

Brief Curriculum Vitae

Dr Hugo Opperman Omnia Fertilizer



Hugo Opperman was born on the 27th of May in Bethulie, a small town in the Southern Free State. He grew up on a sheep farm with his parents and four brothers and one sister. He went to high school in Bloemfontein. After school, he received a sports (cricket) bursary from the North-West University in Potchefstroom. He started off studying chemistry and biochemistry as major subjects, which earned him a B.Sc degree. Afterwards he also completed his B.Sc Hon and M.Sc degrees in chemistry, with the focus on membrane technology used in hydrogen energy production. He then went on to complete his first PhD degree in chemistry, working on the development of novel membranes for hydrogen production.

Hugo then started working at a chemical manufacturing company in Potchefstroom called Kimleigh Chemical in 2011, working on diverse projects, from the development of mining, water treatment, animal feed and plant nutrition products. He was promoted to Research Manager in 2014 after which he headed up the plant nutrition research at the company. He started another PhD in plant physiology which he completed in 2016, which focused on the impact of abiotic stress on maize photosynthesis, from a physiological and biophysical point of view. At Kimleigh, Hugo Developed more than 20 commercial plant nutrition products.

In 2016, Hugo moved to a smaller biological fertilizer company called MBFi in Delmas to widen his understanding of the plant/biological interactions. He developed 9 new commercial plant nutrition and biostimulant products in the almost two years he spent at MBFi.

In October 2018, Hugo joined Omnia Fertilizer International (SSB) as a plant physiologist, with the focus on the

development and evaluation of new nutrition, biostimulant and biological products. In 2020, he was appointed as New Product Development Manager in Omnia and in 2022 he was given the role of Omni-Bio manager, where he leads the marketing and strategic efforts of biofertilizer within Omnia.

Hugo has published 23 scientific articles in international journals, as 2 book chapters on plant nutrition physiology. He has also co-authored 5 international patents, most of which is in the plant nutrition arena. In 2017 Hugo also completed the FACTS (BASOS) course from Fertasa for which he received an excellence award.

Hugo lives in Kempton Park with his wife Sanmari which he has been married to for almost 9 years as well as his son Liam. Hugo's enjoys golfing, hunting and fishing.