

In a regional context, Canada and Thailand are signatories to the Agreement between Canada and ASEAN on Economic Co-operation which came into effect in June 1982. Under the agreement, a Joint Co-operation Committee was established to review progress in a range of commercial and development co-operation endeavours between Canada and the ASEAN group.

5.2 Other Areas of Co-operation

A number of initiatives are currently under way in the sectors identified by Canada and Thailand in the Economic Co-operation Agreement for priority action. Several of these have been pursued through CIDA or involve financial support from CIDA, while others involve directly more co-operation between Canadian and Thai government departments or Thai participation in Canadian government programs generally extended to developing countries.

Agriculture

Agriculture Canada is actively pursuing an export trade development plan for Thailand focusing its efforts in the areas of breeding dairy cattle (live animals and semen), swine (live animals), beef breeding cattle and semen, animal feeds and processed food. Various technical missions may evolve under this plan.

A number of missions related to livestock development and dairy management, both incoming and outgoing, took place in 1988 and 1989. These activities led to a noticeable increase in Canadian exports of dairy bull semen to Thailand (the Canadian market share rose from 10 per cent in 1988 to 45 per cent in 1989). Initiatives may also be taken to promote Canadian swine and beef production and to explore opportunities to market processed foods and animal feeds in Thailand. In this connection, Agriculture Canada undertook a canola mission to Thailand in March 1990. It is also expected that Thailand will be represented at the International Dairy Congress to be held in Montreal in October 1990.

In 1990, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Thai Department of Livestock Development by Shore Holstein International Ltd., Semex Canada/International Livestock Management School and CIDA for the establishment of a Dairy Herd Demonstration Project, evaluated at \$2.5 million, and involving the sale of live cattle, semen, embryos, and the provision of training and technical assistance. Connected with this project, an animal health protocol agreement between Canada and Thailand was approved in 1990 for the export of live dairy cattle and embryos from Canada.

Discussions between Canada and Thailand on the establishment of a consultative mechanism in the area of agriculture (a Joint Agricultural Committee) under the umbrella of the Economic Co-operation Agreement took place in May 1990. These consultations involve the possible accreditation of Thailand's inspection system for fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and vegetables and dairy products. Also proposed is an official link between the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and its counterpart, the Thai Veterinary Medical Association, for co-operative work in areas of practical training and continuing education.

The provinces of Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta visit Thailand regularly on agricultural missions. In addition, the province of Manitoba organized a swine mission to Thailand in March 1990.

Fisheries

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has participated in CIDA's Northeast Fisheries Project in Thailand since its inception in 1984. This project is designed to increase fresh-water fish production and support the administration of the Thai Department of Fisheries. DFO provides technical expertise and training.

The department has also played a role in CIDA's Food Aid Program, which included the inspection, in 1988/89, of 590 tonnes of canned herring destined for Thailand under the United Nations Border Relief Organization (UNBRO).

In June 1988, Canada and Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Inspection of Canned Tuna which provides assurance that canned tuna products from Thailand will meet Canada's requirements and will minimize the need for extensive sampling.

Resource Management

Approximately \$20 million was dedicated to CIDA projects directly related to the management of natural resources between 1983 and 1989. Projects included technical and training assistance toward the implementation of a national planning process for natural resources management in Thailand, the upgrading of Thailand's National Remote Sensing Program through the Landsat project and the upgrading of Thailand's satellite ground station to enable reception from the Landsat Thematic Mapper and SPOT sensors.