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CANADA CONTRIBUTES \$3.54 MILLION TO THE ASEAN

GRAIN POST-HARVEST PROGRAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will contribute \$3.54 million to the Grain Post-Harvest Program for the six member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The program's objective is to improve the grain post-harvest system in ASEAN member countries, enabling farmers and small entrepreneurs to improve the quality of their crops, reduce post-harvest losses and raise their incomes. ASEAN countries have already increased grain production, mainly by using fertilizer more intensively and by developing new varieties of rice.

"This project is a prime example of Canada's support for initiatives to help Asian countries develop their human resources through research projects in appropriate technology," Mr. Clark said.

According to Canada's new official development assistance strategy entitled Sharing Our Future, the development of human resources is one of the first priorities of development assistance.

Within this program, national research and development institutions in the individual ASEAN countries will undertake research projects, develop appropriate technology and train specialists and extension workers in post-harvest technology. The results of research projects will also be published and distributed in ASEAN member countries by means of a quarterly newsletter published under the program.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) will administer the program. On behalf of ASEAN, the program will be managed by a secretariat located within the ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of the Royal Thai Government.

The total cost of the program is \$4.54 million of which CIDA will provide \$3.29 million, ASEAN \$1 million, and IDRC \$250,000.

The members of ASEAN are Negara Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.