



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

HIGH LEVEL VISIT FOR MUSHROOM PROJECT

The Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, LIN Songtian, accompanied by his entourage, received a warm welcome during his official visit to the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at Cedara. He was received by the former MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Themba Mthembu and Acting Head of Department Mr Sibusiso Myeza.

The visit was an ideal opportunity for the Ambassador to engage with the MEC of Agriculture and Rural Development and officials working on the Mushroom project. The visiting team were taken on a guided tour of the mushroom plant and were given a chance to personally experience its day-to-day operations.

Former MEC Themba Mthembu highlighted that the Mushroom project was launched in January 2005 to alleviate poverty in KZN communities. "The primary objective of the project was to create a sustainable Juncao Mushroom Industry throughout KZN with the direct beneficiaries emanating from the poorest of the poor. Another objective is to address rural development through job creation and food security with particular reference to unemployed Women & Youth," said former MEC Mthembu.

The Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China LIN Songtian, suggested that the Department organise a team that will go to Zambia where they will observe how the mushrooms are cultivated.

He stated that the mushroom project in Zambia is progressing very well and the visit will benefit the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by emulating the method they are using.

It was also suggested by His Excellency, Ambassador LIN Songtian, that the Department start a process of organising at least ten students on a scholarship programme to go and study in China to advance their knowledge on the project.

The Head of Department Mr Sibusiso Myeza thanked the Chinese delegates for a very fruitful and insightful visit.





