

a) National Concerns

In May 1986, in response to the urgent need to develop an increased focus on Africa, Canada launched a special Africa 2000 initiative. Africa 2000 is a 15 year multi-faceted political commitment to work towards African recovery by the year 2000. It has a five year budget of \$Cdn 150 million. The program will support small-scale community projects which contribute to agricultural research, the fight against drought and desertification, self-sufficiency in food production, strengthening of institutions and the integration of women in development. One half of the disbursements under the Africa 2000 program will be channelled through Canadian NGOs. Partnership Africa Canada, a coalition of more than 50 Canadian NGOs will choose the projects and programs to be supported by these funds.

Agriculture is the pivotal sector in African economic recovery, development and self-reliance. It is also at the centre of the UN Program of Action. While Africa has the potential to feed itself, it must overcome substantial barriers in order to achieve that goal. Agriculture, agricultural support sectors and appropriately designed food aid are a priority in Canadian development assistance planning. From 1985/86 to 1987/88, some \$Cdn 120 million was allocated directly to agricultural development, while a further \$Cdn 200 million was allocated to the development of transportation networks in Africa which support the agricultural sector.

Canada has provided various agricultural inputs, fertilizers, pesticides and seeds, through commodity transfer programs or lines of credit. Canada also supports agricultural research conducted by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and by the research centres represented by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. In 1986/87, some \$Cdn 16 million was channelled through IDRC for agricultural research in Africa.

Canada has also participated in urgent measures to deal with food emergencies, as well as in the longer term use of food aid as a development tool. In 1985/86, Canada made a special effort to respond to the serious food shortages which swept the continent and \$Cdn 90 million was disbursed through bilateral channels alone. In 1986/87, when agricultural production returned to more normal levels, Canada provided \$Cdn 67 million in bilateral food aid to Africa (including government financing of non-governmental organisations who have developed feeding programs). In addition, an estimated \$Cdn 87 million was delivered through multilateral channels.