THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

QAAFI
Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

QAAFI REPORT 2010

Working together with the
Queensland Government

QAAFI

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

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QAAFI Report 2010

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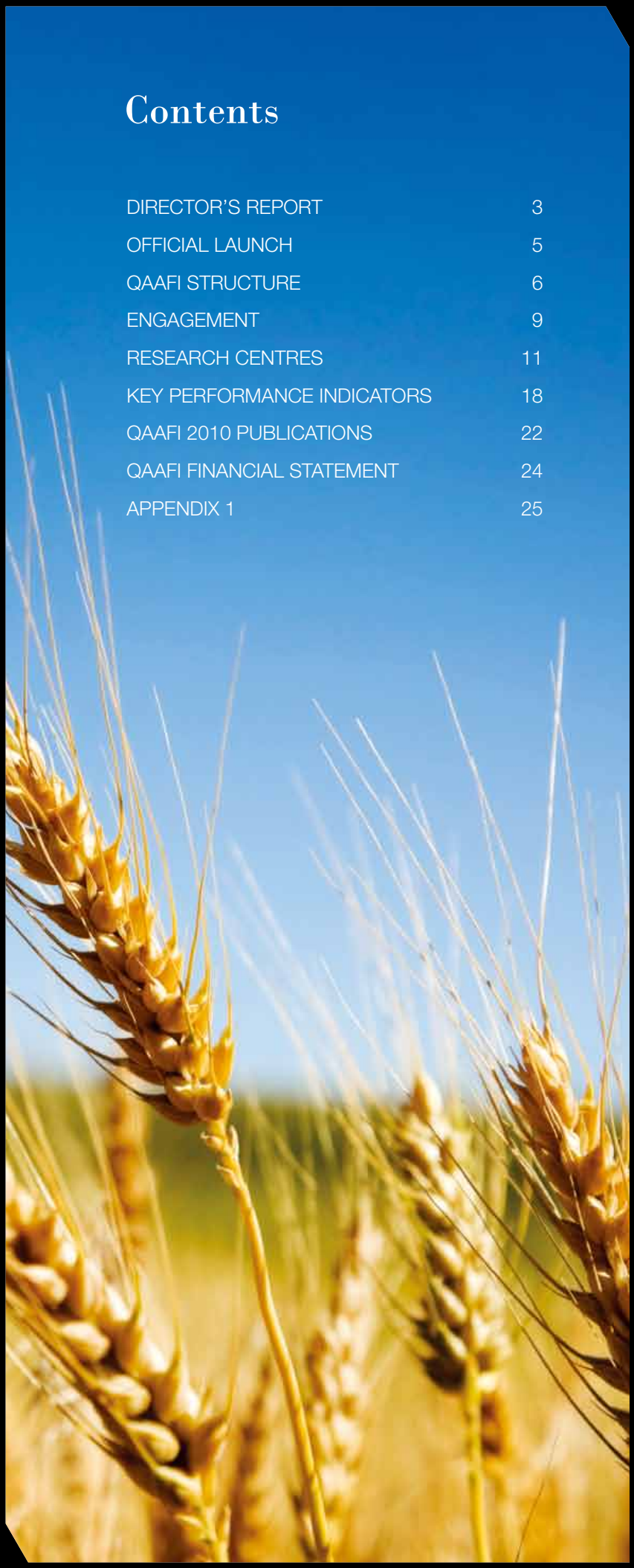


DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) was launched as a University of Queensland (UQ) Institute on 21 October 2010 when the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland, Tim Mulherin, announced the formation of QAAFI at Customs House in Brisbane.

QAAFI's core partners are UQ and the Queensland Government's Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). QAAFI will work closely with industry, government and other stakeholders to address a wide range of strategic research and development issues. The partnership equates to the biggest tropical and subtropical research effort in Australia's history.

The QAAFI approach will enable agricultural and food research to better tackle a wider range of more complex issues in addition to the long-standing agricultural research for which Queensland is renowned.

To help attain a reputation of international standing, QAAFI will employ Australia's best agricultural scientists and seek to attract the highest calibre national and international students. QAAFI will work closely with innovative food and nutrition strategists and help to address some of the world's most pressing agricultural challenges.

The potential for QAAFI to meet these challenges is unsurpassed. The size of the Institute and combined strengths of plant, animal and food research will enable QAAFI to invest in and commit to projects not addressed before in Australia's and in some cases the worlds' history.

Since QAAFI's inauguration, impressive research and development portfolios have been legally established under the QAAFI Centres. The Centre for Plant Science (CPS), Centre for Animal Science (CAS) and the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences (CNAFS) each have equally important roles to play in QAAFI.

