

CURRICULUM VITAE

BEN DE VILLIERS

NAME OF FIRM:	OABS Development (Pty) Ltd
NAME OF STAFF:	Ben de Villiers
PROFESSION:	Fruit Farming Consultant/Manager
DATE OF BIRTH:	2 October 1954
NATIONALITY:	South African



QUALIFICATIONS

B Sc Agriculture, Stellenbosch University, 1977, Horticulture and Agricultural Economics

EXPERIENCE

Ben de Villiers is a professional agricultural advisor/manager with 40 plus years of experience in farming operations where his main focus was:

- Technical knowledge and advice to deciduous fruit and wine grape farmers.
- Strategic farm management and planning
- Financial control and budgets
- Personnel management
- Production, crop protection, handling and marketing of deciduous fruit, citrus and wine grapes.
- Production of grapes and olives.

From 2015 Ben was involved with the following projects and he is currently spending most of his time managing Mistico Farming in Langkloof.

- General manager of Mistico a 100-hectare apple and pear farm in Langkloof.
- Hortgro / Jobs Fund project where 16 farmers are advised on the development and training of 300 hectares, new deciduous fruit orchards are well as general farming activities. Project finished October 2020
- Training of young learner chemical agents for Nexus chemical company.
- Teaching basic plant physiology, production practices etc. with ELI learnership program.
- Technical consultant for production practices and management of deciduous fruit and wine farms.
- During 2021 Ben was part of a team that was contracted to do a full business plan for Genser Energy in Ghana to develop over 1000 hectares of granadillas for juice production. The team spend a week in Ghana to evaluate the feasibility and compiled a comprehensive report.

From 1985 to the end of 2014, Ben was working on Lourensford Estate in Somerset West. Lourensford is a farming operation with a total of 600 hectares under cultivation consisting of deciduous fruit and wine grapes. Crops also grown on Lourensford during his stay consist of Citrus, Olives, Kiwifruit, Berries, and wild flowers. He was Technical Manager from 1985 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2014 he was Senior Production manager of the fruit division responsible for total management of production.

Before Lourensford Ben was technical advisor for the Two a Day group as well as for Stellenbosch Co-op Fruit Packers. To gain experience in the world of fruit farming he spent a year in America working on fruit farms in Washington state and California.

From 1979 to 1981 Ben worked for the Deciduous Fruit Board in the technical department in Cape town. After his studies he worked one year in Uppington for the S A Dried Fruit Co-op before joining the Deciduous Fruit Board.

From 2012 to 2014 Ben had a consultation agreement with Tadco a 900-hectare fruit farm in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia to visit them twice a year. Main focus of consultation was pest and disease control where we achieved huge successes by dramatically reducing the number of red spider sprays as well as development and planning of new orchards.
