

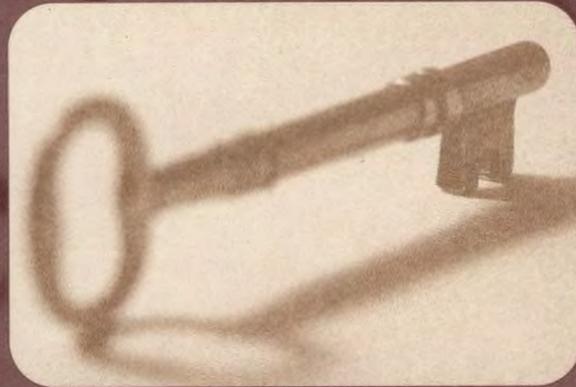
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# Access

*a World of Experience*

MERO



# Differences that Count

**NETWORKS AND CONTACTS** From village councils to presidential palaces, IDRC maintains a global web of networks and contacts. IDRC draws on its international "brain trust" and partners to resolve thorny research problems and to open doors that would otherwise remain shut.

**FLEXIBILITY** Institutional flexibility is imperative in organizations that pioneer new ideas and approaches. Responsive financial and administrative arrangements allow IDRC to react positively to the innovative ideas of Southern researchers and their partners in the North.

**INDEPENDENCE** To function effectively in the developing world, IDRC's founding architects recognized the need for an independent public institution. IDRC's special autonomy enables it to operate in countries and under conditions where other organizations could not.

**CAPACITY BUILDING** IDRC has shared its scientific and technical expertise with some 20,000 researchers and 1000 institutions in over 100 countries. Our unique "approach" builds a critical mass of Southern researchers and expertise so that a home grown research capacity remains after IDRC involvement has ended.

**CONVENING POWER** IDRC's considerable convening power allows it to leverage funds, human resources and political will to tackle issues universally recognized as important. Over the years, IDRC has brought many disparate groups together and found solutions to the problems they share.

**CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH** IDRC employs the optimum in technologies and people. From reliable handpumps to high-technology satellites, IDRC's approach finds the right solutions to existing problems.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE** When all is said and done, organizations are judged by their accomplishments. IDRC has a strong record of performance in international support. The first development organization to focus on knowledge gained through research as the means for empowering the people of the South, IDRC remains a world leader.

**IDRC:**

**An institution**

**supporting**

**research**

**in developing**

**countries**

**by local**

**organizations**

**with the**

**collaboration of**

**Canadian**

**partners**

**for sustainable**

**and equitable**

**development**

## IDRC in Brief

- IDRC is a public corporation created by an Act of the Canadian Parliament (International Development Research Centre Act) in 1970.
- IDRC is federally funded and receives its funds directly from Parliament.
- IDRC's grant for 1997-98 is Canadian \$88.1 million. These funds come from the Official Development Assistance (ODA) envelope.
- Its mission is to contribute to development in the South by supporting scientific and technical research. Therefore IDRC helps researchers and communities in the developing world to find solutions to their social, economic and environmental problems. One of IDRC's main objectives is to support indigenous research capability in developing countries.
- The Centre concentrates on applied field research that promises to yield results that will benefit ordinary people, particularly research bearing upon the problems of poverty.
- IDRC mainly supports developing country researchers. It does, however, foster research partnerships between Canadian and developing world researchers in areas where there is a recognized Canadian expertise.
- Maureen O'Neil was appointed President of IDRC in April 1997. She was appointed by the Government of Canada on the recommendation of IDRC's Board of Governors. She replaced Keith A. Bezanson, the third president of IDRC.
- IDRC enjoys great autonomy. It is directed by a 21-member, international Board of Governors.
- The Centre has offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- In its 28 years of existence, IDRC has funded more than 6,000 projects in more than 100 countries.
- Project proposals are approved by IDRC according to: the basis of development needs, research capacity, scientific rigour, potential to use research results, the priorities of the government in the country where the recipient is located, applicability beyond the country in which the project is carried out, use of local resources, development of human resources, and impact on beneficiary.
- To better address the problems of the developing world, IDRC concentrates its actions in the following research areas: food security, equity in natural resource use, biodiversity conservation, sustainable employment, strategies and policies for healthy societies and information and communication.



## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MERO)

The Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (MERO) is one of seven regional offices established by IDRC to ensure that the Centre's programs and planning reflect the specific needs and priorities of each region of the developing world. IDRC's field presence gives an extra edge to its special knowledge and awareness of local research and development conditions. Regional offices also help recipients develop and maintain South-South linkages and act as the liaison between IDRC headquarters in Ottawa and each region. They also play a critical role in initiating and maintaining contact with partners, including national and multilateral development agencies, research institutions and researchers.

### History

Since its creation in 1970, IDRC has been a proactive force for development in the Middle East and North Africa. IDRC funded its first project in the region in 1971. IDRC's support was instrumental in the establishment of regional research networks linking scientists and research institutions across nations and continents. Strengthening and building local institutional capacity for excellent research has become the trademark by which IDRC is known internationally. The Centre was also instrumental in the creation of the International Centre for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and for supporting pioneering work on such research areas as agroforestry.

To date, IDRC has invested in more than 450 research projects in the region totalling more than 91.7 million CAD (66.4 million USD). In terms of representation from the region on its international Board of Governors, IDRC has been fortunate to have seen Dr. Albert J. Butros of Jordan serve for three terms, from 1986 to 1998.

A permanent IDRC presence was established in the region as early as 1974 with the creation of the Middle East regional office in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1976 this office moved to Cairo, where it is still located today.

### Program Activities

The scope of the Centre's activities is defined by six themes that focus on broad issues of development. The themes were chosen because of their contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable development, the stated priorities of developing countries themselves and their fit with IDRC's own experience and expertise. This thematic approach is designed to promote and encourage multidisciplinary research.