While it is early days, QAAFI can already state some impressive milestones. Towards the end of 2010 it was announced that Professor Mike Gidley, Director of CNAFS, will lead a program of a new Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Wall Biology. This will advance underlying sciences that are integral to ruminant nutrition, human health in relation to dietary fibre in foods and conversion of plant biomass to biofuels and other biomaterials.

During its first three months in operation, QAAFI became a major player in a national Grains Cluster in which four of Australia's leading research Institutions will collaborate closely over the next three years to fast-track development of new 'healthier' varieties of three of the world's most widely cultivated cereal grains.

The 'High Fibre Grains Cluster' will focus on wheat, barley and rice. A primary research goal is to boost levels of beneficial compounds, such as beta glucans and arabinoxylans, which are key contributors to the soluble component of dietary fibre in these grains.

Abroad, QAAFI is part of a cooperative effort through which a $10M Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)-funded project will support agricultural development in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

QAAFI is a milestone in Queensland's and indeed Australia's research history. The new Institute reflects an unparalleled effort to help achieve a safe and sustainable food supply and a strong future for tropical/subtropical agricultural and food technology industries. The following document, the first QAAFI Report, primarily sets out information on the Institute's establishment. At the time of reporting, QAAFI had officially been in operation for a little over three months. The expansion of QAAFI's Centres and research progress will be presented in the coming years.

Professor Robert Henry
Director

OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The Launch on 21 October 2010 at Brisbane's Customs House acknowledged the enormous potential of QAAFI.

Approximately 120 guests attended the Launch including UQ Staff, people associated with QAAFI, DEEDI representatives and guests from industry and other research organisations.

On the day, Professor Robert Henry and Minister Tim Mulherin hailed QAAFI to be an important initiative to further build on current agricultural and food research partnerships between UQ and the State Government.

Professor Henry announced that QAAFI will strengthen Queensland's collective capacity to deliver high-impact research and development outcomes in areas that will not only benefit Queensland industries, but will also put Queensland on the map as a world leader in tropical and subtropical agriculture and food research.

He said the range of research to be undertaken at QAAFI will be extensive and will focus on industry needs. Expected outcomes are likely to return millions of dollars to Queensland agricultural and food industries.

Minister Tim Mulherin said the partnership meant plant, animal and food scientists from UQ and DEEDI would work together to develop new technologies and practices that would benefit these important industries.

The formation of QAAFI equates to a significant partnership between the Queensland Government and UQ. The initiative will capitalise on new areas of research such as genomics, materials science and advanced systems modelling to create new innovations for Queensland's food and agribusinesses.

An important aspect of the collaboration is that QAAFI researchers will remain embedded with research teams in DEEDI, and as such will provide vital links to the breadth of expertise available at both UQ and DEEDI.

Additionally research programs within QAAFI will offer exciting career opportunities for Queensland's young scientists – from the traditional agricultural research programs supporting the beef, dairy, cropping and horticulture industries, through to leading national research programs in food nutrition and biosecurity.

Since the Launch, thirty-four senior DEEDI researchers have transitioned to QAAFI and have officially become UQ employees. By the end of 2010 this progressed to include impressive research team links and wide project portfolios.

Pictured above are (L to R): Professor Beth Woods, Chief Scientific Officer at DEEDI, Professor Robert Henry, Minister Tim Mulherin and Professor Paul Greenfield, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Queensland.

