



Rehabilitation of a bulrush marsh at the outlet of the Ha Ha! River in Quebec. This project was initiated as a result of the Saguenay River flood in 1996.

Photo credit: Ghislain Sylvain.

activities aimed at protecting the environment, including wildlife and their habitat, the importance of the need to protect, conserve, and restore ecosystems is gaining momentum within the agricultural sector. Maintaining and improving soil, air, and water quality are important challenges that are addressed through proper management of soil, nutrients, pesticides, and animal manure. Cooperation among producers, processors, and governments to work toward increased sustainability in the agriculture and agri-food industry is growing. For example, more Canadian farmers are adopting best management practices, such as improved manure handling and storage, that reduce the risk of air and water pollution. A national set of agri-environmental indicators has been developed to assist with profiling and monitoring the state of sustainable agriculture and the environment in Canada. (For more information on rural development and sustainable agriculture, refer to Monograph No. 8 in this series.)

Freshwater is a fundamental resource for food production, plays an important role in virtually every modern industrial process and many recreational activities, and provides an essential element for urban development across Canada. Freshwater management in Canada is evolving in response to changing demands as well as to the growing awareness of the effects of human activities on the aquatic environment. Many provincial governments have recently renewed their freshwater policies and the Government of Canada is working to

From the Mountains to the Seas

The major threats to the health, productivity, and biodiversity of the marine environment result from human activities on land — in coastal areas and farther inland. Some 80 percent of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based activities. The marine environment is also threatened by physical alterations of the coastal zone, including the destruction of habitats of vital importance to maintain ecosystem integrity.

Later this year, Canada will release its National Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. Implementation will involve using sustainable and integrated environmental management approaches, such as the harmonization of coastal, river basin, and land use plans.