



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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KZN DARD OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE KZN MILK PRODUCERS ORGANISATION

The MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, was invited to an information sharing session by the Milk Producers Organisation (MPO) on 30 June 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in Hilton, Pietermaritzburg.

The MPO took over the former Milk Board's functions in 1998 and has grown into South Africa's foremost industry organisation. It represents and empowers milk producers by rendering a variety of innovative services to and on behalf of milk producers. Here, the various dairy farmers from different parts of the Province were in attendance including KZN MPO President, Mr Tom Turner. Mr Turner highlighted some of the organisations concerns and said that Commercial agriculture needs to work hand in hand with entrant farmers and government to help mend the gap between these two economies. Farmers in attendance had many suggestions around this matter.

MEC Xaba highlighted the participation of dairy farmers in the school nutrition programme and mentioned that the Department together with the dairy farmers of the Province, will have to devise a plan for milk as a food to be available to the children in schools as part on the nutrition programme. This is possibly the cheapest source of protein which our kids need to have access to, to ensure good health, vitality and mental alertness. Tom Turner reirated the sentiments of the MEC and said that through some research done locally and internationally, children who drank a glass of milk a day were more alert, did better at sports, received better marks at school and so forth.

The MEC strongly emphasized the issue that seems to be evading many entrant black farmers and that is, intergenerational farming. He stated that much focus has to be channeled towards the youth and if they are not skilled and empowered, we can never gaurantee the survival of the sector. The Milk Producers Organisation urged government to have continuos engagements with them so as to ensure good relations and the transfer of information to assist in bridging the gaps that exist between the entrant and commercial farmers.



Kwazulu-Natal milk producers during presentations



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, addressing milk producers on issues pertaining to GDP



MEC Cyril Xaba flanked by a group of milk producers of Kwazulu-Natal

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