



EBENEZER MATOBO

Possibly the most eagerly anticipated month of every year, June brought a lot of joy to the Ebenezer community as we celebrated our annual graduation. Families, friends, community leaders and our guest of honour, Dr Bishop Sarah Nyathi, joined us for a vibrant and lively graduation ceremony in which we marked the achievements of our 29 advanced apprentices and 57 intermediate apprentices. Having counted down to this date for many months, the atmosphere of celebration on site was palpable and our graduates enjoyed a truly fantastic day. We especially loved hearing their speeches, songs and poems as well as seeing the dances they had prepared. It is a significant achievement to complete 1 or 2 years at Ebenezer. It has been wonderful as staff to see the transformation in these young people's lives while they have been with us, and a delight to send them off with each of them having a greater understanding of themselves, one another and of the God who loves them.

Before graduating, many of our apprentices underwent interviews for agricultural roles with business associated with Ebenezer. We appreciate these partners who actively seek out Ebenezer graduates and it is gratifying to see so many of our graduates find fitting and enriching roles as they take their next steps beyond Ebenezer.

Earlier in June we were pleased to welcome to Ebenezer Matobo Abedinigo Kombalume, our new colleague across the border at Ebenezer Kazungula. Abedinigo is stepping into the role of Training Lead for Ebenezer Zambia, so it was great to have him with us for 10 days, experiencing Ebenezer culture, life and learning.



CROPPING

With June being a mid-winter month, there has been little harvesting or planting at Ebenezer, but plenty of land preparation as we look towards our August planting.

In June, our cropping teams harvested 2 hectares of sugar beans and our first few lines of onion. We are particularly pleased with how our onion crop is looking.

We are also continuing our harvest of green pepper and the crop is looking strong. This is the greenhouse crop we are growing for seed and we are continuing to receive positive feedback on its progress. We are especially enjoying having Ebenezer graduates, Lucky and Tendai, back onsite in their role as Avanos technicians, advising us on this crop and overseeing its progress.

As well as harvesting, we have planted $\frac{3}{4}$ hectare of onions, under our pivot irrigation.





LIVESTOCK

Following a quick 8-day turnaround between batches at the beginning of the month, a batch of 8,800 broiler chicks were placed on 10 June. By the end of week 1, weights were slightly below target, a shortfall that correlated with an observed reduction in feed intake. This was likely down to some chilly night-time temperatures which meant chicks were expending more energy maintaining body heat rather than feeding. We acted quickly to implement measures such as increasing temperatures and access to feed, and we are happy to report that we have observed a significant improvement in both feed intake and weight gain. At the end of week 3, performance indicators show them trending towards target benchmarks for weight gain and feed efficiency.

An exciting venture for our layer teams has been the placement of a flock of Lohmann brown birds. We are farming these birds in partnership with Lohmann, as part of a trial to see which specific line performs best in our environment. This is an exciting project as it gives our apprentices experience in real research principles and procedures.

Milk production has decreased throughout June, with a total of 6,914 litres produced over the month. This equates to an average of 8.96 litres per milking cow per day. We were glad to welcome 4 new calves that were born this month, 3 males and one female.





INTRODUCING...

My name is Nyashadzashe Sigauke and I am one of the second year apprentices graduating on 20th June 2025. I am 20 years old and I come from Chiredzi. Before I came to Ebenezer, I lived with my mother and brothers. After completing my O Levels, I found myself at a crossroads, unsure of what to do next. When I heard about Ebenezer through a friend, I was thrilled at the prospect of joining such a supportive community. However, I was underage at the time and did not qualify. So, I waited patiently until I reached the age when I could apply.

Since arriving at Ebenezer, I have truly enjoyed the team spirit that permeates the environment. Working together, fellowshiping, and helping each other creates a strong sense of community. This collaborative atmosphere has been a source of motivation for me, as I can see the impact of collective effort in achieving our goals.

When I first arrived, one of the major challenges was working in the fields. Adapting to the physical demands of farm work took time and effort. However, I learned to embrace these challenges as opportunities for growth. Through my experiences at Ebenezer, I have learned to live in harmony with others and have gained confidence over the months. I have also discovered the importance of perseverance; no matter how difficult things get, it is essential to keep pushing forward.

After graduation I hope to secure a job and then pursue further studies in Animal Science. I am passionate about understanding and caring for animals, and I believe that further education in this field will enable me to make a meaningful impact in the world. With dedication and hard work, I am excited about the journey that lies ahead.

To new apprentices arriving at Ebenezer, I would say, learn to live in harmony with others. Building positive relationships and fostering a sense of community will not only enhance your experience but also contribute to your personal growth.

JUNE 2025

