

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features three blue circles of varying sizes, each with a lighter blue outer ring and a darker blue inner circle. These circles are arranged vertically, with the largest at the top, a medium one in the middle, and the largest at the bottom. Thin blue lines intersect the circles and extend across the page.

**Parastatal Organisations
and Ministries involved
in Research in Mauritius**

Working Paper NRFE 03/11

1.0 Introduction

The report reviews parastatal organizations and ministries in Mauritius, mandated to be involved in research. A web search of the strategic plans of the different existing ministries and parastatal organizations in Mauritius was carried out. A mapping exercise was carried out to identify the institutions involved in research activities and these have been listed below and classified under the following categories: agriculture, education and training, health, marine & oceanography science, ICT, social and economic and employment. This mapping exercise is on the research mandates of these institutions and should be read in conjunction with the 'Matrix of Science, Technology & Innovation Institutional Competencies'¹ to have a more comprehensive picture. Refer to Annex 1 and Annex 2 for the list of parastatal organizations and ministries and their respective research activities.

2.0 Agriculture

Organizations such as the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU), Food Agricultural Research Council (FARC) and Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) conduct agricultural-based research projects. AREU, FARC and, MSIRI research projects ensure that government policy requirements, in terms of agricultural diversification and food production are met. In addition, such research projects provide better insights about the agricultural, commercial and, societal needs of the citizens.

3.0 Education and Training

Educational and training institutions, for instance, the Mauritius College of the Air (MCA), the Mauritius Examination Syndicate (MES), the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), the University of Mauritius (UOM), University of Technology (UTM), the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and, the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology carry out educational-based research. MCA promotes education, arts, science and culture generally through

¹ The forthcoming Delphi survey with its component on 'Capacity Mapping' will further complement this current exercise.

the mass media and distance education methods. MIE endorses the advancement of knowledge and innovation in education through research. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources conducts research and development in Early Childhood Care & Education and for effective Human Resource Development in order to encourage innovation and inform policy decisions.

4.0 Health

The National Agency For The Treatment And Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers (NATReSA), the Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH) and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (MOH) perform research studies related to the assessment of health needs and the demands for health care, the distribution and the utilization of resources and Health Services Management. The NATReSA carries out effective programmes with different target groups on Substance Abuse Prevention and provide treatment and rehabilitation to substance abusers. Thus, health-related research contributes to decision-making on health problems in the community and the efficient functioning of the health care system.

5.0 Marine and Oceanography Science

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) carries out marine science research so as to enhance understanding of ocean and coastal processes, for the rational development of marine resources, within the maritime zone of the Republic of Mauritius. Albion Fisheries Research Centre carries out research on modern aquaculture development, the coastal marine ecosystems and water quality. The Albion Fisheries Research Centre contributes to the sustainable use of coastal marine resources and fishery resources.

6.0 ICT

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre and, the National Computer Board (NCB) conduct science and technology-related research in order to be in synch with the continuous developments taking place within the digital economy, to create awareness on impact of Science and

Technology in society and, to build the necessary expertise base for consolidating the information technology industry in Mauritius respectively. The Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology promote and fund research projects in science and technology.

7.0 Social and Economic

The National Economic and Social Council (NESC), the Centre for Applied and Social Research (CASR), the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Reform Institutions(MOSS) and, Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare consider social and economic related research issues. The CASR provide barometric measures on such issues as financial well-being and stability, access to financial services, employment, health, education, demographic and economic variables.

8.0 Employment

The Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF) and the Small and Medium Enterprise and Handicraft Development Authority (SMEDA) are involved in enterprise-related research issues so as to provide insightful analysis of economic and labour market trends; to promote a learning society and to develop a centre of excellence through the provision of up to date quality education and training.

9.0 University of Mauritius

The University of Mauritius (UOM), being an institution in the tertiary education, focuses on different research areas such as Agriculture; Economic/Business; Environment; ICT; Medicine, Science & Technology; Social, Cultural & Heritage Studies; Training Programmes/Short courses, that contribute to the socio-economic development of Mauritius within the global economy through consultancy and contract research services to local and regional clients. Refer to Table 1 for the list of departments functioning under different faculties at the UOM.

Table1: List of faculties and their respective departments at the University of Mauritius.

Faculties	Departments
Faculty of Agriculture	Agricultural Production & Systems
	Agriculture and Food Science
Faculty of Engineering	Chemical & Environmental Engineering
	Civil Engineering
	Computer Science & Engineering
	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
	Mechanical & Production Engineering
	Textile Technology
Faculty of Law and Management	Finance & Accounting
	Law
	Management
Faculty of Science	Biosciences
	Chemistry
	Health Sciences
	Mathematics
	Medicine
	Physics
Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities	Economics & Statistics
	English Studies
	French Studies

	History & Political Science
	Social Studies

10.0 University of Technology, Mauritius

The University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) consists of three main schools as listed in Table 2.

