

Backgrounder

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

- The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970.
- IDRC's objective is to stimulate and support scientific and technical research undertaken by developing countries for their own benefit.
- IDRC gives support directly to Third World institutions whose research focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of people in overcoming the problems of poverty.
- Since its creation, IDRC has financed more than 4,500 projects in 100 developing countries.
- Forty-five Canadian academic institutions and 58 other Canadian organizations (associations, non-government organizations and private sector companies) have collaborated on IDRC-funded research projects.
- At last year's Earth Summit, IDRC's mandate was broadened to include sustainable development issues. IDRC's international network and expertise will be used to help the world move quickly on the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's Agenda 21 program of action.