

NOVEMBER 2023



EBENEZER RAPALE

NEWS



A big event this month was our first year graduation which took place on 18 November. We have been so encouraged to see the growth and development of these twenty-one apprentices throughout the past year and it was a blessing to be able to celebrate their achievement and transformation! The apprentice nominated by his peers to present their words of appreciation to family and staff was a young man who had arrived at Ebenezer unable to read. We were all quite emotional to see him present with such confidence!

Of our 21 graduates, we are delighted that 20 will remain with us, carrying on to the Advanced Course which will start in January. One graduate, Minezes, would have liked to continue but sadly has an unwell mother who he needs to take care of. Our prayers are with him and his mother as he returns home.

Team leader Alberto enjoyed a fruitful visit to Ebenezer Matobo in Zimbabwe this month. Coinciding his visit with that of Zambian team member Kasongo, it was the first time for representatives of each of our Ebenezer sites to be together in the same place! It was an encouraging time of sharing experiences and insights from across the Ebenezer communities. Alberto also took time to connect with Matobo trainers and field coaches and has returned to Rapale ready to implement some new training programmes in the coming year!

PRODUCTION

Our tomato harvest began in November. We are really pleased with the quality of the fruit we are producing, but not surprised as the crop has been showing great health since we planted it, and apprentices have been doing a fantastic job of farming it to a high standard.

With one crop of tomatoes being harvested, our apprentices have not hung about in their cropping and have been transplanting a second crop of tomato seedlings which we hope will hit the market in late January and early February. Again, the crop is looking smart and our apprentices have been putting their newly gained expertise to good use!

You may remember that we chose not to send our green maize harvest to the market as we were seeing a drop in price. We have dried the maize and are now deciding whether to sell it as dry maize or mill it.

We have continued to see an incredible impact of the irrigation installed in 2022. It has meant we have been able to grow a diversity of crops this year, each crop has thrived and we have suffered no water shortages. This month some of the benefits of our irrigation system have been particularly evident in the quality of our cucumber harvest which is now ready for the market.

Our small scale layer flock continues to do very well. The birds are currently 38 weeks old and hitting an excellent lay-rate of 92%.

