

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## HOPPIE NEL

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**NAME OF FIRM:** OABS Development (Pty) Ltd  
**NAME OF STAFF:** Diderik Johannes (Hoppie) Nel  
**PROFESSION:** Fruit Industry Specialist  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** 17 January 1952  
**NATIONALITY:** South African



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### QUALIFICATIONS

- 1973 BSc. - University of Potchefstroom
- 1976 BSc. (Soil Science) - University of Potchefstroom
- 1978 Honns BSc. - University of Potchefstroom
- 1982 M.Sc. (Agric) - University of the Orange Free State  
Thesis: The effect of selected soil properties on the growth of citrus trees
- 1983 Certificate for the completion of the International course on Irrigation and Soil management at the Volcani International  
Research Centre, Israel
- 1989 D.Sc. (Soil Science) - University of Potchefstroom  
Thesis: The relative influence of calcium and magnesium on physical properties of soils

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### EXPERIENCE

Dr Hoppie Nel joined OABS as in 2019. He has wide experience in the Fruit Industry, the Fruit Value Chain, Fruit Export markets, Ethical Trade, Environmental Factor analysis, Fruit Business Plans and Technical Due-diligence studies.

Hoppie started and developed his career (since graduating in 1973) in agricultural development studies and leading tree crop enterprises in southern Africa to eventually become Managing Director of Golden Frontiers Citrus (Pty) Ltd. - with interests in the production, processing and export marketing of citrus, bananas, litchis, and mango's - cultivated on 3 000 hectares in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. He was also development consultant for Capespan's Table Grape and Citrus ventures.

He was a founder director of the Komati Fruits (Pty) Ltd export company as well as board member and often chairman of various Fruit Industry organisations and companies (Citrus Growers Association of Southern Africa; Citrus Research International; FruitSA; Citrus Academy; CGA's Cultivar Company; River Bioscience; XSIT; Outspan; Grown4U exports; Sun Orange Farms and Verdant Orchards.

From 2012 he became a Fruit Industry Consultant, obtaining wide experience through business evaluation and due-diligence studies of various fruit and orchard crop businesses and value-chains throughout South Africa and Africa (Nigeria; Morocco; Kenia; Namibia and Mozambique

As a Soil Scientist and being passionate about the natural environment he is able to supplement business assessments and operational viability studies with environmental risk and suitability assessments.

Having travelled extensively globally to engage global fruit importers and business operators he has intimate knowledge of the dynamics and trends of fruit export markets.

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Hoppie has spent a lot of his time in recent years on the analysis and interpretation of operational and business opportunities and risks for emerging fruit farmers in South Africa. He also remains involved in the compilation and interpretation of production and marketing information for various Industry Fruit Organisations.

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