The themes are: **food security, equity in natural resource use, biodiversity conservation, sustainable employment, strategies and policies for healthy societies, and information and communication.**

Under these larger concerns, IDRC supports research through 15 Program Initiatives that target particular development problems. While IDRC has the capacity to bring any of its core expertise and worldwide experience to the region, IDRC has developed particular expertise and is currently focusing on several key development issues in the Middle East and North Africa:

- Land and water resource management
- Small, medium and micro enterprise development and technology for employment creation
- Peace building and reconstruction
- Biodiversity conservation
- Ecosystem impacts on human health
- Urban agriculture (Cities Feeding People)

**Details of these and all 15 Program Initiatives are attached. In addition, attached are examples of projects in the region that IDRC has funded and, in many cases, managed on behalf of other donors.**

## **Funding**

The majority of IDRC's funding comes from the Government of Canada (\$87.6 million 1997-98). About 25% of the Centre's budget comes from bilateral donors, international organizations, foundations and operational revenues. IDRC has managed up to 30 million CAD annually on behalf of other public agencies and foundations.

As of 1990, one-third of all IDRC program funds are spent in Africa, including North Africa and the Middle East. MERO manages its own budget and has developed an efficient support system for the management of national and regional projects. MERO's scientific, managerial and information services can be accessed by other donors.

## **Services**

Within its six broad thematic sectors of focus, IDRC can offer a range of services through MERO including:

- management of large international research projects
- research planning and priority setting
- coordination and management of international information networks
- project set-up and direction, including day-to-day operations, financial and administrative controls, progress monitoring, and evaluation
- organization and administration of international Secretariats
- administration of research training awards and fellowship programs
- technical assistance in areas of sectoral competence
- tracking issues in developing countries and emerging economies
- organization, coordination and daily management of conferences, roundtables, and seminars.
- coordination and administration of "small grants" research programs

## **Experienced, Knowledgeable Team**

With offices around the world, IDRC brings a multilingual team of more than 120 respected scientists and managers with broad experience in applied research and in research management to all projects it undertakes. In addition, projects are supported by a permanent infrastructure of more than 100 financial, technical and administrative staff at IDRC headquarters and in our regional offices.

Currently there are eight permanent staff in the MERO office with the flexibility to increase numbers depending on changing demands, size of projects or expertise required.

The Centre has electronic mail services and full Internet connectivity, both at headquarters and in the regions. This includes access to Internet mail, World Wide Web, Telnet, and Gopher. All staff have personal, state-of-the-art computers and software which are upgraded on a regular basis.

## **Partnerships for the Future**

The picture of traditional development assistance is changing. As the level of foreign assistance spending decreases throughout the world, the collaborative generation and management of research and policy programs is key to effective and efficient program delivery to meet the urgent problems related to global poverty.

Recipient institutions and governments now demand equal relationships based on new partnerships and closer collaboration. They want to establish more connections with experts and to have greater participation from communities and recipients. These are the principles upon which IDRC has been working for more than a quarter century — and they remain the cornerstone upon which future partnerships will be built.

### **For more information, contact:**

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The office in Cairo is the focus for activities in Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.



International Development Research Centre

## Program Initiatives

*Regional Office  
for the  
Middle East and North Africa*

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# *People, Land, and Water (PLAW)*

## **Context**

Millions of people in Africa and the Middle East struggle each day for access to food and water. Land and water are essential resources for the region, and they are becoming less productive and more scarce. The pressures resulting from a burgeoning population, a fragile resource base, and the need for economic development are causing environmental degradation, such as desertification, water pollution, and extreme water scarcity. These pressures fundamentally undermine the ability of the natural resource base to satisfy current and future human development needs.

This program initiative focuses on two eco-regions where the problems relating to land and water resources are very severe: arid and semi-arid regions, and the highland ecosystem of sub-Saharan Africa. In arid and semi-arid regions, water scarcity is probably the single most limiting input both to food security and to economic and social development. In the highland ecosystem of sub-Saharan Africa, population and market pressures have intensified unplanned agricultural production and reduced the ability of people to produce food and earn an income.

## **Approach**

The program initiative's aim is to help ensure the more equitable, sustainable, and productive use of land and water resources. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* support research and enhance communication among governments, communities, and local institutions;
- \* formulate methodologies for the analysis of power relations that affect equitable access to land and water resources within communities;
- \* develop and spread improved technologies, policies, and institutional arrangements for the management of land and water resources;
- \* document the experiences and knowledge of communities in resources management; and
- \* establish an information clearinghouse and toolbox on water hyacinth control and management and share research on issues critical to the region through networks.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that focuses on:

- \* understanding the systemic factors that lead to environmental degradation or, conversely, to the improvement of land and water resources;

- \* contributing to policies and institutional arrangements that increase the access, availability, and quality of land and water resources;
- \* building on and improving local strategies for sustainable production and conservation;
- \* developing allocation and conflict-resolution strategies for the equitable distribution of land and water resources; and
- \* designing decision-making tools and establishing networks for the use and exchange of information among policy-makers, communities, and researchers.

