

Curriculum Vitae – Johan Gysbert Grabe

Personal Profile

From a young age, Johan developed a passion for palm cultivation, with a lifelong dream of establishing his own date palm plantation. This vision became a reality in 2021 with the founding of **Koingnaas Palms** in the Northern Cape, South Africa. Alongside his agricultural pursuits, Johan is a seasoned entrepreneur, software developer, and governance professional with over 40 years of experience spanning government, accounting, business administration, and technology innovation.

He is the **Founder and CEO of Novtel Software**, a globally recognized South African company specializing in rental management solutions integrated with leading accounting platforms. Johan combines technical expertise, business acumen, and a commitment to ethical leadership rooted in Christian values.

Formal Education

1984 – 1987 | Public Administration

- Economics
- Public Administration
- Industrial Sociology

1992 – 1998 | BCom Business Administration

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Completed 5 years of articles under Danie Rothman Accountants (CA SA)
- Certified **SAGE Pastel Accounting Consultant & Business Partner**

1999 – 2000 | Computer Science & Information Technology

- CompTIA A+ and N+ Certifications
- Microsoft Programming Courses
- Visual Basic 6 Programming
- MS SQL Database Management

Professional Experience

Government of South Africa (1982 – 1991)

- Department of Economic Development Planning
- Edenvale Municipality
- Local Government Affairs Board of South Africa

Entrepreneurship & Business Leadership (1992 – Present)

Founder, employer, and director of multiple ventures:

- **Retail Businesses**
- **Accounting Practice** – Independent consultancy
- **SAGE Pastel Consultant & Third-Party Developer**
- **Xero Business Partner & Developer**
- **Novtel Group (1991 – Present)** – Founder & CEO
 - Business process management systems (BPMS) development
 - Developed rental management software for property, hospitality, vehicle hire, equipment rental, and self-storage industries.
 - Integrated solutions with Sage Pastel, Sage Evolution, Xero, NightsBridge, TPN, TomTom, and more.
 - Established Novtel as a **Sage Pastel Value-Added Reseller (VAR)**, third-party developer, and authorized training center.
 - Expanded globally with distributors and cloud-based mobile applications.
 - Currently employs ~9 staff and many consultants serving clients worldwide.
- **Business Skills (Pty) Ltd** – Agricultural and business development in the Northern Cape.
- **Eiland Punt Zuid (Pty) Ltd – Koingnaas Palms** – Commercial date palm plantation, established 2021.



Key Achievements

- Founded **Novtel Software**, transforming it from an accounting practice into a global software development firm.
- Pioneered integrated rental management solutions endorsed by **Sage and Xero**.
- Established accredited online training programs, including **Sage Bookkeeping Fundamentals** and Novtel certifications.
- Successfully bootstrapped Novtel without external funding, ensuring independence and organic growth.
- Expanded into agriculture with the **Koingnaas Medjool Palm Plantation**, contributing to South Africa's horticultural development.
- Active in promoting ethical governance, transparency, and community participation in local civic initiatives.



Community & Personal Interests

- **Palm Cultivation & Horticulture** – Founder of the Palm Foundation Africa, promoting education and research in palm farming.
- **Governance & Civic Engagement** – Advocate for transparent, ethical, and community-driven governance in South Africa.

- **Christian Leadership** – Strong faith-based approach to business and community stewardship.
- **Digital Transformation** – Driving innovation in property and agricultural management systems.

Additional Information

- Residence: Hartenbos, Mossel Bay Municipal Area, Western Cape, South Africa
- Mobile Number: +27 083 305 9943
- E-mail: voorsitter@koingnaas.co.za
- Languages: Fluent in Afrikaans and English
- Social media: Active on X (Twitter) as **@JohanGrabe1**, sharing insights on faith, family, and entrepreneurship.
- Personal Motto: *“There is always a solution”* – reflecting heritage, perseverance, and dedication to legacy.