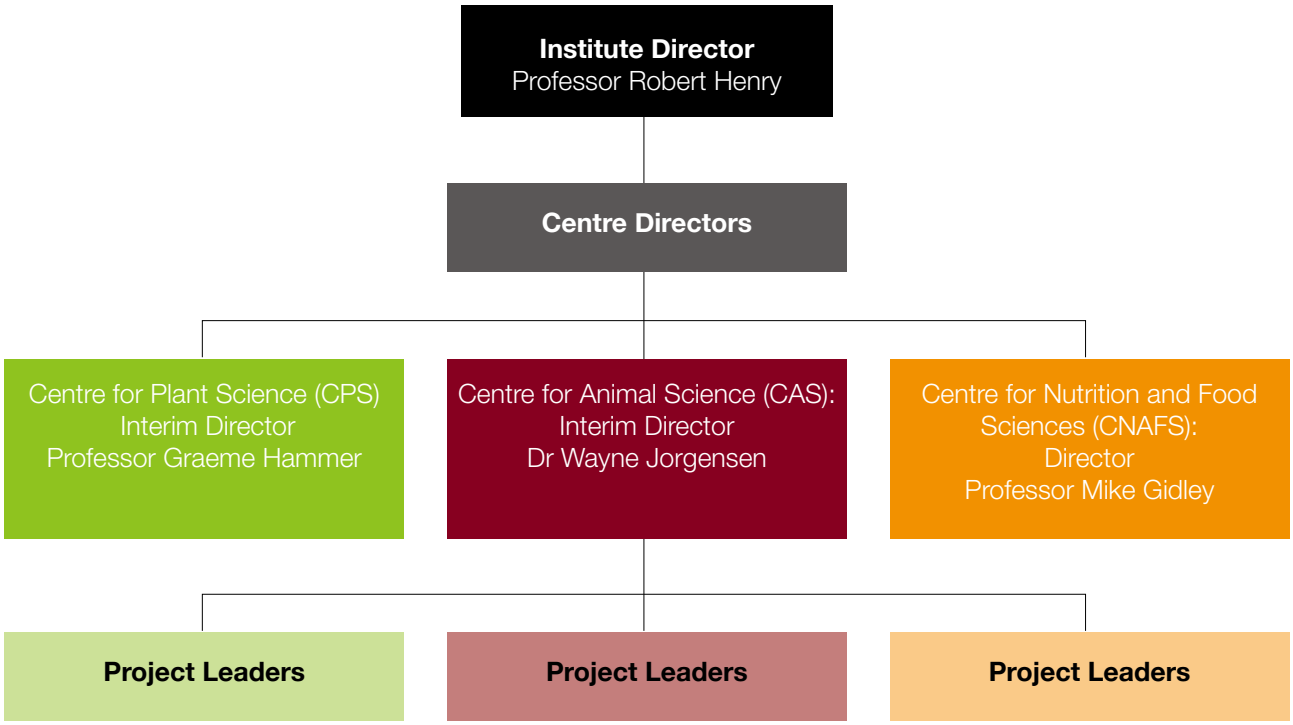
QAAFI STRUCTURE

QAAFI is an official Research Institute of The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia.

Headed by a Director appointed by UQ and the Queensland Government, QAAFI is backed by Queensland's major agricultural and food technology groups.

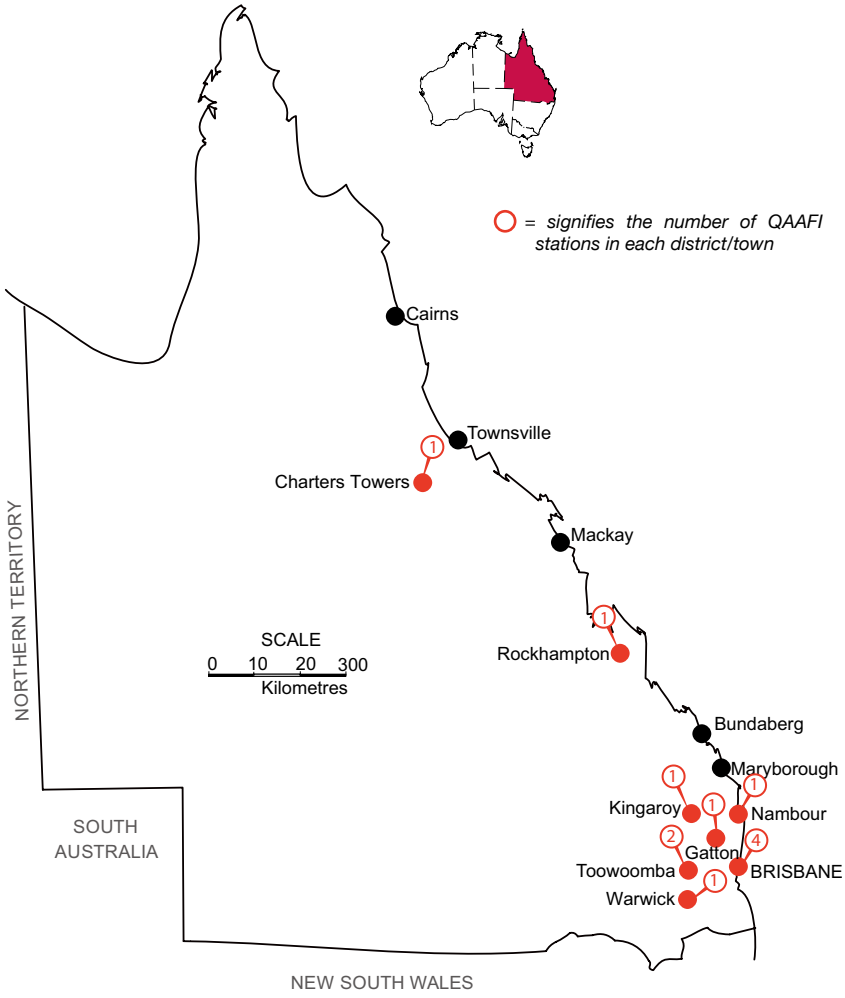
The QAAFI research portfolio is organised under three Research Centres: CPS, CAS and CNAFS, each of which is headed by a Centre Director (see Table below).

