



AMATHEON AGRI

Germany's Agriculture Minister visits Zambia

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The German Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr. Christian Schmidt, MP, is on an official visit to Zambia from April 15-17. The accompanying German delegation also includes members of the German Parliament, the Development Ministry and business representatives of German agricultural companies.



Wheat, one of the traditional crops grown by Amatheon

Agri Zambia (© Amatheon Agri)

The main purpose of Minister Schmidt's visit is to officially open the Agricultural Knowledge and Technology Centre (AKTC) in Chisamba, which is a bilateral cooperation project of the German Food and Agriculture Ministry (BMEL) supported by the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

The project is implemented by the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART), the Zambian National Farmers Union (ZNFU) and a consortium of German partners with the objective to become the state-of-the-art training facility in Zambia in this sector. It will offer trainings in machine operations and farm management to various stakeholders.

During his stay, Minister Schmidt will also meet and discuss bilateral relations, opportunities and challenges in the Zambian agricultural sector with Hon. Given Lubinda, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and other Zambian senior government officials.



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Minister Schmidt and the delegation will arrive in Livingstone on April 15 and, following a visit to Zambia's spectacular tourist attraction Victoria Falls, will pay a visit to Chibomba Farm (near Livingstone) on the 16th to meet with local farmers and villagers. There, the delegation and hosts will have an exchange of views and learn about the challenges of small scale farming in Zambia.

The delegations then travel on to Lusaka on the same day, where Minister Schmidt will be received by Hon. Minister Lubinda for a bilateral exchange. In the afternoon he will participate in the seminar "Towards a Farmer-Driven Agenda for Modernising African Agriculture," organized jointly by the German Farmers Union and ZNFU.



Training farmers is an important aspect of Amatheon

Agri's approach (© Amatheon Agri)

On Friday, April 17, the delegation will continue their visit to Chisamba where Minister Schmidt and Hon. Minister Lubinda will officially open the AKTC, further introduce the cooperation project and exchange views with training course participants, visit the AGRITECH Expo and hold a meeting with ZNFU president Mrs. Evelyn Nguleka. Minister Schmidt will also pay a visit to Zambian Breweries to have a look at the production site of Chibuku Beer, which is made with German brewing technology. In the evening the delegation will return to Germany.

On the eve of the arrival of Minister Schmidt and his delegation to Zambia German Ambassador Bernd Finke said: "This will be Minister Schmidt's first visit to sub-Saharan Africa and I am very pleased that he has chosen Zambia for this trip. Minister Schmidt will visit a country that has very long and close bonds with Germany.

We are partners in development cooperation for almost five decades, and I very much welcome the fact that Germany has recently started to enlarge its engagement in Zambia also to the agricultural sector, including the successful agriculture investment of Amatheon Agri near Mumbwa.

An important purpose of Minister Schmidt's visit to Zambia is to provide him with an overview of Zambia's vast, but in many ways still unused potential in agriculture. The German government is looking forward to learning about Zambia's strategy to further develop the country's agricultural sector and about its plans as to how to transform this strategy into concrete actions." © German Embassy Lusaka