Companies that have similar operating processes can share the benefits and costs needed to invest in adequate technologies. ADEGA wishes to help local SMEs in their search by establishing contacts with foreign SMEs (industrial or agricultural) interested in sharing their know how.

The CEPLA project will be carried out in three steps. Firstly, two years will be needed for the organization and beginning of operations. Pilot projects will be taken on, in technology transfers, for specific sectors. Secondly, two years of full-time operations will take place with an emphasis on five specific industrial sectors. Thirdly, five other sectors will be considered for the fifth and sixth years.

Some dominant sectors are: agriculture; agro-industry; chemical industry; construction and transportation; electronics, informatics, and telecommunications; energy; environmental technology; food industry; logistics; machinery; medical and pharmaceutical technology; metallurgical industry; paper, wood, and textiles; and plastics and rubber.

ADEGA is a member of INTET, the International Network for Environmentally-Friendly Technology. It also has agreed to a convention of mutual collaboration with APCTT, the Center for Technology Transfer in Asia and the Pacific. ADEGA also plans to establish links with the World Environmental Center (WEC) from the USA, with ENVIROACCESS and L'INSTITUT DES SCIENCES DE L'ENVIRONMENT, both from Canada, and with INSTITUTO CERDA from Spain.

CEPLA is presently gathering the needed funds for its operations. Costs will be gradually covered by a tariff charge of 1% on technology transfer agreements it helps to create. An estimated six years will be needed for CEPLA to operate autonomously.

CEPLA will also organize various seminars to allow informal meetings between government authorities and members of determined industrial sectors, in order to exchange ideas in reference to environmental issues. The first seminar will probably be scheduled for the third quarter of 1996.

For more information on the program, interested parties should contact ADEGA (re: Appendix 3).