While QAAFI is primarily managed by the Institute and Centre Directors, the research portfolio is also reviewed regularly by a QAAFI Advisory Board.



QAAFI Locations

QAAFI staff are based at 12 sites distributed across UQ campuses and Queensland Government research stations and centres. These locations facilitate regional linkages and allow for further collaboration with other organisations and research centres.



QAAFI Advisory Board

Professor Kaye Basford, UQ researcher in applied statistics in agricultural science

Wayne Carlson, retired NAB national agribusiness manager with 35 years experience in the agribusiness and finance sector

Peter Lancaster, Chairman of Food Spectrum Pty Ltd

Wayne Newton, member of the Grains Research Foundation Ltd board of directors and grain and cotton grower in Dalby

Ralph Shannon, Chairman of the North Australian Beef Research Council

Professor Beth Woods, Chief Scientific Officer at DEEDI

Mission QAAFI will significantly improve the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of tropical and subtropical food, fibre and agri-business industries. QAAFI will be an internationally recognised agriculture and food research institute providing excellence in research and development.

Vision QAAFI will be a world leader in tropical and subtropical agricultural and food research and development.

QAAFI will ensure that cutting-edge science and science education is applied to support sustainable tropical and subtropical agriculture and food production.

ENGAGEMENT

October to December 2010 marked the beginning of QAAFI's major public engagement activities.

Initially, during October, the QAAFI launch was promoted to state and national media through a media release and website story. The event created considerable interest among rural and industry media outlets and created radio interview opportunities for QAAFI Director, Professor Robert Henry.

Internally, a great deal of effort was put into outlining the purpose of QAAFI's evolving structure to its members and to the broader research community through a wide range of meetings, and then by the launch of an electronic QAAFI newsletter which is now sent regularly (every six to eight weeks) to everyone involved with QAAFI.

An 'About QAAFI' information sheet has been widely distributed to groups associated with QAAFI both in printed and electronic formats. Various agricultural and food technology events and conferences have already included the About QAAFI handout and other promotional material in key information documents and as part of background information for media.

QAAFI management have since worked closely with QAAFI Communications to draft a strategy for broader public engagement. The first draft strategy was completed in December 2010 and outlines a range of top priority activities to build knowledge and ultimately benefit the long-term profile of QAAFI. Underlying these activities is the QAAFI mission and vision statements that have been drafted as part of the strategy process.

QAAFI considers its website to be a fundamental platform for public engagement. A new website with regular information updates and an option to sign up and become part of the QAAFI network was developed during the first three months of QAAFI's operation.

Health and Food Sciences Precinct,
Coopers Plains.

RESEARCH CENTRES

QAAFI research is structured under three individual research Centres. Each Centre forms an integral part of QAAFI. QAAFI research Centres are focused on achieving results for specific areas of research. While these Centres operate independently, they are linked through many common goals.

