



# *Chicken Nutrition, Gut health and Environment Consortium*

Inaugural showcase, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Brisbane's Customs House

# Acknowledgment of Country

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- The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.
- We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.
- We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.



# How it all started

(October 2020)



## Nutrition, Gut Health and Environment

### Program goal

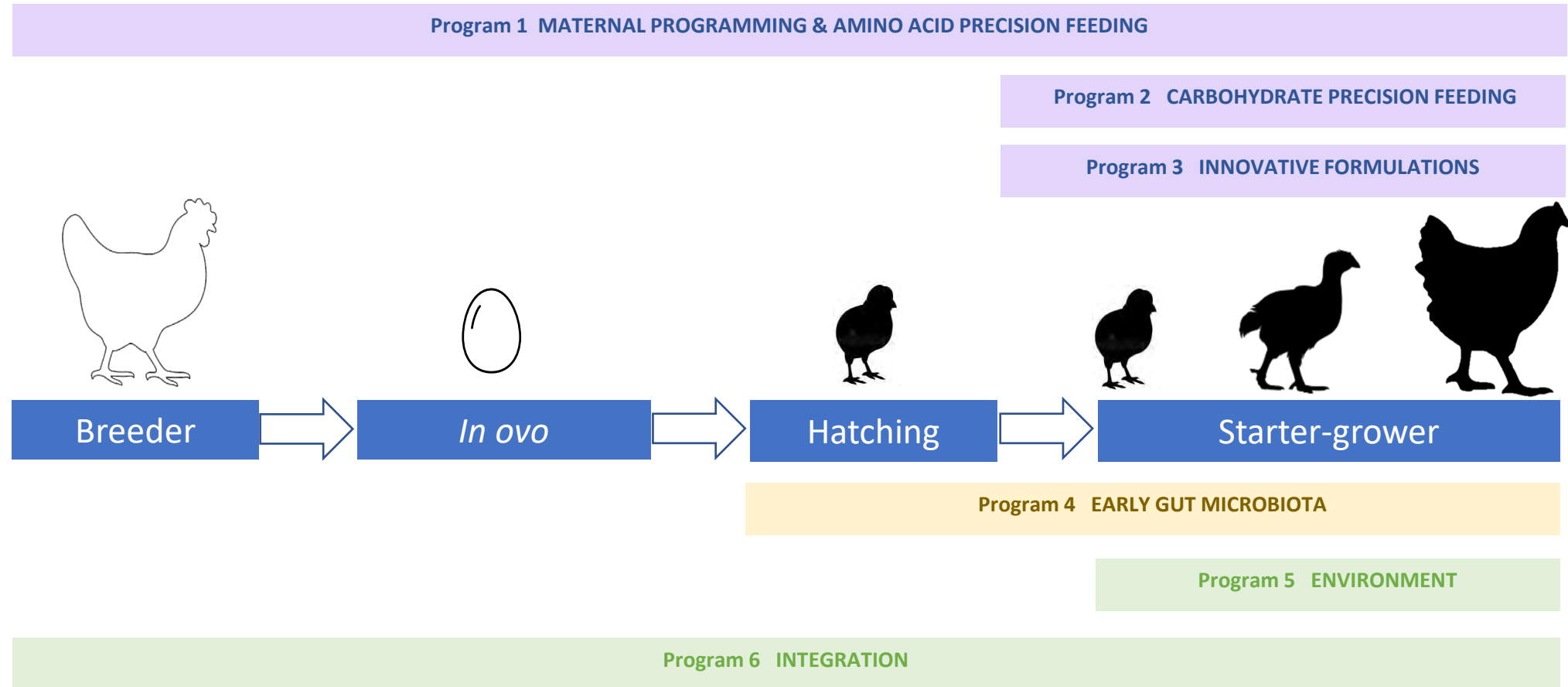
A diet that enhances feed conversion and broiler growth, reduces the reliance on inputs (such as vaccination and medicines) and optimises the shed environment (including maintenance of litter quality and reduction of odour).

### Scope

Collaborative, multi-institution teams that demonstrate complementary skills including research, development, adoption, and extension together with expertise in specific technologies and products are encouraged to apply. While this program of research is national in scope, international collaboration that leverages relevant knowledge and experience is encouraged.