Table2: List of schools and their respective departments at the University of Technology, Mauritius.

Schools	Departments
School of Innovative Technologies and Engineering (SIT)	Department of Business Informatics and Software Engineering
	Department of Industrial Systems Engineering
	Department of Applied Mathematical Sciences
School of Business Management and Finance (SBMF)	Department of Public Policy and Management
	Department of Economics and Finance
School of Sustainable Development and Tourism (SSDT)	

11.0 Mauritius Research Council

The Mauritius Research Council (MRC) coordinates research in the scientific, technological, social and economic areas for societal benefit and to act as an advisory of Government, advising on science and technology issues. The different priority areas of research have been listed in Table 3 as shown below.

Table 3: List of priority areas of research at the Mauritius Research Council

Priority Areas of Research
Development of Ocean Technology and Marine Resources
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Waste Management and Waste Recycling
Biomedical and Biopharmaceutical Research based on indigenous resources
Science and Technology Education
Social and Economic Issues
Information and Communications Technology
Land & Land Use
Manufacturing Technology
Water Resources
Financial Services

The MRC also conducts social research through its Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR).

12.0 Conclusion

Not all the institutions named above are necessarily undertaking sustained research in the fields mentioned above. This current exercise is just a mapping of the research areas that these institutions are mandated to carry-out/support research in.

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Annex 1: List of parastatal organizations and institutions carrying out research in Mauritius and details about their respective area of research.

Name of Organisations/Institutions	Mandate [Research & others]	Purpose & use of research output	Focus Area of Research
Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)	Crop Research, Livestock Research, Extension and Training	Ensures that Good Agricultural Practices are passed on to progressive and new growers. For better agricultural production, and to meet the policy requirements of the government in terms of agricultural diversification and food production generally.	non-sugar agricultural sector (crops, livestock) and food production
Food Agricultural Research Council (FARC)	hydroponics, village laitier project, 500 arpents scheme, biosafety framework; research on crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, natural resources, and the socio-economic aspects of primary agricultural production; pre and post-farm aspects such as input supply and post-harvest or food-processing	to provide research-based policy advice and to develop national strategies for research & development in the Agri-food sector and its natural resource base, aiming towards enhancing the competitiveness, sustainability and consumer interest of the national Agri-food system and quality of life	agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food production
Information and Communication Technologies Authority	implementation of 3G mobile in Mauritius	to be in synch with the continuous developments taking place within the digital	ICT, market research

(ICTA)		economy	
Mandela Centre	Research analysis on Creole cultures in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean region; history of Rodrigues from slavery period up to the present day; slavery in Mauritius; study of the Creole culinary traditions of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Chagos; a study of the life, music and songs of Alphonse Ravaton; history of maroons in Isle de France - Mauritius		African related- history, -literature, -religion, -oral tradition, -culture, -philosophy, -economy, -sociology
Mauritius College of the Air (MCA)	development of distance education in Mauritius; Mauritius country report on Distance Learning and E-Learning; improving quality of distance education through tutor training; towards an integrated early childhood education strategy for the Mauritius Institute of Education	to promote education, arts, science and culture generally through mass media and distance education methods.	open distance learning
Mauritius Examination Syndicate (MES)	prepares examination reports for appropriate feedback to teachers, learners, examiners and curriculum developers; provides academic support to the Ministry on various projects in the reforms of education such as Numeracy and Literacy, School Leaving Assessment at 16	To improve: the validity and reliability of examinations; the mechanics of conducting examinations; syllabuses and teaching-learning strategies; assessment schemes, question papers and marking criteria; standards of performance and	Educational research

	years	the award system like grading	
Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE)	Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA), Graduate Tracer Study, Teaching Aids	Promoting advancement of knowledge and innovation in education through research	Educational research
Mauritius Institute of Health (MIH)	African Tobacco Situational analysis (ATSA) Project; Development of a Communication Assessment Protocol for Young Children with Cleft and /or Palate in Mauritius; Study on Violence in Public Hospitals in Mauritius; Youth Health Risk Behaviour Survey in the Republic of Mauritius; Health Research System Analysis Institutional Survey; HIV Infection and Risk Behaviours among Seafarers in the Indian Ocean; Medicine Prices and Availability Survey in Mauritius; "Etude Socio Comportementale au VIH et au SIDA parmi les Marins des Pays Membres de la Commission de l'Océan Indien; An Evaluation Study of Methadone Substitution Therapy in Mauritius; National Cancer Registry	To contribute to decision making on health problems in the community and the efficient functioning of the health care system. The studies relate to the assessment of health needs and the demands for health care, the distribution and utilisation of resources and Health services Management	Health Systems / Services Research, epidemiological and evaluative studies of health programmes
Mauritius Institute of Training and Development	offer training courses and consultancy services	To improve employability and work performance through	10 vocational fields: Engineering;

