

states by assisting them to develop their national nuclear-power programs.

(b) *Nuclear safety and environmental protection*

The rapid growth of nuclear power mentioned above has led the IAEA to establish a program to devise safety criteria for nuclear-power reactors in the form of safety codes and guides. Codes of practice and safety guides have been prepared in the areas of governmental organization, siting, design, operation and quality assurance. The agency has also formulated basic safety standards for radiation-protection and issued regulations and codes of practice on specific types of operation, including, in particular, the safe transport of radioactive materials. All these activities assist governments ensuring that basic safety requirements are understood and observed in their national nuclear-power development programs.

A very important aspect of the international program that deserves specific mention is the IAEA's work on the safe management of radioactive wastes from all stages of the nuclear-fuel cycle, including those arising from the mining and milling of uranium and thorium ores. The agency has established a number of technical committees to work in this field.

(c) *Technical assistance*

These activities are financed by voluntary contributions from member states, by the UN Development Program and by gifts-in-kind, as well as by cost-free fellowships and funds-in-trust. The Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation had a target of \$7 million in 1978. In addition, approximately \$2.1 million of the regular budget was devoted to technical assistance and training.

The main objective of the agency's technical-assistance program is to promote the transfer of skills and knowledge relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy to enable recipients to carry out their atomic-energy activities more efficiently and safely. A major activity in this respect is the agency's series of training courses on nuclear-power project-planning and -implementation.

(d) *Food and agriculture*

Since 1964, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the IAEA have worked together in supporting and co-ordinating research to develop better varieties of crop plant, to provide optimum conditions for crop cultivation, to protect crops against losses through disease and insect attack, to improve animal production and health, to prevent pollu-