

State of the Institute Report 2020

Background

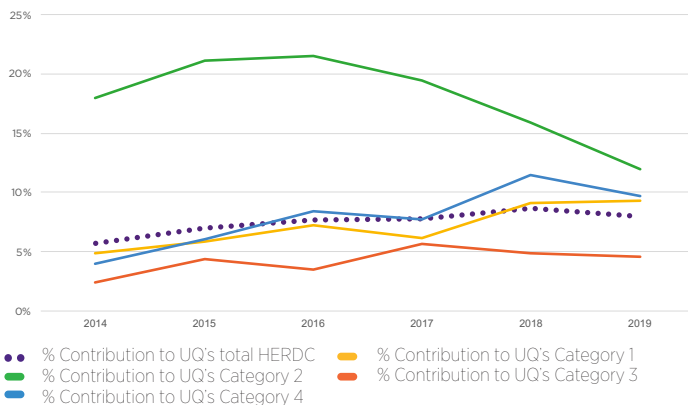
2020 marks the ten-year anniversary of the establishment of the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI). The Institute is a partnership between the University of Queensland (UQ) and the Queensland Government via the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This alliance has been nurtured over time across many research projects. As such, QAAFI is a truly unique entity in the Australian context, and one of only a few similar research partnerships worldwide.

To mark this anniversary, QAAFI tenders its State of the Institute Report 2020 in a presentation that will be provided to UQ Senior Management annually.

QAAFI is youthful, unique and fast-growing. Rapid expansion has been possible because of expertise in tropical and sub-tropical agriculture and food research, and capacity to work 'both sides of the farm gate'. Because of these points of competitive advantage, the Institute has contributed strongly to the improvement of UQ's National Taiwan University Ranking for 'Agriculture'.

Funding

QAAFI contribution to UQ's total Higher Education Research Data Collection by categories 1-4 (2014-2019).

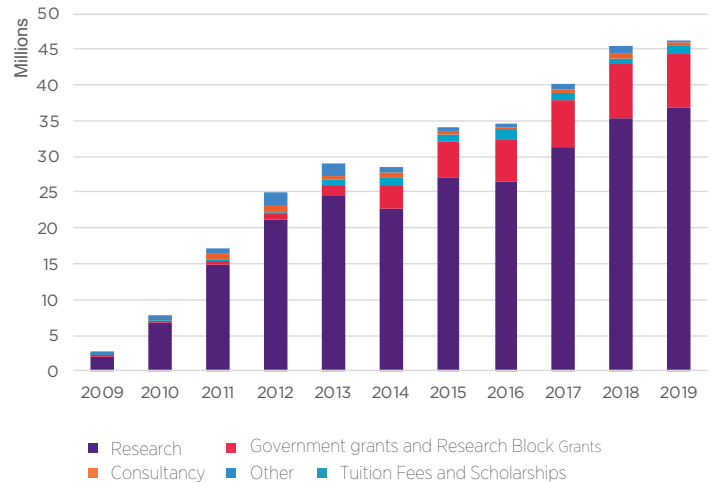


2014-2018 data from UQ Reportal; 2019 data is indicative until audit complete

QAAFI has:

- Contributed \$310.2m in external funding to UQ since 2010
- Contributed \$48.4m in external funding to UQ in 2019; and
- Made an overall net financial contribution to the University (2009-2019). (Contributed more than received from UQ.)

Total external income brought to UQ by QAAFI (2009-2019)



Data from UQ Reportal showing total research income 2009-2019

QAAFI's research initiatives 2019

- The Institute is playing a key role in UQ's ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture (worth approximately \$112m).
- QAAFI secured almost \$18m from the ARC to establish the Industrial Transformational Research Hub for Sustainable Crop Protection.
- 2019 saw the launch of the ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods.
- Professor Ben Hayes was appointed as Centre Director of QAAFI's Centre for Animal Science in 2019.
- Professor Ian Godwin was appointed as Centre Director of QAAFI's Centre for Crop Science in 2019.
- By 2019, the Grains Research and Development Corporation's investment of \$7.9m over 10 years in the sorghum core pre-breeding program had leveraged \$51m for the Australian grains industry (a return of \$8.90 for every \$1 of grower funds).

