



Bulletin

November 22, 1972

Vol. 27, No. 47

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH REPORT

In its first full year of operation, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) helped put into action 32 projects that will require a total of \$3.6 million in Canadian funds, according to the Centre's annual report for 1971-72, made public on October 31.

The report shows that Africa and Latin America together attracted 45 per cent of these research funds, while another 26 per cent was being spent on projects in the Caribbean and Asia. The rest has mostly been allotted either to projects that have worldwide application, or else to a scholarship program designed to increase the number of Canadians with specialized training in the problems of development.

When the Centre was established in 1970 by Act of Parliament as a public corporation, its main object was said to be "applying and adapting scientific, technical and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement" of the world's developing regions.

The report says that the process of "sharpening the focus of Centre activities" is nearing completion. It gives details of the work and the plans of the four divisions now established at the Centre: Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences; Information Sciences; Population and Health Sciences; and the Social Sciences and Human Resources Division.

The focus of the agricultural program, which claimed 44 per cent of the funds for approved projects in 1971-72, has been concentrated upon the semi-arid tropical countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, where many of the poorest rural communities in the world subsist. In those regions, the Centre is supporting research into particular crops, such as cassava, triticale, sorghum and millet.

CANADIAN INNOVATIONS

The report gives several instances of Canadian inventions or research findings being applied to the conditions and needs of developing countries. Examples include a new grain-milling process now being tested in Nigeria, a process of preserving tropical fruit and fish by osmotic dehydration that is being tried out by businessmen in Trinidad, and the possibility that work done in Newfoundland to control the blackfly population by introducing a parasitic worm can be adapted for West Africa, where the blackfly is the carrier of onchocerciasis or "African river blindness".

The report adds, however, that constant stress has been placed on the importance of research workers in developing countries taking the prime responsibility for identifying and organizing the projects on which they will work, and upon the training of younger research workers during the period of the projects. It lists a number of conferences and workshops, from one of Asian food technologists in Singapore to another of East African social scientists in Nairobi, which the IDRC financed

CONTENTS

International Development Research Report	1
Canada's Musical Heritage	2
New Method of Beef-Grading	3
India Social Development Study	4
Krieghoff Commemorative Stamp	4
Mr. Pepin Loses Seat	5
Immigrants Must Apply at Home	5
Navigation Code	5
Snowmobile Licensing	5
Football and Hockey News	6