Research, Policy and Data/Knowledge
Background Survey

Why conduct this Survey?: Use this as an opportunity to provide combined views from colleagues around the Pacific involved in some form of research to inform discussions on this topic.

Target group: Participants of Iris’s workshops, courses and research as well as Dr Parmendra’s research collaborators.

Timeframe: 1 week (last week).

Responses:
- 200 colleagues were invited to provide their views.
- 114 responded.
- 39% females; 61% males
- Include Central Banks, Ministry of Finance, Treasuries, NSOs, Revenue and Tax Offices, PSC, PMs Office.
- Various positions: analysts, managers, economists, director, statistician, auditor
Do you think your institution needs a stronger research environment/culture?

- Yes: 89%
- Do not know/Not sure: 2%
- Maybe: 9%

In your view, is policy advice evidence based?

- As much evidence based as possible: 54%
- Do not know/Not sure: 39%
- Not at all evidence based: 4%
- Somewhat evidence based: 3%

Do you think that having reliable and trustworthy research is important to senior management for evidence-based policy making?

- Very important: 89%
- Somewhat important: 8%
- Important: 3%
- Somewhat evidence based: 2%
What factors encourage you to carry out research in your organization?

- Self-learning, training and further studies are supported: 90
- Research is part of key performance indicators: 70
- Research is included in the organizational policy: 60
- Senior management promote, value and reward research: 60
- Research collaborations are promoted: 50
- There is a dedicated research unit which one can be attached to: 20
- Research is not encouraged: 10
What factors limit your ability to carry out research?

- There are no limiting factors
- Research is not encouraged
- Internet challenges
- Lack of software
- Access to research journals
- Require assistance with reviewing and providing feedback on research
- Econometrical/technical and research skills
- Staff shortage
- Data availability, access and reliability
- Competing priorities
Do you believe that your institution/department has adequate capacity to conduct independent and rigorous policy-oriented research?

- Yes: 88%
- Maybe: 10%
- No: 2%
- Do not know/Not sure: 4%

Would research collaboration with regional colleagues/peers, universities, development partners like IMF/PFTAC, central banks help to convey research results into policy outcomes in your institution/department?

- Yes: 88%
- Maybe: 2%
- Do not know/Not sure: 10%
What current policy question/topic would you find helpful to have empirical work done on?

- Tourism
- Statistics
- Private sector development
- External Sector/Trade
- Natural disasters
- Primary sector (Agriculture, fishing, tourism, Mining)
- Labor market
- Tax Policy
- Financial sector development
- Other (e.g. Housing, Stock take of policy effectiveness, Growth)
- Fiscal Policy
- Monetary policy (e.g. transmission mechanism, inflation)
Looking ahead, what economic research topics do you think will be relevant to your country?

- Tourism
- Natural disasters
- Resource Rent
- Trade
- Private sector development
- Poverty Reduction, macroeconomic resilience
- Labor market
- Statistics
- Taxation
- Primary sector (Agriculture, fishing, tourism, Mining)
- Others (Forecasting, derisking, Sovereign wealth...)
- Financial sector development-SME
- Growth
- Fiscal Policy & Gov debt
- Monetary policy & its effectiveness
Data

In your view is the National Statistics Office in your country as compared to others, appropriately resourced to:

### All countries (Excl. Fiji and Samoa)

- **Compile key statistics in a timely manner according to a publication schedule**
- **Compile key statistics**
- **Access the necessary source data to compile statistics**
- **Publish data and methodology on the National Statistics Office’s website**
- **Keep up with methodology improvements**

### Samoa and Fiji

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In your view, which of the following would encourage more data and knowledge sharing within your organization, organizations in your country and externally?

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) for data exchanges and research collaboration
- Participating in research conferences
- Secondment or attachment opportunities
- More accessible data via streamlined databases (internally)
- More regional data sharing
- Improved conference call technology
- Please specify other potential methods.
Thank you