

Manpower requirements studied

The federal government has released two background papers dealing with research trained personnel and research manpower requirements.

The paper, entitled *The Stock of Research Trained Manpower*, reviews Canada's national research manpower capacity in the natural sciences. The study indicates that about 45 per cent of Canada's research and development manpower is employed in the industrial sector. This proportion is relatively low compared to most other industrialized countries. The review also states that the federal government employs about one-third and the universities nearly one-quarter of such manpower.

The second paper, entitled *Research Manpower Requirements Arising From Accelerated Expenditures on Research and Development*, addresses the problem of Canada's future requirements for research and development. The study found that additional research and development work associated with the government's research and development target will require a significant increase in the national pool of researchers.

In addition, the study noted that a major challenge in the achievement of the Canadian research and development effort will be to increase the number of research and development personnel employed in industry. Some future imbalances may be offset by the strategic use of immigration to transfer knowledge and skills to Canadians, says the report.

Countries review African program

Representatives from Belgium, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and the United States met in Ottawa, September 21-23, to discuss their African development efforts.

The representatives of the Co-operation for Development in Africa (CDA) group met under the chairmanship of Marcel Massé, president of the Canadian International Development Agency to discuss a development program for Africa begun in May 1980. They reaffirmed their determination to pursue and to intensify their activities in co-operation with the African countries.

These six countries are already heavily involved in the African development effort: in 1979, they contributed more than 55 per cent of all grant aid, more

than 54 per cent of total aid, as well as 53 per cent of all public and private, bilateral and multilateral transfers of capital from all sources directed towards sub-Saharan Africa.

The participants began by reviewing trends in the development environment and studied the results of committees working in the following areas: transportation in Southern Africa, irrigation in the Sahel, agricultural research, reforestation and fuel wood, trans-African highway and primary health care.

The representatives also decided to form a seventh committee, co-ordinated by Canada which will study programs in the field of African energy development, in close collaboration with the African states and agencies concerned.

The desire of the group to associate other agencies and countries involved in African development was reflected in the participation and in the consultations of representatives from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Commission of the European Communities, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference, as well as, Italy and the Netherlands.

Subsidies to increase Telidon use

The federal government has begun a program designed to put 12,000 Telidon terminals into widespread commercial use across Canada.

The department is issuing requests for proposals to organizations wishing to become part of a Telidon terminal subsidy program.

Telidon is Canada's two-way television technology that uses a regular television set to provide access *via* telephone lines to computer data banks.

Under the program, the government will make 6,000 Telidon terminals available for use by the private sector. To qualify for assistance applicants must agree to provide at least an equal number of terminals and demonstrate the advantages of their proposals.

At present there are about 2,000 Telidon terminals in the field. By increasing that number the government expects to draw in a number of new Telidon "information providers" — page creators, advertisers and other parties.

It is estimated that 25,000 Telidon terminals will be installed by the end of 1982 and that terminals now priced at \$1,250 will cost only \$150 in 1983.

Potatoes for export

Agriculture Canada has a program designed to develop different kinds of potatoes to meet the export market.

"In order to expand our seed potato exports, we have to provide buyers with the high-yielding, disease-free varieties they want," explained Don Young, a potato breeder at Agriculture Canada's Fredericton, New Brunswick research station. "At the same time we have to ensure that these new varieties are suited to growing conditions here in Canada," he added.

Under the program, varieties are tested not only in the Atlantic provinces where the seed will be grown, but in projected buyer countries as well.

"Caribe, a promising new variety, is entering its fourth year of trials outside Canada. The Cubans have been pleased with the results so far in their country," said Dr. Young.

Caribe is a high-yielding, purple-skinned potato that matures early. These characteristics make it ideal for Cuba and possibly other countries in South America and the Caribbean. This variety has proven to be an excellent seed producer in tests carried out in the Atlantic provinces. Tests of Canadian potato varieties are also under way in Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil.



Agriculture Canada's seed potato potential program is helping expand exports of Canadian seed potatoes. The program aids development of new varieties such as these being grown at a seed farm run by the Prince Edward Island Potato Marketing Board.