## **Areas of Expertise**

- \* agricultural economics
- \* agricultural technologies
- \* agroforestry
- \* biodiversity
- \* conflict management
- \* energy and water conservation
- \* environmental and natural resource management
- \* farming systems
- \* gender and rural development
- \* land and water management
- \* land restoration
- \* low-input sustainable agriculture
- \* management of fragile ecosystems
- \* rural agriculture development policy
- \* sustainable development
- \* technology transfer

## **Some Strategic Linkages**

- \* Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- \* Programme régional d'amélioration de la culture de la pomme de terre et de la patate douce en Afrique central et de l'est (PRAPACE)
- \* International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- \* Eastern and Central Africa Programme for Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA)
- \* Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- \* Agroforestry Research Network for Africa (AFRENA)
- \* Africa Network for Agroforestry Education (ANAFE)
- \* Alley Farming Network for Tropical Africa
- \* Eastern and Central Africa Bean Research Network
- \* Banana Research Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (BARNESA)

# *Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)*

## **Context**

Biodiversity refers to the variety and variability of life on Earth. From genes to species to ecosystems, biodiversity exists on several levels. For example, genetic differences within species help ensure resistance to disease, which is important to the stability of our food supply. In fact, the sustainable production of staples such as wheat, rice, and maize, in both the North and the South, depends on the systematic mixing of crop varieties of various origins and genetic make-ups. Access to a variety of species is also vital for developing new pharmaceutical products and for technological innovations.

However, sources of biodiversity are disappearing at an unprecedented rate. Each gene, species, or ecosystem lost reduces our options for adapting to change. This loss is compounded by the even more rapid disappearance of knowledge of biodiversity, especially among peoples with a close relationship to complex natural ecosystems. Because many laws, customs, and cultural practices affect access to biological resources differently for men and women, gender inequalities are often accentuated. Controlling access to biological resources that were previously considered a common good could become a source of international conflict.

## **Approach**

The program initiative aims to enhance the capacity of local and indigenous peoples to protect, access, and sustainably use biodiversity and knowledge of biodiversity, and it will undertake the following:

- \* support local and indigenous peoples and institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in undertaking research either independently or in collaboration with relevant formal-sector institutions;
- \* support research at the local, national, and international levels that focuses on enhancing the sustainable use of biodiversity by local communities;
- \* support the development of appropriate and equitable policies governing biodiversity;
- \* promote new methodologies for enhancing, monitoring, and evaluating the sustainable use of biodiversity; and
- \* enhance communication between the diverse local caretakers and the global beneficiaries of biodiversity.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* developing models for intellectual property and traditional resource rights to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity;
- \* promoting indigenous and local knowledge of biodiversity and the institutions needed to protect and use this knowledge;
- \* involving communities in the development and conservation of agricultural and aquatic biodiversity and supporting the development of incentives, methods, and policy options for in situ or on-farm conservation; and
- \* supporting income-generating strategies and incentives for the sustainable use of the products of biodiversity, especially medicinal plants and non-timber forest products.

## **Areas of expertise**

- \* agricultural conservation
- \* agroforestry
- \* community-based resource management
- \* control of desertification
- \* environmental and natural resource policy
- \* environmental protection
- \* indigenous knowledge systems
- \* management of fragile ecosystems
- \* medicinal plant research
- \* natural resource management systems
- \* social forestry
- \* sustainable production systems
- \* wetlands management

## **Strategic Linkages**

- \* African Regional Centre for Indigenous Knowledge
- \* Canadian Federal Interdepartmental Committee on Biodiversity
- \* Center for International Forestry Research
- \* Convention on Biological Diversity
- \* Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network
- \* International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
- \* International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
- \* Medicinal Plants Research Network
- \* Pan-African Network on Natural Products

# *Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprise Innovation and Technology (SMMEIT)*

## **Context**

Most nonagricultural employment in the South is generated by small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). These enterprises account for a significant share of industrial output and are a critical source of income and employment opportunities for women and the poor. However, SMMEs typically suffer from low levels of productivity, poor product quality, and a lack of access to credit, training, and other services. Pollution loads from smaller firms are often significant--partially because of low levels of productivity--and efficiency in the use of energy and other resources is low.

## **Approach**

The program initiative is based on the conviction that innovation and access to technology are key factors in enabling SMMEs to generate employment, remain competitive, and improve their environmental performance. The initiative will undertake activities to:

- \* improve the delivery of support services for SMMEs;
- \* strengthen the policy and regulatory environment for SMME development;
- \* support the identification, adaptation, and transfer of cleaner technologies and production methods for use by SMMEs; and
- \* assist in the commercialization by SMMEs of IDRC-funded products and technologies.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- i) *To support the development, transfer, and marketing of elected products and technologies for the small enterprise sector.*

Specifically SMMEIT will:

- support research leading to the development, adaptation, and diffusion of technologies for small-scale, value-added processing of non-food, natural products;
- identify market opportunities for specific natural products, and design an integrated approach to the marketing of such products; and
- promote the adoption, transfer, commercial development, and marketing by small enterprises of other technologies resulting from past IDRC research support.

- ii) *To promote the identification, dissemination, and application of improved practices in small enterprise support services and related policies.*

Specifically SMMEIT will:

- improve the understanding of the constraints and challenges facing small enterprises in key sub-sectors, regions, and countries, and the resulting services needs of firms and entrepreneurs;
- examine alternative approaches to the design, delivery, and financing of small enterprise support services;
- assess broader policy options at the local and national level to promote industrial innovation and to improve access to services by small firms; and
- document, diffuse, and encourage the application of "good practice" approaches in service delivery and related policies.

## **Areas of Expertise**

- \* agricultural economics
- \* business development services
- \* economics of technological change
- \* entrepreneurial development
- \* environment and green technologies
- \* formal and informal sector analysis
- \* gender and rural development
- \* income generation
- \* information and communications technology
- \* innovation systems
- \* management information systems
- \* micro-credit programs
- \* occupational health and safety
- \* rural development planning
- \* small business credit assistance
- \* technology development
- \* technology information services
- \* technology transfer

## **Strategic Linkages**

- \* African Technology Policy Studies Network
- \* Valorisation des matieres premieres vegetales (Africa)
- \* CamBioTec Network (Latin America)
- \* Central American Industrial Support Network

# *Peacebuilding and Reconstruction (PBR)*

## **Context**

Post-conflict reconstruction is a fragile phase in the development of societies. Each country emerging from conflict faces a set of threats and challenges that are unique to its socioeconomic, security, cultural, and political context. A gap must be bridged between the short-term imperatives for international humanitarian assistance and conflict management and the long-term need for sustainable development and security. Reconstruction, therefore, requires a special set of analytical tools and appropriate policies to respond to a country's specific situation. Applied research plays a critical role in developing these tools and in guiding policy and action.

