

of yield and tolerance of adverse factors, such as sandy or arid soils, high altitudes and low temperatures.

The potential of triticale as a nutritious cereal crop that will thrive on marginal lands under conditions ill-suited to wheat and other major cereals is well on the way to being realized. Triticale yield and selection nurseries have been established in more than 65 developing countries. IDRC is financing cooperative breeding, selection and adaptability projects in India, Ethiopia, Algeria and Kenya.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

The Canada Land Inventory subdivides the 13 per cent of Canada designated as suitable for agricultural use on the basis of its production capabilities, given soil and climatic conditions. Fifty-five per cent is rated as useful only for forage or pasture. Although some of the other 45 per cent supports such crops as apples and tobacco, most is suited primarily for growing cereals, the least demanding of all agricultural crops in terms of soil quality and climate.

The climate of the principal agricultural regions of Canada — the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta — is varied but generally unfavourable to optimum agricultural production due to the limited availability and poor distribution of moisture and to insufficient warmth. Annual frost-free periods amount to only 90 to 120 days in the Prairies, 160 days along the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and 220 days in the coastal areas of southern British Columbia.

Canada's success in the face of these limiting conditions has been possible because of good levels of labour productivity and abundant agricultural capital — machinery, farm building, land improvement and livestock investments.

At the time of the 1976 census, there were 339,000 farm holdings in Canada. The gross income of Canadian farmers was \$11.3 billion, and farmers had a capital value of \$48.8 billion. Agriculture employed 474,000 persons.

For the 1971 to 1976 period, expenditures on machinery



Harvesting cranberries in British Columbia.



Bill Staley

Prairie wheat.



Canadian National