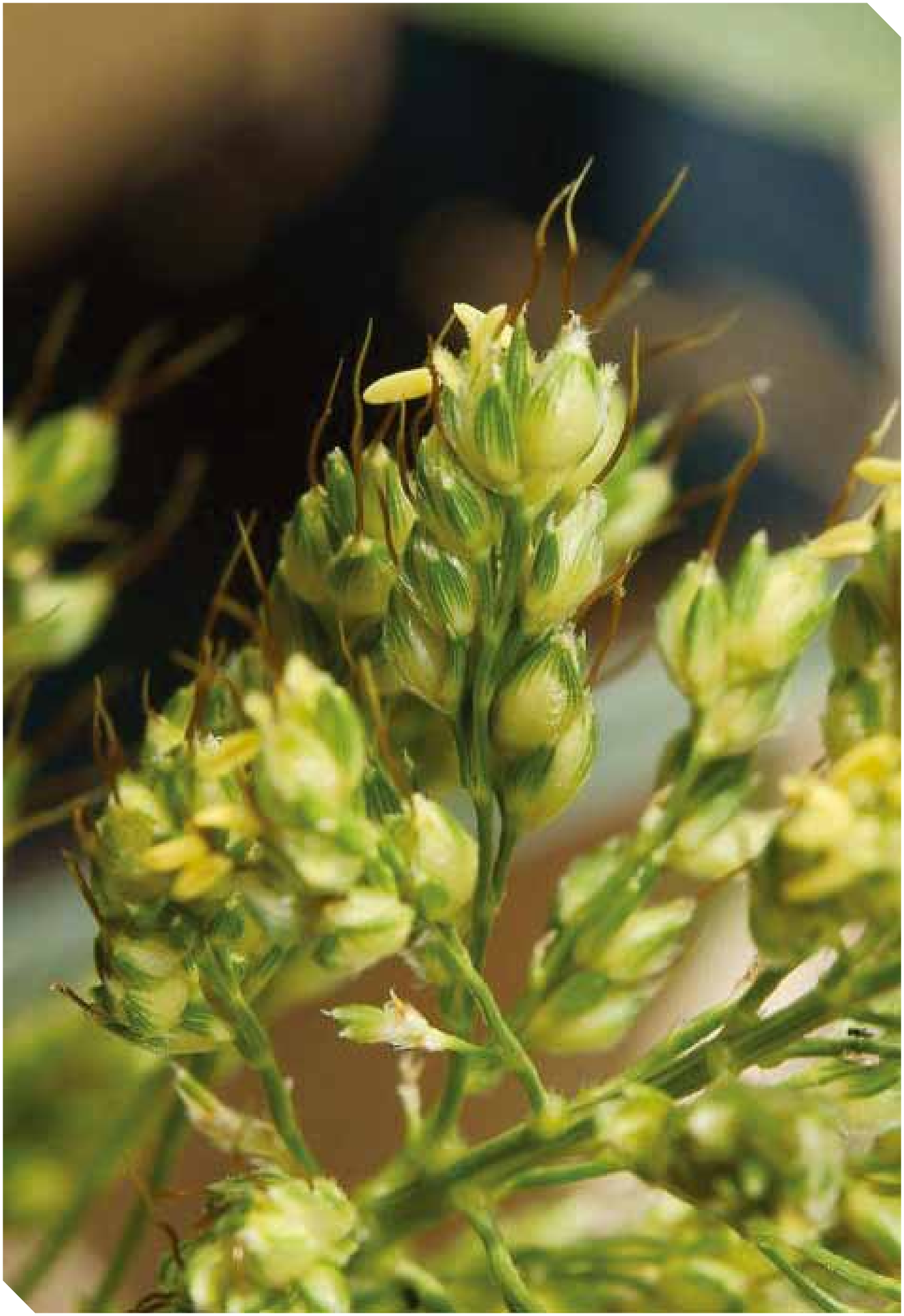
Importantly QAAFI research Centres form part of a world-class research Institute that strives to achieve excellence in research relating to subtropical and tropical agriculture/ food technology.

Projects addressed under individual Centres may be unique to the Centre, alternatively, projects cut across several disciplines and involve scientists from two or in some instances, all three QAAFI Centres.

Centre for Plant Science P

Centre for Animal Science A

Centre for Nutrition & Food Sciences F



CENTRE FOR PLANT SCIENCE

Interim CPS Director: Professor Graeme Hammer

The Centre for Plant Science (CPS) will deliver enhanced economic and environmental outcomes for plant industries in Queensland and Australia by linking excellence in discovery and the plant science development capabilities of UQ and DEEDI.

CPS will integrate strong disciplinary capabilities in major research focus areas to target improved crops, crop protection systems, and sustainable production systems. The Centre's major objectives are listed below.

- To pursue excellence in plant science at molecular, whole plant, and production system levels for the benefit of plant industries.
- To provide a vehicle for enhanced collaboration between UQ and DEEDI in plant science of strategic importance.
- To develop and maintain strong linkages with rural and manufacturing industries.
- To enhance efficiency in research investment and improve opportunities to obtain major grant funding.
- To contribute to the next generation of plant scientists by a focus on training at postgraduate level.
- To become a recognised world-class centre in plant science R&D.

It is expected that the CPS will forge strong links across Faculties and Institutes at UQ, and with national and international partners in providing innovative plant focused research for agricultural and food innovation. It will contribute strongly to present and future UQ research strength.

