

\* initial elements of support for organizational development, training, development planning in independent agricultural organizations, particularly those involving small and small/medium holders.

Additional areas for consideration might include:

- \* participation in local/regional foundation-like funding institutions
- \* enhancement of women's economic participation, rural and urban
- \* building on the elements of partnership between Canadian and Mexican environmental organizations
- \* building on the elements of partnership between Canadian and Mexican aboriginal organizations

Planning for programme development should commence now with the objective of bringing some partnership, training and organizational development elements into being in 1998 and 1999 and being ready to announce an overall programme to commence the new millenium.

Whether a Canadian assistance programme dedicated to building equity in Mexican society and strengthening civil society should be seen as a modification of current ODA priorities or as an extension or modification of NAFTA and bilateral agreements is moot. The number of poor people in Mexico exceeds that in a number of other ODA-able regions, and their proximity not only in geographic and migration terms but in terms of Canadian interests is clear. At the same time the precedents in European and some other regional trade negotiations for assistance to poorer partners (so-called "southern tier") and for social development elements are also useful.

#### *9. NAFTA: prepare for something new*

Canada should provide support of independent and cross-sectoral discussions of the future enhancement of arrangements with a view to strengthen democratization, civil society participation and equity, accompanied by thorough cross-sectoral evaluations of the experience to date, would be a wise preparation for the coming decade in North America as well as for the broad FTAA discussions currently moving forward.