

Curriculum Vitae

- **My name:** Robert Alan Small
- **S.A. ID Number** **On request**



- **S.A Drivers Licence** **on request**

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- **Birthplace:** Kitwe, Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) 08.10.55

Nationality: South African & British (Dual citizen)

- **Languages:** English , some Afrikaans, tiny understanding of Xhosa

- **Education:**

-South African Art School Matric

-2 years at Johannesburg Art College (Graphic Fine Arts 1975-76)

-Full training in Bio-Dynamic Agriculture and Rural Development at Emerson College, UK 1977-1981.

- **Family:** I am father to three boys (30yrs, 21 yrs & 13 yrs) and two girls (28yrs and 11yrs). The older children are from my first marriage and one of them is a foster child. I am re-married but close to my first family. I am the middle sibling of three brothers. Both my older and younger brothers are married with 7 children between them. My father and mother have both passed over.

- **Work experience:**

(1). Project Manager: Operation Grow, Soweto & Bophutatswana 1982-1983 : I took over from the pioneer (Marie Roux) and established a non-profit organic garden and info centre in Soweto. I raised my own salary in the second year as well as the funds needed to continue operations. Here I had to radically adapt what I had learned in the UK to African conditions – for instance, inverting the raised bed technology I had been taught into a sunken bed technology. The Trustees split over my decision to extend service into Boputhatswana (see point 3 below). I therefore left Operation Grow and formed a new organisation called Inqubela.

(2). External Evaluator to CWD-Farming in the City Project (now ABALIMI) : 1983 & 1984: I was approached by Peter Templeton, director of Catholic Welfare and Development (CWD), after their German funder (Misereor) had visited me in Johannesburg. I was asked to evaluate their project, then called “Farming in the City” – now ABALIMI, so that it could become more effective, which I did over two 7-10

day periods (approx) in 1983 (during Operation Grow time) & 1984 (During Inqubela time). These interventions resulted in the project refocusing their efforts and laid the foundation for what ABALIMI has become today.

(3). Project Designer & Manager: Inqubela Jan.84- Jul.84. While with Operation Grow in Soweto, I was approached by a young tribal king – Madoda Zibi, heir to the throne of a Fingo tribe that had migrated from the Cape in the 1700's. They had settled in what became the apartheid homeland of Bophutatswana. Madoda wanted to set in motion an initiative which would re-enliven his tribe's agricultural livelihood. Thus I, together with some apprentices and volunteers, assisted him to set up an intensive micro-organic agriculture demonstration and training project on about 1000m² in Khayakulu, Boputhatswana. We also successfully introduced a fast growing drought resistant strain of maize which was quickly adopted by nearly 200 small farmers in the area, who otherwise would have had nothing from their lands at all. We also consulted and provided extension to many other villages in the area who set up vegetable gardening projects using our adapted intensive technologies. This is the time I began to realise that Urban Agriculture could be a launching board for rural agricultural revitalisation. During this time I consulted to both CWD in Cape Town and Operation Hunger. My salary depended on what I was able to bring in from various fundraising activities, including selling 44 gallon drums to miners.

(4) National Agricultural Manager: Operation Hunger Aug. 84-Dec 88: Ina Perlman, then Executive Director of Operation Hunger (OH), agreed to absorb Inqubela (which included a vehicle and one paid apprentice) into OH, as they were rapidly expanding, under pressure to deliver more than feeding schemes and desired to launch an agricultural programme. I started as a lone operator (with of course the one Fieldworker apprentice I brought in with me), about 10 project applications and a budget of around R50 000. By the time I left, the budget was over R1 000 000/annum, with approximately 200 community gardens and dry land agriculture projects all over South Africa, serving as many feeding scheme groups and communities. I left because I needed a change from large organisation dynamics.

During this period I authored an organic vegetable growing training manual and for school learners and teachers for the Transkei Appropriate Technology Unit (TATU)

(5). Consultant Jan 89- Feb 90: I assisted the Bryanston Organic Food Market to set up an evaluation and accreditation system for its organic vegetable section and producers; led the South African and Botswana research sections for the first Prodder (Programme For Development Research) Directory under HSRC; co-designed the Eco-Link Earthcare Programme; evaluated a proposed community agriculture project for The Grail in Soweto; designed a training curriculum for unemployed young activists under the WITCO Wilgespruit agric training programme. This was a time of gaining foundation experience in research and evaluation of other projects.

(6). Fundraiser, Michael Oak Waldorf School: Mar 90- Aug 90 : On moving to Cape Town from Johannesburg, I thought that, after having easily raised hundreds of thousands of Rands for Operation Hunger, one small school in Cape Town would not be a problem. I was roundly defeated, however, and discovered that educational

fundraising was not, then, my cup of tea. However, I believe I helped the school refine their approach to fundraising. My younger children attend this school.

(7). Author: Std 4 Agric Textbook, Transkei: Sep90–Jan 91: I was approached by Macmillan Boleswa, as a result of the TATU training manual. This book was called “Modern Gardening-Std 4” and I wrote it for the Practical Agriculture and Education Project (PAEP) under TATU. This was my first experience of writing a book for a commercial publisher. The book was widely in use for at least two years after publishing. The publisher sold over 40 000 copies.

(8). Strategic Advisor & Fundraiser , consultant to ABALIMI (Job Title- “Development Coordinator”): Mar 91- Feb 98 : While writing the above mentioned book, I was approached by the then ABALIMI coordinator, Dave Golding, to assist the project to become more financially independent. This necessitated my direct involvement in re-strategising and development of new and/or expanded activities, services and programmes. When I started, ABALIMI was quite a small project, with one funder (Misereor) and no permanent community projects. By 1998, the funding base had expanded to include about 2000 Friends and about 20 medium-large donors and funders, with a growing community project base of around 15 – 20 ongoing projects.

(9). Director ABALIMI: Mar 98 – 2004. When Dave Golding , the Coordinator, left, I was elected by ABALIMI staff to take over as director. My core task (besides fundraising, strategic planning, policy development, admin and management systems development etc) was to lead the organisation from being a pioneer project under CWD into independence outside of CWD. To grow it into an established agency with far-reaching and catalytic programmes that would encourage and support emerging environment renewal and organic urban agriculture movements in the Cape Flats townships. ABALIMI now serves over 100 community projects/annum and over 3000 township gardeners and micro-farmers and is a national best practice NGO.

Since March 1991, ABALIMI and its staff have received 20 national and international environmental and development awards and merit citations (including the awards listed below).

The latest organisational award is a Gold Impumelelo Innovations Sustainability Award 2010, for the “Harvest of Hope from seed to table” job creation model which Abalimi has developed.

I am the recipient of a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship (2001)

I am an Ashoka Fellow (2002)

Current Positions held: Secretary to the ABALIMI Board , ABALIMI Co-director, Director of Business Place Phillipi, founding trustee of the Farm and Garden National Trust (est 2008) www.farmgardentrust.org . The Farm and Garden National Trust aims to facilitate service delivery to community gardening and micro-farming initiatives, groups and associations nationally.

- *References* on request