

RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA

The International Development Research Centre recently announced the beginning of two major agricultural research projects that are to be conducted with the financial support of Canada's bilateral assistance program for Latin America, each valued at \$3.25 million.

Research activities are to be managed by the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division of the IDRC on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency.

One of the two programs is aimed at improving the nutritive value of cassava (the root source of tapioca); the other is concerned with the further development of triticale, a man-made cereal grain.

CASSAVA PROJECT

The cassava project is being carried out through a contract between the Research Centre and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a research and training institution located near Cali, Colombia.

Cassava, also known as manioc, tapioca, yucca, and other names in different countries, is a staple throughout the tropics. Although indigenous to South America, where it has been in cultivation for many centuries, the crop has been introduced to many tropical areas of Asia and Africa. It is processed into a variety of food products and provides an important source of calories for millions of people.

Cassava has one major disadvantage - the low protein content of its common commercial varieties. The research program at CIAT will endeavour to develop an agricultural technology that will substantially increase both the yield and protein content of these varieties. It will also explore the use of the root as an animal feed, particularly as a source of energy for swine and possibly poultry and ruminants.

Co-operative research activities are being established between CIAT and some Canadian universities, and with agricultural research institutions in cassava-growing regions. A substantial training program is also envisaged at CIAT for agricultural scientists and technologists from countries that will eventually benefit from the results of this research program.

TRITICALE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The triticale research is designed to improve the properties of the man-made cereal grain triticale, and to broaden its use. A synthetic genus, triticale is a cross between two familiar cereal grains, wheat and rye. The objective of this scientific manipulation of naturally occurring grains is to produce a new food crop, the agronomic characteristics and nutritional value of which will be superior not only to those of either of its parents, but to all other cereal grains,

particularly those grown in food-deficient areas of the world where climatic conditions are often unfavourable for cereal grain production. Triticale, it is hoped, will provide a valuable new source of protein and essential nutrients for many people of the developing world.

The first triticale research and breeding program of any scope was pioneered at the University of Manitoba in 1954 under the auspices of the Rosner Research Professorship in Agronomy.

The new research program will rely largely on the co-operative efforts of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico and the Faculty of Agriculture, at the University of Manitoba.

INSURANCE PACT WITH JAMAICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that the Government had concluded an agreement with the Government of Jamaica on the insurance of new Canadian investments in Jamaica against certain non-commercial risks.

The agreement, which is expected to make a useful contribution to the development of economic relations between the two countries, is one of a number of foreign-investment insurance agreements which the Canadian Government hopes to conclude with other countries. Similar pacts have already been concluded with Barbados, Malaysia, Singapore and St. Lucia.

These agreements will facilitate the operation of the Government's Foreign Investment Insurance Program, established with the enactment of the Export Development Act in 1969. The purpose of this program, which is administered by the Export Development Corporation, is to promote investments in other countries by Canadian nationals, whether individuals or corporations.

N. ATLANTIC AIR-ROUTE CHARGES

Effective November 1, the Ministry of Transport levied a charge against all aircraft, regardless of country of origin, flying the North Atlantic route and making use of the air-traffic control services and navigational aids provided by the Gander Oceanic Control Centre. However, owing to the financial position in which many airlines are currently finding themselves, only 50 per cent of the new \$33 charge is being levied until November 1, 1973, when the full charge will come into effect.

Introduction of the new charge is in line with the Ministry's policy of levying costs of service against the users, in so far as it is practical.

Similar services provided by Iceland and