

JANUARY 2025



EBENEZER KAZUNGULA

# NEWS



January has been both a productive and challenging month, characterised by significant rainfall. This has greatly benefitted our crops and helped replenish our boreholes, but it has also introduced difficulties in weed control and pest management. Nevertheless, the apprentices have remained optimistic and actively engaged in all they do and learn.



As well as being busy in our fields and chicken houses, we have also been busy in the classroom, as we have started our third training block of the year. Apprentices are showing impressive dedication as they continue to grow their knowledge, skills and personal development.



As the Ebenezer community, we have enjoyed restarting our weekly family gatherings, which have provided both enjoyment and good opportunities to discuss relevant topics. In this block we are taking an 8-week journey on our Family Nights as we consider the topic "Being my brother's keeper through trust and prayer". We are reflecting on some inspiring biblical examples, such as the friendship between Jonathan and David, and highlighting the impact of God's presence in our everyday lives.



Meet second-year apprentice, Kenyard Tembo. Kenyard has been working in the layer unit for over six months and as a result has developed a strong understanding of layer chicken management. He is confident in his abilities, while also acknowledging that there is always more to learn. Kenyard would particularly like to hone his skills in optimising house management practices, as he sees the value of this in contributing to the success of the flock.

# PRODUCTION

January presented significant challenges in our broiler chicken management, due to persistent wet and humid weather. This was further compounded by transportation delays for both live birds to the abattoir and feed deliveries to our chickens.

In the face of these obstacles, there was a sense of accomplishment with the successful transportation of over 8,000 broilers to market.

We are thrilled this month to have placed over 16,000 chicks. Having not placed such a large number in some time, this signifies the start of an exciting new phase in our broiler chicken production.

Our 89-week-old layer birds have consistently exceeded the target lay-rate, enabling us to maintain a good standard of production.

In January we concluded our planting season. We are pleased to have successfully cultivated 1 ha of maize, 0.5 ha of sugar beans, 0.5 ha of sunflower, and a thriving kitchen garden.

Despite the abundant rainfall, our team has effectively managed challenges such as weed growth, army worm infestations, and aphid outbreaks.

We are particularly excited that our classroom learning in crop protection, including safety protocols for handling chemicals, is directly reflected in our practical work. We have received a much-needed protective kit, enabling us to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies effectively, throughout the growing season.

