

Backgrounder

NEW CANADIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR RUSSIA

The projects announced today are part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program with Russia managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The program has three primary objectives: to support the transition to a market-based economy; to promote democratic development; and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Russia. Activities are concentrated in five priority sectors which match Canadian expertise with Russian economic and political reform priorities: private sector development, democratic development and good governance, energy, agriculture, and northern development/environment. With today's announcement, the Canadian assistance program has committed close to \$82 million to approximately 205 projects. The new projects are described below.

Privatization of Collective and State Farms

Canada will contribute \$2.7 million to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to support the privatization of state and collective farms in the region of Ryazan, south of Moscow. This initiative follows an earlier IFC pilot project that developed a farm privatization procedure in Nizhniy Novgorod. This model, which creates new private farms by dividing existing land and property among members of state and collective farms, has been endorsed by the Russian government for use throughout Russia. Canadians working on the IFC project will assist in organizing and holding farm auctions and will train Russian officials and farmers in privatization policy and procedures at the local level. In addition, 25 leaders involved in the agricultural privatization process in Ryazan will visit Canada in January 1995 for an in-depth look at Canadian farm operations.

Land Information Management System

An 18-month \$2.9-million initiative will support the development of a land information management system in the district of Dmitrov, adjacent to Moscow. Land reform and management are critical elements of Russia's transition to a market-based economy. This project will design and establish a functional land registration system and land registry office in Dmitrov with responsibility for developing modern land information management systems, land legislation, property assessment procedures, taxation systems and digital mapping technology. A Canadian consortium led by DMR Group Inc. of Montréal, and including Roche Limited — Consulting Group of Sainte-Foy, Quebec, TecSult International Limited of Montréal and UMA Engineering Limited of Edmonton, will manage the project. The Russian partner for this