

Pacific Regional Innovation Network: Tonga Innovation Report and Proposed Innovation Work Plan 2020-2025

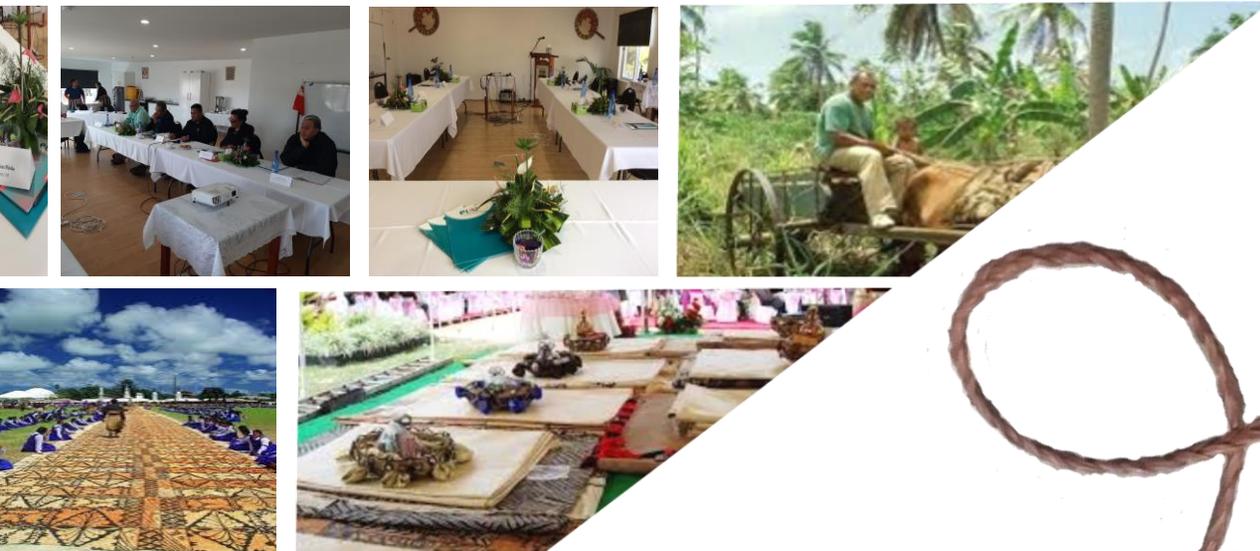
Innovating Tonga by unravelling life challenges (*fakapona*) in the local context

Hosted by USP-Tonga Campus on behalf of the Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) project in partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP)

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Acknowledgement

This report acknowledges the information, opinions and ideas of participants collated from a three (3) half day *Talanoa* workshop with no claim of ownership. While this report is for intended purposes explained in the Introduction and not for any other publications, citing of ideas in the content must be authorized by the Research Office of the University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji.

Due credit and gratitude is extended to participating stakeholders for their valuable contributions.

'Oku mau hounga'ia he talanoa malie mo e vahevahe ho'o mou fakakaukau.'
(We appreciate the wonderful *talanoa* and the sharing of your ideas).



Introduction

PRIN wishes to support and develop innovation in the region through collaboration between the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This joint partnership provides strategic roles in constructing and improving Pacific islands' innovation to support regional development. Therefore, this *Talanoa* workshop is about innovation for Tongans and the *Talanoa* was initiated to better comprehend the followings:

- Innovation in Tonga and how best to support it in the local context;
- stakeholders' needs and expectations on innovation in Tonga;
- how to build and strengthen collaboration amongst stakeholders in support of innovation in Tonga;
- the priority areas relevant for supporting and developing the strategic focus of innovation in Tonga.

This report is probably the first of its kind to document locals' voices and stories on innovation based on their own understanding and experiences of innovation at country level. *Talanoa* was conducted to incorporate a range of voices and stories from communities, government agencies, private sectors, women/youth groups, and faith-based organisations into the formation of Phase 1. The findings from the *Talanoa* form the basis for Tonga's first Innovation Work Plan for 2020-2025, given on page 30.

Phase 1 of PRIN prepares the groundwork for Phase 2, a possibility to establish an innovation hub that is more meaningful to the types of innovation relevant for Tonga's socio-cultural, economic and educational development. The idea is to build and strengthen collaborations among government and key stakeholders who are responsible for supporting the innovative capacity of Tonga and its citizens.

The initial plan for this *Talanoa* workshop was for a combined team from the USP and UNDP to travel to Tonga to facilitate the workshop. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions in the Pacific region including Tonga, plans had to change. The actual implementation was undertaken by a team from the USP Tonga campus. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has constituted an unprecedented challenge, it was also a good opportunity to strengthen locals' capacity in project management and implementation. The team consisted of a project coordinator, an analyst, a report writer/work plan drafter, and two support staff.

Talanoa Method

Talanoa: To tell, record then share innovation in Tonga

“Appreciative and thankful. Talanoa Workshop’s purpose is very clear. First time for Talanoa on Innovation to take place. To me- this is an opportunity for us church leaders not to be threatened. We are in a new era- we have to engage in Talanoa, do it with good intention, bigger heart and hope...”

(Group 1, Day 3)



Talanoa is an ancestral and customary platform that allows Tongans within close relatives or between strangers to voice, dialogue, discuss, solve, inform or tell their views and stories on any given *kaveinga* (topics) or issues. Central in the process of *Talanoa* are key core values of a Tongan such as respect, love and loyalty. *Talanoa* is considered as one of the most effective and friendly ways of exchanging views, stories and problem solving strategies among Tongans. The team had collectively agreed to adopt the *Talanoa* method to collect information about innovation in both country and community level for the following reasons:

- *Talanoa* is a Tongan concept and is therefore appropriate to locals in the Tongan context;
- *Talanoa* creates a safe space where Tongan stakeholders are guaranteed respect thereby able to express their views freely;
- *Talanoa* is a familiar method to Tongan stakeholders hence further generates a sense of ownership and belonging;
- *Talanoa* can encourage stakeholders to examine and evaluate innovation status within country level critically;
- *Talanoa* can establish and sustain warm relationships amongst stakeholders even during debates, with a showcase of respect and understanding of another's points constructively, during and after the *Talanoa* session;
- *Talanoa* promotes upbuilding ideas revolving around participants' proposed and presented ideas.

Thirty-five (35) Invitations (refer to Appendix C) were extended to stakeholders at senior level from Government ministries, Non-profit organisations and Faith based-groups in Tonga to participate in the *Talanoa* workshop. A total of twenty-four (24) stakeholders (refer to Appendix A) attended. The distribution of stakeholders has been illustrated in the graphs below. Figure 1 shows the number of participants that had attended with the gender distribution. The total of attendees has an even proportion of male and female, twelve (12) each, resulting in a fair distribution and a gender balanced view of innovation in Tonga.

In accordance with COVID-19 protocols and restrictions imposed by the Government of Tonga of less than twenty (20) people gatherings, participants were organised into small groups of three (3) clusters consisting of ten (10) stakeholders based on the nature of the ministries and organisations. Homogenous cluster allows for in-depth ideas on innovation in Tonga, as parallel to the critical discussions made.



Figure 1

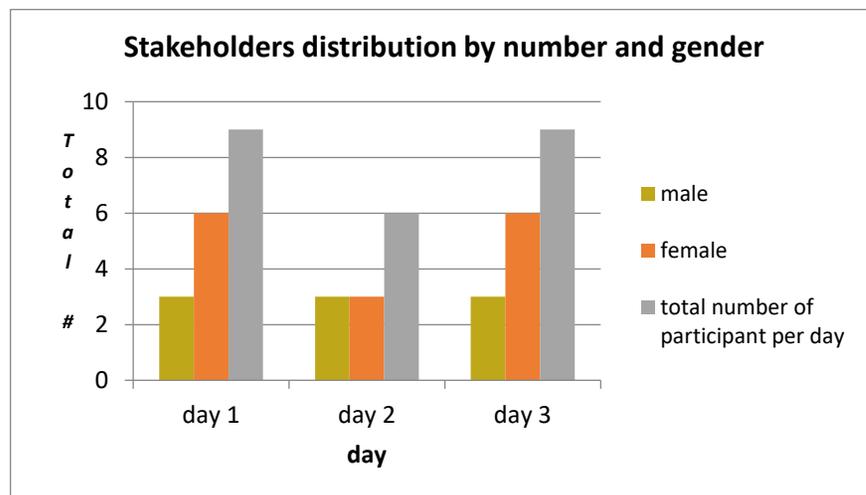
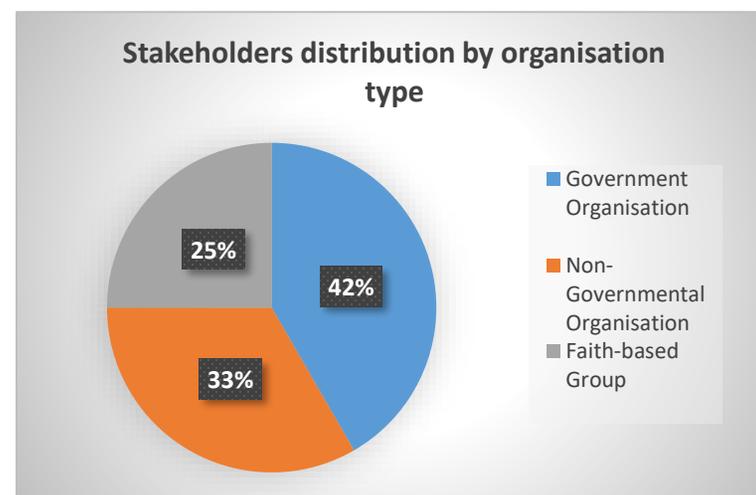


