The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries use science and technology to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems 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.

IDRC supports applied research in four 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. Key objectives include:
    - Improving the governance of common pool resources to reduce vulnerability, enhance assets, and legitimize the rights of all to essential natural resources.
    - Understanding the social and ecological context of human health and well-being and building a community of practice in this field.
    - Reducing environmental burdens on the urban poor and enhancing the use of natural resources for food, water, and income security; and
    - Extending the model forest approach to sustainable forest management.

- **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 that developing countries benefit from and contribute to the information economy, notably by:
    - Ensuring sustainable access to ICTs to overcome barriers that hinder social and economic development;
    - Understanding the role of women and of the private sector in the information economy;
    - Promoting the adoption of pro-poor ICT policies through support to applied research; and
    - Helping telecentre networks around the world increase their capacity and reach to promote digital inclusion.

- **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

- **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY**
  - This program area supports research to inform key areas of public policy related to poverty reduction, equitable development, and human rights. This includes research on:
    - Fostering inclusive economic growth;
    - Overcoming conflict and promoting lasting peace;
    - Strengthening health systems; and
    - Advancing women’s rights; and
    - Developing effective tobacco control policies.

For more information on IDRC’s research programs, visit network.idrc.ca

The RESEARCH PROGRAM

IDRC's mission is to empower through knowledge.

In carrying out its mission, IDRC provides funds and expert advice to developing-country researchers working to solve critical development problems. Most projects supported result from direct exchanges between the Centre and developing-country institutions.

To learn more about applying for IDRC funding, visit www.idrc.ca/grants

IDRC also funds and administers a training and awards program for young Canadians and nationals from developing countries. By supporting academic study and offering opportunities for hands-on experience, IDRC helps countries of the South to provide themselves with a critical mass of trained and experienced researchers and gives a new generation of Canadians an opportunity to participate actively in international development issues.

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. For more information on IDRC’s partnerships, visit www.idrc.ca/partnerships

IDRC’s headquarters are located in Ottawa, Canada. IDRC also has six regional offices in:

- Cairo, Egypt, to serve the Middle East and North Africa
- Dakar, Senegal, to serve West and Central Africa
- Montevideo, Uruguay, to serve Latin America and the Caribbean
- Nairobi, Kenya, to serve Eastern and Southern Africa
- New Delhi, India, to serve South Asia
- Singapore, to serve Southeast and East Asia

IDRC distributes the results of its research support to interested parties through its **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

IDRC also works in partnership with other donors to increase the resources going to researchers in the South.