The International Development Research Centre was created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to stimulate and support scientific and technical research by developing countries for their own benefit. Support is given directly to Third World institutions whose research focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of the population in overcoming the problems of poverty.

Since its creation, the IDRC has financed more than 4 500 projects in 100 developing countries; 45 Canadian academic institutions and 58 other Canadian organizations (associations, non-government organizations and private-sector companies) have collaborated on IDRC-financed research projects.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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or:

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