

Curriculum Vitae

Eben van Tonder



Innovative Entrepreneur | Meat Scientist | Process Developer

Reequip Global | Founder & Lead Consultant (Current)

Strategic consulting in procurement and supplier development for the global protein sector, connecting producers, markets and investors.

Focus on efficiency, quality assurance, and sustainable export growth through transparent and data-driven sourcing processes.

Summary:

Procurement and development specialist with more than twenty-five years of experience in international meat and protein supply chains.

Proven record in supplier qualification, cost optimisation, logistics coordination and project-based procurement across Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

Combines technical expertise, operational insight and commercial strategy to build efficient, compliant and scalable sourcing structures.

Profile

I am a global specialist in meat processing, systems development and production optimisation.

Known for turning underperforming operations into profitable, scalable and compliant businesses, I combine scientific insight, practical experience and commercial acumen.

Working at the interface of food chemistry, process engineering and business strategy, I deliver practical and data driven solutions that measurably improve efficiency and quality.

I communicate confidently from shop floor to board level and have deep end to end knowledge of meat processing from raw material to finished product.

Role relevance: strategic and project-based procurement with a total cost of ownership focus, supplier development, and contract and price negotiation; solid commercial grounding in accounting; international sourcing experience across the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Middle East and Asia; close alignment with engineering, production and quality to meet schedule and quality targets.

International Experience

Extensive work across Africa, Europe and the Middle East, including South Africa, Nigeria, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

- Build and commissioning of the largest meat processing facility in West Africa for SPAR Lagos. Responsibilities included concepts for all production lines, product development, full butchery operations and creation and implementation of all standard operating procedures and internal processes.
- Advisory to a leading United Kingdom food group on curing guidelines.
- Deployment of data driven factory systems with artificial intelligence supported process control.
- Close collaboration with international supply chains across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

I have been interviewed by trade publications on plant design and production strategies in the African context and actively contribute to models for sustainable efficiency in emerging markets.

Key Achievements

- Development of a cost efficient and high yield bacon system now used internationally.
- Engineering of a thawing system that brings meat from minus eighteen degrees Celsius to zero degrees Celsius within 24 hours with no weight loss.
- Consolidation of fourteen SPAR stores into a central meat processing operation.
- Scale up of Woodys Consumer Brands from 1 ton per week to 15 tons per day.
- Implementation of artificial intelligence based logistics and production systems.
- Development of functional and health oriented meat products and superfood concepts.

Additional for the target role: cost and margin improvements through process and procurement redesign, establishment of framework agreements and supplier partnerships, and improved schedule adherence and quality through clear approval and verification processes.

What Sets Me Apart

- Conversion of low value raw materials into high margin and compliant products
 - Use of artificial intelligence and data analysis for operational decision making
 - Development of scalable and cost-efficient systems including with refurbished equipment
 - Building of high performing and accountable teams
 - Total cost of ownership mindset, negotiation strength and supplier development
 - Creation of strategic partnerships with measurable growth outcomes
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Professional Experience

Independent Consultant (Origins Global Meats), international | 2021 to present

Consulting for data-driven meat processing, functional ingredients and scalable brands. Lead project advisor for the build of the largest meat processing facility in West Africa for SPAR Nigeria.

Accountable for planning, layout, product development, organisational structure and implementation of all standard operating procedures.

In parallel, consulting on process and product innovation in South Africa and Europe.

Relevance for Project Sourcing Manager: supplier selection and qualification, contribution to sourcing strategies and cost analyses, definition of service level and quality requirements, and interface management across engineering, production, quality and procurement.

ERP Implementation Odoo | SPAR Lagos

- System design and definition of the ERP target state, requirements capture and customisation with Odoo development teams for warehouse, production, sales and logistics modules.
- Data migration and cleansing for weight, description, batch number and production date with validation across eight warehouse locations.
- End to end tracking of all goods movements and a visual crate numbering and tracking method with analysis through Excel based reports and three core dashboards.
- Redundant backup concept that uses no additional software or hardware for operational resilience and offline scenarios.

- Artificial intelligence-assisted transcription for handwritten records and automated management and logistics dashboards for reporting and decision making.
- Training, go live support and performance validation; targets achieved for real time stock accuracy across sites and complete batch traceability.

Van Wyngaardt Deli Meats Etlin International | South Africa | 2019 to 2020

Built and led the Food Science function. Introduced new product lines and operating procedures. Delivered training. The project was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. *Relevance:* framework agreements and supplier management for new lines, creation of specifications and quality criteria, and cost and price negotiations within project contexts.

Woodys Consumer Brands Founder | Cape Town | 2008 to 2018

Founded and scaled a national premium brand for bacon and meat products. Developed and led all production and process systems reaching fifteen tonnes per day. *Relevance:* sourcing of raw materials, packaging, equipment and services; total cost of ownership decisions; supply chain scale up; negotiations with European and local partners.

Earlier Roles 1992 to 2007

Leadership and sales functions including Grafoplast which is an Italian company for technical cable identification systems, Millennium Marketing and Harvard Chemical Industries. Focus areas included sales, business development, supply chain, marketing and plant operations.

Key Skills

Highlighted for this role

- Strategic and project sourcing, category approaches and requests for quotation and proposal
- Supplier selection, development and audits
- Contract and price negotiation, framework agreements and service level arrangements
- Cost analysis and total cost of ownership, budgeting and KPI management
- Schedule and quality assurance in close alignment with engineering, production and quality

General and strategic competencies

- Global strategy and commercialisation
- Market analysis, export advisory and market entry preparation
- Application of data science to improve profitability
- Integration of artificial intelligence in production processes
- Cross functional communication between production, research and development and management
- Entrepreneurial thinking and change management

Meat and production specific expertise

- Functional ingredients and formulation systems with comprehensive understanding of food chemistry
- Full carcass breakdown and primals optimisation across species
- Cold chain, thawing and batch control systems
- Planning and design of factory processes and layouts
- Regulatory analysis and food safety compliance

Demonstrated ability to integrate procurement strategy with process engineering, quality assurance and commercial management for sustainable value creation.

Education

Bachelor of Accounting Science BCompt in Accounting

Undergraduate coursework completed in business administration and accounting, with emphasis on financial management, corporate governance and cost accounting.

National Senior Certificate Grade twelve

High School Driehoek South Africa | graduation year 1987

Author of **EarthwormExpress**, widely recognised as one of the most comprehensive and technically advanced blogs on meat science and processing.

Strong international network across processing, logistics and regulatory institutions, supporting reliable access to verified suppliers and buyers in global trade.

Current Focus Areas 2025

Planning and construction of modern meat processing operations • Development of profitable and cost efficient meat and hybrid formulations • Introduction of nitrite free and nitrite reduced systems • Integration of artificial intelligence in factory processes from staffing to quality control • Build and optimisation of production systems including with simple or refurbished equipment • Throughput increase at stable cost base • Training and coaching of teams for performance quality and ownership • Development of superfood-oriented meat products • Practical and results oriented support from ramp up to series production

Languages

Afrikaans (related to Dutch): fluent

English: fluent

German: in training

Currently at A2 level under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages CEFR. In practice I can hold simple conversations on everyday topics. I continue my German studies daily.

Residence and Status

I am a South African citizen. Married to an Austrian citizen. Currently based in Lagos, Nigeria.