

Dirk Hanekom- Abridged CV Current CEO of Agri All Africa npc (AaA)



Dirk is a son of Africa. His interest and vast experience of the continent spans a military, diplomatic and agricultural career over a period of more than 40 years. His current position and activities bear testimony that his energy and focus has intensified over the years and helped him to link the all-important policy- and strategy levels with practical implementation and real growth and development within a partnership model. He believes that healthy families are the building block for the future and treasures his own family and his fellow men in the same vein.

He has had the privileged to have been too more than 60 % of all African countries, an experience that convinced him of the importance of wealth creation in communities by means of partnership models. These models use both the strength of commercial farming capabilities and the vast potential of smallholders to commercialise agricultural value-chains in Africa.

His career took a marked change when he decided his passion for Africa needs to be prioritised and he thus resigned as Executive Manager of Agri Gauteng at the end of March 2015 to take up the position of CEO of Agri All Africa (AaA) with effect from 1 April 2015. He served as representative of Agri SA on the Steering Committee of the Nepad Business Foundation (NBF) for the Southern African Agricultural Development Participating Platform (SADPP). He was the Chairperson of The Africa Committee of Agri SA (succeeding Dr Theo De Jager in 2013).

His previous experiences as diplomat and strategist in Africa and internationally as well as the career in organised agriculture has prepared him for the African farming environment. Dirk is a bridge builder by nature and brings like-minded strongly principled stakeholders together to enhance the success potential of growth and development strategies and their implementation in Africa and even wider afield. A big part of his work environment is to prioritise potential investment areas that might develop into successful projects and inter alia involve countries such as Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Angola, the DRC, and others. SA farmers are already present in at least 45 of the 55 countries in Africa. In this process he was actively involved in the formation and management of both South African farming organisations in The Republic of the Congo as well as in Mozambique. They were respectively known as Agri Kongo and AgriSamoz.

He serves as the current Chairman of the bilateral agricultural committee between Zambia and SA as well as the Vice-president of the Business Forum between these two countries.

In October 2019, Agri All Africa SA was formed to clearly differentiate between the non-profit driven entity (AaA) and the project focussed commercial company AaA SA. The latter changed its name to African Agricultural Production (AAP), which has the important task to ensure that project plans comply with all fundability- well as implementation criteria. Dirk serves as director of AAP.