HANDOUT (Survey design exercise and case study)

Comment on questionnaire content

Don’t start by writing questions; spend some time finding out what you want to know, clarifying the objectives, developing hypotheses you would like to test, and developing a model (as appropriate). It will then be much easier to develop questionnaire content.

The survey is intended to:

A- Describe and analyse the current capacity and activities of developing country research institution in the area of trade research

B- Determine the capacity building needs of developing country research institutions in the area of trade research

C- Provide information on differences in trade research impediments and capacity building needs across groups of institutions based on institution and country characteristics

Important hypotheses to be tested (illustrative only):

1- The research institutions are in need of capacity building for trade research

2- Institutions already specialized in trade research need to build their trade research capacity further

3- Institutions that are well connected with government officials have a good understanding of trade

4- Degree to which the perceived need for a capacity building activity is affected/explained by institution and country characteristics

   Possible econometric model (preferably logit or probit models):
   \( X_{cb} = f(\text{government links}, \text{degree of specialization}, \text{type of institution}, \text{country GDP}, \text{geographic location}, \text{WTO membership}) \)

5- Institutions in countries less opened to trade (as measured by TOTAL TRADE/GDP) do less trade research and have less trade research capacity building needs

6- …
What do we want to know? What kind of information would we like to see in the report?

[Illustrative bullet point list coming out of a brainstorming session of the research team]

- What is the existing trade research capacity of institutions (possible measure: publications, education level of trade researchers, government and policy maker links…)
- What are the key impediments to trade research
- What are the trade research capacity building needs
- How are institutions building trade research capacity
- Where do they get assistance for building trade research capacity
- What capacity building activities would be most helpful
- How do the capacity building needs differ across institutions? What are the relevant institutional or country characteristics that affect their needs?
  ✓ General info/demographics of the institutions
  ✓ Find out degree of specialization of research institutions in trade research
  ✓ Evaluate the status of the research institution in the national and international environment
  ✓ Assess the institutions perceived needs of policy makers in the area of trade research

...Questionnaire structure and questions can be developed on that basis...