

*Routine Proceedings*

ii) Animals play an essential role in human affairs: as farm animals, laboratory subjects, game, and as pets. With wild animals we share a decreasing amount of open space as the human population grows. Important public decisions about our use of and co-existence with animals require a sound understanding of how people regard animals and such issues as animal rights. This survey of Nova Scotians by a trained wildlife biologist will allow researchers to make generalizations about the attitudes of all Canadians. (The micro/macro approach in research is effective and is commonly used by scholars and pollsters.) The results will be of use to policy planners, legislators and wildlife managers in developing programs in such areas as animal rights, wildlife preservation, commercial and recreational hunting and fishing, and environmental protection.

e) Yes—The International Development Research Centre.

i) \$669,000 over a 36 month period.

ii) IDRC is supporting a project titled *Banana and Plantain Information Network*. This project aims at setting up an information system to support the establishment and operations of the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP), which has its headquarters in Montpellier, France.

Banana and plantain are a major export crop for many developing countries. The estimated world market worth is more than \$10 billion (US) a year. In addition, bananas are the staple food for millions of poor people. In many Third World countries a nutritious variety of "green" banana is boiled in soups and stews. It has the consistency and flavour of a hard potato or yam and is used more like our staple potato or rice than the fruit we are familiar with in North America.

In tropical climates, crops are constantly susceptible to insects and disease. Central America is currently suffering from a disease called black sigatoka which threatens the region's best species. The fungus is spreading quickly and relentlessly and there is fear it will spread to South America, the Caribbean and eventually, even Africa. Unfortunately, small rural farmers cannot afford the pesticides and fertilizers used by the large plantation

owners. Many small producers are being forced to leave their land.

Scientists in many parts of the world are doing genetic research to develop new species or superior bananas that are resistant to insects, disease yet produce good, nutritious fruit.

Canada, through IDRC, is playing a leading role as executing agency and along with a consortium of international donors is supporting a coordinated program of research on bananas and plantains. The international network, known as INIBAP (International Network for the Improvement of Bananas and Plantains), received 12 per cent of its funding from IDRC. Other contributors include Australia, Belgium, France, the U.S.A. and the E.E.C.

The government of France has provided facilities at the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), in Montpellier, which is a centre of excellence on tropical fruits. The IDRC grant to INIBAP is to help establish a research network with the purpose of linking scientists in the developing countries for mutual exchange on research results. The mechanisms include a question and answer service on production and disease problems, creation of a data base and exchange of information in and between the developing countries themselves.

f) Yes—The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

i) \$24,540 (1986–1987).

ii) Study of Western civilization necessitates an examination of the figure of the fool. The fool, who is known through literature and culture, questions the way people think or act. His target may be the general populace or a person with great power to help or hurt those around him. The fool's distinguishing characteristic, which gives him the possibility of being so influential, is the ambiguity about his statements—is he really foolish, or is he wise? This study concentrates on how the fool expresses the anxieties of a population during periods of social change. Because civilization is always in the process of changing, and because the 20th century has brought us even more rapid and tumultuous change, studying the fool who questions our ways remains very relevant.