

In agriculture, Canada is strong in the production of cereals such as wheat, oats, rye, barley and maize and in oil seed crops such as rapeseed, sunflower seeds and soybeans as well as starch crops like potatoes. We have a strong technology in dryland agriculture. Most of our cereal crops are grown in areas with under 20 inches of annual rainfall. In other agricultural technologies, we are good in the soil sciences, animal breeding, animal nutrition, and crop storage and processing. We are using these strengths as a back-up for our international development work. There are many projects and programmes drawing upon our expertise in these areas. Here are just a few examples.

In India, there are Canadian scientists working with their Indian colleagues adapting Canadian dryland technology to a variety of Indian soil and climatic conditions. They are also working on scaling down large-sized Canadian minimum tillage implements to small mechanical or ox-power systems. In Tanzania, Canadian scientists and practical farmers are opening new lands to wheat farming. In Lesotho, we are helping to sort out areas suitable for a variety of oil crops, and if successful, we will help with the technology for growing, harvesting and processing.

But we have our limits. We manufacture relatively few agricultural implements and practically no tractors. One of our biggest constraints is the fact that we do not have many professional agricultural personnel available for development work, even though we are placing more emphasis on training and recruiting for work abroad. Specialized manpower is a great lack, though perhaps we may yet find a way to tap the extensive knowledge that exists among our farmers. Finally although we are the largest per capita donors of food aid in the world there are clear limits to the amount of agricultural land in Canada located in a climate suitable for crop or animal production.

In fisheries, Canada has a highly developed capability in biological research, exploratory fishing, resource management and quality control. Fisheries development planning and resource management are two particular areas in which Canada has been involved in projects in several Commonwealth countries in Asia, the Caribbean, and Africa.