

CULTIVATING A SECURE FUTURE

Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture in Canada

INTRODUCTION

Around the globe today there is renewed national interest in rural development. With the world population projected to grow to 8 billion people by 2025, increasing food production sustainably becomes an urgent issue, as does the well-being of people living in rural areas. Although rural development often brings to mind agricultural production and natural resource management, today it involves much more than that. The broad goal of rural development is rural growth focusing on the needs of people — their access to knowledge, research products and technologies, markets, health care, education, financing, and land ownership.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A Glimpse at Rural Canada

Rural Canada comprises more than 90 percent of Canada's total land area. Its geography is highly diverse, including coastlands, farmlands, forests, and the northern hinterlands. Many of the economic activities



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