The 1,350 hectare Mavonde Stud Ranch in Central Mozambique is stocked with high quality Beefmaster cattle, which are prized for their top weight gaining ability and quality of meat, in addition to their adaptability to hot climates.

This breeding herd has achieved consistent pregnancy rates of over 80%, and the herd is further supplemented with additional Beefmasters purchased in South Africa. The objective for the Group is to build the breeding herd to 2,500 head by the end of 2013.

The Group has also been focussed on the construction of a dam at Mavonde, which was completed in May 2012. The dam holds 48 billion litres of water, making it the second largest dam in the Manica Province of Mozambique. The dam has the capacity to irrigate in excess of 2,500 hectares, and in line with this, Mozbife is currently in negotiations to acquire additional land to enlarge the Mavonde ranch. With full irrigation, the head to hectare ratio at Mavonde will be able to be increased from 1.5 to 7 head per hectare. Importantly, the dam also provides 132kV of hydroelectric power for the Mavonde project which reduces costs significantly by providing power for the irrigation pumps.

In addition, as part of the Company’s Social Responsibility and Uplift Programme, 300,000 tilapia fingerlings have been released into the Mavonde dam reservoir by the Governor of the Manica Province. Agriterra plans to release a further 1.75 million fingerlings into the reservoir over the next six months and intends to establish a fishing co-operative with the local community. The Company will provide the local community with a small boat and gill nets and purchase the fish from them for inclusion in animal feed.

Beef consumption in Mozambique has been steadily rising and is forecast to continue to grow in the future as living standards across the country improve.

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