Figure 2 shows the distribution of stakeholders by organization type. The highest number of Stakeholders is forty-two (42) per cent from Government organisations, indicating that the Government of Tonga has the most organisations/ministries in the whole of Tonga, establishing that the government could play a major role towards Innovation support at both country and community level. Of these, thirty-three (33) per cent and twenty-five (25) per cent were from Non-Governmental Organisations and Faith-based groups respectively.

The structure of the *Talanoa* was aligned to the questionnaire (refer to Appendix B) formulated by the Research Office whereby three main themes were extracted to lead the *Talanoa* discussions.

- Stakeholders' understanding of innovation in the local context;
- Supporting innovation in the local context;
- Way forward.

Figure 2



Discussions were allowed during and after reporting, followed by a Question and Answer session.

The data from the workshop was analysed using thematic coding through the repeated reading of transcripts to identify codes, themes, and ideas that were relevant to the research questions. To enhance the accuracy of the data analysis, three methods were used:

- Data Analyst enabling triangulation.
- member checking, and
- engaging another member of Tonga PRIN team to critically question the Data Analyst's coding and analysis.

With regards to method number (3), the Data Analyst analysed the data independently and another Tonga PRIN team member had to re-evaluate and reflect on the analysis by reading some of the transcripts and the analysis that had been made resulting from the Data Analyst's triangulation.

Findings & Discussions

INNOVATION IN TONGA

LOCAL CONTEXT

Innovation in the Tonga context: *Veteki 'o ha fo'i Fakapona* (Unravel a life challenge).

From the *Talanoa* workshop discussions, it had been derived that Innovation in the Tongan context is encapsulated in the metaphor of *veteki 'o ha fo'i fakapona* which is loosely translated as unraveling of a life challenge. Participants highlighted that innovation in the local context is witnessed when people are able to unravel any challenges (*fakapona*) in life.

“Ko e feinga ke vete ha fo'i fakapona. Ko e taimi pe ku 'alu ai 'o ma'u e fakahoko fatongiá 'i ha fo'i fakapona, koe taimi ku ha'u ai fo'i fakakaukau ke vete fo'i fakapona koia that's where innovative comes in different context like our context in Tonga”

“When faced and stuck in a challenge in life then undergoing the process to unravel the challenge that is when innovative ideas come in different context like our context in Tonga”. (Group 2, Day 1)





According to participants, the following ideas given in the diagram and the preceding discussions, contribute to innovative unraveling of challenges (*fakapona*) in life as faced by locals.



Idea 1: Unravel life challenges (*fakapona*) using *Fakakaukau Fo'ou* (new ideas)

Participants pointed to new ideas emerging as a result of challenges (*fakapona*) caused by crisis. At local level, crisis referred to natural disasters or pandemics like the COVID-19. Tongans in the local context are able to face this challenge (*fakapona*) by creating new strategies to be able to unravel daily problems at the workplace or at home. Participants also discussed that Tongan people are resilient and could create new ideas to unravel challenge (*fakapona*) and this allows them to survive such ordeals.

“Ne tau fievalie pe tautolu. Ko ‘ene pehee maipe ‘oku ‘iai e palopalema ku tau innovative tautolu. (We are laid back but once problems emerged, we tend to be innovative.” (Group 2, Day 3)

“Innovative ideas are mostly originated from countries facing major crisis such as famine. When people struggle to find a way to survive therefore creating new ideas.” (Group 1, Day 3)

Example: The Tonga Water Board has resorted to deliver water bills to customers through email. The company has also activated their Smart Meter allowing for the reading of water bills to be conducted from their main office instead of sending staff to do home meter readings.

Idea 2: Unravel life challenges (*fakapona*) by transferring concepts into practice

Innovation is also understood as being able to transfer concepts into practice. Special emphasis made in the discussions that innovation is not limited to coming up with new ideas or concepts but must be able to put those new ideas into practice to yield end results then it is innovation for the benefits of all people. The end results not only bring benefits to local people but also contribute to unraveling of challenges (*fakapona*).

“Fakakaukau fo'ou- ngaahi fakakaukau fo'ou ‘oku lava fakafotunga mai ‘i ha ngāue ‘oku fakahoko ko e ‘uhí ko e lelei fakalukufua ma’ae kakai ‘o e kolo, pe ko e fonua pe ko e siasi pe ko e hā pe, pea au pe ki he family ‘i he ngaahi tu’unga ko ia.”

“New ideas that are put into practice to yield end results that benefit the local people, family, village, church and country.” (Group 1, Day 1)

Example: MORDI (*Mainstream of Rural Development Innovation-Tonga Trust*) projects assist community-initiated projects. Communities must initiate the ideas to which MORDI then provides financial assistance. Seemingly different from the usual funded projects where donors first hand in the fund to communities to initiate their projects, MORDI assists communities to ensure good yields to their innovations.

Idea 3: Unravel the challenges (*fakapona*) by using ‘original local idea’

Innovation is also referred to ideas originating from people’s knowledge of local products that currently exist within their local communities. Creating new ideas locally unearth solutions for unraveling *fakapona* (challenges) within the local context.

“Ka na’e aafe pe ‘emau talanoa ko e Innovation ko e ngaahi fakakaukau ia tupu pe ia ‘i Tonga ni ‘i he context ku tau ‘i ai pea relevant pe ia ki he context ‘a tautolu”

“We leaned towards the idea that Innovation is ideas originated in Tonga in our context and relevant to our own.”

(Group 1, Day 3)

Example: Tongan handicrafts are mostly made out of Tongan wood and Tongan carving design. *Tapa (ngatu)* prints include Tongan original *kupesī* (designs or patterns).



Idea 4: Research- to find new ways to unravel life challenges (*fakapona*).

To explore ways in order to unravel challenges (*fakapona*), participants believed research is key to finding new ways of comprehending local innovation.

Specific research areas in the fields of education, fisheries and farming would yield innovative ways to unravel challenges (*fakapona*) in life. Participants also highlighted the need to engage in research that captures local concepts. An example identified is ‘Communal Living’. Research could be conducted on this customary structure which could be incorporated into a marketable theory.

“Oku mau pehe ko ‘etau communal living ‘oku tau mo’ui ai ke ne push back ‘a e fakakaukau ‘oku ha’u pe dominant western culture especially western economy- ‘o tau ‘omai kakato pē tautolu ia o hangē ‘oku tau aafe leva ki ai ‘o lele ai.”

“We think our concept of ‘communal living’ which sustains us, can be conceptualized to become a theory, to replace dominant culture and western economy concepts which we are now accustomed to. I work for Mission school. Our pay is so little. Westerners would laugh at the amount we earn but we survive from day to day on top of that low pay from our Communal Living style.” (Group 3, Day 3)

Research also can bring forth new ideas on farming and fishing which could earn locals a steady income also contributing to financial challenges (*fakapona*) at community level.

Idea 5: Contextualising foreign ideas to help with unraveling of challenges (*fakapona*) in life.

Contextualising foreign ideas to suit local context is another Innovation that could see through challenges (*fakapona*) in the local context.