# Research Programs

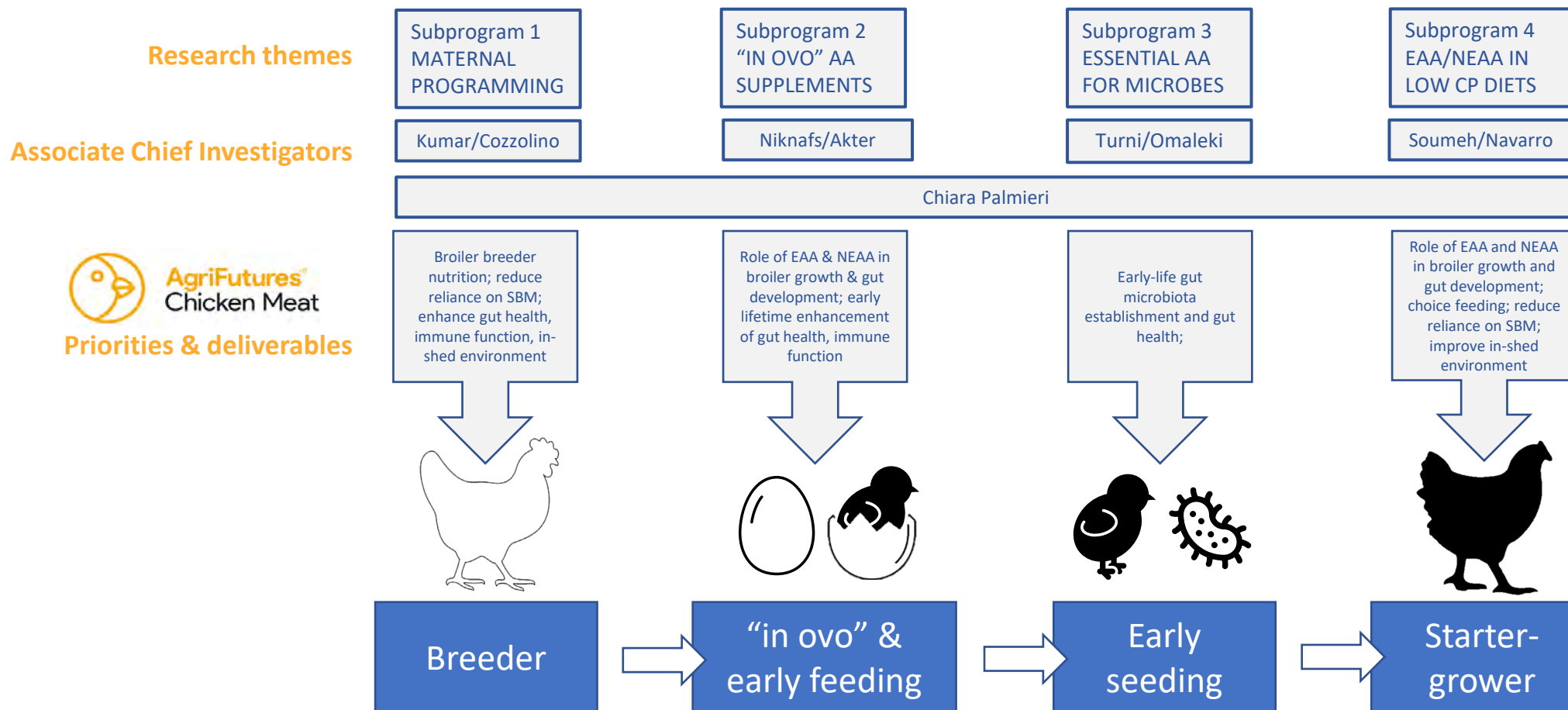


# Research Program 1

## Maternal programming and Amino Acid precision feeding in broiler chickens



Prof Eugeni Roura





# Research Program 2

## Carbohydrate and amino acid precision feeding



Em Prof Mike Gidley



**Sub-program 1:** what is left in undigested feed



Detailed structural analysis of molecular composition and microscopic architecture in residual feed by using digesta samples from program 3



**Sub-program 2:** *in vitro* carbohydrate and protein assays



- Rate and extent of digestion in alternative feed ingredients
- How particle size, feed processing and exogenous enzymes change digestion



**Sub-program 3:** *in vitro* batch fermentation to predict microbiome development and prevent growth of pathogenic organism



To find 'sweet spots' of diet formulation that nourishes the gut microbiota while maintaining feed efficiency

