

Central to Canadian assistance programs not only in the agricultural sector but in the overall approach to development assistance is environmental protection. Long-term economic recovery and development in Africa will be possible only if environmentally sustainable. Canada will conduct environmental impact assessments of all capital projects financed by Canada and will support the environmental strategies of African countries particularly by assisting governments to integrate environmental considerations into economic decision-making. This will be additional to ongoing programs to combat drought and desertification.

Canada has provided assistance to help develop local sources of renewable energy. In 1986/87, \$Cdn 39 million was devoted to the energy sector. That same fiscal year, Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation invested about \$Cdn 27 million in oil and gas exploration in Africa.

People are both the means and the end of development. Development of human resources is a priority of the UN Program and also of the new Canadian aid strategy. Well-trained and educated people will carry developing societies and economies into the future. Between 1982 and 1986, Canada channelled over \$Cdn 100 million into human resource development in Africa and in 1986/87, some \$Cdn 35 million was allocated to specific human resource development projects. In addition, all new capital and infrastructure projects financed by Canada in future will have built-in training and technical assistance components to ensure facilities can be maintained and managed. But there will also be a shift away from large-scale capital projects and toward human resource development. In particular, efforts will focus on primary health care, basic education (especially literacy programs related to the success of projects in other fields such as agriculture or health), skills training, notably occupational and technical skills and training for professionals, managers and business people.

Women comprise one half of the human resources of Africa and are integral to the vitality of its economy. Not only are they the mainstay of the agricultural labour force, but also they contribute long hours to food processing, marketing and industrial work. The contribution of women to economic well-being cannot be overlooked in the process of recovery and development. Every Canadian assistance proposal must include an assessment of the impact of the project on women. Also, Canada is funding projects developed by and for women that help them to build better lives and to take part in and benefit more fully from the wider development process. As part of the Africa 2000 Program, Canada has allocated \$Cdn 26 million over five years to specific women's programs in Africa.