



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

OWEN SITOLE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE GRADUATION 2015

The Owen Sitole College of Agriculture (OSCA) which was established in 1968, has been granted full accreditation status without conditions and speaks volumes on the quality of education on offer. The Department is also proud to acknowledge that OSCA is leading quality assurance development for all colleges in the country.

At the recent graduation ceremony, graduates got the opportunity to bask in the glory of their achievements and enjoy the fruits of their hard labour. In attendance at this graduation ceremony, was the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Province, Mr Cyril Xaba.

In his speech, MEC Xaba alluded to the fact that so many aspiring farmers in the Province did not have the educational opportunities afforded to the students of today. He commended the College's work on skills development. The College has trained over 2000 farmers in short courses and over 200 in the accredited skills programs and short courses.

The MEC used this opportunity to encourage graduates to expand in the Agricultural Sector and to explore the various opportunities awaiting them. He encouraged them to break away from the norm of thinking that agriculture is only a step to becoming a farm worker.

MEC Xaba reinforced his belief that education is at the heart of the new strategy for Agrarian Transformation that he is aiming to introduce to the agricultural sector. The new strategy recognizes farming as a scientific and business enterprise and places agricultural education at the very foundation of what goes on. The graduates were encouraged by the MEC to be part of this transformation where the Province intends to go to the next level in the industry.

OSCA has undergone many challenges and has withstood the test of time. This was witnessed during the graduation ceremony where 12 students qualified for awards which require a pass mark of 75% and more. Mthokozisi Nhleko received the Dux for outstanding performance in eight subjects.



MEC for KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Cyril Xaba and his entourage arriving at the OSCA graduation ceremony



MEC Cyril Xaba officially opening the graduation ceremony



Ms Mbali Dube being hooded by MEC Xaba



Owen Sitole College of Agriculture Graduates



MEC Xaba together with the Mayor of the City of Mhlathuze Crrr Elphias Mbatha, Prince Musa Zulu, Acting Head of Department Ms Jabu Majola and the Principal of Owen Sitole College of Agriculture Mr Siyabonga Mazibuko congratulating Mr Mthokozisi Nhleko who won most of the awards