

A further constraint which we must recognize is the level of commitment within developing countries themselves to increase their agricultural potential. Priorities must be examined in developing countries, as much as in our own development program, and in many cases much greater resources must be directed to assisting the rural poor who represent the majority of the population and to improving food production.

Recently, in London, at a Commonwealth Ministerial Conference on food production and rural development, a Canadian proposal to establish a special Food Production and Rural Development Division was endorsed; is now to be established to enhance Commonwealth collaboration in this area by acting as a clearing house for information flows, as a source of advice on manpower and training and in support of project planning activities. In broader terms, this meeting brought a consensus amongst Commonwealth agriculture and development assistance ministers that increased food production and rural development must have the highest priority in national and multilateral programmes in the light of the persistence of great poverty and hunger and malnutrition in the developing world. The conclusions of the London conference have been referred to the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings.

#### AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Canada has traditionally placed a high priority upon agricultural research, a world-wide effort to help find long-term solutions to chronic food shortages in low-income countries. Research is, for the people of the developing world, the key to a better life. It has potential to solve age-old problems, to produce economic benefits infinitely greater than its cost, to help the developing nations reach the take-off point for self-generating progress.