

KZN »

WEATHER

Students trained in farming in Denmark

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THE KZN government has pinned its hopes on a group of Denmark-trained local students to confront the skills challenges faced by many livestock farmers.

The 15 students were equipped with skills through a partnership between the Agri-business Development Agency (ADA) and Dalum Academy Agriculture Rural Business, based in Denmark.

The group has received certificates after completing a 10-month training programme focusing on modern agriculture, especially intensive livestock management.

Acting department of agriculture and rural development spokesperson Lelethu Manentsa said the MEC, Cyril Xaba, said the programme had been successful in equipping participants with the necessary skills in, among other things, animal welfare and practical piggery production.

“The department initiated the programme to empower those young people who were interested in the agriculture sector. The department was engaging with commodities and farms to deploy these equipped students to share their experiences and take the sector into another level,” he said.

Manentsa said the aim was to strengthen the management of livestock with emphasis on the agri-business side of farming which will improve the understanding of animal welfare, environmental protection and sustainability which is lacking under emerging black farmers.

“The initial focus was for the development of young farmers participating in the livestock sector.

“There are a number of projects that have failed in the province run by the emerging livestock farmers,” Manentsa said. He said that about 45 more trainees will be enrolled in the programme.

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