

# Canada Weekly

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## Guidelines for Canada's five-year development assistance program

*The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) published on April 30 the first group of a series of sectoral guidelines for Canada's development assistance program for the next five years.*

*Entitled "Rural Development", "Agriculture", "Rural Water Development", "Forestry", and "Fisheries", they are a follow-up to Canada's Strategy for International Development Co-operation, 1975-80, made public September 2, 1975.*

*Some highlights follow:*

- Helping the small farmer in developing countries to boost food production is the key to easing the global food crisis and is a target of Canada's foreign aid program for the next five years.
- CIDA has adopted a comprehensive approach to development. In past decades international development assistance was concentrated on developing infrastructures and industry alone. These failed to improve the quality of life of the masses. Disparities widened and unemployment and alienation of rural masses increased.
- There is widespread agreement that the ultimate cause of rural poverty is not to be found in the rural area itself, but lies mostly in the lack of integration of rural zones into the socio-political and economic system.
- The World Bank estimates the rural poor at 600 million having annual incomes of \$50 to less than one third of the national average, which is extremely low, even by local standards.
- Canada must support institutions in developing countries that specialize in research and training relevant to the needs of small farmers.
- In a number of developing countries agriculture is the only sector capable of producing exports to earn badly needed foreign exchange, once domestic needs are met.
- Development of agriculture is one of the best forms of insurance against migration from the countryside to the city, with its problems of unemployment, slums and social disintegration.
- Some 100 Canadian agricultural specialists serve abroad each year. Recruiting such expert personnel is difficult and will become more difficult as the program expands.

### Agricultural projects

- Canada's bilateral agricultural projects have consisted of: (a) relatively short-term studies and surveys to assist national governments to prepare agricultural development programs; (b) long-term programs being carried out by CIDA include dryland farming in India, agronomic research in Tanzania, wheat-breeding in Kenya, faculty help for the University of Ghana, for Khon Kaen University in Thailand, to the Institut national agronomique of Morocco and for Makerere University in Uganda, agricultural extension in Tunisia, oilseed production in Peru and work on sugarcane for livestock feed in Barbados.
- While Canadian soil chemists, plant pathologists, and other experts can apply their problem-solving abilities to developing countries, Canada has no corps of tropical agronomists to draw from.
- Canada has exportable competence in: dryland farming; cereal breeding; seed multiplication, certification and distribution; bulk storage and handling of cereals; supervised credit; extension education; control of crop losses in central storage depots; control of plant diseases and insect pests; control of animal diseases; artificial insemination; range management and forage-crop improvement; animal nutrition; quality control and processing of agricultural products; management of abattoirs, dairies; surveys of soils and land-use capability; organization and management of co-operatives.
- CIDA must pursue special programs so small farmers benefit from new production technology to reduce the gap between owners of large and small farms. High yielding varieties of wheat, rice and maize can increase yield and

