

million in 1974-75 to \$98.5 million in the current fiscal year.

The Canadian Delegation at the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Program, which was held in Rome March 17-25, gave a general indication that Canada was considering a substantial - indeed approximately a four-fold - increase in our contribution to the WFP. This news was welcomed by the WFP as well as by other members of the Intergovernmental Committee; and the WFP is proceeding with preparations to utilize these resources in its continuing efforts to mitigate the world food problem.

The Canadian allocation to the WFP is expected to increase from \$19.2 million last year to an estimated \$94.5 million in 1975-76. In effect, Canada will provide 400,000 tons of cereal grains worth \$71.5 million, \$13 million in other foods and \$10 million in cash for the various programs of the WFP. These programs serve as a catalyst to promote development activities in rural areas, which are essential if food production, population and employment are to be brought into balance.

The World Food Programme was established in 1963 under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). About two-thirds of WFP food resources have gone towards supporting employment-creating development projects.

The WFP, with a competent and experienced staff to supervise food-for-work projects and to ensure that food is not being wasted or lost can often promote development that is beyond the reach of Canada's bilateral programs. For instance:

a) the WFP encourages national and local authorities to take action on rural development and to make the required counterpart contributions;