CENTRE FOR ANIMAL SCIENCE

Interim CAS Director: Dr Wayne Jorgensen

The Centre for Animal Science (CAS) will improve animal health, welfare and productivity outcomes in the animal industries and will lead tropical livestock research and development in Australia.

CAS will undertake major research, teaching, consultancy and community-based service programs.

The CAS research portfolio includes the following.

- An animal health program focused on pest and disease control through improved detection, monitoring and vaccine technologies plus application of integrated pest management systems. Public health, food safety and biosecurity will be major components of this program.
- An animal behaviour, welfare and ethics program.
- An animal improvement program focused on genetics, breeding and reproduction as well as animal nutrition, metabolism and growth.

CENTRE FOR NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCES

CNAFS Director: Professor Mike Gidley

The Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences (CNAFS) is a virtual centre established in 2003 at the University of Queensland in collaboration with the Queensland Government.

CNAFS aims to support the development of enhanced health outcomes and economic benefits for Queensland and Australia by carrying out relevant fundamental and applied research across the nutrition and food sciences to provide a sound basis for subsequent exploitation.

The science of food and nutrition involves the integration of approaches drawing from physical, chemical and biological disciplines. CNAFS uses a range of cross-disciplinary approaches, modern analytical techniques and understanding developed through study of model systems, to identify the fundamental mechanisms responsible for important food and nutrition properties. This involves extensive collaboration with research groups within UQ and DEEDI, and many other Australian and international partners.

Current research themes within CNAFS address the topic of Naturally-Functional Foods, and include:

1. Molecular basis for food quality.

2. Food bio-materials and processing.

3. Health and nutrition properties.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance Measure	2010 Targets (quarter year)	2010 Achievements and Comments
Number of refereed publications	15	Refer QAAFI 2010 Publications on page 24.
Total grant income	$1.5M	$2,277,043 (Grains Research and Development Council (GRDC); Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC); Queensland Government; and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR))
Number of research consultancies	1	1. Pfizer (Hong Kong) - advice to clients re chicken vaccines. 2. International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) (Mexico) – planning advice for a large investment by the Mexican government and CIMMYT in the use of exotic germplasm in wheat and maize breeding. 3. Australian Research Council as an appointee in the Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative and a member of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Evaluation Committee. 4. Nestle Australia as a member of the Strategic Advisory Nutrition Group to provide advice on nutrition.
Number of research higher degree (RHD) students	5	1. Van Le Thu Hoang (PhD) Advisor: Dr Ralf Dietzgen. 2. Meng-Wong Taing (PhD) Advisor: Dr Ralf Dietzgen. 3. Tao Xu (PhD) Advisor: Dr Manuel Rodriguez-Valle. 4. Jamaliah Lamah (PhD) Advisor: Dr Steven Underhill. 5. Lea Indjein (PhD) Advisor: Dr Ala Lew-Tabor. 6. Ameera Koya (PhD) Advisor: Dr Ala Lew-Tabor. 7. Jay Anderson (PhD) Advisor: Dr Elizabeth Dann. 8. Arslan Qureshi (PhD) Advisor: Dr Elizabeth Dann. 9. Leslie Duffy (PhD) Advisor: Dr Pat Blackall. 10. Jenny Vo (PhD) Advisor: Dr Andrew Geering. 11. Stephanie Sinclair (PhD) Advisor: Dr Carol Petherick.
Number of RHD completions	0	

Number of national/ state/local policy reports and industry/ government briefings	5	1. Commodity crop outlook reports at national and state levels for each month were successfully delivered. These have been used by agencies and industry to help make more informed decisions with regard to commodity production risks. 2. ACIAR Technical Report on 'hot spots' for food security across eastern and southern Africa. 3. Briefings to Macadamia Industry Varietal Improvement Committee about priority traits in breeding and developing Intellectual property guidelines for the release of new macadamia cultivars. 4. Brief to Low Chill Australia Inc. about new tropical peach and nectarine selections to be released to industry.
Visitors to the QAAFI of national and international profile	2	1. Prof Mingan Choct, CEO, Poultry CRC. 2. Prof Stefan Hiendleder, JS Davies Epigenetics and Genetics Group, Research Centre for Reproductive Health, the University of Adelaide. 3. Prof Kevin Stafford, Massey University, NZ. 4. Prof John Mullet, Texas A&M University, USA. 5. Dr Colleen Higgins, Auckland University of Technology. 6. Dr Shane Lavery, University of Auckland. 7. Dr Dath Mita, crop assessment analyst United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, USA. 8. Dr Robert Driscoll, University of NSW. 9. Dr Anna Rahamianna, Legumes and Tuber Crops Research Institute, Indonesia. 10. Dr Pat Wall, Director for Conservation Agriculture Program at CIMMYT. 11. Dr Bekele Shiferaw, Director Socio-Economics Program at CIMMYT. 12. Dr Stan Woods, Director Harvest Choice at the International Food Policy Research Institute. 13. Dr Mulugetta Mekuria SIMLESA Project Leader at CIMMYT, Director General of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), Director General of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). 14. Dr Mohammed Umar, Director of the Institute for Research Extension and Training in Agriculture - Faculty of Business and Economics, at the University of the South Pacific. 15. Karl Kelly, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA. 16. Dr Murray McLaughlin, President & CEO Sustainable Chemistry Alliance and Executive Director Bioindustrial Innovation Centre, Saskatchewan, Canada.

