

RAFI has strong research capacity embodied in its staff, its board of trustees, and its network around the world. It responds to several ad hoc requests for information and analysis from its network every week. It also has a good set of media contacts and an up-to-date data base on who is covering the issues that concern them in the media internationally. They produce an on-line newsletter to get ad hoc information out to their network quickly. Partly because of its size, however, RAFI lacks the capacity to provide leadership to Canadian NGOs on these issues.

Another NGO with a strong emphasis on food security policy is PARTNERS in Rural Development (formerly the Canadian Hunger Foundation). Like RAFI, its policy work is done primarily at the international level. It is one of four members of the NGO Committee of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It is currently involved in follow-up to the November 1995 Conference for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, for which PARTNERS was responsible for drafting the Plan of Action. PARTNERS has produced several policy papers on food security and rural development that are available on request. PARTNERS' acknowledges, however, that its capacity for research into food security policy issues is quite limited, as is its knowledge of the public policy process itself.

OXFAM-Canada has made food security one of its three major programming themes. At present it is developing a major campaign on Ten Basic Rights. The right to food security is the first of these rights and likely to be the lead issue of the campaign. The main point of this work is public education, however, not direct policy advocacy. To date, it has not developed an advocacy strategy around food security issues, although there are a number with which it is dealing, notably food aid. This will be a priority on OXFAM-Canada's agenda through the rest of 1997.

Several other NGOs work on food security issues in their programs and make modest contributions to research and advocacy based on their experience. For example, the Philippines Development Assistance Program (PDAP) is developing a data base of best practices in the fields of food security and sustainable agriculture in the Philippines, including appropriate policies at the local, national (Philippines), and international levels. A particular focus at present is on pesticides and fertilizers. PDAP aims to build capacities locally for this work, but it is also, for example, lobbying the Canadian Government to stop the export of potash to the Philippines for fertilizer. PDAP intends to promote alternative trading networks, supporting the work of Bridgehead and Fair TradeMark Canada in opening access for the production of Filipino agricultural cooperatives to Northern markets.

Inter Church Action has conducted research on the economic impacts of methods of