



Improving infrastructure and increasing trade capacity is essential for Africa.

increase its trade capacity, both within the continent and with the rest of the world. The Fund is also being used to increase the capacity of Africans to more effectively represent their own interests in negotiating international trade agreements.

Helping to address social problems such as the human toll from diseases such as HIV/AIDS is the goal of proposed changes to Canadian laws that would allow the export of low-cost pharmaceuticals to LDCs. Amendments to Canada's Patent Act and Food and Drugs Act, currently under scrutiny by Parliament, will allow the generic manufacture and export of patented drugs for the purpose of responding to grave epidemics in these impoverished countries.

"The need for intellectual property rights is undeniable," Prime Minister Paul Martin told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, "but there is also a moral

obligation to help relieve someone's suffering if we are able."

In terms of Africa's long-term development, Gambari says that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the related African Peer Review Mechanism, which will monitor the progress of African governments toward sound economic management and transparent political processes, are providing "an enabling environment for investment."

As one of its commitments under NEPAD, the Canadian government will establish the Canada Investment Fund for Africa, a \$100-million fund intended to leverage at least an equal amount of private-sector investment in commercial ventures and partnerships.

For Glen MacGillivray, the challenges of such investment are many, but the opportunities are there too. "We're talking about wonderful markets and huge needs," he says. "These are interesting times." 🍁

To read the latest news on trade with Africa, see the April 1 and April 15 issues of *CanadExport*, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's biweekly investment and trade publication. See the issues and search the *CanadExport* archives for more Africa trade news at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadexport.

Focus on Algeria

Most people think of couscous as a somewhat exotic dish. But check out the ingredients and country of origin on a box of this traditional North African staple the next time you're grocery shopping. Chances are it's made from Canadian wheat.

Algerians enjoy couscous as well, and much of theirs is Canadian in origin too. In fact, the durum wheat that the North African nation buys from Canada each year to produce couscous as well as the other commodities we trade make Algeria by far Canada's leading trade partner in the entire Africa and the Middle East region.

Exports and imports between Canada and Algeria accounted for more than \$2.7 billion in 2003. Gas and oil make up almost all of Canada's imports from the country, while cereals dominate Canadian sales there. Algeria is one of the top five markets in the world for Canadian durum wheat.

The two countries have maintained diplomatic relations since Algeria became an independent nation in 1962. These ties continued throughout the recent 10-year period of political turbulence marked by internal terrorist violence, from which Algeria gradually appears to be emerging.

Stability is slowly returning and Algeria's government, aided by Canadian initiatives, is attempting political and economic reforms as a vehicle toward a more prosperous market economy. Since 1964, \$150 million in Canadian aid has flowed to Algeria. The Canadian International Development Agency recently signed a new agreement under its private-sector development fund to support economic reform programs there.

Evidence of Algeria's increasing global political engagement abounds. Currently the representative of Arab countries on the United Nations Security Council, Algeria has supported various Canadian-led international initiatives. Algeria signed and ratified the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines and took part in the Winnipeg Conference on War-affected Children. And Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is an outspoken champion of NEPAD.

For more information about Trade with Algeria, start at the Trade Commissioner Service at www.infoexport.gc.ca and search for Algeria.

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