“Ne ‘au foki ‘emau talanoa ki hono fakakehekehe’i ha ngaahi fakakaukau ‘oku tau hanga ohi mai mei ha context kehe hange ko eni. Te tau lau nai fakakaukau ne sio pe fanongo ai ‘I muli- te tau lau nai ia koe innovation? Malava pe ke ketau pehe iai e ngaahi fkkaukau ku tau ohi mai mei muli but must ue’i ke hoa mo e context ‘i Tonga ni.’”

“Our discussions even directed at ideas adopted from foreign countries. Do we consider this as innovation? We then agreed foreign ideas must be contextualised to fit local context before it becomes an innovation in the local context.”

(Group 1, Day 3)

Example- ‘Wellness Clinic SDA Church. *“Ko e ngaahi fkkaukau muli ‘oku mau ‘omai ki Tonga ni pea feinga pe ia ke ohi kihe context a Tonga ni. Ko e ngaahi me’a ‘oku fakalele ‘akii ‘oku feinga pe ia ke hoa moe atakai a Tonga ni. ‘Oku ‘iai ngaahi me’a ia tau ‘omi mei muli kaku tau ‘omi pe o fulifulihi ke fiti mo ‘etau ‘ulungaanga”*

‘In our clinic named Wellness Clinic- SDA Church, we use ideas from western countries but contextualised to fit the local context, environment and our lifestyle.’ (Group 1, Day 3)

Participants discussed their understanding of Innovation in the local context based on the following factors:

- their professional background;
- their living/lifestyle contexts;
- their communities’ conditions and situations.

From the factors that influenced their understandings of innovation in the local context, participants continued to state that in the local context, people face different level of challenges (*fakapona*) in life. It includes the following broad area of challenges:

- different challenges within their family;
- financial challenges;
- environment/ ocean challenges;
- food product challenges;
- water challenges;
- personal challenges in many different ways;
- educational challenges;
- social challenges.

NOTABLE INNOVATION IN TONGA

Given that there has not been a clear indication of Innovation as a separate entity in the Tonga Strategic Development Plans, Tongans are innovative in their own ways. In most cases Tongans are not aware that they are quite innovative, however, good yields reflect true innovation according to the understandings of innovation previously discussed in this paper. Outlined below are the existing innovative initiatives elicited from this *Talanoa* Workshop which have been divided into five categories; Economic Innovation, Education Innovation, Cultural Innovation, Religious Innovation and Social Issues Innovation, presented in the diagram below followed by their explanations.

“Ko tautolu Tongá ko e hau tautolu he innovative. (Tongans are very innovative people).”

(Group 1, Day 1)



Aspect 1: Economic Innovation

Economic innovation relates to new ideas that aim at the development of national economic standards of the country using available resources. At national and community level, economic innovation is monetary driven. This is seen in individual ventures, family owned to local Government owned businesses. Foreign owned businesses are also operated locally to which innovative ideas are being invested to aid robustness in the local markets. Revenue earned from these businesses assist citizens with family, church and community obligations.

Examples:

Innovation within the Agricultural Sector – This involves the integration of new ideas in cropping techniques. For instance, the cross-breeding of *kumala* (sweet potatoes). This has been proven to yield better products, also enabling faster production. The planting of *kumala* becomes an all year activity in comparison to seasonal farming in the past. Watermelon juice is produced locally and watermelon seeds are used as by-products to produce medicine. Cassava skin is also used to make plastic bags. These products are sold locally and exported overseas.

Innovation within the Fisheries Sector – This refers to new innovative ways of farming *kuku* (mussel). *Kuku* survive on rocks. The Fisheries Department has adopted a farming method from New Zealand in which mussels are attached to a rope. Such farming technique has been enabled the increase *kuku* productions and yields.

Using this farming technique has enabled an increase in the *kuku* production. Local *kuku* farmers are able to sell more *kuku* in the market with quicker returns.

Aspect 2: Education Innovation

Education innovation refers to educational approaches or initiatives that support the current Tonga Education system.

Examples:

Research paradigm – This refers to a contextualized research framework. For instance, '*Langa Faleako Framework*' focuses on local educational issues and needs.

Woodcarving and handy craft skills – Local products are being used and such knowledge continues to be woven into the Tongan Studies curriculum at Secondary School levels.

Learning and teaching in real setting – This point at 'place based learning' approaches. For instance, a subject on Tourism is taught at beach resorts or other local tourist destinations

Aspect 3: Cultural Innovation

Cultural innovation refers to existing cultural-related ideas that are incorporated in production or services at national and community levels in Tonga.

Examples:

Wood carving and handy crafts and Tonga Arts – Designs and patterns printed on woodcarvings and tapa cloth could also include foreign materials.

Traditional household roles – The role of men is seen to be changing where most are also engaging in domestic duties which had been a female dominated role in the past.

Aspect 4: Religious Innovation

Tongans value their Christian beliefs and religious upbringings. Existing innovative ideas and practices shared by Church members in their small groups.

Examples:

Flower or floral arrangement. These are conducted as skill-based workshops within small Church groups. This not only helps promote the transference of skills but also income generating initiatives.

Church donation (*misinale*) fundraising: Fundraising is conducted in small groups to save towards annual Church donations (*misinale*).

Church Health Center: Ideas adopted from foreign countries include the setup of small health clinics for Church members.

Aspect 5: Social Issues Innovation

Social Issues Innovation gives way to social welfare and the wellbeing of Tongan citizens in their various communities. Non-profit organizations have been formed to help alleviate poverty and violence in the local societies and communities. This also includes social welfare plans for the elderly and senior citizens

Examples:

Care services for senior citizens: Senior citizens and elderly church members are identified and schedules are set up by the Church whereby members assist with caregiving activities such as bathing, feeding and providing company.

Community outreach program: Community programs are being implemented to raise citizen awareness on the effects of violence.

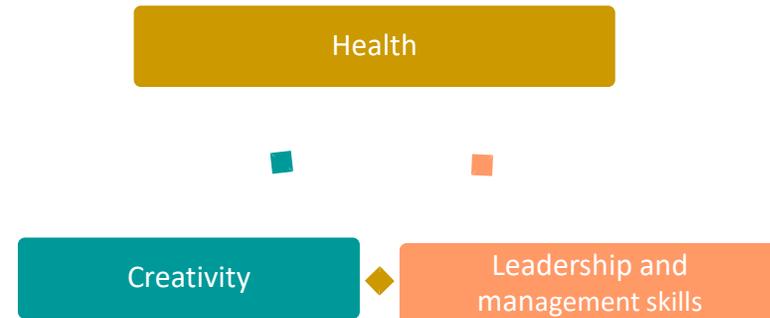
Online services: In order to reach victims who may not wish to be identified due to fear and unsecured circumstances, online services are provided. This gives victims the opportunity to speak with a trained professional staff.

Radio program: Radio broadcast has also been used innovatively. Victims have also been encouraged to express their thoughts with the intention to inspire silent victims. Callers would not identify their names. Such stories have been able to encourage victims to report their cases and seek counselling with the relevant officials.

BENEFITS OF INNOVATION IN TONGA

Existing Innovation in Tonga as discussed have impactful contributions towards unraveling of life challenges (*fakapona*) in the local context. Data collected from participants' experiences show that existing Innovation aspects have yielded benefits to the local people in terms of better quality of life. It also shows a trend indicating that innovative end products prove to be environmentally friendly and available local resources are being put to good use. The significance of these aspects are categorized into the following broad benefits:

1. **Health:** Agricultural innovation products are locally produced and minimally imported. The local people can easily access these products at a local cost. Most of these products are organic and produced using environmentally proof standards and procedures. The Department of Fisheries is currently implementing a project which involves fish sales at an affordable rate for the local people. The Fishery Department has taken on the initiative with the use of its own fishing boat.
2. **Local people become more creative:** The local people are becoming more creative with lessons adopted from overseas experiences blending well with local ideas. Such innovation is mostly seen in the local business, farming and carving industries.
3. **Leadership and management skills:** Leadership and management skills are seen as pivotal to the aspects of innovation by the locals. Such skills involve the careful planning and adoption of resource management approaches that promote sustainable practices. Local best practices and approaches have led to the increase in productivity with minimal production costs resulting in reasonable market prices.

