

research is applied to specific needs, such as reductions in environmentally harmful substances. Other research relates to broad issues and tools such as climate modelling and remote sensing technologies.

Research that brings scientists together from different disciplines is increasing. Natural scientists and social scientists are combining their efforts to improve their understanding of the complex nature of ecosystems. They are working with counterparts internationally to disseminate this knowledge in ways that address the needs of developing countries and the world as a whole. Linked to this research are much greater efforts to make information available to a wide range of potential users.

Environmentally Sound Management of Biotechnology

Biotechnology is a growing field in Canadian science. It is being used to meet food and resource needs and is finding uses in environmental protection and clean-up. For example, the BIOQUAL network promotes the innovative use of biotechnology in pollution control and wastewater treatment. Canadians are also active in international biotechnology work through the private sector, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and other institutions, and work with developing countries to help them address their needs through biotechnology.

At the same time, there is a need to ensure proper control of biotechnology and to inform the public about its benefits and risks. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act covers biotechnology products. It requires a risk-based assessment being undertaken prior to any permission being given to import or manufacture a biological substance. Regulations and policies are being developed to manage this process in order to meet public and environmental safety and health concerns. A new federal framework for biotechnology regulations is expected to be in place by September 1995.

Conservation of Biological Diversity

Since UNCED, Canada has actively pursued its international commitments to biodiversity conservation. The approach has brought together governments, business, conservation groups, academia, communities, and individuals. The main focus of this activity has been the development of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Another focus has been international work through workshops, symposia, and meetings of experts.

The biodiversity strategy builds on a long history of wildlife protection and protected spaces activities. It also benefits from the substantial research that is under way to learn more about ecosystems.

Significant work is under way on the sustainable use of biological resources and new ways to manage them. Research into the biodiversity in forests is part of Canada's national forest strategy. Aboriginal people are playing an important role in wildlife management processes. These are all steps forward in maintaining the range of biological diversity in Canada.