



# communiqué

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## CANADIAN SUPPORT TO INDIAN OILSEED SECTOR

NEW DELHI, INDIA---The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today confirmed that Canada has agreed to provide \$89 million worth of crude canola/rapeseed oil and technical assistance over the next five years to assist India in its efforts to improve edible oil production and to strengthen cooperatives among oilseed producers.

"This is the second phase of a project that has already proven successful in several Indian states, in increasing farmers incomes and strengthening farm organizations", Mr. Clark said.

"The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide \$85 million worth of canola/rapeseed oil and will provide the balance of \$4 million through the Cooperative Union of Canada (CUC) to provide monitoring, technical assistance, training and some equipment," he added.

The oil will go to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) which was asked by the government of India to undertake the promotion of cooperatives in the oilseed sector because of its success in building up the dairy industry. The oil will be refined and sold on the open market in India. Proceeds from the sale will be used to establish an integrated oilseed production, processing and marketing system and to help farmers in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan form cooperatives at the village, state and regional levels.

"India is the world's largest importer of vegetable oil, yet per capita consumption is less than half the recommended nutritional requirement. Increasing

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