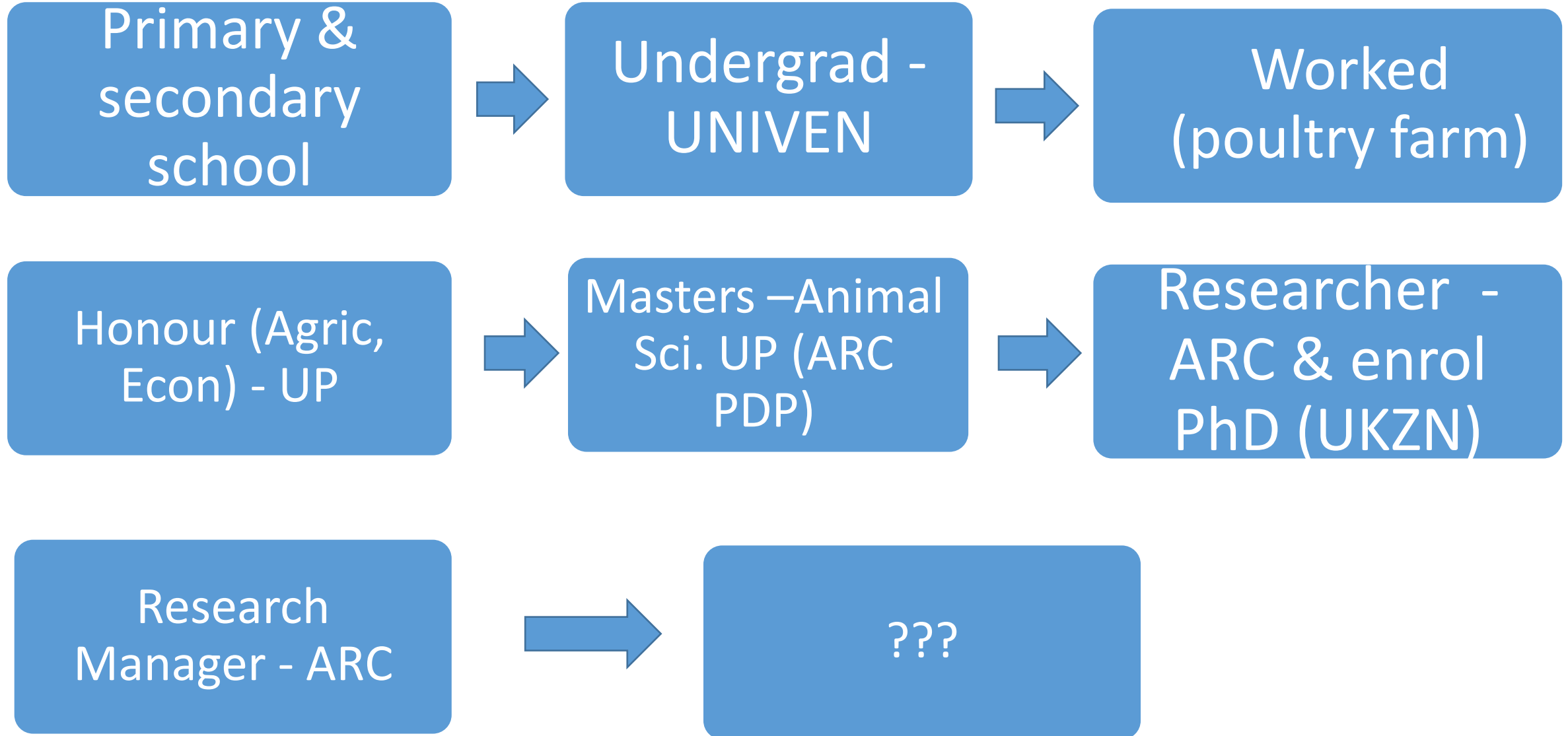


# Choosing a career path

**Julius Tjelele**

**Agricultural Research Council – Animal Production Institute**

# The route Julius Tjelele travelled thus far...



Understand the **implications of your decision** and the **options at your disposal** should you wish to change direction

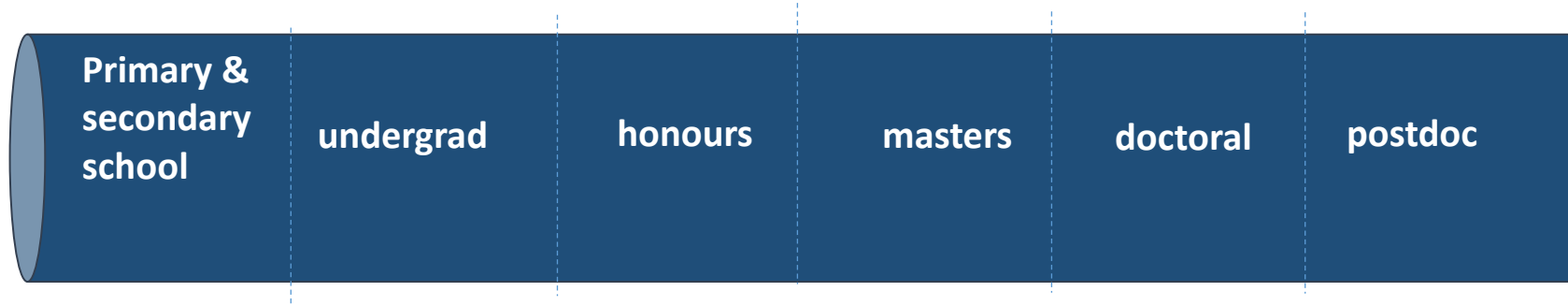


**Choosing a career is a mammoth task..**



Most likely to **succeed in a career** you  
need to **understand what you need** to do  
in order to **grow to the next level**

# Pipeline development programme



- Youth outreach
- Experiential learning
- High level skills
- Source external funding
- Supervision of students

# Career options - PhD

## **Research** (science council, government or university)

- Senior Researcher, specialist scientist, principal researcher, chief scientist

## **Research Management Career** (science council, government or university)

- Program Manager, Head of Department or School, Senior Manager, Director or Dean

- ❑ There are few scientists with PhD produced in South Africa in rangelands/grasslands science
- ❑ This is exacerbated by researchers moving to management position (e.g. salary), retirements or changing careers
- ❑ It is even worse when this happens without proper planning - individuals/institutions



# Choosing a career path

- Self assessment
- Don't be afraid to ask – engage mentor
- Study...
- Professional resume
- Choose a career – interest/passion, reliable career or salary?

# Researcher/Manager

- Develop a career plan
- Develop skills required for your career
- Build a track record

# Conclusion

- Career choice is in our hands – self assessment
- It takes time to build a research track record
- ✓ Avail ourselves for opportunities e.g. GSSA council, funding opportunities
- ✓ Mentor/s

**It is never too late to correct the wrong  
career path we pursued**