

particularly environmental sustainability. This past decade has seen a proliferation of international environmental agreements to which Canada has become party, many of which are mentioned in a later section of this monograph on the state of agricultural resources.

In the developing world, where much of the population is still rurally based, agriculture is still a main engine for economic growth and rural prosperity. The Government of Canada believes that people of all countries should have access to adequate food of sufficient quality for a healthy life, and works through two public agencies to promote appropriate conditions for food security in developing countries. Sustainable agriculture is a basis for achieving this.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continues to view agricultural and rural development as a creative and efficient means of meeting its priority goals, working in partnership with many countries and groups. In the Pan-African Bean Research Alliance, CIDA has collaborated with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture to work with large numbers of poor women farmers to improve the production of beans, the major source of protein and an important source of cash income for millions of African families. The Farm to Market Entrepreneur Development Project in Bangladesh directly involves farmers and builds on the growing interest on the part of nongovernment organizations and commercial enterprises to provide goods and services to the agricultural sector. Agricultural Governance Support to Mali, a multidonor initiative, has resulted in the transition of state-controlled cereal markets to a more open-market situation, resulting in increased production and cereal self-sufficiency.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) initiates, encourages, supports, and conducts research into the problems of the developing regions of the world. Several of its priorities touch directly on sustainable agriculture and rural development: food security, equity in natural resources use, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable employment. In its early days, IDRC's strengths in agriculture, food, and nutrition science led it to fund hundreds of projects conducted by researchers in developing countries into their own problems related to sustainable agriculture and rural development. After the 1992 Earth Summit, the centre reoriented its programming to promote sustainable development, particularly community-based natural resource management tailored to the different conditions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It has also developed a closely related program on the sustainable use of biodiversity. For example, the Nagaland Environment Protection and Economic Development Project, a partnership between IDRC and the Government of Nagaland, India, develops practical approaches to transforming the existing practice of

### **Sustainable Agriculture in China**

*Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada funds the international secretariat of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). The CCICED advises the State Council and Premier of China on policy options for sustainable development in China. Its Sustainable Agriculture Working Group recommends agricultural projects, especially related to cropland and grassland management. For example, Canada (CIDA) and the Government of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region are jointly funding a 5-year project to test and demonstrate sustainable cultivated and grassland technologies from western Canada at four sites in Mongolia. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will carry out the project, working with the Vocational and Technical College of the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University. The project will involve close cooperation with an existing World Bank project on poverty alleviation and a CIDA dairy project.*