To use limited resources effectively and to respond to each country's unique circumstances, reconstruction programming must be tailored to local needs. However, there is also a need for issue-specific research that cuts across individual country programs.

## **Approach**

The initiative will support peace-building and reconstruction in selected settings, including South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Cambodia, and the Middle East, and will undertake the following:

- \* promote the consolidation and democratization of policy processes and support institution building;
- \* support local initiatives for reconstruction, social reintegration, and reconciliation;
- \* build Southern research capacity through inclusive and strategic networks with key stakeholder;
- \* support the research and policy formulation efforts of Southern organizations; and
- \* build electronic and other networks to enhance the dissemination of information

## **Research Focus**

The program initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* producing country-specific interventions related to reconstruction in particular settings, as well as interventions that may be used more generally in a number of reconstruction settings;
- \* developing Southern research capacity by establishing inclusive national and regional policy processes in reconstruction settings, strengthening Southern nongovernmental organizations, and promoting the use of information and communication technologies for research, knowledge, and dissemination; and
- \* improving knowledge of what works and what does not work in peace-building and reconstruction by documenting lessons learned and developing effective strategies for use by donors (Canadian and others), the international community, and Southern actors.

## **Areas of Expertise**

- \* community-based resource management
- \* conflict analysis
- \* development policy analysis
- \* energy policy
- \* environmental policy
- \* food security
- \* gender and rural development
- \* informatics policy and management
- \* international development
- \* labour
- \* post-conflict reconstruction
- \* public policy analysis
- \* resource management
- \* rural development planning
- \* small enterprise promotion

# *Assessment of Social Policy Reforms (ASPR)*

## **Context**

Around the world, governments are reexamining social safety nets in response to slow economic growth, labour market difficulties, shifting demographics, persistent poverty, and growing social insecurity. Policy-makers are charged with reforming social services in the face of a near universal push to reduce public deficits, while at the same time maintaining effective social programs. Many decision-makers are consequently experimenting with approaches that share the responsibility and cost of social reforms among various groups, such as nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

Decentralization, privatization, targeting, and fees for services are examples of changes that have been introduced to improve the delivery and management of social services. These measures affect the entire policy cycle from the design of programs to their delivery. Affected are programs in such critical areas as health care, education, social security, employment, and social services for vulnerable groups. However, changes are too often implemented with an incomplete understanding of what reforms work and under which socioeconomic, cultural and institutional conditions.

## **Approach**

The program initiative supports research that will provide policy-makers with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed changes to their country's social security systems. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* assess various approaches to social policy reform, such as decentralization, privatization, targeting, or fees for services, focusing on their impact on policy formulation, integration, and program delivery to identify best practices and lessons learned;
- \* develop and test low-cost methods, instruments, and indicators for assessing the impact of social reforms, with a focus on the impact of reforms on vulnerable groups; and
- \* foster Canadian and developing-country collaboration to produce databases and information resources for use by national and local governments in promoting integrated reforms across social sectors.

## **Research Focus**

Research will focus on the analysis of cases in which reforms affect the design, management, financing, or evaluation of policies and programs. Research will concentrate on:

- \* identifying and comparing successful social policy reform practices and developing the ability of local researchers to undertake policy evaluation and impact assessment; and
- \* examining the processes and impacts of social policy reform across sectors to facilitate integration among policy areas and to guide the application of lessons learned.

# *PAN Networking (PAN)*

## **Context**

Historically, isolation and a lack of access to critical research and information has been a major difficulty for researchers in the South. The Internet now provides an efficient and affordable means of connecting individuals and institutions electronically, thereby improving research collaboration, information exchange, resource sharing, and communication.

## **Approach**

The PAN initiative aims to promote speedy and more efficient access by researchers to the vast textual and multimedia information resources available on the Internet. Special attention is given to research and development communities in poorer countries and remote areas. The initiative also aims to develop the capacity in the South for using the Internet. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* facilitate research and development through increased communication, information sharing, and collaboration among researchers and development actors;
- \* assist the least-developed countries and communities in developing the infrastructure necessary for Internet access;
- \* provide "single window" access to development information resources produced by developing countries;
- \* increase the capacity of developing countries to generate and repackage information resulting from research for availability on the Internet;
- \* assist with the development of policies for Internet networking;
- \* assist in the development of new networking technologies and tools; and
- \* improve the effectiveness of IDRC's program initiatives through electronic networking.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* improving collaboration between researchers working on similar problems in different countries and regions to improve efficiency and avoid the duplication of research;
- \* providing access to the Internet, encouraging developing countries to use their local resources to contribute information to the Internet, and making this information available through PAN web sites or via linked sites and search tools; and
- \* assisting in developing new networking technologies and tools appropriate to the specific situations of developing countries and creating sound and appropriate policies for Internet networking.

# *Alternatives to Poverty and Resource Degradation (MINGA)*

## **Context**

The grinding cycle of poverty and the degradation of natural resources is widespread in every developing country in the world. This cycle is particularly evident on the hill-sides, highlands, and forest margins of Central and South America, where large and increasing numbers of people depend upon a declining natural resource base. Diverse and conflicting interests often lie at the root of environmental problems in these areas. To address the issues surrounding poverty and resource degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean, IDRC supports approaches that involve diverse stakeholder in analyzing and managing natural resources.

