

## INCREASING FOOD SECURITY



In many parts of the world, food insecurity and malnutrition threaten the livelihoods and health of hundreds of millions of people. Today, close to 800 million people face chronic hunger and 2 billion people suffer from hidden hunger, also known as micronutrient deficiency. For these men, women and children, the lack of access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food remains one of the major obstacles to escaping poverty.

In 2014–2015, Canada mobilized engagement on global food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development. In Southeast Asia, Canada provided \$4.5 million to support Grow Asia, a regional platform developed by the World Economic Forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, to facilitate new public-private partnerships and mobilize investments for agricultural development. On nutrition, Canada continues to support the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and other key partners in global efforts to improve the nutrition of women, newborns and children. For a second year in a row, Canada exceeded its \$250-million minimal annual commitment under the Food Assistance Convention, an international treaty whose objective is to ensure quality food aid is available on a predictable basis to help meet the food needs of developing countries.

In 2014–2015, Canada's food security initiatives focused on: sustainable agricultural development; food assistance and nutrition; and research and development.

### Sustainable Agricultural Development

Canada's investments in sustainable agricultural development helped smallholder farmers increase their agricultural productivity, improve resilience to extreme climate conditions, improve agricultural value chains and assist partner governments to develop effective agricultural policies.

Canada's support to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided training to 3.5 million people in crop production practices and technologies, and 1.2 million people in business and entrepreneurship. In addition, over 25 million people benefited from improved access to rural financial services.

In Ukraine, up to 11,364 farmers received support from Canada through the International Finance Corporation for training and implementation of post-harvest handling innovations and storage solutions. In addition, they obtained greater access to agricultural finance in order to address the

significant losses of grain that result from underdeveloped storage infrastructure, lack of new technologies and limited access to finance.

In Ethiopia, support through the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) more than doubled the number of households using sustainable land management practices such as rehabilitation of degraded watersheds, terracing hillsides and building water harvesting systems. Additionally, in Honduras, Canada's food security efforts through support to Oxfam Québec helped train 4,100 smallholder farmers in sustainable agricultural production and soil and water management, enabling families to increase their annual incomes by 46 percent over four years, from US\$1,100 in 2010 to US\$ 1,460 in 2014.

In addition, Canada's agriculture programming improved the lives of women. For example, in Ghana, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) helped 3,937 women farmers to increase soybean production, strengthen their market opportunities by launching a new

### INNOVATION TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY: CANADA'S SUPPORT TO AGRESULTS

In 2014–2015, the Department of Finance provided \$10 million towards AgResults via the World Bank Group. AgResults is an innovative, results-based initiative aiming to enhance smallholder farmer well-being and food security in the developing world. Specifically, AgResults uses pilot projects that incentivize the adoption and/or the development of demand-driven solutions in order to address important agricultural and food security challenges. Through a pay-for-results format, AgResults leverages private sector investment and innovation, all the while stimulating increased food security and sustained economic growth. The World Bank Group manages the financial intermediary fund through which donors make their contributions towards this initiative.

Since AgResults was launched in 2012, significant progress has been made in implementing pilot projects. For example, in Nigeria, AgResults is implementing a project that focuses on addressing aflatoxin contamination of maize by providing economic incentives for the adoption by smallholder farmers of Aflasafe, a new biocontrol technology. The project is designed to incentivize the adoption of this technology through results-based payments that are tied to the number of kilograms of maize treated with Aflasafe collected from maize aggregators. As at December 31, 2014, more than 3,400 farmers and nine maize aggregators were participating in the program, representing more than 5,100 ha of land. Since the beginning of the project, an estimated 19,000 metric tons of maize have been aggregated and tested for Aflasafe (an estimated 95 percent of which is Aflatoxin-free), yielding an estimated US\$240,000 in premium results-based payments. In 2014–2015, AgResults partners also worked on developing new pilot project ideas focused on innovative solutions to global agricultural and food security challenges.