

Abridged CV John Phipson: Personal Background

General Background

John Phipson is an Agricultural and Agribusiness Specialist with extensive experience of land use and land potential assessment in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

In the course of these projects John has worked as part of, or led, a team comprising of, amongst others, The Agricultural Research Council, The Dept of Rural Development and Land Reform, National and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Provincial Agricultural Development Corporations, the Land Bank, the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, private sector investors, international and local development agencies as well as other private sector consultants.

He has successfully compiled agricultural impact assessments and implementation proposals for township developments, mining activities and alternate energy sites for state institutions, municipalities, town planners, restitution beneficiaries and environmental practices in KZN, Eastern Cape, Southern Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng, Northwest and Mpumalanga Provinces.

Advisory Bodies

His broad and deep knowledge of community based agricultural projects has led to his becoming an active participant in a number of State and Private Sector initiatives at a national level. These include the advisory panel to the Inter-ministerial Committee on Agriculture and Land Reform and the Agricultural Development Agency (ADA). The ADA is a highly focused private sector think tank on rural Agriculture and Land Reform that reports to the Ministry in the Office of the President. He has initiated an interdepartmental working group from DAFF and the Ministry in the Office of the President that is driving the rehabilitation of defunct irrigation schemes. He is a member of Agriculture Minister Zokwana's Service Delivery Forum. He is also on the panel for the National Water Resource Strategy and implementation of Groundwater Strategies at provincial and national levels.

In addition to his home language, John is literate and fluent in isiZulu, isiXhosa and Afrikaans.

Academic background

BA, UKZN 1959 and UED 1960. 3 years post- graduate study in economics (NDP). Extension Studies UCT Graduate School of Business 1969, UKZN Durban 1981. He has attended numerous training courses and seminars on various aspects of agriculture, covering mainly soil, nutrient and crop management, environmental management, irrigation and field husbandry at Cedara Agricultural College, the South African Sugar Association Research Station, and various other centres. His most important qualification is the width and depth of his experience. He is an accredited mentor to SACNASP candidates and conducts peer reviews for several professional environmental practices.

Public Service

During his tenure of office in the Natal Provincial Legislature John Phipson served on the Town Planning, Education and Nature Conservation portfolio committees. He was instrumental in motivating for a Chair in Nature Conservation at UKZN. John Phipson is a Judge in Agricultural Sciences for the Eskom Young Scientists EXPO. He has served on the Anglican Bishop of Zululand's Diocesan Council and the Medical

Research Council's HIV/AIDS KZN initiative. He is currently advising on the extension of the lucrative macadamia nut farming industry into high yield potential rural areas in KZN

Operational Philosophy

John's approach to all projects is hands on. He leads by example. He is able to enthuse and motivate, think laterally and never stops looking for better ways to meet the client's needs.

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