



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture
& rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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KZN DARD YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

On the 19th of January 2016, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KZN led by MEC Cyril Xaba, held a special summit which focused on the unemployed graduates in agriculture.

This summit was the first of its kind to give attention to creating a platform for a robust and vibrant dialogue between the Department and the youth in agriculture in the Province. Over 700 unemployed graduates in agriculture were in attendance at the Summit where they got an opportunity to receive first-hand information from financial and academic institutions, commodity associations, organized agriculture and agricultural experts.

MEC Cyril Xaba on numerous occasions, has highlighted that the sector is aging and emergence of the youth has to be imminent to ensure the future of food production and the broader participation in economic agriculture. At the summit, MEC Xaba said "On one side you have arable state and reformed land lying fallow with minimum or no expertise to work them and on the other, you have these graduates unemployed yet with all the know-how on methods to bring these lands back into production, then why not fuse the two together?" This came with applause and cheering as the graduates showed a strong enthusiasm and willingness to undertake this exercise.

At the Summit, MEC Xaba was joined by the Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr. Mcebisi Skwatsha, representatives from National sister Departments and representatives of all the relevant stakeholders in the sector.



MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, officially opening the Youth in Agriculture Summit held at the ICC in Durban



KZN Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development Chairperson Mr Noah Nyawo, contributing at the Summit



Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Mcebisi Skwatsha together MEC Cyril Xaba during discussions



Unemployed Graduates in the Agricultural Sector



Unemployed Graduates in the Agricultural Sector



[From left] Deputy Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Mr Mcebisi Skwatsha, MEC for KZN Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Cyril Xaba, KZN MPL Ms Lindiwe Bebee and KZN MPL Bonga Nzuzo at the Youth in Agriculture Summit