

KZN AGRICULTURE MEC URGES YOUTH TO EMBRACE FARMING AMID CLIMATE AMID CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE CHALLENGES

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KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture and Rural Development MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa has encouraged young people to seize opportunities in the agricultural sector by participating in government programmes aimed at fostering youth involvement in farming.

KaMadlopha-Mthethwa was speaking at the official opening of a high-level Extension and Advisory Services Summit in Durban. The summit focuses on addressing the urgent impact of climate change on KwaZulu-Natal's agricultural sector and is taking place amid rising international tariff barriers and global environmental pressures.

She emphasised that agriculture remains a critical driver of food security, job creation and economic development in the province. The MEC urged the youth to view farming not only as a sustainable livelihood but also as a profitable and dynamic career path.

The summit brings together agricultural experts, extension officers, and policymakers to discuss strategies for building a climate-resilient agricultural sector that can compete globally while meeting local development goals.