

addressed in this study. Two longitudinal data bases that can provide answers to many questions on this topic have recently become available. They are the 1966-1971-1976 Census of Agriculture match and the 10-per-cent Longitudinal Taxation Sample. The inter-relationships between off-farm work and the adjustment of the farm operator's labour resource between the farm and non-farm sector is a topic that deserves a major research effort in the near future.

Thus, when considering the efficiency of food production, the fact that food is produced by less than full-time operators is irrelevant. Public policies with the aim of increasing the efficiency of food production should apply to all food producers. In this context, off-farm work by farmers is an important non-issue for public policy. However, when considering the income support of farmers, the farmer's total income must be considered, not merely the income from farming. This is the context in which off-farm work and the off-farm income of farmers is an important issue for public policy. In fact, off-farm work by farmers may be the most feasible solution to the problem of low incomes among farmers.

The Institute commends this entire study to the Committee for a thorough review of the off-farm work situation in rural Canada.