

recognize that the most difficult problem may be the human one - how to persuade farmers rooted in tradition to accept new agricultural technologies and motivations.

The main burden of these changes must fall on the developing countries themselves. As donor countries, we must seek to help in every way we can. Technical assistance is a vital ingredient. In Canada, we are actively examining additional ways of increasing and improving our contributions of human resources, and we shall give the highest priority to the request from developing countries for such assistance related to agriculture or fisheries as we are competent to provide. In addition, we have, over the years, provided significant assistance in other forms, such as fertilizers. In the coming years, we are prepared to supply increased amounts of fertilizers to developing countries. To this effect, programmes are being developed that will, we hope, facilitate forward planning by both Canadian industry and the developing countries concerned.

Perhaps I might note two areas in which the useful Secretariat paper might be a little more explicit. There is first the need of a proper balance in the application of agricultural inputs. As the experience of the Indian subcontinent has made clear, there are dangers in seeking to increase irrigation without paying equal attention to the important problem of drainage. Similarly, there is little point in promoting agricultural productivity through the use of fertilizers unless adequate credit and marketing arrangements are available. In short, there is no magical formula for increasing food production; we must ensure that our approach is balanced and realistic. My second comment is about fisheries. The resources of the sea are virtually untapped and I believe that more attention should be devoted to their exploitation. Our own aid programmes have given a high priority to assisting the fishing industry, and we have found that this can yield encouraging returns. Among the benefits has been the improvement of nutritional standards as a result of the enlarged supply of this high-protein food.

The other main aspect of the problem, as I mentioned earlier, is the provision of food supplies on an interim basis. Probably only a few DAC members are in a position to make a large-scale contribution in kind. Other donor countries can, however, play their part through increased contributions of cash or shipping services, either through the World Food Programme or under special arrangements such as were recently made to meet the emergency food needs of India. An excellent example of this type of aid was the British Government's cash contribution earlier this year to help meet the cost of shipping foodstuffs to India. Although Canada makes a cash contribution to the World Food Programme, our main multilateral and bilateral food aid is in the form of foodstuffs, principally wheat, which we supplied in considerable quantities over the years.

This year, Canada mounted an unprecedented food-aid programme, including the provision of one million tons of foodstuffs, largely wheat, to India to help meet the emergency situation there. Every bushel of wheat we have provided may be considered as a lost commercial sale; we have made this effort despite the fact that commercial exports of wheat are a vital element in our balance of payments and in the livelihood of Canadians.