



Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe

CFU FARMING OSCAR AWARD 2018

The Zimbabwean "Farming Oscar" has a long and proud history, having been introduced in 1961 by the late Mr. C. G. Tracy during his term as Vice President of the Commercial Farmers' Union as an award in recognition of "those who have generally done well for agriculture." Over the years, winners have been chosen from the practical and scientific disciplines of agriculture, as well as from the administration and leadership roles, with winners selected in recognition of having contributed significantly to the agricultural progress in Zimbabwe in its widest sense.

This year's winner is no exception and fits the required profile as having given outstanding service in the advancement of Agriculture.

Our 2019 recipient was born in Rusape on 7th February 1956 and grew up on the farm that his father was managing and later on their home farm which his father later bought in 1966. Farming was certainly in his blood

He first attended Springvale School in Marondera from 1963 – 1969 and then Peterhouse School in Marondera from 1970 - 1974.

After leaving school, he attended Chippenham Technical College in UK from 1974 – 1976 where he obtained an Ordinary National Diploma Technology (Engineering).

Following this he attended the National College of Agricultural Engineering, UK from 1976 – 1979 where he obtained a B.Sc. (Ag Eng) with honours.

Following this he gained work experience at the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Silsoe, UK from September 1979 until February 1982, as a Development Officer in the Cultivations Department.

He met and married Patricia in 1982 after meeting her in a blind date. But, after all this time in UK his home was calling so he returned to Zimbabwe and worked at the Tobacco Research Board as an Agricultural Engineer from May 1982 until April 1984.

His parents were tragically shot and killed in an armed robbery in their home in 1984 so he then returned to work on the family farms in Mazowe/Enterprise as Managing Director for the next 18 years until he and his family were forced off their farm at gunpoint during Land Acquisition.

He is very family oriented and he and Patricia had three children in fairly quick succession, which they describe as first an heir (Ian) then a spare (Andrew) and finally their bundle of joy Claire.

He has a great love of farming and is very innovative and slowly built up the farm and its water systems. Being such a large commercial operation, he gained more valuable farming experience running 300ha of sprinkler irrigation as well as dryland crops such as maize, soya beans, cotton and winter wheat. After a visit to Israel to study cotton farming methods there, he brought back one of the first cotton harvesting machines in the country.

With his love of farming and desperate need to continue, he was introduced to ART Farm as Director in August 2003, where he has weathered many of the most difficult years the Trust has experienced. He has managed ART with a coolness of mind, which has been quite remarkable. He has used the investment in the commercial aspects of the Trust to fund research facilities to the best of his ability. No one could have asked more of him.

Aside from being a successful farmer and devoted family man, he has given time and experience to serving the community in various roles, amongst them:

- Chairman, Glendale Farmers' Association May 1999 – May 2001
- Chairman, Glendale Intensive Conservation Area (ICA) September 1990 – September 1992
- He was also on the Mashonaland Central Regional Committee for the CFU
- Various River/Water Boards and Mazowe Catchment Board between 1987 - 1998

Although described as a workaholic by his family he and Tricia love their dogs and he tries to find time to play squash, go trout fishing and fly aeroplanes, which he loves. For his 40th birthday his wife treated him to a hot air balloon ride. Being a complete control freak he hated not knowing what was happening – but loved the trip.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour to present the Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award for 2019. I kindly ask our guest to step forward and present this award to a person affectionately known as "Nick":

Mr Nicholas Guy Barrington Brooke.

Awarded with gratitude during the 76th Commercial Farmers' Union Annual Congress on Thursday 24th October 2019 at the Richard Winkfield Auditorium, Art Farm, Harare.

A. Pascoe, President

P. B. Purcell Gilpin, Director