220 birds in 3 days, taking our mortality from 2.2% to 4.8% and increasing our FCR from 1.7 to 1.9. While this was hugely disappointing for the apprentices who had been growing this batch, they have done well to see it as a learning opportunity.