## **Approach**

The initiative aims to contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as to reduce poverty in the region. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* enable Latin American governments and civil societies to better address sustainable development by designing and implementing policies and technologies to break the cycle of impoverishment and arrest the depletion of natural resources;
- \* facilitate the development and exchange of information on alternative approaches to conflict resolution;
- \* enhance regional capacity for policy-making and collaborative natural resource management; and
- \* strengthen cooperation between institutions and groups in the South and in Canada with a view to putting multi-stakeholder analysis and management into practice.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* applying multi-stakeholder approaches to identifying problems, setting priorities, and managing natural resources;
- \* developing partnerships between Canadian and Southern groups using multi-stakeholder analysis and management to resolve conflicts over the use of natural resources; and
- \* analyzing and formulating policies, technologies, and institutional arrangements to improve the management of natural resources and thereby enhance the livelihoods of poor people living in fragile ecosystems.

# *The Acacia Initiative: Communities and the Information Society in Africa (Acacia)*

## **Context**

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) are developing at a dramatic pace. Left unchecked, the "globalization of information" (the creation, access, and utilization of information on a global scale) will widen the information gap between developed and developing countries, further distance elites from the general population, and limit traditional social and economic development efforts. However, African communities can use ICTs to counter this trend and to take advantage of new forms of social organization and economic activity resulting from the transformation to an information society

## **Approach**

The Acacia initiative aims to empower Sub-Saharan African communities with the ability to apply ICTs to their own social and economic development. The initiative aims to undertake the following:

- \* discover and demonstrate how the benefits of ICTs can reach disadvantaged communities of sub-Saharan Africa, especially women and youth, and can help them to solve their development problems;
- \* learn from research and experimentation supported by the Acacia Initiative and disseminate this knowledge widely;
- \* build international momentum and buy-in to widen access to ICTs by rural and disadvantaged groups.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative takes an integrated approach to addressing applications, technology, infrastructure, and policy issues. What makes Acacia different from similar initiatives is its intention to tackle these issues with a community focus and to do so within an integrated framework that builds into the program a strong element of continuous learning. The involvement of community groups in defining Acacia's activities will ensure an appropriate emphasis on:

- \* developing locally defined applications, services and networks;
- \* promoting innovative technical solutions to development challenges;
- \* investing in technologies related to telecommunication and ICT infrastructure; and
- \* supporting the development of an appropriate policy environment.

## Context

Agriculture is a major source of export revenue for developing countries. However, there is often significant waste in processing and marketing food products because of limitations in infrastructure and human resource capacity. Furthermore, food products are often marketed in their raw, unprocessed forms. Because value-added processing and marketing can lead to higher returns and can generate employment, dependence on the production and export of raw materials represents a lost opportunity for sustainable development.

Small food producers in developing countries handle a wide range of "exotic" foods that have promising marketing possibilities in the North. In competitive Northern markets, businesses are constantly looking for new, unique food products that will respond to increasingly sophisticated consumer tastes. However, food producers in the South are constrained from effectively marketing their products by a range of factors, including poor links to Northern markets and inadequate resources to improve their products.

FoodLinks, IDRC's new market-oriented initiative, represents a new and innovative approach to sustainable development. It links Canadian private enterprises to producers' groups in developing countries in research and business partnerships.

## Approach

The initiative aims to reduce the waste in Southern agricultural production and increase the returns to the community by addressing the key issues that constrain small producers and processors in developing countries. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* facilitate greater market access and support value-added activities by small producers in developing countries through mutually beneficial partnership with Northern country agrifood enterprises;
- \* expand the resources of FoodLinks through collaboration with other donors, and to develop its capacity and strength as a commercial entity; and
- \* promote the use of information and communication networks to develop food products and facilitate market development.

## Research Focus

FoodLinks will support research and marketing efforts that:

- \* identify promising food products from the developing world;
- \* explore the commercial viability of products with income-generating potential;
- \* develop business plans for the commercialization of feasible products;
- \* develop institutional linkages to support supplier-wholesaler cooperation;
- \* coordinate the search for venture capital and the implementation of the business plan;
- \* monitor and evaluate the process of product development as a means of improving intervention strategies; and
- \* establish links between developing-world agrifood interests and those in Canada.

# *Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)*

## **Context**

In spite of rapid industrialization, many South and Southeast Asians remain dependent on a productive natural resource base for a living. The long-term health of the natural environment is threatened, however, by increasing exploitation of land, forest, and water resources and by a growing population. As the ability of ecosystems to recover diminishes, so do the employment and lifestyle options open to local people. Millions of livelihoods and irreplaceable storehouses of biodiversity may be lost forever. To halt the erosion of their local resource base, the men, women and children living in affected communities often must overcome physical and social barriers. Many live in remote areas far from markets and urban centres. Others belong to ethnic groups with limited political influence. Within communities, some groups, like women and children, may be further marginalized by the existing power and gender relations.

## **Approach**

The program initiative aims to assist women and men living in ecosystems that face increasing resource exploitation to manage and use their natural resources sustainably. This will be done in a way that recognizes that men, women, ethnic groups, and different social classes use natural resources in diverse ways and for distinct purposes.