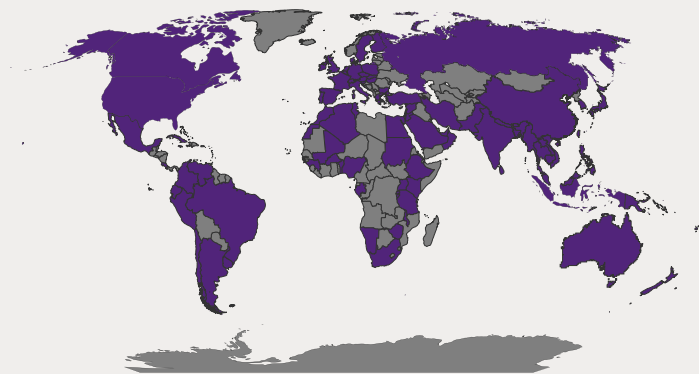
External Research Collaboration

Since its inception, QAAFI has collaborated on research with 139 external organisations.

QAAFI has:

- A strong track record for collaborating with Australian Research and Development organisations
- Collaborations with many Small and Medium Enterprises and large corporations
- Collaborated on multiple projects with many partners; and
- Collaborations across 95 countries, many of which focus on improving food production in developing countries.

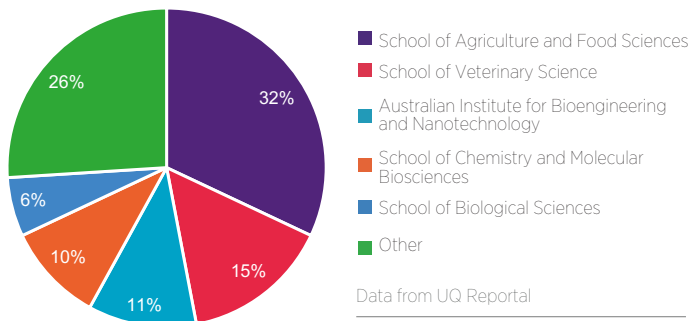
Countries where QAAFI collaborates on research (2009-2018)



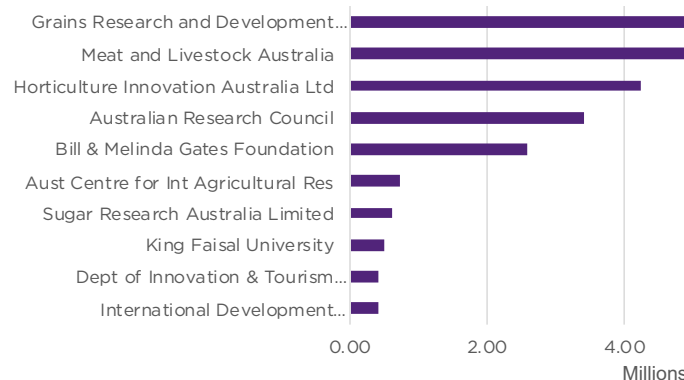
Note: Countries with whom QAAFI collaborates with are highlighted in purple. Data from UQ Library

Research collaborations across UQ 2009-2019

QAAFI contributed to 170 research collaborations overall with multiple collaborations on some projects.



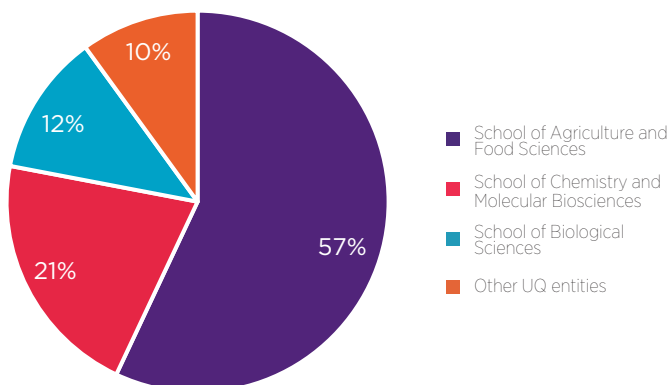
QAAFI's Top 10 funding organisations for 2019



Teaching collaborations across UQ in 2019

- All teaching support provided by QAAFI across UQ is *pro bono*
- 22 QAAFI staff provided contact hours on 23 courses administered by other UQ Schools
- Six QAAFI staff assisted in laboratories across 28 UQ courses
- QAAFI staff supervised 19 projects within courses.

Distribution of teaching support by QAAFI staff across UQ (2019)



QAAFI 2020

This year, QAAFI has forecast year end research income of \$42m (against a budget of \$38m). Up to 15 May, actual reeseach income was more than \$22m. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is more uncertainty than is normally the case about how actual budgets will play out against estimates.

That said, there is no doubt that things look positive for QAAFI with significant new research initiatives and strong projected growth in income. There are plans afoot to appoint Chairs in the areas of Legumes and Protected Cropping. A US\$27.8m grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has been signed and research will commence from June 2020 (US\$18.66m in cash). The Institute has a total projected income of \$210.4m between 2020 and 2023.

Report data as of 31 December 2019. Report published: 30 June 2020.