

Two provinces set to use chicory as weapon in bid to fight poverty

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TWO poverty stricken provinces - Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Eastern Cape - have come up with initiatives to help reduce poverty or alleviate its effects.

The intertwined strategies for agriculture and rural development in KZN and Eastern Cape rural development and agrarian reform are expected to benefit the communities in both provinces.

They are relatively close to each other and share their workforce and agriculture.

A determination and passion shown by the government, the private sector and the community of Emnyameni, Alexandria, in the Eastern Cape in using chicory as a weapon to fight poverty seems to be right decision.

Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies, rural development and agrarian reform MEC in the Eastern Cape Mlibo Qoboshiyane, MEC for economic development and environmental affairs Sakhumzi Somyo and KZN agriculture and rural development MEC Cyril Xaba took part in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the DTI and Nestle at the weekend for the production of chicory by entrant farmers in the Eastern Cape.

The production of chicory has been



CHICORY: Cyril Xaba, Sakhumzi Somyo and Mlibo Qoboshiyane assessed the quality of chicory at several farms. PICTURE: MHLABUNZIMA MEMELA

a proposal of the farming sector in the province for over 100 years. The Eastern Cape is regarded as a global leader in the production of the commodity.

The Eastern Cape's climatic setup and type of soil have seen chicory farming booming to be the biggest supplier in the country but KZN ventured more slowly into the planting of the commodity to tap into the new market.

In the MoU between various departments with Nestle, Xaba said it was a momentous occasion to see collaboration between the government, the private sector and the community in

the production of an agricultural commodity.

He said the province planned to work harder to see the dreams of the people come true with chicory as a driver in the agricultural economy and a source of food security.

A farmer, Novintwembi Magabela, who has been running her own farm for over 40 years shared her experiences, saying she never imagined that a lot of people would come to learn on her farm.

She applauded the Eastern Cape government for support to entrant farmers.

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