

Food Aid

bilateral programs of CIDA offer an excellent opportunity for Canada to deal with individual countries in the development of food production. For instance, our experience in wheat growing is being utilized in the development of third world wheat production. Many countries, including some of the poorer countries in Africa, are working currently toward self-sufficiency in wheat production through CIDA funding and technology transfer from Canada. Our contributions to multilateral organizations are also in direct support of this agricultural development, in addition to our assistance to the numerous non-government organizations.

However, food aid represents a small proportion of the food requirements of developing countries. Indeed, all food aid accounts for about 5 per cent of their consumption. Hence, the long term solution to bridging the food gap is in development programs to enhance food production in less developed countries. CIDA is increasing its efforts in food production, handling, and preservation in less developed countries as rapidly as Canadian resources permit.

In developing countries, the agricultural sector—principally farming, but forestry and fisheries as well—is a most important source of employment, income, foreign exchange earnings, and investment capital, in addition to its most obvious role as the source of food. Under point seven of Canada's Strategy for International Development Co-operation, 1975-80, the Canadian International Development Agency gives priority to food production and rural development, both crucial requirements for development in the third world.

Four years ago during fiscal year 1973-74, 6.3 per cent of CIDA's total bilateral budget was allocated toward development projects in the agricultural sector. In 1975-76, an average of 13.9 per cent or about \$65 million of all bilateral disbursements were for such projects. For 1977-82, agriculture will be the most important single sector to be handled by bilateral programs, CIDA's largest branch. Disbursements of about 33 per cent of total bilateral funds are anticipated. All figures are exclusive of bilateral shipments of fertilizers which obviously play an important role.

CIDA bilateral programs are handled by five regional divisions: Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Francophone Africa, and Commonwealth Africa. These divisions handle agricultural projects in eight main categories: crop production, crop storage, animal production, irrigation and drainage, agricultural inputs, agricultural services, fisheries and forestry.

Through its multilateral programs branch, CIDA supports various international and regional institutions engaged in agricultural development, such as financial institutions, United Nations agencies, and agricultural research institutions. Approximately 20 per cent or about \$65 million of all multilateral funds are channelled through these institutions for agricultural projects in developing countries.

[Miss Nicholson.]

Canada works through five major lending institutions: the World Bank group, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the Caribbean Development Bank. Over-all, an average 33 per cent or about \$2.5 billion in loans by these banks in 1976 went to agricultural projects. As all multilateral contributions by Canada are categorically untied aid, and since CIDA disburses approximately 50 per cent of all multilateral assistance through these banks, this is one of the more important ways Canada helps agricultural progress in developing countries around the world. One hears often in the developed countries that the untied nature of our agricultural aid, which is geared toward helping countries become self-sufficient, makes that aid acceptable to developing countries.

Essentially there are three United Nations agencies which are involved in agricultural development: the United Nations Development Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Canada has given or committed substantial amounts of funds in support of these institutions. During fiscal year 1976-77, for instance, CIDA contributed at least \$34 million to UN agencies, of which about \$29 million was in support of UNDP alone. As about 25 per cent of total UNDP outlays go to agricultural development, this is another example of Canada's role in the development of agriculture in the Third World. Furthermore, in support of the IFAD, a new addition to UN specialized agencies, Canada has committed through CIDA an estimated \$6 million in funds for the fiscal year 1976-77.

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The WFP is the main focus of the UN's food aid activities, and it uses contributions from many national sources to organize projects that fall into three main categories: food for work projects intended to help the recipient country improve its food production by offering food as a partial wage for workers engaged in development projects; vulnerable group feeding projects for children, nursing mothers, and the elderly; emergency relief projects for victims of natural and civil disasters.

For 1977-78, Canada pledged \$150 million in food aid to the WFP, with an additional \$50 million for 1978 should the need arise. Furthermore, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees received \$1.89 million from Canada in food aid in 1975-76 for refugees from the Middle East wars of 1948 and 1967.

Meanwhile, the United Nations children's fund, UNICEF, received during the same period \$3.5 million as general UN funds, \$3 million from bilateral funds for UNICEF projects in Indochina, and \$2 million in food aid for the poorest developing countries. The work of the various international institutes engaged in agricultural research is co-ordinated by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Sponsored by the World Bank, the UNDP and the FAO, the group backs research at 11 centres around the globe,