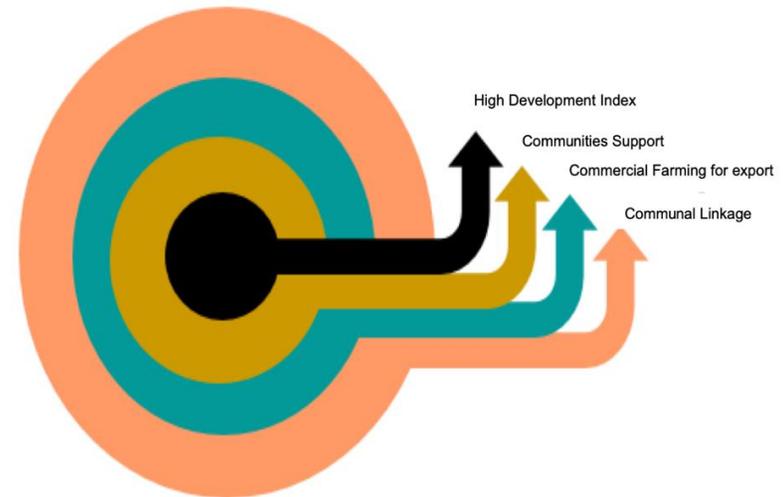


LOCAL INNOVATION STRENGTHS

The discussions brought to light innovation strengths and the capabilities of local people based on the identified existing innovation. These local innovation strengths are considered factors that had contributed to the unraveling of life challenges (*fakapona*) in the local level.

The local people are resilient and capable of adapting to new ideas and changes. For most, innovation is an essential survival trait where they are able to strategically intertwine their cultural abilities with the adoption of foreign ideas. Notably, sustainable ideas have emerged during difficult times in Tonga such as the current perplexing COVID-19 pandemic. Struggles and hardships have been at the helm of Tongan lives covering all facets of society pushing locals to widen their innovation in order to survive. These strengths have been characterized into the following four themes:

1. **High Development Index** – In terms of per capita index, Tonga has the highest number of PhD graduates in the world. Generally, Tongans are well-educated and creative. The Tongan cultural norm of collaboration and friendliness are still visible amongst most of the locals today.
2. **Communities Support** – Certain Community Support Systems are well-established in Tonga. For instance, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI) Tonga Trust has created a model known as Community Empowerment.
3. **Commercial Farming for export**: This refers to the exporting of farming products. For instance, the exporting of Squash pumpkin to Japan creates new business opportunities which generate income for local communities.
4. **Communal Linkage** – The sharing of ideas openly within the *kainga* (*extended family*) creates family interaction and exchanges. The *kainga* (*extended family*) structure is still being practiced which promotes intergenerational knowledge transmissions.

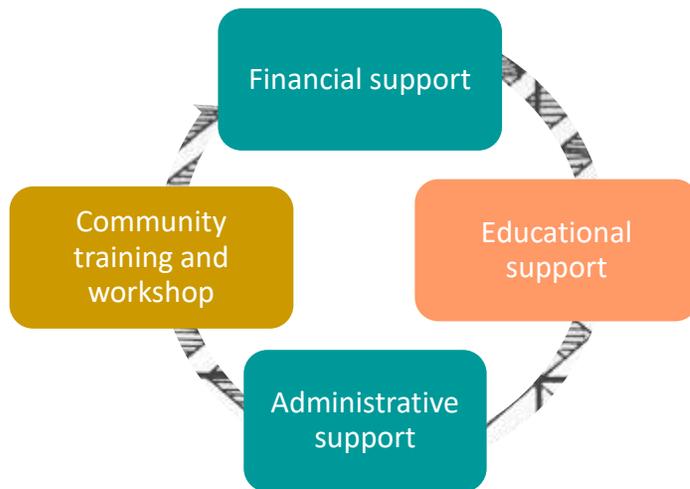


INNOVATION SUPPORT IN TONGA

“We decided that the most important thing here is to ensure that innovation is sustainable in Tonga.” (Group 2, Day 1)

Despite surfaced innovation strengths in the local context, innovation needs progressive, continuity and sustainability in order for the local people to continue to be able to unravel continued and unexpected challenges (*fakapona*) in daily life. Therefore, from the *talanoa* workshop effective mechanism of support is mandatory for enhancing existing innovation. It was also identified from the *talanoa* discussions, two mechanisms should come together to provide support are (a) local stakeholders and (b) PRIN-Innovation Hub. Nature of support from these two mechanisms are discussed in details below.

a. Support from local stakeholders



Financial support – With no exception, financial support is crucial for the continuance of innovative ideas in developing countries such as Tonga. Financial support comes from the government and development partners.

Community training and workshop – The implementation of trainings and workshops on innovation strengths promotes a sequence of sustainable innovative ideas based on the needs of the local people. For instance, trainings on farming and fishing techniques would be beneficial if conducted prior to the implementation of such activities. In this way, the communities concerned are able to further develop new ideas from these existing initiatives.

Administrative support – This allows for a more systematic approach for proper documentation, recording, storing and sharing of data and the dissemination of ideas. Administrative support is also vital for the maintenance of a strong network mechanism that best supports local innovators.

Educational support: Further research mainly in the areas of Agriculture and Fisheries products is encouraged. With solid educational support, students would be given opportunities to do research on environmental based issues.

b. Support from PRIN- Innovation Hub

Stakeholders were able to identify ways PRIN could support innovation so that local citizens could continue to unravel challenges (*fakapona*) in life. To stakeholders, PRIN is translated into the expected Innovation Hub. Consensual suggestion is that an Innovation Hub is a necessity and should be a home away from home for local innovators. Innovation Hub also, according to participants, is expected to create community ownership and a safe space for dialogue on innovation issues and the most sensitive topics such as cultural and religious contributions to innovation. Additionally, the provisions of support by USP and UNDP should be consistent and ongoing. The expected support from PRIN/Innovation Hub are outlined below.

“Hub to survive, people feel that they own it, they own the space ‘hange pe ha nau ki’i ‘api, ko e lue atu pe mei ‘api ki ‘api, (a home away from home for them) a place they feel comfortable, they feel safe to discuss their ideas.”

(Group 1, Day 1)

Provide support

Support was identified as an important component of Innovation in order to implement new ideas so as to arrive at the expected end-products. Expected supports from PRIN/Innovation Hub are listed below:

- Support a productivity movement in Tonga to increase the innovation and productivity of small businesses.
- Provide administrative support to local innovators.
- PRIN’s support in developing this proposed draft work plan is a great initiative to give recognition to innovation and the importance of the value it adds to our country. This report could further push other areas of work that needs strengthening like innovation policy formulation.
- PRIN can assist by building places for recreational for elderly citizens.
- Assist innovators with locating donors for funding of innovation projects.
- Support high school students with opportunities to foster and further innovation into University level.
- PRIN can support the establishment of a platform where the innovation process can take place safely.
- Provide a space to discuss rethinking of educational innovation.
- Provide technical assistance.
- Support in establishing a foundation for innovations base, creation, extension and transmission.
- Be at the local level, be visible and get to know the local operators and innovative contexts.
- Capture all innovative ideas and provide a space for all to come to.

Conduct Survey and Consultations

To ensure that there is best sustainable practice, constant surveys and consultations are to be conducted. All reports and statistical information from various organisations and arms of Government, are to be analyzed and verified. This assists with the development of the strategic plans that address major macro and micro issues concerning the country.

Experts should be deployed after gathering data from initial consultations (being carried out now) and other reports so as to determine a road map for PRIN for future innovation development.

Any outcomes of research conducted should be communicated in a recommendations paper for Government to adopt and seek funding from external partners.

It had also been identified that PRIN is at an advantageous position in ensuring that key achievement areas are met. Given that PRIN is results oriented and the proven ability and capacity to monitor and deliver key areas, this is viewed as a bonus.

Documentation

The provision of a proper channel for sharing innovative ideas is equally as important. All innovative ideas would need to be well coordinated before any form of written communication is executed.

Coordinate workshops and training

PRIN is to facilitate workshops and trainings in specific areas of innovation also ensuring that collected ideas are well coordinated and documented. PRIN can coordinate workshops and trainings to stimulate new innovative ideas.

Organize Annual Innovation Day

An Annual Innovation Exhibition Day is to be organized where innovators across Tonga are given an opportunity to showcase and exchange innovative ideas.



“Fakasino mai e Fakakaukau” (Group 2, Day 1)

To fully develop Innovation in Tonga

Impediments (*Fakapona*) to Innovation

Fakapona, from the *Talanoa* discussions, was identified as challenges in life faced by the local people, it was also discussed that Innovation in Tonga also faced by certain challenges or impediments (*fakapona*). Therefore, to ensure innovative ideas are fully developed in the local context, impediments (*fakapona*) to innovation must be acknowledged and carefully considered. From the findings, Innovation despite given the best possible support are impeded within the local context. Impediments (*fakapona*) to innovation are categorized into five (5) factors given below with explanations:



1. Mindset and attitude transformation

Characteristics of Tongans: Participant discussions also derived that Tongans are known to be humble, yet shy and for some, are accustomed to mockery. Most Tongans have internalized such stereotypes which could be detrimental to innovation. In such cases, mindset transformation is vital in order for innovative ideas to be established.