# Research Program 3a

## Innovative diet formulations

**Sub-program 1:** Reduce dietary crude protein



- Non-essential amino acids
- Digestive dynamics
- Feed additives



Short-term and long-term industry applicable broiler diet with reduced SBM and CP content that can be delivered using existing and future feed mills



A/P Sonia Liu



A/P Peter Selle



**Sub-program 3:** Evaluation of intestinal populations of *Clostridium perfringens*

- Zinc bacitracin and an ionophore
- standard and reduced-CP diets



Knowledge to manage and reduce the risk of necrotic enteritis and improve litter quality

# Research Program 3b

## Innovative diet formulations

**Sub-program 2:** local protein-rich ingredients



- Canola meal
- Canola seed
- MBM
- chickpeas, lupins, lentils and faba beans
- Protein concentrate
- Other protein meals



Short-term and long-term industry applicable broiler diet with reduced SBM and CP content that can be delivered using existing and future feed mills



A/P Tim Wester



A/P Reza Abdollahi



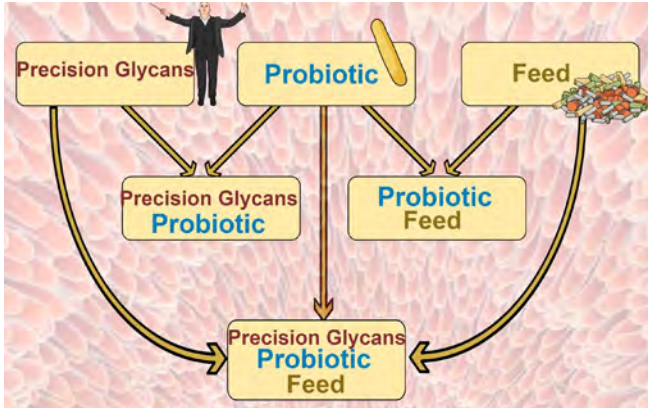
TE KUNENGA  
KI PŪREHUROA | MASSEY  
UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND



# Research Program 4



Prof Dana Stanley



## Precision Early Gut Microbiota Development

Paradigm shift from microbiota (taxa) to function



Total control of the first 3 days of colonisation by

- Using precision-made glycans to control pathogenic functional groups
- Providing environment enriched with beneficial bacteria
- Providing pathogen free feed in the first 3 days of gut colonisation

Focus points:

- Vegetarian diet; immune function modeling
- Control of leaky gut and diarrhea
- Total gut colonization control including upper GIT



Fully controlled colonisation of the broiler gut with beneficial, pathogen resistant microbial community for improved gut health and impeccable immune response



# Research Program 5

## Litter management



Dr Mark Dunlop

### Sub-program 1: Reducing water addition to litter

- Monitor water intake and excretion during nutrition trials
- Quality score litter using AGF protocol
- Correlate with welfare measures



**Sub-program 2:** Increasing water evaporation - develop algorithms to relate evaporation to in-shed conditions and activity (build on PPRJ-011502) and test strategies to enhance evaporation



**Sub-program 3:** Litter amendments and reused litter and their impact on ammonia emissions



**Sub-program 4:** Spatial and temporal environment monitoring and faecal assessment using commercially available robot in research facility and commercial trial site



Reduce litter moisture through reduced excretion by chickens and optimised removal from litter to reduce environmental impacts whilst supporting production and improving welfare

# Research Program 6

## Integration program



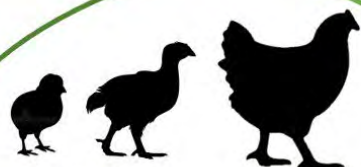
Prof Ruth Zadoks



### Societal benefits (P5)



- Enhancing food safety
- Reducing antimicrobial use
- Improving health & welfare



