

Senior Agronomist



I grew up on a mixed farm in South Africa. Went to Agricultural high school at the age of thirteen and had to learn to be independent. Schools in those days were different and kids were only allowed a long weekend home twice a term. I started university immediately after school and enrolled for a course majoring in Geology and Soil Science. Compulsory national service followed in the South African Air Force after the completion of the studies.

I ran my own farm focussing on distribution and marketing of dairy products for a few years. I changed to irrigation farming to focus more on high income crops like tobacco, seed production and vegetables. I served as secretary for the district agricultural bureau during this time. I was approached by a corporate farming company to manage their farming operations on the western side of Johannesburg and decided to follow this career path. I successfully develop their operation into an intensive vegetable growing and packaging unit with broad acre interests as well. To maximize efficiency a dairy and cattle stud was also employed. Managers for different operations reported to me on daily basis. A huge labour force was needed for the intensive vegetable packing operation. The security on the farm became a problem and we decided as a family to come to Australia. I decided to start consulting before the move to Australia.



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I started off with a few mates in Precision farming consulting for Afgri, one of the major agricultural co operations in South Africa. I was also approached by some of the mining companies involved with mine rehabilitation. Fraser Alexander, De Beers and Anglo Gold were the main companies I consulted for. Successes in applying biological farming principles on rehabilitation sites are still used today.

I arrived in Australia in 2005 and started work with Lawrieco in South Australia as Customer service manager. I started work in Queensland with Revegetation contractors as Regional manager after two frustrating years in an Adelaide office. I had to come back to South Australia due to personal reasons and continue to work with Lawrieco as Senior Field consultant till I joined WMF in August 2010 as senior agronomist. This position is exciting and I enjoy the on farm farmer contact.