Attitude: As referred to by participants, acquiring the wrong attitude could also impede innovation. New recruitments procedures in the workplace should involve positive values and attitudes as essential recruitment criteria.

“me’a kotoa pe kuo pau ke tonu e attitude ia.” “Right attitude is required in everything.” (Group 1, Day 2)

*“Ko e poini malohi ia. Ka tonu e attitude ‘e tonu e m’ea kotoa.”
“Very strong point. When attitude is right, everything is right.”
(Group 2, Day 3)*

For instance, a participant mentioned how a local had been recruited for an accounting job. Given that he had a background in theology, he was guaranteed the job based on his high moral and ethical standards. The company in time provided him on the job trainings. The applicant is currently performing at his level best due to his acquiring the right attitude. Participants collectively agreed that ‘right attitude’ and good work ethics could be considered as innovative recruitment selection criteria.

2. Gender Issue

Gender roles also impede innovation in Tonga. Participants discussed how the traditional view of the roles of Tongan men and women is quite visible in the workplace. Although there are changes in some Professions such as Nursing, Power line workers and the Army, misconceptions are still vast in the society.

3. Religious beliefs

Although no concrete examples had been given, the feelings of the participants, including the religious leaders, seemed consensual that certain religious beliefs can also impede innovation. A classic example discussed is that the differences in Church denominations discourage unity. For instance, how youth groups from the Wesleyan Church are hardly seen to socialize with those of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church groups and vice versa. The Church youth groups are seen to be socializing only within their denominational groupings.



4. Cultural restrictions

Similar to religious beliefs as impediment to innovation, cultural restrictions also to an extent impede innovation. There were no concrete examples mentioned by the participants but all indicated that certain aspects of the Tongan culture can impede innovation.

5. Market competition skills

Local business owners running homogenous businesses could be encouraged to take on more innovative ideas rather than duplicating the same business venture. A classic example given by the participants is that of the 'Curry Shop' cycle where the market is seen to be flooded with Curry shops. Participants clearly stated that such mindsets need to be changed. A sustainable market depends on innovative ideas that promote competition between different businesses.

Recommendations

The way forward with Innovation in the local context, as shared by the participants' points at the need to address and carefully consider impediments (*fakapona*) to innovation. For innovative ideas to become innovation, ideas must be implemented and closely coordinated so as to achieve the expected results thereby contributing to unravel life challenges (*fakapona*). The following propositions were also made by the participants:

Workshop and trainings: Participant suggestions include an Innovation Hub that coordinates workshops and trainings which could include topical themes such as 'Mindset Transformation'. The local people are to be included in training opportunities as to gain an increased knowledge of Innovation and how it could best benefit them. A call for a change in mindset would further promote Tongans creativity and resilience bringing to the fore spaces for Innovation. For instance, a participant shared how he used his earnings from working abroad to generate income. It has now generated millions in Tongan *pa'anga*. At first he faced challenges and many failures. But through perseverance he is able to run and operate a number of small businesses.



Further emphasis was made with innovation at community level. For instance, some villages received assistance in the form of a plough for agricultural purposes. The neighboring villagers also intend to apply for the same assistance. Participants clarified that such is not innovation. Receiving assistance in this way does not promote innovation. Innovation involves the creation of new ideas or producing new ideas out of assistance or resources.

Publicise innovative ideas: Innovative ideas are to be shared to the members of the public as means of knowledge transmission. Such a sustainable approach would greatly benefit future generations of Tonga. Workshop participants also indicated the need to digitize local innovative ideas also enabling public access to these.

Copyright: Innovative ideas should also be copyrighted. Copyright is not only to protect new ideas from being pirated but to give recognition and rightful acknowledgment to the original works of the artisans. Participants also suggested that rewards be given to innovators as incentives for more innovative projects.

Community ownership as a way for sustainability: Innovative ideas will be sustained in the community if concerted efforts are put in. The local people would need to take responsibility and ownership by implementing new ideas in their work places and at home.

If all members of a community work at being united as a team, new ideas would resonate.

Government support: Apart from funding assistance and training with the local people and communities, the government could also look at ways to take ownership of such innovative activities. The Government in a joint collaboration with the Innovation Hub in coordinating innovative activities has the best capacity to motivate the local people to be more innovative using resources available in their various communities. An Innovation Exhibition Day is crucial for the showcasing of local innovations and the creative works of the artisans.

Research institution – In terms of sustainability and development, establishing an Institute of research will enable emerging local researchers and students the opportunity to do research on thematic areas concerning national issues. For instance, areas such as the environment, business, fisheries and agriculture. Other thematic areas may include health and ways to minimize crimes in Tonga.

Religious doctrines: At local and community level, Christian beliefs are central to a Tongan's wellbeing. Participants agreed that an Innovation Hub must ensure aspects of religion are incorporated. Although, certain aspects of religion were identified as impediment to Innovation, fundamental Christian beliefs are central and important to Tongans.

FINAL WORD

Through the *Talanoa*, Innovation in Tonga had been discussed based on stakeholders' understanding which have been validated with their own stories of successes and hardships in life.

The understanding of Innovation was supported with existing impactful innovations at national and local level. While there is evidence of success stories and benefits of existing innovation, *progressive*, *continuity* and *sustainability* are eminent factors in ensuring innovation is continued so as to contribute to the unraveling of the challenges (*fakapona*) posed in life.

Through the comfort of the *Talanoa* process, stakeholders eagerly admitted to impediments (*fakapona*) of innovation in Tonga including sensitive elements of life such as certain aspects of religion and culture.

Active support from stakeholders and PRIN is essential to the promotion and facilitation of innovation in the local context. The completion of PHASE 1 of the project has been able to provide sufficient evidence that strongly justify the need for a National Framework towards the recognition of Innovation in Tonga



TONGA PROPOSED INNOVATION WORK PLAN 2020–2025

SYNOPSIS

Innovation deserves national recognition in Tonga thus the need for an Innovation National Framework. The proposed work plan has been derived from the discussions of innovation in the local context. The three innovation elements clearly identified from the *Talanoa* sessions are specifically: Sustainability, Continuity and Progression. The intended outcome of this proposed work plan is to incorporate the identified innovation elements into Tonga's national and local Innovation plans.

Findings based on '*Fakasino Mai e Fakakaukau*', to fully develop Innovation in Tonga were scrutinized using triangulation method in order to ascertain key priority areas of innovation in Tonga. Results were then characterised into three thematic priority areas which will be the focus of the Tonga Innovation Work Plan for 2020-2025. The Priority areas are as follows:

- Monetary Innovation
- Enlightening Innovation
- Socio-cultural Innovation

Priority areas emerging from the Findings of this report will be assigned with activities drawn from the responses given in the report. The proposed work plan is designed in alignment to the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015-2025.

The Tonga Innovation proposed work plan establishes the need for continuous stakeholder *talanoa* at national level which would have spillover benefits to the local communities further enhancing the recognition of innovation in Tonga.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Tonga Innovation Proposed Work Plan in alignment to the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II) 2015-2025 is framed under the national vision of "*A more progressive Tonga Supporting a higher quality of life for all,*" and echoes the metaphor of understanding of Innovation in the local context, which is the unraveling of challenges in life (*fakapona*) in order to gain an improved standard of living.

Under this National Vision, is the seven national outcomes given below, drawn with reflections of Global Sustainable Goals showing connections to the USP Strategic Plan 2019-2021 which focuses on utilizing research as a mechanism to achieve innovative outcomes.

In support of the TSDF II 2015-2025, there are twenty-nine (29) Organisational Outcomes (next page) to which this proposed Innovation work plan is directly related to twenty (20) of them. The Organisational Outcomes are grouped into five (5) pillars (next page) where the Priority areas clearly reflect four (4) of these.



