

additional element of effectiveness, since our policy is to concentrate relatively limited Canadian funds on those agencies with the greatest development potential. Total multilateral assistance is expected to reach \$302 million in 1975-76, an increase of 53 per cent over the current fiscal year.

The World Food Program will displace next year the International Development Association as the largest recipient of multilateral funds. Other major recipients are the various UN agencies, notably the United Nations Development Program and various regional development banks. Through our support of the regional banks, we have been able to encourage intraregional co-operation and the expansion of local institutions catering to local needs and interests, while improving the management capabilities of local officials.

Canada also supports various international agricultural research institutes, where our contribution is relatively modest; yet the payoff could be immense in terms of technological advances in the production, storage and processing of food.

Similarly, Canada's wish to help in the eradication of various factors perpetuating poverty and economic stagnation in the developing countries -- for example, the problems of population and disease -- has been translated into contributions to various population programs as well as to the World Health Organization. In general, Canada provides core support -- that is, a fixed percentage of the organization's operational budget.

Now, a word about food aid and agricultural development. As a result of the pledge I made last November at the World Food Conference in Rome, a much larger share of CIDA's bilateral and multilateral funds will be allocated in 1975-76 to food aid, both grain and non-grain. I should be able to announce shortly the details of these allocations; but, in spite of the magnitude of our effort, I emphasize before this Committee that the planned three-year increase in food aid does not reflect the fundamental change in Canada's development-assistance policy, but rather a short-term response to pressing needs that we could not ignore. We are doing what we can to fend off the threat of starvation in those areas most severely affected by the crises of recent years; but, if anything, such rearguard action has made us painfully aware of the urgent need for massive investment in agricultural production and rural development in most developing countries.

I indicated in London early last month, at the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Food Production and Rural Development,