

well-being, sustainability of natural resources, and pervasive influencing factors.

- The national agri-environmental indicators relate to issues of environmental farm management, soil quality, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, agroecosystem biodiversity, and production intensity.
- The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers recently published *Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada: National Status 2000*, which reports on indicators in the areas of conserving biological diversity, ecosystem condition and productivity, conserving soil and water resources, global ecological cycles, multiple benefits of forests to society, and society's responsibility.

Recognizing the importance of integrating economic and environmental information, Statistics Canada publishes a set of environment and natural resource accounts that are used to derive a set of ten environment-economy indicators. These accounts and indicators are based on an approach that focuses on trends in stocks of natural resources and ecosystems and trends in their consumption and quality. Canada's federal budget in 2000 provided three-year funding to the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy to develop sustainable development indicators, with the cooperation of Environment Canada and Statistics Canada. These indicators are intended to integrate environmental and social considerations into economic decision making by governments, business, and civil society and to track progress toward sustainability. Work to create the indicators will build on existing sustainable development indicator research, support further research, and engage a broad range of experts, stakeholders, and the general public in the process.

Information Networks and Partnerships

The Government has also created a variety of networks, such as the Network for Health Surveillance in Canada, that provide a means for professionals to share information in their field. Well-functioning networks go beyond having the right hardware, software, and databases. They are underpinned by a set of dynamic relationships and understandings among users who are dedicated to sharing information and to rendering mutual assistance. Following are

Canada's Agri-Environmental Indicators

Agri-environmental indicators are measures of key environmental conditions, risks, and changes resulting from agriculture, and of management practices used by producers. With the collaboration of farm leaders, the academic community, and government scientists, fourteen indicators were developed in different ways using data from the Census of Agriculture, surveys, provincial data sets, Soil Landscapes of Canada, and custom data sets. Results of the indicator study suggest that Canadian farmers have made important strides in conserving the health of agricultural soils. Progress is less evident with regard to off-farm impacts.

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) is an independent advisory body that provides decision makers, opinion leaders, and the Canadian public with advice and recommendations for promoting sustainable development. Working with stakeholders across Canada, the NRTEE identifies key issues with both environmental and economic implications, examines these implications, and suggests how to balance economic prosperity with environmental preservation. Activities are organized into programs, each overseen by a task force that commissions research, conducts national consultations, reports on agreements and disagreements, and recommends how to promote sustainability. The NRTEE reviews these reports and recommendations before approving them for public release.