



Primary Growth Partnership: Dairy Post - Farm Gate Programme Executive Summary (January - March 2012)

The overall programme is continuing to gain momentum. Key appointments are being made and teams incorporating academia and commercial interests are working together.

Professor Sally Poppitt has been appointed to the Fonterra Chair of Human Nutrition. The Chair will divide her time between Auckland and the Riddet Institute in Palmerston North, so that she is readily available to the nutrition teams in both locations, and to allow her to forge a strong interaction with the other Fonterra Chairs in Dairy Science and Food Material Science going forward. She will continue part-time as co-Director of the Auckland University Human Nutrition Unit.

Kiwifruit-related work is progressing, despite the need for ZESPRI to focus on the PSA outbreak.

In "Creating and Managing Food Structures" a good start to building the collaborative culture has been made. The current project portfolio spans across three universities in New Zealand and two universities in Australia. Current planning includes a post-doctoral project (and possibly another PhD project) with a leading food engineering lab in the world. The programme is also modelling a cross-university Core Supervisor Group (two supervisors at Massey University and one supervisor at Auckland University) across a set of 8 projects to further develop the collaboration model.

Protein is an essential part of the human diet. Understanding not only its place in nutrition but also the quality of the protein source is important if a person's nutritional needs are to be met. However, a survey of consumer knowledge indicates limited knowledge of dairy as a protein source, and almost no knowledge of the importance of protein quality. These insights will shape future work within the programme.

Within the food manufacturing & supply chain the use of industrial statistics has a vital underpinning role. There is a strong interdependence between statistically based conformity assessment and quality management and compliance principles. The appointment of a senior Fonterra statistician to a research fellowship at Massey University has served to strengthen the link between academic and industrial areas of application. This, along with strong engagement with MPI has afforded excellent direction and ensures on-going alignment of the statistics research towards the ultimate goal of being able to guide international standard development in the area.