The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) approaches that are innovative, equitable, sustainable, and replicable;
- \* policy-related research to ensure that local and national policies are gender sensitive and consistent with sustainable natural resource management systems at the community level;
- \* research and management processes that are participatory;
- \* technological, social, and organizational innovations that respond to priorities defined by the men and women of local communities;
- \* integration of natural science components, such as resource assessment and production technologies, with a social science perspective that addresses decision-making processes, power and gender relations, and institutional development; and

- \* a regional network on research methods and approaches for analyzing environmental problems and as means to build and strengthen CBNRM practices in Asia.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* enhancing livelihood options, food security, and improvements in the well-being of the different members of communities;
- \* how to reverse the practices that lead to degradation of the natural resource base;
- \* providing a clearer understanding of power and gender relations within communities to promote policies and programs that enable women and other disadvantaged groups to contribute more actively to the effective management of a community's natural resources;
- \* developing an understanding of local and national policies that promote and enhance CBNRM;
- \* developing new gender-sensitive methods, processes, technologies, and policies in support of CBNRM; and
- \* adopting and refining innovations developed under IDRC support by other donors, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities.

# *Cities Feeding People (CFP)*

## **Context**

Millions of people in the cities of the South have become farmers in recent decades, growing vegetables, raising livestock, and practising many other types of agriculture in urban areas. These urban farmers enjoy benefits that include better diets and a higher income and make a significant contribution to the urban environment. Urban agriculture also improves local food supplies, puts marginal lands to good use, and absorbs wastes in the form of compost and fertilizers.

Urban agriculture does, however, require higher technological and organizational precision than rural agriculture because it needs to be more intensive, more tolerant of environmental stress, and very carefully monitored to protect public health.

Despite the benefits, most urban agriculture remains largely unrecognized and unassisted, if not outlawed and its practitioners harassed, even in years of food shortages. Nonetheless, some governments are creating agencies to manage urban agriculture and actively encourage it.

## **Approach**

The program initiative aims to encourage policy and technology for the sustainable use of urban resources, with an appropriate gender focus. The initiative will support measures that:

- \* strengthen household food security;
- \* strengthen employment and income generation;
- \* support waste and open-space management; and
- \* support community self-management, particularly for the urban poor.

## **Research Focus**

To improve the well-being and health of urban dwellers who are low-income food producers and consumers and to make ecosystems sustainable, both political and technical solutions are needed.

The current focus is on research that concentrates on:

- \* developing confined-space technologies for low-income food producers;
- \* supporting safe urban agriculture practices (organic recycling) to reduce human and environmental health risks; and
- \* promoting receptive policy and regulatory frameworks for land tenure, zoning, and use planning.

## **Areas of Expertise**

- \* agricultural economics
- \* alternative approaches to policy reform
- \* animal production systems
- \* community-based resource management
- \* development education
- \* energy and water conservation
- \* environmental and natural resource policy
- \* food security
- \* international development
- \* social policy analysis
- \* sustainable development
- \* sustainable urban environments
- \* traditional health systems
- \* urban agriculture
- \* urban development
- \* urban transportation
- \* water resource management
- \* women-in-development

## **Strategic Linkages**

- \* Urban Agriculture Network (TUAN)
- \* Support Group for Urban Agriculture
- \* Developing Country Farm Radio Network
- \* La Red Agricultura Urbana Investigaciones Latinoamerica (AGUILA)
- \* La Red Panamericana de Información en Salud Ambiental (REPIDISCA)

# *Micro Impacts of Microeconomic and Adjustment Policies* (MIMAP)

## **Context**

In the 1970s, economic stabilization and structural adjustment programs were advocated to address the severe economic problems many countries in the South were facing. Policies such as reductions in public expenditures, currency devaluation, and trade and financial-sector liberalization were introduced to change the structure of developing countries' economies and improve long-term economic outlooks.

However, it soon became clear that the poor bore the brunt of the costs of adjustment. Although studies by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among others, examined the social impact of structural adjustment, it was difficult for policy-makers to propose and implement sound and practical "softer" or different policy options.

## **Approach**

The MIMAP (Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies) program initiative aims to provide policy alternatives to structural adjustment. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* build the capacity of developing countries to conduct leading-edge research analyzing the impact of macroeconomic policies on various domestic groups and regions;
- \* enable developing countries to design their own policies and to equip them to debate these policies with international players, including banks and multilateral and bilateral donors;
- \* bring together researchers, government officials and other decision makers, and nongovernmental organizations to participate in a consensus-building policy dialogue at the national and regional levels and to promote policy analysis and interaction among countries;
- \* assess the effectiveness of macroeconomic policies in responding to economic problems and provide an ongoing picture of the impact of these policies on the poor, making this picture widely available to institutions involved in national policy dialogue; and

- \* assist in the design of macroeconomic policies to achieve the best economic outcomes with the least impact on vulnerable groups and to identify areas for further research.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on:

- \* economic modelling that makes a rigorous macro-micro link (for example, the impact of trade and exchange rate policies on nutrition or income distribution) and generates empirical policy-based results;
- \* data gathering that goes beyond conventional measures of well-being to include other variables (such as the quality of housing materials and the capacity to cope with natural disasters) that provide frequent and timely information on the status of poorer communities; and
- \* interpreting and disseminating the results of modelling exercises through nontechnical means such as policy papers and essays that go beyond a narrow, mechanical portrayal of the modelling results.

# *Learning for Change, Africa (LCA)*

## **Context**

For decades, Africans invested heavily in education. Now, however, experts question the ability of education systems to generate the desired knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. Throughout Africa, education systems have failed to reach the millions of children and adults who still work in fields or in factories, or who roam the streets of major cities. Despite increases in the proportion of children enrolled in schools, the number of children aged 6 to 11 who are not in school has grown by some 2 million since 1990 and now totals 39.3 million. Two-thirds of these children are girls, and gender disparities remain a serious constraint to achieving the objective of education for all.

Alternative and appropriate approaches to the acquisition of knowledge are needed. To provide learning opportunities for all-- regardless of age, gender, geographical location, or socioeconomic status--education must move beyond the confines of the classroom.

