



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CSIRD), 21 JULY 2015 A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

A Centre for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development (CSIRD) at the University of Zululand, was officially opened by MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba.

The Centre was launched as a result of a partnership forged between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the University. In his keynote address at the event, MEC Xaba said the CSIRD would be an important vehicle to help achieve the Province's Strategy for Agrarian Transformation. The Centre will be offering education and training from skills development up to a Masters and Doctorate Level. A key component of its work will be research and development as well as outreach work. "Through the CSIRD, we will be planting the seeds to develop our human capital to positively change the Province's rural landscape," he said.

The gathering heard that the curriculum offered at the Centre will mirror that of the University of Free State's Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Extension. According to MEC Xaba, the next step was going to be the forging of a partnership between the two Centres.

"This is precisely what we are aiming at with the establishment of the Centre for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development. To work in partnership not just with the University of Zululand but with other academic institutions, as well as the private sector to nurture new ideas and find innovative ways to tackle rural poverty and build an inclusive economy," he said.

Besides the theme of working in partnerships, MEC Xaba emphasised the importance of education as well as research and development in growing a country's agricultural sector. He pointed at how such an approach had helped South Africa become a world leader in mining innovation.

MEC Xaba said that innovative ideas were needed to deal with the challenges of rural poverty and building an inclusive rural economy. He urged both the Rural Development Institutions at the University of Zululand and the Free State to work towards becoming centres of excellence, innovation and expertise in the field of sustainable integrated rural development.

Read more in the full text of MEC Cyril Xaba's speech



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, greeting KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee Chairperson Mr Themba Mthembu and KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Head of Department Dr Sipiwe Mkhize



MEC Cyril Xaba and University of Zululand Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtsoe officially opening the Center for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development



MEC Cyril Xaba and University of Zululand Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Xoliswa Mtose officially opening the Center for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development



MEC Cyril Xaba together with University of Zululand Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Xoliswa Mtose, KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Portfolio Committee Chairperson Mr Themba Mthembu, City of Mhlathuze Mayor Clrr Mduduzi Mhlongo and KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Head of Department Dr Sipiwe Mkhize, entering the new lecture room for Sustainable Integrated Rural Development