TONGA STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK 2015–2025

The National Impact Sought, within the Vision of TSDF II is:
A more progressive Tonga supporting a higher quality of life for all

This high-level societal impact is supported by 7+1 National Outcomes which contribute to the National Impact through more inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Focusing upon inclusive and sustainable growth ensures long term progress which is broader based and fairer to all:

The Seven National Outcomes are:

- A. a more inclusive, sustainable and dynamic knowledge-based economy
- B. a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced urban and rural development across island groups
- C. a more inclusive, sustainable and empowering human development with gender equality
- D. a more inclusive, sustainable and responsive good-governance with law and order
- E. a more inclusive, sustainable and successful provision and maintenance of infrastructure and technology
- F. a more inclusive, sustainable and effective land administration, environment management, and resilience to climate and risk
- G. a more inclusive, sustainable and consistent advancement of our external interests, security and sovereignty

In support of the Seven National Outcomes, there are twenty-nine TSDF II Organisational Outcomes. The Organisational Outcomes are grouped into five Pillars which, working together, support the National Outcomes:

Three Institutional Pillars:

1. Economic Institutions
2. Social Institutions
3. Political Institutions

Two Input Pillars:

4. Infrastructure and Technology Inputs
5. Natural Resources and Environment Inputs

Pillar 1: Economic Institutions.

Organisational Outcome 1.1: Improved macroeconomic management and stability with the development of a stronger, deeper, more inclusive financial system to ensure sound macroeconomic environment within which inclusive and sustainable business and social opportunities can be developed and pursued.

Organisational Outcome 1.2: Closer, more effective public/private partnerships with business, consumers and other community groups across the Kingdom to help better identify and address constraints to more inclusive, sustainable and resilience economic growth.

Organisational Outcome 1.3: Strengthened enabling environment for business, encouraging broad-based investment and more sustainable and inclusive employment and profits, while protecting the rights of the consumer and being sensitivity to the environment.

Organisational Outcome 1.4: Improved public enterprise performance to generate appropriate returns on government investment while supporting inclusive, sustainable development and the growth of businesses and communities.

Organisational Outcome 1.5: Better access to economic opportunities overseas including trade, employment, (short and long term and in a wider range of skill areas) and foreign.

Pillar 2: Social Institutions

Organisational Outcomes 2.1: Improved collaboration with, and support to, social and civil society organization promoting the development of groups which encourage greater involvement by all members of the society, a wider range of community activities, social and sporting events, healthy life styles and viable livelihoods in more inclusive and effective ways.

Organisational Outcome 2.2: Closer partnership between the government, churches and other stakeholders providing services to communities and support to community development to help promote stronger communities, better inclusion of all groups and human development.

Organisational Outcome 2.3: More appropriate social and cultural practices which help maintain the positive aspects of our Tongan identity while also helping to promote those changes needed for further development of our democracy and for more sustainable and inclusive institutions better able to interact with the opportunities and threats presented by the wider world.

Organisational Outcome 2.4: Improved education and training which encourages life-long learning both academic and vocational knowledge by all people, so better equipping us to make active use of the opportunities in the community, the domestic economy, and overseas.

Organisational Outcome 2.5: Improved country-wide, health care system which better address the medical conditions becoming more prevalent in Tonga so hastening recovery and limiting pain and suffering.

Organisational Outcome 2.6: A stronger and more integrated approach by all parts of society, to address communicable and non-communicable disease, significantly cutting the rate of these diseases and the burden they place upon communities and the economy.

Organisational Outcome 2.7: Better care and support for vulnerable people that ensures the elderly, the young, disables and others with particular needs continue to be supported and protected despite shrinking extended families and other changing social institutions.

Organisational Outcome 2.8: Improved collaboration between Tongans in the Kingdom, and the Tongan diaspora to help develop the social and economic quality of life of both groups.

Pillar 4: Infrastructure and Technology Inputs

Organisational Outcome 4.1: More reliable, safe, affordable and widely available energy services built on an appropriate energy mix moving towards increased use of renewable energy.

Organisational Outcome 4.2: More reliable, safe and affordable transport services on each island, connecting islands and connecting the Kingdom with the rest of the world by sea and air, to improve the movement of people and goods.

Organisational Outcome 4.3: More reliable, safe and affordable information and communications technology(ICT) used in more innovative and inclusive ways, linking people across the Kingdom and with the rest of the world, delivering key services by government and business and drawing communities more closely together.

Organisational Outcome 4.4: More reliable, safe and affordable buildings and other structures, taking greater account of local conditions, helping to lower construction, maintenance and operating costs, increase resilience to disasters, improve the quality of services provided and facilitate increased access.

Organisational Outcome 4.5: Improved use of relevant research and development that focuses on our priority needs drawing on improved foresight, helping to solve technical and other constraints to facilitate more rapid improvements to our institutions and better use of our resources and environment so that we may progress more rapidly and be more resilience in face of future risks.

Pillar 5: Natural Resources and Environment Inputs

Organisational Outcome 5.1: Improved land use planning, management and administration with stronger and appropriate enforcement which ensures the better provision of public spaces as well as private spaces, ensures more appropriate placement of infrastructure, better protects the environment, and limit risk, so as to improve safety conditions both for communities and business, working in harmony with a better application of the traditional land management system

Organisational Outcome 5.2: More equitable, inclusive, sustainable and appropriate management of the use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources to maintain a steady long term flow of benefits rather than booms followed by bust and long term recovery periods.

Organisational Outcome 5.3: Cleaner environment and less pollution from household and business activities building on improved waste management, minimization and recycling, making conditions safer, healthier and more pleasant for residents and visitors.

Organisational Outcome 5.4: Improved national and community resilience to the potential disruption and damage to wellbeing, growth and development from extreme natural events and climate change, including extreme weather, climate and ocean events with a particular focus on the likely increase in such events with climate change.

TSDF II 2015-2015 can be accessed on: <http://www.finance.gov.to/tonga-strategic-development-framework>





TONGA NATIONAL INNOVATION PROPOSED WORK PLAN 2020–2025

Priority Areas:

- Monetary Innovation
- Enlightening Innovation
- Socio-cultural Innovation

Innovation Objectives

- Create innovative opportunities to enhance financial competences for standard of living heightening and improved lifestyles in national and community level.
- Create innovative opportunities to establish active connections between national and community level for innovation development.
- Discover innovative approaches and alternatives for innovation enhancement through research.
- Create innovative capacity development approaches to encourage sustainable, persistent and resilient innovation in Tonga.
- Create innovative instruments for problem solving in national and community level.
- Establish a mechanism where cultural commodities and religious doctrines are innovatively preserved and used for innovation purposes.

Table of Strategic Alignment

Priority Areas	Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF) Alignment			
	Innovation Objectives (IO)	National Outcomes (NO)	Institutional Pillars & Input Pillars (P)	Organizational Outcomes (OO)
Monetary Innovation	1 & 2	A F E	1 4 5	1.2-1.5 4.3, 4.4 5.1, 5.3, 5.4
Enlightening Innovation	3 & 4	B D E G	2 4 5	2.4, 2.5 4.5 5.2, 5.3
Socio-Cultural Innovation	5 & 6	C G	1 2 4	2.1-2.8

Monetary Innovation Objectives

Objective 1: Create innovative opportunities to enhance financial competencies for standard of living heightening and improved lifestyles

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
1.1. Facilitate small businesses initiatives training in local communities	Community Trainings/workshops	MTED, TCOCI, TBEC, Private Sectors		1.1, 1.2
1.2. Organize small businesses/industries showcase/fair day	Fair Day	Hub, TNIC, TBEC, MTED, MFNP		1.1, 1.2
1.3. Organize short term training on business operations- budgeting, book keeping	Workshops	MTED, TCOCI, TBEC		1.1, 1.2
1.4. Arrange fund-injection for very affordable interest returns	Loan schemes	MFNP, MTED, TDB, Donors		1.4
1.5. Monitor newly-established small businesses	Monthly Evaluation check	MTED, TBEC		1.1, 1.2
1.6. Organize small businesses competition- award rewards for best product & highest revenue yielded	Local Ventures Competition	Hub, TBEC, MTED, DO, TO		1.1, 1.4
1.7. Share agricultural and fisheries initiatives	Demonstrations in Communities	Hub, MAFF, NTCL, DO, TO		1.3
1.8. Organise local community fishing competitions	Village & district competition	Hub, MOF, DO, TO		1.3
1.9. Feature successful small businesses stories on media	Media broadcastings	Hub, TNIC, Local Medias		1.1, 1.4
1.10. Promote small businesses to use local products and resources	Fair day. Assessment Visits	MOT, TTA, TBEC, Tonga Skills		1.1, 1.2, 1.3,
1.11. Intergrate small business initiatives into school subjects	School curriculum	MTED, MET, TBEC, TCOCI		1.1, 1.2
1.12. Organise district & Village Market day- selling local products	Market day	Hub, TBEC, TCOCI, MTED, DO, TO		1.3
1.13. Establish Community Training day	Floral Arrangements Baking & Cooking Classes	Hub, DO, TO, TBEC, Tonga Skills		1.2, 1.5
1.14. Organise women & Men group in communities	Weaving & Handicrafts competition	Hub, TBEC, Tonga Skills, DO, TO		1.3, 1.4, 1.5
1.15. Adapt foreign ideas into local context- innovation ideas	Workshop	Hub, Tonga Skills, TBEC		1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Objective 2: Create innovative opportunities to establish active connections between national and community level for innovation development

