State of the Institute Report 2022

Background

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) was established in 2010. 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.

QAAFI is youthful, unique and fast-growing. Rapid expansion has been possible because of expertise in tropical and subtropical 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’.

QAAFI’s Top 10 funding organisations in 2022

- CRC for Developing Northern Australia Ltd
- Nufarm Limited
- The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
- Agrifutures
- Australian Research Council
- Grains Research & Development Corporation
- Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited
- Meat & Livestock Australia Limited
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Queensland DAF

QAAFI’s contribution to UQ teaching and supervision

46 QAAFI researchers taught:
2047 UQ students / 38 course codes / 888 teaching hours
435.5 preparation/marking hours / 410 additional support hours.

26 QAAFI researchers provided coursework to:
2015 UQ students / 22 course codes / 345.5 contact hours
380.5 preparation/marking hours / 246 additional support hours.

27 QAAFI researchers supervised:
49 post-grads / 12 honours students / 67 non-HDR research projects / 2 international undergrad placements
4 international PhD interns.

Total external income brought to UQ by QAAFI (2010-2022)

QAAFI fast facts 2022

Income
$51.4 M total external income in 2022.
$458 M total external income between 2010-2022.
$58.1 M projected external income in 2023.

Partnerships
41 external organisations funding projects in 2022 (including 26 existing and 15 new partners in 2022. Down from 53 funding organisations in 2021).
171 external organisations funding projects between 2010-2022 (up from 139 external organisations funding projects between 2010-2020).

Research
190 active projects during 2022.
64 research projects completed during 2022.
837 research projects completed between 2010-2022.
127 PhDs with 32 HDRs awarded in 2022 (up from 122 PhDs with 16 HDRs awarded in 2021).
174 HDRs awarded since 2010.

People
424 people at QAAFI in 2022 (down from 456 people in Dec 2021. Includes 31 FTE operational and support staff, 266 FTE academic research staff, and 127 PhD students.)
External Research Collaboration

Since its inception, QAAFI has completed 837 projects with 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.

QAAFI collaborations across UQ 2012-2022

QAAFI contributed to 126 research collaborations overall with multiple collaborations on some projects.

Highlights from 2022

- QAAFI Strategic Plan 2022-2026 launched.
- UQ secures Trailblazer funding to lead Food and Beverage Accelerator.
- International Research Training Group funded by the German Research Foundation with UQ, grants $15 million to accelerate genetic gain in grain crops.
- GRDC funds sorghum lodging program worth $11.6 million to UQ to be led by Professor David Jordon.
- MLA and the Qld Government grant $17 million to UQ to deliver five methane reduction projects for Australia’s red meat industry.
- MLA Donor Company grants $3.7 million to UQ for Professor Louw Hoffman to lead Australia’s largest goat research project.
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Research in Nature and Agriculture launched at UQ.
- Food System Horizon’s initiative between UQ and CSIRO launched.
- Professor of Protected Cropping Paul Gauthier appointed to UQ
- Professor of Legume Genomics Michael Udvardi appointed to UQ

Funding


UQ is ranked a global leader in agriculture and food research

- #1 agriculture institute in Australia and #4 in the world according to the NTU Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities 2022.
- #1 environmental sciences in Australia and #20 in the world according to QS world University rankings by subject 2023.
- #3 life sciences institute in Australia according to QS world University rankings by subject 2023.
- #1 biotechnology institute in Australia according to Shanghai global rankings in 2022.
- #1 food science and technology in Australia and #13 in the world Shanghai global ranking of academic subjects 2022.
- #5 Excellence in Research in Australia according to the Australian Research Council’s report 2021.