## **Approach**

The program initiative aims to foster alternative learning opportunities to enable individuals in Africa to overcome marginalization and meet the challenges of a changing world. The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* identify and develop appropriate means and capacities for the acquisition and transmission of knowledge;
- \* understand and address the factors influencing the content, relevance, access, and quality of learning; and
- \* promote and apply learning innovations that meet community needs.

## **Research Focus**

The initiative will support research that concentrates on

- \* examining formal and informal learning processes through which knowledge is acquired, used, and transmitted;
- \* analyzing the processes (acquisition and transmission) and the substance (content, relevance, access, and quality) of learning from a learner's perspective;

- \* exploring appropriate information and communication technologies as a means of overcoming the barriers of conventional schooling and moving toward lifelong learning;
- \* promoting access to learning, especially for women and marginalized groups, through alternative methods; and
- \* examining the cultural and socio-environmental factors that influence access to learning, especially in the integration of new technologies into learning processes.

# *Trade, Employment, and Competitiveness (TEC)*

## **Context**

Over the past 20 years, developing countries have witnessed dramatic changes in their trade relations with the rest of the world. Trade has expanded at a steady pace, but shifted toward manufactured exports and trade in services. In part, these changes can be attributed to the domestic policy shifts of developing countries toward, for example, trade liberalization. Conscious efforts to promote trade with neighbouring countries through regional integration have also had an effect.

However, changes in the international environment have also been significant. Regional trading blocs such as the European Union and the North American Free Trade Zone, have become key features of the world trade system. In Eastern Europe, the fall of communism and the growth of a market economy have radically transformed the region's trade and investment patterns. In addition, international trade negotiations have an increasing relevance for developing countries as a result of the Uruguay Round, the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and preparations for the next round of trade talks. Moreover, new communications and information technologies are radically changing the way companies do business and are opening new opportunities for trade and investment. If developing countries are to keep abreast of these rapid changes in international economic relations, they must be able to respond to a constantly evolving global economy.

## **Approach**

The program initiative aims to support developing countries in their efforts to participate more effectively in the global economy. The initiative will support activities to:

- \* improve developing countries' negotiation and bargaining skills in international fora;
- \* enhance the role of trade through improved policy and streamlined institutional mechanisms; and
- \* contribute to consistent and coherent policies in dealing with fast-changing developments at home and abroad.

## **Research Focus**

Research will focus on the sectoral restructuring required by shifts in global trade (the growth of service industries like banking and insurance at the expense of manufacturing, for example), the financial and technological dimensions of international competitiveness, and the consequences of globalization on employment, equity, and environmental concerns. The initiative supports research that concentrates on:

- \* examining emerging issues in international trade relations, such as labour standards, the environment, investment codes, competition policy and trade in services;
- \* domestic and regional policy responses to globalization;
- \* supporting networks of economists in Africa and Latin America that include trade issues among their major preoccupations; and
- \* examining issues sometimes neglected in traditional economic analysis, including political economic dimensions (such as the role of interest groups on economic policy), institutional considerations (for example, the role of government in economic activity), and the enabling environment (such as the level of schooling).

# ***Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (ECOSYS)***

## **Context**

Human beings along the complex natural resources on which they depend make up ecosystems. When any component of these ecosystems is damaged, human well-being and capacity to manage the environment and natural resources are jeopardized. Ecosystem health is a concept that encompasses the complex interplay among the environment and the socioeconomic, cultural and political conditions of any group of people. In particular, it focuses on how these relationships influence human health and well-being and the meeting of individual and societal needs.

Sustainable and equitable development requires that the well-being of both the people and the ecosystems of which they are integral part are maintained or improved. A better appreciation of the linkages involved in ecosystem health leads to a clearer understanding of the fundamental working of the system, provides appropriate points for policy interventions, and encourages sustainable and equitable development practices.

## **Approach**

The program initiative uses a multi disciplinary approach to examine the dynamics between human beings and their environment, emphasizing participatory and gender-sensitive methodologies. Research support focuses on basic human needs and priority health problems connected to stressed ecosystems.

The initiative will undertake the following:

- \* develop and evaluate new approaches for health assessment in environmental impact assessments;
- \* field test proposed sets of indicators for ecosystem health;
- \* develop new research strategies and proposals that address and test the ecosystem-health approach to identifying priority problems and points of interventions; and
- \* develop interdisciplinary expertise and push forward the agenda of ecosystem health both in the developing world and in Canada

## **Research Focus**

The program initiative will undertake research to identify causative links between environmental change and human health and where possible develop interventions that promote improved human health, ecosystem stability, and sustainable development

## **Areas of Expertise**

- \* agrology
- \* anthropology
- \* environmental health
- \* environmental sanitation
- \* epidemiology
- \* gender in development
- \* medical anthropology
- \* mining geology
- \* natural resources management
- \* occupational health
- \* political science
- \* public health
- \* sanitary engineering
- \* toxicology
- \* water resource management

## **Strategic Linkage**

- \* Formation à la recherche en santé au travail en Afrique dispensée en Français (FORST)
- \* Environmental Health Impact Assessment Network in Latin America



International Development Research Centre

## SELECTED REGIONAL PROJECTS

*Regional Office  
for the  
Middle East and North Africa*

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# **Policy Research Initiative in Palestine (West Bank)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT AMOUNT**

900,000 CAD (652,000 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING THE PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (CAD 450,000)

Ford Foundation (CAD 450,000)

## **RECIPIENT/ RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Numerous Palestinian research NGOs

## **DURATION**

March 1995 to September 1998

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Institutional capacity building of policy research NGOs

Analysis of various sectoral and cross-sectoral policy issues and their implications

Enhancement of cooperation and collaboration between Palestinian research NGOs

Dissemination and public discussion of research results and their policy implications