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
2.1.Facilitate advance technology awareness program in remote and rural communities	Establish accessible Technology	MEIDMECC, MFNP, MTED		1.4, 4.3
2.2.Establish internet connection to reach remote areas of Tonga	TCC & Digicel & Arrangements	PMO, MEIDECC, MFNAP, TCC		1.2, 1.5, 4.4
2.3.Upgrade local technological facilities and infrastructure	Introduce new technologies	PMO, MFNAP, MTED		1.1, 1.5, 4.5
2.4.Create fun and innovative competition activities based on advance technology	Local competitions School competitions	MEIDECC, MET		1.3, 4.3, 5.2
2.5.Incorporate technology to school curriculum	Online teaching & Learning	MET, TBEC, TONGA SKILLS		4.5, 5.1
2.6.Organise school students technology inventions creations/competition	Student project and competitions	MET, MTED, TBEC		4.5, 5.1
2.7.Training on Zoom meeting and online meeting	Zoom Meeting & Online	MEICDECC, MET, HUB		4.3,
2.8. Online distributions of newsletter	Email	HUB		4.3
2.9.E-record of Innovation documentations and Records- then e-sharing	Sharing records and Innovation Documentations	HUB		4.3
2.10. Use technology to contextualize foreign innovation	Workshop, Demonstrations	MET, MEIDECC		4.5, 5.2
2.11.Arrange Local community trainings/Classes –basic computer skills-email and social media usage	Community Classes	HUB, MTED, TBEC, TONGA SKILLS		4.5
2.12.Establish active communication network between national and community level	National Plans, Community outreach	PMO, MFNP, MEIDECC		1.2, 1.3, 5, 4.5

Enlightening Innovation Objectives

Objective 3: Discover innovative approaches and alternatives for innovation enhancement through research

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
3.1. Intergrate research to school curriculums from Primary to Higher Institutions	Internal Assessment tasks	PMO, MET, TBEC		2.4, 4.5
3.2. Establish research facilities (lab-for soil and food testing)	Research hub/Lab	MET, MAFF, MOF		2.4, 4.5
3.3. Promote researching for cost-effective productions	Research hub/Lab	MAFF, TBEC, MET, MTED		2.4, 4.5
3.4. Testing foreign foodstuff and imported products	Lab	MAFF, MOH		2.1, 2.5, 2.6
3.5. Provide incentives appropriate to context	Non-monetary- Certificate. King as guest of honor	HUB, TNIC		2.4
3.6. Healthy Living promotion through competition	Dieting competitions	MOH, MET		2.4, 2.6, 2.7
3.7. Organise Healthy lifestyles initiatives	Community Zumba & Group Exercises	MOH, HUB, DO, TO, TNYC		2.6
3.8. Arrange student research projects on innovation	Internal Assessment	MET, HUB, TNYC, TBEC, TONGA SKILLS		2.4
3.9. Promote creativity through local community initiatives	Community Initiatives	MOT, TTA, HUB, DO, TO		5.1
3.10. Raise awareness on nutritional food in schools from Early Children through to higher institutions	School Curriculum	MET, MOH, MAFF		2.4, 2.6, 2.7
3.11. Identify community resources in villages	Community research	MAFF, MOT, TTA, DO, TO, MET		5.1, 5.2, 5.3
3.12. Organise planting campaign of local products- traditional plants	Community project	MAFF, MOT, TTA, DO, TO		5.1, 5.2, 5.3
3.13. Promote & establish variety and creative vocational activities	School curriculum, Workshop	MET, TONGA SKILLS, TYNCO		2.4
3.14. Arrange non-formal education activities	Community project	MET, TONGA SKILLS, TBEC		2.3, 2.4
4.15. Promote local research framework, Example- <i>Langa Faleako Framework</i>	School curriculum	MET, LFT		2.3, 2.4
4.16. Create research theories based on local ideas. For example- <i>Communal Living</i>	School Curriculum, Community outreach	MET, MOT, TTA, TONGA SKILLS		2.3, 2.4

Objective 4: Create innovative capacity development approaches to encourage sustainable, persistent and resilient innovation in Tonga

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
4.1.Host motivational talk show on social media, TV and radio	TV, Radio and Social media Broadcasting	HUB, MTED, TYNC, TBEC, TONGA SKILLS		2.1, 2.3, 2.4
4.2.Professional capacity building on Innovation –national and community level	Workshops	TBEC, TCOCI, MTED, HBU		2.1, 2.2, 2.3 2.4
4.3.Successful Innovators profiling	Newspaper articles, TV show	HUB		2.4
4.4.Provide a safe space for dialogue	Establish Support House	HUB, MFNP, PMO		2.1, 4.3
4.5.Sharing innovation stories in communities hall	Community Outreach	HUB, DO, TO, TOYNC, TBEC, TONGA SKILLS		2.1, 2.2
4.6.Promote innovation activities at schools from Primary to higher Institutions	Reading Materials Writing or Drama Competitions	MET, HUB		2.1, 2.4
4.7..Share stories of resilient and persistent innovators at schools	Motivational Talk	HUB, TNYC, Prominent innovators		2.4, 4.3
4.8.Host awareness programs on Intellectual property and copyright in communities	Workshop	MTED, HUB		1.3, 2.4, 4.3
4.9.Provide workshop on importance of intellectual property and copyright of Innovation ideas	Workshop	MTED, HUB		1.3, 2.4
4.10.Establish intellectual property and copyrights of Innovation ideas/works	Establish agreement- MOU	MTED, HUB		1.3, 2.4
4.11.Organise district and village evening sharing of Innovation ideas	Community project	HUB, DO, TO, TNYC, Prominent innovators		1.3,2.4
4.12.Mindset & Attitude Talk- National Level and Community level	Public Talk, Community Outreach, TV program	HUB, Prominent innovators, TNYC		1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.4

Socio-cultural Innovation Objectives

Objective 5: Create innovative instruments for problem solving at national and community level

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
5.1.Engage locals on panel show- in community halls, TV or on radio	Community Outreach, TV programs	HUB, DO, TO, TBEC, TTA, MOT		1.1, 1.2, 2.4
5.2.Build a safe place for survivors/victims of violence	Establish Support House	PMO, MFNP, TNCWC, WCCC		4.3, 5.1
5.3.Radio activities to raise awareness on violence consequences	Outreach programs	HUB, TNCWC, WCCC		2.1, 2.2, 2.3
5.4.Intergrate civil society concerns/needs to school curriculum	Role plays and Drama	MET, TNCWC, WCCC		2.1, 2.2, 2.4
5.5.Run youth programs/activities based on theme of Violence and Peace	Youth Day & Camping	TNYC, TNCWE, WCCC,MET		2.1, 2.2, 2.4
5.6.Operate school activities based on themes of violence and Peace- speech competition, essay writing competitions and drama competitions	School Competition	MET,TNYC, TNCWC, WCCC		2.1, 2.2, 2.4
5.7.Organise senior citizens recreational activities	Sports, card games, cooking activities	HUB,MFNP, TNCWC, WCCC		2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7
5.8.Create safe space for senior citizens	Establish Senior Citizen centers	MFNP, TNCWE, WCCC		2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7
5.9.Arrange counseling for families	Counselling- face to face, online	Ma'a Fafine Tonga, TNCWE, WCCC		2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7
5.10.Promote civil society concerns/needs at schools	Workshop, Guest Speaker, poster competitions	MET, TNYC, TNCWE, WCCC, HUB		2.1, 2.3, 2.4
5.11.Organise family fun day out	Family Day Out	HUB, DO, TO		2.1, 2.4, 2.7

Objective 6: Establish a mechanism where cultural commodities and religious doctrines are innovatively preserved and used for innovation purposes