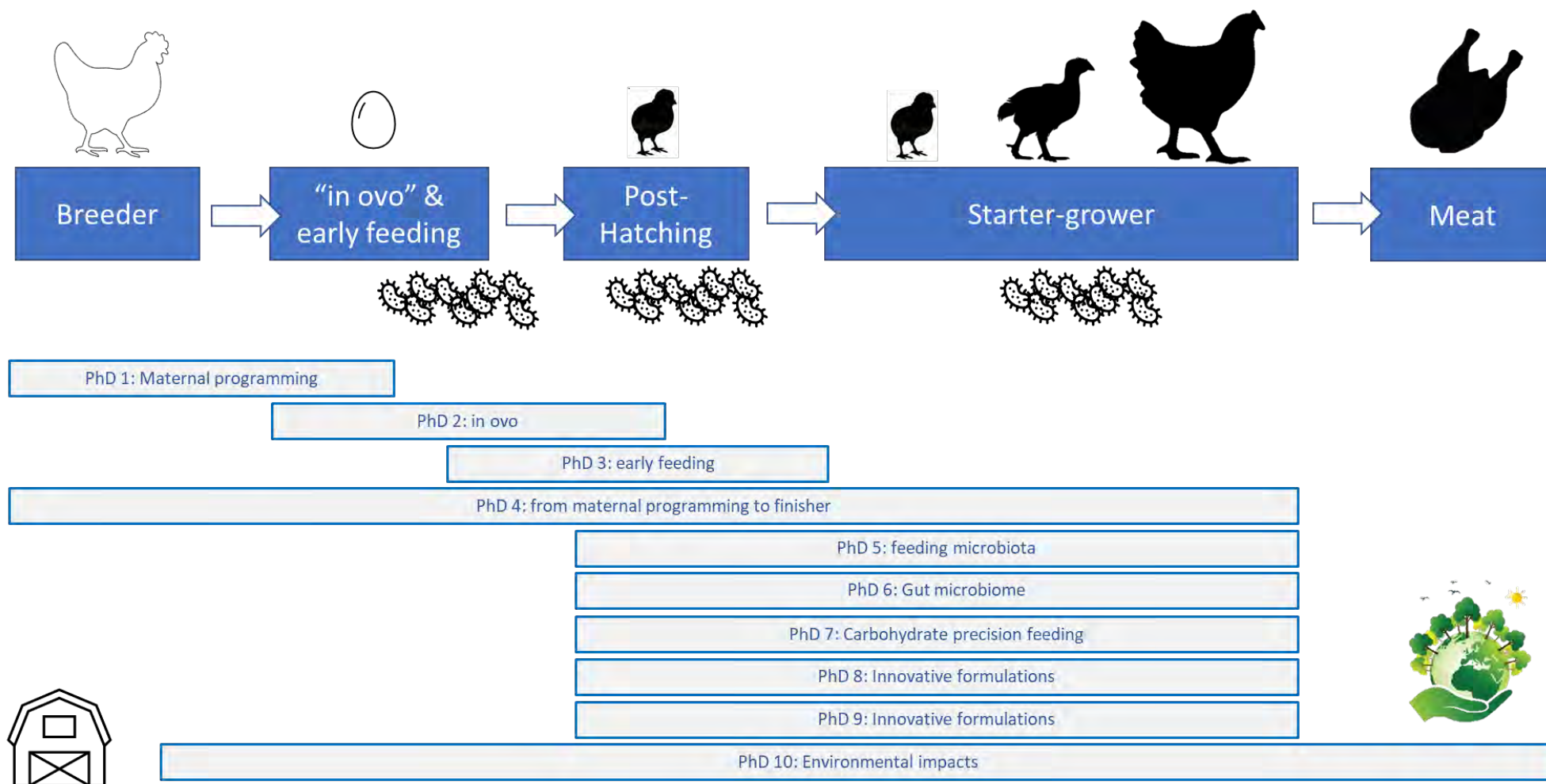
- Reducing soy bean meal
- Improving feed conversion
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> footprint

