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Busy year for the International Development Research Centre

The 12 months from April 1976 to March 1977 were active for the International Development Research Centre, during which the Centre has seen a number of its initiatives come to fruition.

The IDRC played a key role in the establishment of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, and was instrumental in bringing together a group of donors to establish the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, which will begin operations in the near future. Both these institutions were created to fill large gaps in the research capabilities of the Third World.

The Centre also continues to make a major contribution to the establishment and expansion of international information systems in fields such as agriculture, rural water-supply and sanitation, and

development sciences — systems that will provide for a worldwide exchange of scientific information.

During the year, the Centre's international Board of Governors approved 137 new projects requiring a total appropriation of \$26.7 million — a considerable increase over that of the previous years. The Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division undertook 55 new projects costing \$12 million; the Social Sciences and Human Resources Division 25 new projects costing \$5.7 million; the Health Sciences Division 29 new projects for \$4.1 million; and the Information Sciences Division 21 new projects for \$4.5 million.

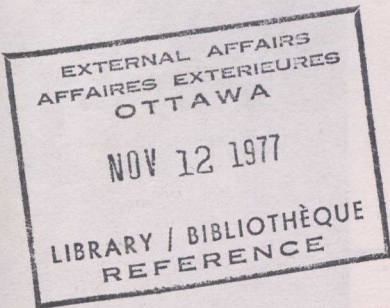
A further \$1.9 million was committed during the year in support of 216 "Division Activity Projects" — seminars, workshops and consultancies that are usually preliminary to the undertaking of full-scale projects. The Centre also continued to invest heavily in the training and development of young Third World professionals through its Human Resources Award Program, which made available 87 grants totalling \$1.8 million.

During the year, 42 projects were completed, bringing to 94 the number completed since the Centre opened its doors. In addition, many projects have now entered a second, or even a third, phase, as researchers continue to build on the results of earlier years.

A considerable number of the Centre's headquarters staff are Third World nationals, and the majority of the staff of the five regional offices are drawn from the regions they serve. The regional offices — in Bogota, Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi, and Singapore — are vital to the Centre's operations. They are in the front line, maintaining essential contact with the governments, research institutions, universities, research workers and scientists of the developing countries, and providing the communications link to ensure

The International Development Research Centre is a public corporation established by an act of the Canadian Parliament "to initiate, encourage, support and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions, and, in carrying out those objects,

- to enlist the talents of natural and social scientists and technologists of Canada and other countries;
- to assist the developing regions to build up the research capabilities, the innovative skills and the institutions required to solve their problems;
- to encourage generally the co-ordination of international development research; and
- to foster co-operation in research on development problems between the developed and the developing regions for their mutual benefit".



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