

AUGUST 2023



EBENEZER MATOBO

NEWS



August has seen our first training block of the Ebenezer year get well underway. There has been a fantastic atmosphere on site as apprentices enthusiastically participate in all areas of learning, whether it be in the classroom, in their Productive Learning Areas, or out and about undertaking the various training challenges they have been set!



Second year apprentices have been enjoying some Business lessons focused on Marketing. In order to make the learning as practical as possible, they have been set various tasks that have allowed them to experience marketing challenges first hand. One task involved them all trying to sell the same product to their fellow apprentices and staff members. Another task saw them competing in three groups to market and sell Ebenezer produce at different locations outside of Ebenezer, varying from busy shopping areas to less populated village locations.



First years lessons have been equally practical. As part of their Personal Finance Business lessons, apprentices have been learning about budgeting as they take on the Tea Time Challenge. In groups they have been allocated a limited quantity of tea-making ingredients which they must use each week to make themselves tea in lesson without running out of ingredients by the end of the training block. In order to replicate real life budgeting challenges, they have met unexpected curve balls along the way such as staff members visiting lessons and expecting to be offered a cup of tea!



For one week in August, we were blessed to welcome a group of university students from Bulawayo, who are using their vacation to participate in a discipleship course called "Lose Your Life." They brought a lot of fun with them and our apprentices benefited from hanging out with other young adults who love Jesus.

PRODUCTION

11 hectares under irrigation



August has been a busy planting month for our cropping teams as we head into summer. Throughout the month we have planted 2 hectares each of butternut and watermelon, 1 hectare of cabbage, 5 hectares of maize and 1 hectare of tomato. Apprentices and their coaches have worked hard and the fields are looking very good.

Our green house tomatoes continue to do well and the teams working there have done a neat job in their farming. A recent agricultural expert visiting Ebenezer commented on the high standards they have achieved.

This month we harvested 770 kg of tomatoes, 13,486 heads of cabbage and 7,582 bunches of onion.

Our layer production has seen a dip in lay-rate in August, but we saw some improvement by the end of the month.

Second years Desmond and Intelligent have shown an eagerness to learn a new aspect of layer production which has seen them volunteering to walk 8 km each day to be involved in the raising of 6,300 layer chicks to point-of-lay. The brooding phase for these chicks has gone well and they are hitting their target weights. Once they reach point-of-lay, these birds will be placed in our Ebenezer layer houses.

Our dairy production continues to be good but has dropped in the last month by an average of one litre per cow per day, possibly due to less nutritious grazing at this time of year.

