



In Southeast Asia, Malaysia is receiving CIDA funds to facilitate the transition from an agricultural, commodity-based economy to a mixed industrial economy by strengthening its institutional, human resource and technological base. As such, a \$15 million (1991-96) contribution from CIDA is helping to promote economic partnership between Canada and Malaysia, through the transfer of Canadian technology and expertise to Malaysia.

Bilateral Assistance for the Caribbean and the Americas

The Central and South America and Caribbean countries comprise the Americas region. By the year 2000 the population will exceed 500 million and it will have a purchasing power of \$1 trillion.

Most governments of these countries, spurred by the debt crisis of the 1980s, have introduced difficult political and economic reforms. Although these measures have succeeded in restoring growth, they have also resulted in major social costs, including an increase in the number of people living in poverty.

At present, CIDA's Americas Branch programs focus on:

- (1) democratic development, good governance and human rights;
- (2) environmental sustainability;
- (3) support for structural adjustment;
- (4) national and regional institution capacity building; and
- (5) regional integration and co-operation.

CIDA provides assistance to 35 countries of the Americas, with emphasis on six core countries, of which Jamaica, Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean Islands (specifically Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda) are Commonwealth members. There are also smaller programs in Barbados and Belize.

Over the next five years, CIDA's program in Jamaica will concentrate on environmental sustainability, human resource development and poverty alleviation.

In Guyana, CIDA's program emphasizes assistance to the economic recovery program, poverty alleviation, and fisheries and forestry resource management. A \$36 million fertilizer line of credit (1989-95) is helping to ensure the success of structural adjustment in Guyana through the provision of balance-of-payments support, while local currency generated by the project supports a large number of community-based projects that address issues related to poverty alleviation.

Although in the past, programming in the Eastern Caribbean has been dominated by infrastructure development, these projects are giving way to increased emphasis on human resource development and institutional strengthening. CIDA is providing \$8.4 million (1986-93) for an Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Program, which is intended to enhance economic and financial management within the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Canada Training Awards III (1988-95) is a \$34 million project designed to increase the regional base of skilled human resources in key economic sectors -- agriculture (including forestry and fisheries), small industry, human and education management.