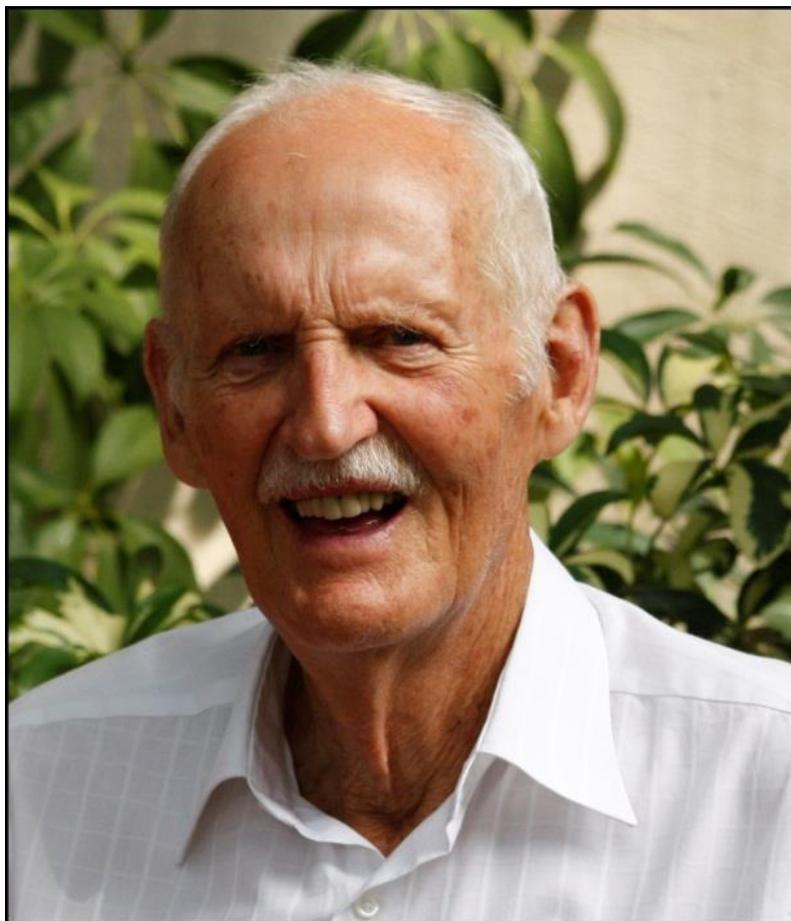


History of Sanitas....

Sanitas (Botswana) (Pty) Ltd was registered in May 1970 as a Plant Clinic and Nursery with the purpose of exporting disease-free carnation cuttings to cut flower growers in Southern Africa. The name Sanitas comes from Latin and means 'healthy', which covers the basic idea of disease free plant production. During these first years Sanitas was a quarantined growing site, which meant that access was strictly controlled to minimize any threat of disease contamination.

The founder, *Dr. Gösta "Gus" Nilsson*, completed an FAO contract as a plant pathologist with the Ministry of Agriculture in Botswana in 1970. At the time he had over 25 years' experience in horticulture with a Ph.D, in Plant Pathology from Cornell University, USA. In addition he held the position of visiting Professor at Colorado State University. Today, more than 40 years since its founding, Sanitas is still owned and run by the Nilsson family



Dr Gus "Ranko" Nilsson

In the 70's we produced disease-free carnation and chrysanthemum cuttings for export. Sanitas mother plants were started from meristem tissue culture. We also exported cut flowers such as roses to Europe. As the local market developed and grew, emphasis was placed on vegetables, fruit and ornamental plants. We stopped export in the late 70's.

During the 80's and first half of the 90's Sanitas was involved in large scale landscaping projects in Gaborone and other sites in Botswana. In the 90's the company gradually developed into a Plant Nursery and Garden Centre. To provide our valued customers with additional service, we added the Sanitas Tea Garden in 1996.

In addition to the running of this business, we have been involved in establishing a horticultural scheme in Saudi Arabia between 1979 -1981. Over the years Sanitas was involved in a number of horticultural projects around Botswana

Local research on dry-land farming was carried out, including a privately run research project in Hukuntsi ; in the western Kalahari, for 3 years, between 1979-82.

Sanitas has developed numerous new horticultural growing methods like the Permanent Strip dry-land farming method, Sanitas Growing Benches and Sanitas Growing Walls. All these are applied at Sanitas and used elsewhere.

In March 2011 the Swedish King, Carl XVI Gustav, visited Sanitas with a Swedish delegation consisting of 2 Swedish ministers and management representatives from leading Swedish Export businesses. They all had dinner in our @Linnaeus training venue.



In June 2011, Michelle Obama paid a visit to Sanitas Tea Garden where she was hosting a multi-generational women leader's luncheon for 75 women.

