

6. Fisheries

In the area of fisheries, the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Fish Trade held its 2nd Session. Canada was elected one of the Vice-Chairmen. The Sub-Committee urged the continuation of activities to assist developing countries in fish export trade, and to promote value-added product development and locating new opportunities for export of fish products. Regional services to provide technical assistance were endorsed as being the most cost effective and the appropriate level at which to implement programmes. The Sub-Committee recommended to the Committee on Fisheries that it become an eligible International Commodity Body under the new United Nations Common Fund for Commodities.

7. Field Programmes and World Food Security

The 13th Session of the Committee on World Food Security met at a time when, for the first time in four years, world consumption of staple cereals exceeded production. Although 1988 production had been expected to increase, it would again be less than consumption further reducing stocks. This, combined with declining production in developing countries and their low foreign exchange resources, resulted in increased food aid needs. The committee urged that the highest priority be accorded to the development of the food and agriculture sector, particularly; the need to apply technological improvements to increase productivity; price incentives, extension and training; strengthening co-operatives and credit facilities; support to women farmers; and improved marketing institutions.

The major emphasis of the Committee in 1989/90 will be the effects of structural adjustment programmes on food security. It will also review India's experience with policies and programmes to achieve food security and examine FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

8. Personnel

There are currently 48 Canadians serving in the FAO Secretariat in professional level positions. Another 28 work on field projects. Efforts are underway to increase the number of Canadians and an FAO recruitment mission is planned for the fall of 1989. The Public Service Commission will assist the mission in arranging interviews. During the period under review, a Canadian, Mr. Z. Kalensky, was promoted to be Chief of the Remote Sensing Division.