



EBENEZER MATOBO

It's happened again - another Ebenezer graduation! On 14th June we celebrated the achievement of our 35 Advanced graduates and 54 Intermediate graduates. We have now marked 16 annual Ebenezer graduations, each one a huge milestone for those involved and great day of celebration for parents, staff and those who join us from supporting churches and the local community. Please pray for our graduates as they head into new enterprises, work opportunities and all the challenges that these new situations will bring!

There was much excitement in the lead-up to graduation, with the count down of days having started at 100! As the Ebenezer year drew to an end, we enjoyed a lot of fun times in our Families, being creative together, feasting on good food and organising parties. There has been a genuinely wonderful atmosphere of family togetherness and enthusiastic participation from all of our apprentices over the past year, something well worth celebrating.

With a short pause between graduation and the start of our new Ebenezer year, staff and apprentices have been making the most of the opportunity to take some leave, with 34 of our Intermediate graduates preparing to join us second years in July! We are also preparing to welcome 68 new first years on 8th July.

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CROPPING

In June, we planted 5,000 cabbage seedlings, 2,000 tomato seedlings and half a hectare of onion. Onion growth has been somewhat slow due to the cold winter weather we are experiencing.

With June being a winter month, it's one of our quieter harvesting seasons. This month we harvested 100 kg of butternut, 288 kg of green pepper, 200 kg of tomatoes and 2,829 bunches of onion. We are remaining with 1 hectare of sugar beans under irrigation, alongside 1 hectare of cabbage, 1.5 of onion and $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare of smaller vegetable crops including beetroot and lettuce.

The rest of our cropping activities have focused on land preparation for the summer planting months which will soon be upon us. With a reduced number of apprentices on site between graduation and the arrival of our new intake, we have all been working together to ensure crops are well-managed and fields are ready for planting.

We are pleased with the progress of our crops under the pivot irrigation. We are growing small beds of different vegetables as part of a seed trial for Avanos seeds and we are seeing the pivot doing a great job of sustaining the crops with consistent water.





LIVESTOCK

Our Layer House 4 layer flock have managed to maintain a lay-rate of 75% this month. This is a big improvement on their previous lay-rates but is still poor for their age. So, we have seen improvement with them but still hope for more.

With our flock in Layer House 1 continuing to produce on target, our birds produced a total of 286,117 eggs in June.

Another batch of broilers was finished in June. With feed challenges, these birds grew at a slower rate than hoped. We kept them for a further week to increase their body weights before sending to slaughter towards the end of the month. We are awaiting the results of this batch.

Our dairy produced a total of 19,500 litres of milk. This was the result of 41 milking cows producing an average of 15.9 litres per day. We sold 13,600 litres of this to Dairiboard processors. We are pleased that our milk is in Band A according to Dairiboard grading. This means we are producing the highest quality of milk.

With our dairy bull still out of action, this month we artificially inseminated a further 24 cows. We are hopeful of successful results with a good number of them becoming pregnant.





ON THE MOVE

We said a bittersweet farewell recently as team members, Brilliant and Sithabiso, left Ebenezer Matobo with their daughters Keren and Joanna, to join the Ebenezer Kazungula team in Zambia!

Brilliant and Sithabiso are original Ebenezer pioneers, who were some of the first apprentices to join Ebenezer Matobo back in 2007! Following on from their graduation, the couple were married and in time joined the Ebenezer Matobo staff team. For the past number of years, they have been an integral part of our training team, with Brilliant overseeing Agriculture training and Sithabiso being involved in Business, Communication, Bible and Numeracy training.

We have been missing them at Ebenezer Matobo, but we are glad to hear of how they are settling in to life and work at Ebenezer Kazungula. Brilliant says,

“It is the first time for us as a family to move from the place we were born and bred, to a completely different country and people. We love the transition as this is an opportunity for us to explore new diverse cultures and also to inspire the younger generations here with life in Jesus. We are excited and enjoying the challenges of language, culture and environment. We are enjoying getting to know the apprentices who seem to be collaborative and fast learners. And our daughters love their new school – language is a challenge for them, but they are coping very well.”

The Khozas are a great blessing to the Zambia team, with their depth of experience and expertise. It is great to see our Ebenezer family consolidating across borders as we work together towards a shared vision in our different regions!

JUNE 2024

