

particularly at supporting the efforts of developing countries to evolve their own economic and social systems. CIDA is giving more attention to food production and distribution systems in developing countries, as well as enlarging food aid programs to the poorest among them.

The Canadian Food Aid Program has three parts: bilateral, multilateral and emergency food aid. The major part of the Canadian effort is through bilateral programs. Multilateral food aid has been channelled through United Nations programs, such as the World Food Program, the Relief and Works Agency and the Children's Fund. Foodstuffs provided for emergency relief are given under the International Emergency Relief Vote.

In the last five to ten years, about 50 developing countries have received Canadian help through emergency food aid or through development projects. Canada has provided assistance to improve agricultural production in many of these nations and has made related programs available at several international agricultural centres. The more than 200 projects undertaken in agriculture and food production include supplying fertilizers, researching dryland farming, evaluating water resources and developing wheat farming and storage facilities.

Although major time-limited projects have been undertaken in several countries, the emphasis has been on long-term implementation programs, such as those involving dryland farming in India, agronomic research in Tanzania, wheat breeding in Kenya, agricultural extension in Tunisia, oilseed production in Peru and work on sugarcane for livestock feed in Barbados. Canadian agricultural faculty members have assisted the University of Ghana at Legon, Khon Kaen University in Thailand, the Institut National Agronomique of Morocco and Makerere University in Uganda.

Other important Canadian activities in developing countries are carried out through the programs of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Established in 1970 by an Act of Parliament, IDRC is a public corporation whose function is to stimulate and fund research in developing countries and to adapt science and technology to meet

the needs of such countries. The problems of rural areas receive special emphasis. Five regional offices, located in Bogota, Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi and Singapore, are pivotal to IDRC's operations.

One of the basic goals of IDRC is to help developing regions build their research capabilities and the skills needed to solve their own problems. Researchers from developing countries take responsibility for the identification, design and execution of the research programs financed by IDRC funds.

IDRC's Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division, one of five program divisions, had supported 235 projects in 50 countries by March 1977. Of the total appropriations of \$47 million since 1971 for the division's work, 34 per cent had been devoted to projects in Asia, 26 per cent to those in Africa and the Near East, and 30 per cent to those in Latin America and the Caribbean. About 9 per cent went for general global and Canadian projects. During the past five years, roughly 50 per cent of the budget was devoted to crop and cropping systems research, 21 per cent to animal sciences, 11 per cent each to fisheries and forestry, and 7 per cent to postproduction systems, such as food preservation, processing, storage, distribution and utilization in the home.

One of the largest and most comprehensive projects that the division has been associated with is the Arid Land Agricultural Development Program (ALAD), financed jointly by IDRC and the Ford Foundation. The ALAD program offers sixteen countries research and training in such areas as breeding and selection of improved sorghums, millets and legumes, as well as in creating a greater awareness of their potential among governments of the region.

Perhaps the largest research program undertaken by the division has been the development of triticale, a new cereal grain resulting from a cross between wheat (triticum) and rye (secale). Started in 1971, the project was a collaborative effort, which included IDRC, CIDA, the Centre for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat in Mexico and the universities of Manitoba and Guelph, Ontario. The purpose of the program has been to produce a highly nutritious cereal grain that would outperform the traditional cereal grains in terms

Harvesting Mukibat cassava in East Java.



International Development Research Centre

Triticale in Ethiopia.



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