KEY PERFORMANCE **INDICATORS continued**

Number of memberships of national and international professional committees	2	1. Member RIRDC Chicken Meat R&D Advisory Committee (Dr Pat Blackall). 2. Member Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food electronic Working Group on 'Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids in Food and Feed' (Dr Mary Fletcher). 3. Co-Editor-in-Chief of 'Applied Animal Behaviour Science' (Dr Carol Petherick). 4. Member of Editorial Board, Veterinární Medicína (Dr Pat Blackall). 5. Member of Editorial Board: Journal of Applied Microbiology' and 'Letters in Applied Microbiology' (Dr Pat Blackall). 6. Chair, Rhabdoviridae Study Group, International Committee for the Taxonomy of Viruses (Dr Ralf Dietzgen). 7. Chair of Caulimoviridae Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (Dr Andrew Geering). 8. Expert Panel Member Australian Research Council (Prof Robert Henry). 9. Member RIRDC New Plant Products Committee (Prof Robert Henry). 10. Member Plant Breeders' Rights Advisory Committee (Prof Robert Henry). 11. Senior Editor 'Plant BiotechnologyJournal' (Prof Robert Henry). 12. Associate Editor 'Conservation Genetics' (Prof Robert Henry).

Professor Robert Henry is pictured with Professor Max Lu, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) The University of Queensland.

Media profile (+ve media events)	4	1.	Wild rice story September to October 2010. 'Japanese interest in wild Australian rice' resulted in newspaper and magazine articles quoting QAAFI Professor Robert Henry.
		2.	Media release on new quick-growing peanut variety. Released on 15 October 2010. Story resulted in Regional newspaper and magazine coverage, CRN radio interview and GRDC video clip.
		3.	Launch QAAFI on 21 October which resulted in media coverage throughout Qld and several radio media interviews.
		4.	Interview Heather Smyth – "Escape" video footage on the development of a seafood flavour wheel. Footage taken in November 2010.
		5.	Primary Producers Urged to Go Online, publicity which was run in the Northern Miner and the North Queensland Register during November 2010.
		6.	Interview Robert Henry – 'The Sweet Genome' published in December 2010 issue of Genome Technology.
		7.	Launch of the new Spyglass Beef Research Facility, north Queensland, by Minister Tim Mulherin on 10 December 2010. Event was covered on the ABC national news and rural reports.
		8.	Launch of new Grains Cluster on 17 December 2010 resulting in national coverage and publicity for the QAAFI Centre for Food and Nutrition Sciences (CNAFS).
Advice provided to the Minister or Department	1	1.	Contributed to the DEEDI response to the National Carbon Farming Initiative in December 2010.
Number of types (types to be presented descriptively) of new or improved technologies published	1	1.	Method for DNA-based bar coding of plant samples for plant identification. A simple method for whole chloroplast genome sequencing has been developed for plant variety identification supporting, plant breeding and IP protection. Nock C, Waters DLE, Edwards MA, Bowen S, Rice N, Cordeiro GM, Henry RJ (2010) Chloroplast genome sequence from total DNA for plant identification. Plant Biotechnology Journal.
		2.	Membrane fractionation technologies for high quality mill sugar and value-added by-products - an integrated sugar production process concept model. Wijesinghe, B, Mereddy, R and Stanley, R (2010-12) Membrane fractionation technologies for high quality mill sugar and value-added by-products - an integrated sugar production process concept model. International Sugar Journal, 112 1344: 686-692

QAAFI 2010
PUBLICATIONS

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**all publications from commencement at UQ*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation

Statement of Consolidated Revenue and Expenditure

1st January to 31st December 2010

Consolidated	Notes	Actual
Revenue		
C'th Gov Financial Assistance		0
Qld Government Funding		0
Research Income	1	5,568,108
Scholarships and Prizes		0
Donations and Bequests		0
Consultancies, Contract & Serv	2	27,491
Other Revenue	3	90,000
Strategic Contrib & Res Ohd		0
Internal Revenue	4	(69,175)
Total Revenue		*5,616,424*
Expenditure		
Salaries - Academic	5	1,261,494
Salaries - General	6	153,146
Salary Reimbursements		3,119
Staff App Develp & Health Cst		747
Consumables		17,100
Services		79,116
Marketing & Advertising		9,257
Equipment		57,217
Telecommunications		20,990
Travel & Hospitality		86,210
Scholarships & prizes		4,000
Collaborative Projects	7	1,143,019
Financial Costs & Taxes		608
Internal Expenses	8	118,024
Total Expenditure		*2,954048*
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		2,662,376
Carry Forward	9	375,786
Accumulated Position		3,3038,162

Explanatory Notes

1.	Includes Australian Commonwealth Govt. Research	2,790,297
	Queensland State Research Income	1,840,333
	Other Research Income	937,778
		5,568,408

2. Consultancies conducted through Uniquest
3. Income from other tertiary institutions
4. Transfers to UQ collaborators for ACIAR PARDI project
5. Includes QAAFI research grant salary expenditure
6. General staff salaries for administration and management staff
7. Transfers to PARDI project national and international collaborators
8. Contributions to QAAFI facilities refurbishments
9. Funds carried forward from 2009
10. Accumulated position – includes funds held in PARDI project of $1.16M, the QAAFI research grant of $654,605 and significant research income in December of $1.024M with no expenditure against these new grants.

APPENDIX 1

Administration				
Surname	Preferred Name	Centre	Title	Location
Anderson	Melissa	QAAFI	Operations Manager	Head Office -St Lucia
Feuerriegel	Carla	QAAFI	Research Grants Administrator	Head Office -St Lucia
Haas	Richard	QAAFI	MICD	Head Office -St Lucia
Henry	Robert	QAAFI	Director	Head Office -St Lucia
Holland	Traci	QAAFI	Finance Manager	Head Office -St Lucia
Lloyd	Julie	QAAFI	Communications Manager	Head Office -St Lucia
Payne	Kat	QAAFI	Executive Assistant	Head Office -St Lucia
Richards	Sam	QAAFI	Administration Assistant	Head Office -St Lucia

Centre for Plant Science				
Surname	Preferred Name	Centre	Title	Location
Bell	Mike	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	J. Bjelke-Petersen Research Station - Kingaroy
Borrell	Andy	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Hermitage Research Station - Warwick
Chenu	Karine	CPS	Research Fellow	Tor St - Toowoomba
Christopher	Jack	CPS	Research Fellow	Leslie Research Centre - Toowoomba
Dann	Elizabeth	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Ecosciences Precinct - Dutton Park
Dietzgen	Ralf	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Ritchie Building - St Lucia
Geering	Andrew	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Ecosciences Precinct - Dutton Park
Hammer	Graeme	CPS	Interim Centre Director	Hartley Teakle - St Lucia
Holton	Tim	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Ritchie Building - St Lucia
Jordan	David	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Hermitage Research Station - Warwick
Mitter	Neena	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Ritchie Building - St Lucia
Payero	Jose	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Tor St - Toowoomba
Potgieter	Andries	CPS	Research Fellow	Tor St - Toowoomba
Rachaputi	RCN	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	J. Bjelke-Petersen Research Station - Kingaroy
Rodriguez	Daniel	CPS	Senior Research Fellow	Tor St - Toowoomba
Thomas	John	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Ecosciences - Dutton Park
Topp	Bruce	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Maroochy Research Station
Underhill	Steven	CPS	Associate Professor	Head Office -St Lucia
Walker	Steve	CPS	Principal Research Fellow	Leslie Research Centre - Toowoomba

Centre for Nutrition & Food Sciences				
Surname	Preferred Name	Centre	Title	Location
Dunn	Ann	CNAFS	Senior Research Administrator	Hartley Teakle - St Lucia
Flanagan	Bernadine	CNAFS	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Hartley Teakle - St Lucia
Fox	Glen	CNAFS	Research Fellow	Leslie Research Centre - Toowoomba
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Fordyce	Geoff	CAS	Senior Research Fellow	Prior St - Charters Towers
James	Peter	CAS	Senior Research Fellow	Ecosciences Precinct - Dutton Park
Jorgensen	Wayne	CAS	Interim Centre Director	ARI - Yeerongpilly
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