

## Fund aids local projects in Thailand

A special fund provided by the Canadian International Development Agency is available in Thailand for small, local projects generally overlooked by large-scale development schemes.

The mission-administered fund (MAF) now totals \$350,000 (Cdn.) a year and is designed to help people develop their own projects.

In describing the aims of the fund, Canadian Ambassador to Thailand Fred Bild explained, "We're looking for self-help projects that arise from the local community. It's supposed to be a one-shot effort on our part. The people have to be able to continue the project themselves."

### Varied projects

The five-year-old MAF program has been used to stock fish ponds, buy milk cows, breed hogs, dig irrigation ditches, install septic tanks, train hill-tribe people, build libraries and teach women to knit rugged sweaters for a Canadian market. The projects range in cost from \$1,000 to as much as \$50,000.

The Canadian embassy started the fund in 1976 by buying a well-digging rig for Project Raindrop in an arid province in the northeast. In return for the rig, local authorities agreed to drill wells for public and private schools in the region. Since its installation, local residents have provided operating costs and have been responsible for the upkeep. The rig is still in good shape and brings drinking water to remote village schools.

Jerusalem Village in Bangkok is another area which has benefited from a grant. The residents there used \$4,500 to improve walkways, put in water hydrants and buy a fire engine to protect their wooden shacks. The equipment is also used for flood control.

More recently, Mr. Praiyat, a blind teacher in northeastern Thailand, has established a school for impoverished blind children with the aid of a \$21,000 (Cdn.) grant. Mr. Praiyat takes them in and teaches them basic skills, including reading and writing.

Most Canadian embassies in developing countries have a mission-administered fund at their disposal. "It's much more cost effective," explained an aid official. "All the money goes to the project because there are no administrative costs and the projects are usually self-regenerating," he said.

## February is the month for celebrating the Canadian apple

February has been selected as apple month in Canada and plans have been made to promote Canadian apples across the country.

Agriculture Canada and Canadian apple growers and processors will finance the promotional program.

In addition to in-store displays, newspaper and radio advertisements will invite consumers to "Enjoy the great taste of Canadian apples". Also, a number of the apple-producing provinces will be promoting apples sales through their own programs during the month.

Canadian apple production and processing is estimated to be a \$350-million industry and this mid-winter promotion should help strengthen apple sales. It should also make consumers more aware of the good food value of apple products, such as vitaminized apple juice, which is an excellent source of vitamin C.

February was chosen as Canadian apple month because this is when top quality controlled atmosphere apples start coming on stream. There is also a ready supply of processed apple products, such as apple pie filling and apple juice.

### Most important fruit crop

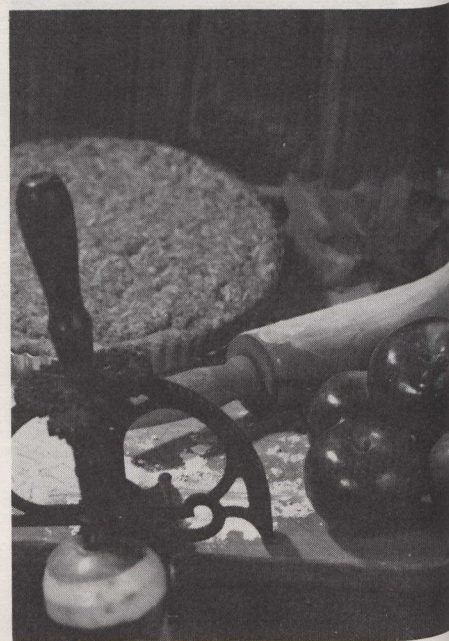
Apples are Canada's most important fruit crop. Five times more apples are produced than grapes, the second largest fruit crop, and ten times more apples than peaches or pears.

The provinces producing apples on a commercial scale are: British Columbia (38 per cent), Ontario (31 per cent), Quebec (21 per cent), Nova Scotia (9 per cent) and New Brunswick (1 per cent).

The McIntosh apple, which is grown in all five apple-producing areas, accounts for about 42 per cent of total production. It was first discovered at Dundela, Ontario in 1811, and is still the favourite variety of Canadians.

In addition to McIntosh, the Canadian apple crop consists mainly of Red and Golden Delicious (27 per cent), Spy (7 per cent), Spartan (6 per cent), Cortland (3 per cent), Gravenstein (1 per cent) and Lobo (1 per cent). Other apple varieties produced in smaller quantities include Melba, Ida Red, Empire, Winesap, Newtown, King, Tydeman's Red, Greening and Wealthy.

In 1980, about 43 per cent of the total Canadian apple crop was processed. Of this, 80 per cent was used to produce pure apple juice and concentrate. *Per*



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*capita* consumption of apple juice in Canada has doubled since 1965, getting an extra boost from the boom in consumer demand for natural products.

Over the last decade, the production of frozen apple products has increased, while supplies of apple sauce have been constant and production of canned apples and apple pie-filling has decreased. Other Canadian apple products include apple cider, apple-based liquors, apple vinegar, and dried and evaporated apples.

### Production growth

Since 1974, the annual yield of Canadian apples has increased steadily, reaching a peak in 1980 at 550,000 metric tons. Owing to the extremes of temperature in central Canada over the winter of 1980-81, the 1981 apple crop was reduced to slightly more than 400,000 metric tons. However, production on the west coast was almost equal to the record 1980 crop level and well above the previous five-year average. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick apple crops fell slightly from the 1980 level because of late frosts which damaged blooms.

High density tree planting contributes to the production growth of the Canadian apple industry. Also, apple growers are making extensive use of new dwarf types of trees. Producers can plant 500 dwarf trees *per* hectare, compared to 100 of the standard rootstock. These trees yield more *per* hectare, mature faster and are