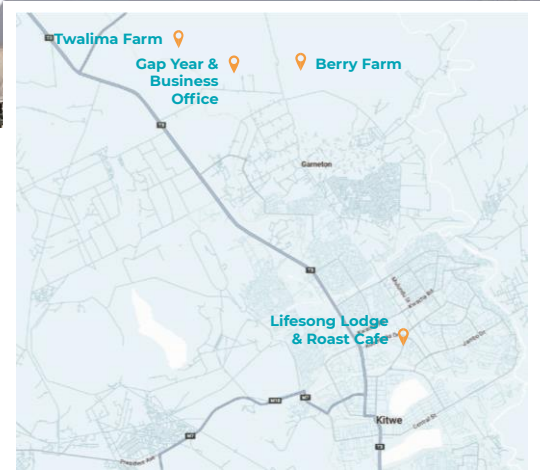




BRINGING JOY & PURPOSE TO ORPHANS



BUSINESS UPDATES FOR JANUARY 2025



Introduction: Setting the stage for a new year, our recent top manager’s meeting focused on improving operational procedures, unifying standards, and conducting essential training sessions.



Further the team exchanged valuable insights on seedling cultivation, leading to the establishment of a promising new business connection in the seedling industry. These efforts are part of our ongoing strategy to enhance efficiency and expand our agricultural capabilities.



Berry Farm: January’s harvest was productive despite challenges posed by heavy rainfall. The gooseberry field yielded a minimum of 100kg, and preparations are underway for a new field as the current one nears depletion. However, excessive rainfall led to water accumulation, causing fruit bursting and difficulties in soil moisture management. The raspberry field performed well, with 135kg harvested, and higher yields are anticipated in the coming months. Blueberries demonstrated strong flowering and fruit formation with minimal disease impact, though rain-related disruptions resulted in some fruit overripening and cracking, lowering their grade classification. Meanwhile, our strawberry expansion efforts are progressing with the construction of a new strawberry tunnel (Tunnel 15), which will enhance production capacity.





Twalima Nursery: The nursery continues to play a crucial role in supporting farm operations. Currently, 10,547 coffee seedlings are being cultivated for Twalima Farm. In January, the nursery successfully met 100% of the ministry’s vegetable requirements following field extensions. Increased rainfall has had a positive impact on banana growth, but it also caused flooding in open fields, affecting lettuce quality. This issue was resolved by raising the planting beds to improve drainage. Additionally, onion seedling preparation for Twalima Farm has commenced, marking another step in our strategic crop planning.



Twalima Farm: The farm benefited significantly from January’s abundant rainfall, providing much-needed relief after the drought of 2024. The rain helped reduce irrigation costs, but it also increased pest and weed challenges, raising overhead expenses. Additionally, excessive rain has slowed vegetable productivity, particularly in drying and packaging green beans. The devaluation of the Zambian Kwacha has further impacted farm input costs, affecting overall production expenses.



Despite these challenges, the farm has capitalized on key opportunities. The rapid growth of weeds led to the adoption of locally made lighter hoes, improving worker efficiency. Anticipating continued good rainfall, we have prepared two hectares of non-irrigated land for rain-fed green beans and planted groundnuts in another rain-fed field to enhance soil quality for future coffee planting. These small-scale rain-fed vegetable initiatives are expected to perform at par with irrigated crops, demonstrating the adaptability of our farming practices. The high rainfall has also prompted us to refine our approach to spraying, fertilization, weeding, and pruning, ensuring smarter, more efficient operations.

Lifesong Hope Coffee Farm: The Coffee Farm is showing strong potential for the upcoming harvest season, particularly with the Catimor 129 variety. We have conducted comprehensive soil, leaf, and water analysis to refine our fertilization program, ensuring optimal nutrient application. Our collaboration with an experienced coffee consultant continues to improve farm practices, particularly in spraying, fertilization, and pruning, which are critical to maintaining quality yields.



Performance & Reflection: Our organization is refining operations, enhancing efficiency, and expanding agricultural capabilities. Key progress includes strengthened seedling cultivation, improved farm practices, and a promising new business connection. Despite heavy rainfall challenges, berry and coffee farms showed strong performance, with proactive measures in soil management and productivity. Twalima Nursery met 100% of ministry needs, while strategic crop planning continues. We remain committed to sustainable growth and operational excellence.

Gratitude & Outlook: As we move forward, our focus remains on optimizing farm productivity while navigating environmental and economic challenges. We appreciate your continued support in helping us strengthen our operations and drive sustainable growth.

Anton Gneva