### Environmental benefits (P6)



- Reducing odour
- Reducing emissions
- Improving litter quality

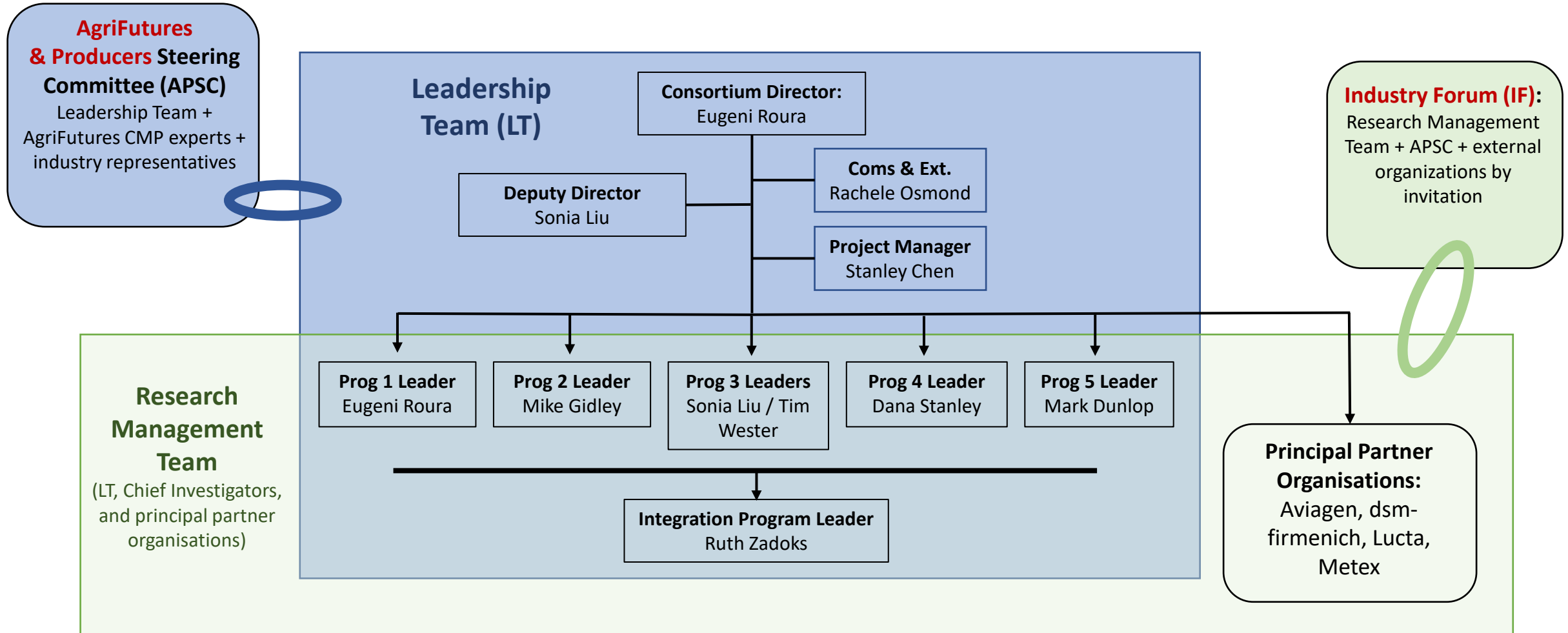
# HDR & IPP programs



# Who's involved



# Governance & Management structure





# Steering Committee

Members	Representative	Comments/expertise
Katherine Balding	Chair Chicken Meat Panel / Baiada	Nutrition & Production Chain
Karen Gurney	Chicken Meat Panel / Golden Cockerel	Nutrition
Nick Rodgers	Inghams	Nutrition
Peter Chrystal	Consultant	Nutrition
Matt Hilliar	Turosi	Production Chain
Mary Wu	Australian Chicken Meat Federation	Production Chain
Christine Sydenham	Ridley	Nutrition
Sheridan Alfirevich	Inghams	Pathology (gut health) in ovo
Brian Astridge	Chicken Meat Panel / Turosi	Sustainability and welfare
Amanda Olthof	AgriFutures Australia	Management
Sarika Pandya	AgriFutures Australia	Management
Eugeni Roura	Consortium Director/Program 1 Lead	Nutrition
Sonia Liu	Consortium Deputy Director/Program 3 Lead	Nutrition
Mike Gidley	Consortium Program 2 Lead	Nutrition
Tim Wester	Consortium Program 3 Lead	Nutrition
Peter Selle	Consortium Program 3 Advisor	Nutrition
Reza Abdollahi	Consortium Program 3 Advisor	Nutrition
Dana Stanley	Consortium Program 4 Lead	Gut microbiome
Mark Dunlop	Consortium Program 5 Lead	Animal production environment
Ruth Zadoks	Consortium Program 6 Lead	Production animal health
Stanley Chen	Consortium Manager	Management
Rachele Osmond	Communication and Extension Manager	Communication and Extension

# International Collaborators





## Consortium Leadership Team

Name	Role	Contact
Prof Eugeni Roura	Consortium Director & Program 1 Lead	<a href="mailto:e.roura@uq.edu.au">e.roura@uq.edu.au</a>
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Ms Rachele Osmond	Communication & Extension Manager	<a href="mailto:rachele.osmond@daf.qld.gov.au">rachele.osmond@daf.qld.gov.au</a>