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IDRC

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH CENTRE

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SCIENCE FOR HUMANITY

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The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing

IDRC SUPPORTS RESEARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental prob-

lems they face. Support is directed toward developing an indigenous research capacity to sustain policies and technologies that developing countries need to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies.

WHO DOES IDRC FUND?

IDRC provides funds and expert advice to developing-country researchers who are working to solve critical development problems. Most projects proposed to IDRC are the result of direct exchanges between the Centre and developing-country institutions.

IDRC also funds and administers a grants and awards program for both young Canadians and nationals from developing countries.

Information on applying for IDRC funding can be found on: www.idrc.ca/grants

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DOES IDRC SUPPORT?

IDRC supports research in three broad areas:

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Research support focuses on the sustainable use and management of natural resources, stressing the involvement of local communities. Issues include:

- Ensuring secure sources of food and water for the poor in both rural and urban areas by focusing on institutional development, production technology, local resource management, and on appropriate policy choices;
- Improving human health and well-being by better managing ecosystems; and
- Protecting local management and control of biodiversity in light of global initiatives and policies governing genetic resources.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS) FOR DEVELOPMENT

IDRC was one of the first development agencies to embrace ICTs as a key means to foster development. Current research focuses on:

- Ensuring equitable and sustainable access to information and the use of ICTs so that all of society benefits;
- Understanding developments in the information economy, including the concerns of communities and business, e-commerce, and the local effects of global trade rules.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

Research support is directed toward issues in social and economic policy that relate to poverty reduction and enhanced social equity. These issues include:

- Globalization and the integration of developing countries in the world trading system;
- Poverty monitoring and analysis, with a focus on the links between economic policy and poverty;
- Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction; and
- Equitable access to key social services, particularly health and health-care services.

IDRC also supports research on two cross-cutting issues: gender and knowledge systems.

For links to IDRC's research programs, visit:

<http://network.idrc.ca>

HOW IS RESEARCH SUPPORTED?

IDRC supports research through several mechanisms:

- Program initiatives develop and administer the largest part of the Centre's programming. They represent research themes and provide networks that link researchers working on specific problems.
- International secretariats are research consortia of several donors that pursue goals in common with the Centre. IDRC acts as a catalyst to generate the funds and resources the secretariats need. Their management structure allows donor partners to be involved directly in setting program directions and priorities.
- Corporate projects address special needs and opportunities, including exploratory activities that could eventually become significant sectors of intervention for IDRC.
- Through its Canadian partnerships program, IDRC fosters alliances and knowledge-sharing between scientific, academic, and development communities in Canada and the South.

IDRC also works in partnership with other donors to increase the resources going to researchers in the South. The Partnership and Business Development Division helps to build and maintain relationships with donors and other institutions around the world: www.idrc.ca/partnerships

WHERE DOES IDRC WORK?

IDRC's headquarters are located in Ottawa, Canada. IDRC also has six regional offices located in: Egypt (Middle East and North Africa); India (South Asia); Kenya (Eastern and Southern Africa); Senegal (West and Central Africa); Uruguay (Latin America and the Caribbean); and Singapore (Southeast and East Asia). These offices provide a regional perspective to the Centre's programs, nurture partnerships, and promote the dissemination of research results in the areas where IDRC works.

To find out more about IDRC's regional presence, visit: www.idrc.ca/world

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

For further information, visit our Web site at
WWW.IDRC.CA

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