(MITD)		innovative training solutions.	Hospitality, Tourism & Leisure; Hairdressing and Beauty Care Therapy; Textile; Jewelry; Printing; Business Administration; Transport; Wood Technology
Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI)	Study of the Quaternary Geomorphology of Mauritius and Rodrigues; Molecular barcoding of Marine Organisms in the Republic of Mauritius; Continental Shelf Project; African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development; Oil and Gas Exploration; Modelling & mapping oceanic processes of South West Indian Ocean: a satellite-based approach; Bioprospecting Mauritius waters; Ballast Water; Bathymetric survey of the shallow lagoons of Mauritius and Rodrigues; Genetic connectivity and its implications for the design and management of marine protected areas in the East African Ecoregion; Development of a	to enhance understanding of ocean and coastal processes, for rational development of marine resources, within the maritime zone of the Republic of Mauritius	Marine Science research

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	<p>pilot project for coral farming for tourism, export, education, research and conservation; Feasibility of Pearl Oyster Culture in Mauritius; Geo-spatial Information system for Habitat Mapping of South Eastern coast of Mauritius; Inventory of the Coral Fauna of Mauritius; Coral Recruitment; Bioprospecting; Database of marine organisms of Mauritius; Evolutionary and population genetics of scleractinian corals.</p>		
Mauritius Qualification Authority (MQA)			Education and Training
Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB)	<p>Quality Management System; Food Safety System; Environmental Management System</p>	<p>To promote and provide market relevant Standards, Metrology and internationally recognized Conformity Assessment Services for the Business Community, Government and Society at large</p>	Training

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Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA)		To conduct research into market trends and market opportunities and disseminate such information and other relevant statistical data on Mauritius.	Market research
National Agency For The Treatment And Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers (NATRESA)	School; Youth; Family; Vulnerable groups; Workplace; Recreational Activities; Community Programmes; Local Authorities; HIV/Aids Prevention, etc “Patterns and Trends of Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Mauritius”	To carry out effective programmes with different target groups on Substance Abuse Prevention and to provide treatment and rehabilitation to substance abusers.	Research on the impact of substance abuse
National Computer Board (NCB)	Roadmap for the ICT Sector; ICT Outlook 2002; ICT Usage Survey 2001; IT Household Survey 2000; IT Household Survey 1998; IT Supplier Survey; IT Market Survey 1993; IT Survey in the textile industry – 1993; IT Survey in the tourism industry – 1993; IT User Survey - 1991	In order to build the necessary expertise base for consolidating the information technology industry in Mauritius.	Information technology
Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre	Young Scientist Workshop; Sky Observation	To create awareness on impact of Science and Technology in society.	Science and Technology
Small Enterprises and Handicraft Development Authority (SEHDA)			Small Enterprise Training

Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)	Participation in Tertiary Education; Profile of New Entrants to Tertiary Education; List of Indicative Priority Fields of Study; Research in Tertiary Education: An Indicative List of Themes; Graduate Tracer Study 2008; The Mauritius Tertiary Education Sector: Existing and Proposed Linkages; Investment, Employment, Enrolment and Programmes in Private Post Secondary Education Institutions in Mauritius; List of Contemporary Issues; Resource Utilisation Audit of the SDIM and IST	to ensure that resources being channeled to the sector are judiciously and optimally utilised	Support research in the tertiary education sector
University of Mauritius	Mandated to carry research	To provide expert Consultancy and Contract Research services to local and regional clients so as to contribute to the socio-economic development of Mauritius within the global economy	Agriculture; Economic/Business; Environment; ICT; Medicine, Science & Technology; Social, Cultural & Heritage Studies; Training
University of Technology, Mauritius	Mandated to carry research	To cooperate with government and business in developing lifelong learning, research and consultancy	Business, Management & Finance; Sustainable Development & Tourism; Innovative Technologies and

			Engineering; Health Sciences.
Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI)	soil and plant nutrition; plant physiology; irrigation; mechanization; cultural operations; weed agronomy; land resources; biotechnology; plant breeding; entomology; diversification; plant pathology; herbarium; technology & engineering; extension & economics	To meet the agricultural, commercial, and societal needs of Mauritius.	R&D on sugar cane and other crops: crop improvement, crop protection, biotechnology, crop management, crop mechanization, environment and natural resource management, crop diversification, economics, technology transfer, sugar technology and sugar engineering.