Actions	Expected outputs	Responsible Stakeholders	Duration	TSDf Alignment (Organisational Outcomes)
6.1.Organise cultural exhibition	Cultural Show, Local Festivals	MOT, TTA, MAFF, HUB, MTED		2.1, 2.2, 2.3
6.2.Orgagnize Innovation competition using cultural commodities only	Fair Day	MET, MOT, TTA, TBEC		2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
6.3.Intergrate cultural values and religious doctrines into school curriculum	Workshop, Internal Assessment, Students' completions	TNCC, FBG, MET		2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4
6.4.Church youth sports programs/activities	Youth Sports day	TNCC, FBG, TNYC, HUB		2.2, 2.3
6.5.Organise different church denomination youth recreation/camping	Singing or Skit Competitions	TNCC, TNYC, FBG		2.2, 2.3
6.6.Friendly game competitions between youth groups	Youth Day	TNYC, FBG, TNCC		2.3, 2.4
6.7. Organise school students fun activities based on cultural theme	Curriculum integrations	MET, FBG, TNCC		2.3, 2.4
6.8.Fun faith-based activities at schools from Early Education through to higher institutions	Curriculum Integration	TNYC, TNCC, FBG		2.2, 2.3, 2.4
6.9.Initiate campaign to preserve historical sites	Radio program, Community Involvement- Cleaning campaign	MET, MOT, TTA		2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6
6.10.Conduct research on Cultural and religious innovation	Research, School activities	MET, TNCC, FBG		2.4
6.11.Arrange Community & Village beautification Campaign	Community & Village Competitions	MOT, MOH, TTA, HUB, DO, TO		2.1, 2.3, 2.4

MINISTRY	ABBREVIATIONS
Government Ministries	
Prime Minister Office	PMO
Ministry of Finance and National Planning	MFNP
Ministry of Justice and Prisons	MOJ
Ministry of Police & Fire and Services	MPFS
Ministry of Energy, information, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change, Communications	MEIDECC
Ministry of Internal Affairs	MIA
Ministry of Education and Training	MET
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food	MAFF
Ministry of Fisheries	MOF
Ministry of Trade Economic Development	MTED
Ministry of Tourism	MOT
Ministry of Health	MOH
Ministry of Public Enterprises	MPE
Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	
Tonga Chamber of Commerce and Industry	TCOCI
Tonga Communications and Corporations	TCC
Tonga Business Enterprises Center	TBEC
Tonga Development Bank	TDP
Tonga Tourism Associations	TTA
Nishi Trading Company Limited	NTCL
Tonga National Youth Congress	TNYC
Langafonua a Fafine Tonga	LFT
Ma'a Fafine Tonga	MFT
Tonga National Council of Churches	TNCC
Faith Based Group	FBG
Tonga Women National Congress	TWNC
Tonga National Center for Women and Children	TNCWC
Women and Children Crisis Center	WCCC

Successful Implementation of Tonga National Innovation Work Plan 2020-2025

Of paramount importance, is the establishment of a Tonga National Innovation Committee (TNIC) consisting of Stakeholders that promote and establish ownership and a sense of Innovation in Tonga. The Stakeholder members are to be selected from Government ministries, NGOs, Faith-based groups and community representatives.

The TNIC will: i) establish protocols of office bearers' election ii) discuss and determine how the Tonga National Innovation Work Plan (TNIWP) 2020-2025 is to be integrated into actual workable plans.

The actual plans would enable the formulation of guidelines such as the delegations of responsibilities/actions according to the National Plan. The Committee would also need to ascertain if there are any existing Innovation groups in the local communities so as to align or merge plans to the Tonga National Innovation Work Plan.

TNIC would then design evaluation and monitoring strategies according to the TNIWP 2020-2025. A periodic review of the Innovation Work Plan is also recommended to ensure Innovation activities are updated.

The Innovation Hub Co-coordinator must see to the documentation of all processes and activities and inform/report them to the relevant stakeholders and local innovators.



Appendix

a. Participating Stakeholders

Government Ministries

- Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management Environment, Communications and Climate Change (MEIDECC)
- Ministry of Education and Training (MET)
- Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food (MAFF)
- Ministry of Trade Economic Development (MTED)
- Ministry of Public Enterprises (MPE)
- Ministry of Fisheries (MOF)
- Ministry of Finance (MOF)
- Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)
- Tonga Water Board (TWB)

NGOs and Private Organisations

- USP-PACE-SD
- Nishing Trading
- Tonga National Center for Women and Children
- Ma'a Fafine mo e Family
- Tonga Chamber of Commerce
- Women and Children Crisis Center
- Tonga Skill
- True Tonga Incorporation

Faith Based Group: Church Leaders

- Catholic
- Seven Day Adventist
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
- Tupou Tertiary Institution
- Free Church of Tonga

b. Workshop Questionnaire



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Gender		Age		Country		Organisation	
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2. UNDERSTANDING INNOVATION IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

- a. Give an example of existing initiative(s) in your country that you believe have aspects of innovation.

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- b. What are those aspects of innovation?

.....

- c. Why are those aspects important for understanding innovation in your local context?

.....

.....

3. SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT

- a. Give an example(s) of your country's strengths on innovation.

.....

- b. In what way(s) can those strengths be supported in the local context?

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.....

- c. Give an example(s) of local stakeholders who should be able to support those strengths?

.....

d. In what ways do you expect PRIN to support innovation in the local context?

.....
.....

4. WAY FORWARD

a. What would you like to see happen in terms of innovation at the country level?

.....
.....

c. Invitation Letter & Talanoa Topics



Date: _____

Dear Stakeholders: _____

TALANOA FORUM: Tonga Pacific Regional Innovation Network

The Pacific Regional Innovation Network (PRIN) is an innovative partnership initiative between the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), seeking to further support regional innovation in the Pacific. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Tonga, and Vanuatu have been considered for this PRIN initiative as they currently have impactful projects on innovation from national and regional perspectives.

Phase 1 of this initiative is to conduct ‘3 in-person national Talanoa’ with key stakeholders, one in each of the 3 countries with the aim for a better understanding of innovation and how best to support at the country level. However, the unexpected effects of the recent global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, has led to the unfortunate and untimely cancellation of ‘in-person national Talanoa’, which will now be replaced by an in-country talanoa forum on the attached list of talanoa topics that will be coordinated and facilitated by the USP Tonga Campus.

As a key stakeholder, we warmly invite you to contribute towards the development of innovation in your country, by participating in the attached Talanoa program which is scheduled to be held on _____ from _____ at _____. The findings will assist the USP and UNDP teams in drafting a PRIN report and a draft work-plan on innovation for Tonga.

Please confirm your consent to participate in this Talanoa Forum by signing below. All identifying information will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed or used in any publications. Talanoa will be audio-recorded for analysis and ease of reference. Participants’ quotations will be used in a way that the individual cannot be publicly identified.

Thanking you in advance and we are looking forward to welcoming you soon.

Sincerely

Dr Robin Havea

Director: USP-Tonga Campus

Participant

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



TALANOA TOPICS: Tonga Pacific Regional Innovation Network

1. Understanding innovation in the local context
 - a. Existing initiatives in Tonga that have aspects of innovation
 - b. Examples of those aspects of innovation
 - c. Significance of those aspects of innovation to understanding of innovation in Tonga

2. Supporting innovation in the local context
 - a. Examples of innovation strengths in Tonga
 - b. Strategies/systems needed to support those strengths
 - c. Tonga expectations on PRIN in terms of support

3. Way forward
 - a. Key priorities of innovation in Tonga
 - b. Preferred outcomes/solutions for innovation in Tonga
 - c. Role of relevant stakeholders in achieving innovative outcomes for Tonga

d. Workshop Program



AGENDA FOR TALANOA FORUM: TONGA PACIFIC REGIONAL INNOVATION NETWORK

09:00am – 9:15am	Participant Registration
09:15am – 9:50am	Introduction Briefing of PRIN Project Dr. Robin Siale Havea
09:50am – 10:20am	Morning Tea
10:20am – 12:00noon	Small Groups Talanoa Key Points <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understanding innovation in the local context2. Supporting innovation in the local context3. Way Forward

Group Report and Discussions

Question & Answer Session

Followed by Lunch

Thank you for coming.

e. Consent Letter



Dear Participant,

Name: _____

Ministry/ Organisation: _____

RE: Consent Form

Please note.

PRIN team in Tonga wishes to include some of the pictures taken during the Talanoa session in the final report. Also, certain direct quotations from the Talanoa discussions will be used to support discussions in the report. Speakers will remain anonymous.

Please sign below to indicate your consent.

Mālō 'Aupito
Tonga PRIN Team.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mālō 'Aupito

