

Kitchen Tables Charity Trust Progress Report 2020

We have just returned from 5 months in Zimbabwe, a successful if tiring trip.

Piggery:

4 x shelters have been built, with a separate area for weaners and another separated area for pregnant sows with piglets.

We have one sow, Betty, which had 9 healthy piglets and we also rescued another 5 piglets (and a sow which sadly died) from a local family who couldn't afford to feed them. So we have 15 Pigs living free range in a fenced off area. The piglets will be grown and mainly sold for meat to raise funds. We plan to move into Makota pigs (indigenous breed) that require less feed & water and are hardy. These we will breed and use to start other pig projects in the area.



Fish farming:

We have built the stands for the 3 fish tanks. One tank has been set up with a trial batch of 500 fingerlings. We are feeding these 50/50 with commercial feed and pig waste. Our plan is to use 100% organic feed and we are also looking into maggot farming. On our return to Zimbabwe in June we will set up the other 2 tanks and order more fingerlings.



Mushroom farming:

We decided to build a brick mushroom house rather than timber frames. This was mainly due to the termites we have in the area and also the climate. It is easier to control in a brick built building than in timber frames. So we built a 3m x 2m building and set up 20 pockets of mushroom spawn. We have harvested our first batches of mushrooms even though high temperatures have made growing the mushrooms difficult.

We plan now to grow mushroom during the cooler months May to August.



Chicken Layers:

Due to the difficult economic situation in Zimbabwe buying the Hyline Brown Layers for egg laying proved uneconomical. Instead we brought 130 Boschveld chickens, they are hardier and lay pretty well. As feed costs are extremely high at present it made more sense to buy these chickens as they are capable of scavenging for their feed also.



We have also been able to breed chickens and have been able to set up two chicken project with two local families. Each family was donated 16 hens and 4 cocks.



Solar power and back up generator:

We now have 4 batteries for our solar system and a 6500watt generator. We have been able to run our incubator and have hatched quail and chicken eggs so far. This should allow us now to offer an incubation service to the local community and help us to breed our poultry quicker.



Outside classroom:

This has been started and will be finished on our return to Zimbabwe in June.



Despite the classroom not being completed we have had our first visit from a local school.



Once again we can not thank you enough for your support.

You are helping to change lives.

Richard Jarman & Edline Chiota-Jarman
Co-Founder & Trustee