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National Economic and Social Council (NESC)	Maintaining the Green Cover of Mauritius; Green Paper on Equal Access to Justice; A Reform in Legal Aid in Mauritius; An Investigation into Food Safety in Mauritius; Integration into the Global Economy: Socio-Economic Challenges and Policy Implications for Mauritius; Blueprint for the Energy Sector; The Crisis at Air Mauritius; The Employment of Foreign Workers in Mauritius; Environment Management; A Critical Overview of the Pharmaceutical Sector in Mauritius;		Economic Affairs; Infrastructure, Physical Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development; and Social Affairs and Human Resource Development.
Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF)		To provide insightful analysis of economic and labour market trends; to promote a learning society and to develop a centre of excellence through the provision of up to date quality education and training.	Enterprise-related issues; Education and training issues

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Mauritius Research Council (MRC)	Biomedical and Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Land & Land Use, Manufacturing Technology, Ocean Technology and Marine Resources, Science & Technology Education, Social/Economic, Water Resources, Waste Management and Water Recycling	To generate relevant new knowledge; to pioneer, coordinate and exploit research for societal benefit; to act as a professional agency of Government, advising on future development.	scientific, technological, social and economic areas
Albion Fisheries Research Centre	Monitor and carry out research on the different fisheries; Production of juvenile of the giant fresh water prawn, <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> ; and Production of berri rouge (<i>Oreochromis sp</i>) fingerlings; research in modern aquaculture development; research on the coastal marine ecosystems and water quality.	To ensure the sustainable use of the fishery resources; To improve aquaculture techniques and technology for the production of quality seed; to contribute to sustainable use of coastal marine resources.	
Centre for Applied and Social Research (CASR)	Mauritius Social Attitudes Survey	To provide barometric measures on such issues as financial well-being and stability, access to financial services, employment, health, education, inequality, family dynamics, local environment, social network and capital and	academic, public policy and socio-economic

		other socio-demographic and economic variables.	
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Annex 2: List of Ministries carrying out/using research output in Mauritius and details about their respective area of research.

Ministry	Mandate [Research & others]	Purpose of Research	Focus Area of Research
Ministry of Health and Quality of Life		Research will focus on the performance of the health services to respond to health needs, the changing pattern of health and service delivery.	Health System Research

<p>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Sustainable Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Mauritius; Brief on C Accord for Mauritius Science Portal; Brief on Carbon Footprint; Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism (CD4CDM) project first national workshop; Capacity Development for Clean Development Mechanism (CD4CDM) project second national workshop; WIOLaB Project ; National Oil Spill Contingency Plan</p>		
<p>Ministry of Tourism and Leisure</p>	<p>Economic and social indicator on international travel and tourism; Leaflet on tourism statistics; Digest of International travel and tourism; Handbook of statistical data on tourism; Survey of outgoing tourists</p>		<p>Calculation of room and bed occupancy rates; Estimation of tourist nights; Short term projections of tourist arrivals; Tabulating departure of Mauritian residents by country visited; Conducting and processing the bi-ennial "Survey of Outgoing Tourists</p>
<p>Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, Reform Institutions,</p>			<p>Research on social issues</p>

Gender Equality, child Development and Family Welfare			
Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection	The establishment of renewable energy and recycling related enterprises in Mauritius; the possibility of establishing bio-technology enterprises in Mauritius; development of bio-informatics, clinical research and bio-medical including bio-materials; the opportunity to establish "green" competitive logistics of transportation between Mauritius and Europe; the possibilities of setting up Mauritius as an air transportation hub between East Asia and African countries; to gather data on the social and family structures that may reinforce the basis of competitive production in Mauritius.		
Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology			Research in Science and Technology
Ministry of Education and Human Resources	Research and development in Early Childhood Care & Education; research and development for effective Human Resource Development; teacher research	To encourage innovation and inform policy decisions; for the betterment of schools	Educational research

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	research by the Central Statistics Office (CSO): Continuous Multi- Purpose Household Survey; 2011 Housing and Population Census; Construction Price Index -2nd Quarter 2011; ICTStatistics - Year 2010; Crime, Justice & Security Statistics -Year 2010; Environment Statistics -Year 2010 research by the Financial Services Commission (FSC):		Economic & Social Indicators, Digests of Statistics, Census & Survey reports, Mauritius in Figures
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