

In the last 10 years, the relative importance of agriculture has declined and Nigeria's food imports have risen sharply. As a result, the government has placed great emphasis on revitalizing the industry which is considered to have large underutilized potential. State organizations have been established to promote the production of root crops, cereal grains and livestock and river development authorities have been formed to develop irrigation projects. The World Bank is also participating in this sector through numerous rural development projects (valued at more than Can \$700 million) aimed at increasing the technical and physical services available in rural regions. Development plans include increased mechanization and the provision of seeds, fertilizers and extension services.

There is substantial interest in the application of North American style mechanized dry land farming in northern Nigeria and opportunities exist for agricultural equipment sales.

Many Nigerian groups have expressed an interest in turnkey agri-business joint ventures with foreign firms whereby the foreign company will take an equity interest in the project and provide or train a management team. While this approach is fully supported by the Nigerian government new ventures have been limited. Areas of possible interest to Canadian firms include integrated complexes for poultry, pigs or livestock and large-scale grain farming. All such projects would require capital investment by the Canadian firms and long-term management responsibilities.

## Mining

Nigeria's non-oil mineral resources have not been fully explored. The country has commercially developed coal and tin mines and is currently developing a major iron ore mine at Itakpe hills in conjunction with its iron and steel industry. Other minerals known to exist include lead, zinc, columbite, tantalite lime and uranium.

The development of mineral resources has been assigned to a number of state corporations reporting to the Ministry of Mines and Power. These include the Nigerian Coal Corporation, the Nigerian Mining