## **LOCATION**

Palestine (West Bank and Gaza)

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY IDRC:**

IDRC, in close collaboration with the Ford Foundation, has been instrumental in identifying the current policy research priorities and needs of Palestinian NGOs, their on-going research activities, and their partners inside and outside Palestine. It has provided several research grants addressing a broad range of policy issues covering economic and social policies, health, primary and higher education, small enterprise development, role of women, etc. The project has also set up a small grants research program focusing specifically on economic and social policy issues. IDRC has provided substantial programmatic and technical support to various project activities and was also responsible for administering a portion of the funds allocated by the Ford Foundation to this project.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Palestinian NGOs have played a critical role in civil society and have been particularly active in conducting policy oriented research. They have produced valuable research in areas as diverse as economic and social development policies, governance and state-building, democratization, human rights, and the role of women in society. With the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) following the Declaration of Principles between the Israelis and the Palestinians in 1993, NGOs realize the urgency of maintaining their political and financial autonomy. This will allow them to continue to conduct independent research on key policy issues that will influence public opinion and policy decisions. NGOs, however, are in dire need of closer cooperation and collaboration in order to strengthen their capacity as well as their overall influence and contribution to critical policy issues in Palestine. The main objective of this joint IDRC-Ford Foundation initiative is to strengthen policy research capacity of Palestinian NGOs and to enhance their ability to inform and influence public opinion and policy decisions during the transition period to self-government.

# Economic Research Forum (Regional)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

4.8 million CAN (3.5 million USD)

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

IDRC 825,000 CAD (600,000 USD)

Ford Foundation 600,000 USD

Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development 600,000 USD

World Bank 700,000

Other organizations 1,000,000 USD

## RECIPIENT/ RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt

## DURATION

1994 to 1998 (Phase I & II)

## LOCATION

Middle East and North Africa

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Institutional strengthening and capacity building

Network building and management

Project monitoring and evaluation

Research design and evaluation

Setting research agendas

Small grants packaging and delivery

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) for the Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey is a network set up in 1993 to bring together research economists in a region that has been characterized by linguistic and other divisions, a weak research environment, and poor links to policy-makers. ERF's fundamental goal is to promote economic research that would contribute to enhancing the economic performance of countries in the region by their application of appropriate economic policy reforms. Its objectives are to encourage the development of the economic research community in the region and to stimulate the production of independent and high-quality economic (and related) research of ultimate relevance to public policy. To achieve these goals, the ERF has developed a network of regional and international researchers and organizes the network's activities, thus providing a forum for interactions that would raise the quality of the regional economic policy debate. Its activities include small grants for research provided for annual meetings on particular themes, a variety of publications, the coordination of research funding from various donors, the development of a regional data bank, and training. The research themes include labour markets and human resource development, the informal sector and small-scale enterprise, trade and foreign investment, the financial sector and the role of the state.

# Industrial Support Unit (Palestine)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

350,120 CAD (253,700 USD)

## INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Development Resource Center (DRC), Gaza

## DURATION

1996 to 1999

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Coordination of service provision to small enterprises

Assessment of various industrial sub-sectors

Firm-level diagnosis and provision of integrated package of technical, marketing, training, and financial services

Networking and referral among various NGOs providing similar services to small firms

Training and institutional capacity building

## LOCATION

Palestine

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This is a key pilot activity in anticipation of a larger effort to be initiated by IDRC, in cooperation with other donors, to establish a nation-wide industrial outreach system based on the initial accomplishments of this pilot project. The vast majority of manufacturing activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is located within small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs). SMEs have become increasingly recognized as a core requirement in developing productive economies as they contribute to employment, income generation, and manufacturing activities. Palestinian SMEs are small, often family run enterprises, and very often located in residential areas. They have flourished in part due to the effects and constraints brought about by the Israeli occupation.

While SMEs are a vibrant and innovative activity in the territories, they suffer from a lack of organized and coordinated networks that can bring the various manufacturers together to map out strategies and needs for the local economy. The general objective of this project is to improve the productivity and competitiveness of SMEs in Palestine by creating an Industrial Support Unit for SMEs in the West Bank. The unit will coordinate the activities of these institutions who will work collaboratively to assist firms in solving their technical, managerial, financial and marketing problems. The services provided by this unit should contribute to the rapid expansion of the SME-dominated manufacturing sector and enhance its ability to substantially generate new employment opportunities — a requisite to sustaining and reinforcing the peace process.

# Industry Technology Support System (Egypt)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

248,100 CAD (179,780 USD) IDRC

## INSTITUTIONS FUNDING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Regional Centre for Research and Development (RCRD)

## DURATION

1994-1997

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Provision of technical support to small firms

Creation of a consortium of institutions providing services and support to small firms

## LOCATION

Egypt

Project monitoring and evaluation

Training and transfer of technology

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) have become increasingly recognized as a core requirement in developing productive economies; they contribute to employment, income generation, and manufacturing activities. It is not surprising then that for the first time, the Egyptian government is encouraging small scale industry as a means of alleviating chronic problems of unemployment, which has resulted in part from the declining role of the public sector, and as a way of strengthening local economies. Despite the growing role of SMEs in Egypt, there is a dearth of information on them, particularly in the provincial governorate of the country.

The objective of this project is to establish an Industrial Technological Support Unit for SMEs in the metal working industries in the Egyptian province of Dakahlia. The unit's mandate will be to carry out research on market and business development, and technical and financial management. It will also provide support and training in areas such as business management, marketing and human resource development. The unit will work with Canada and other developed countries to stay abreast of relevant technological advances. It will also network with similar units in the region and throughout the world to exchange information.

# **Water Demand Management Research Network (Regional)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

2.3 million CAD (1.6 million USD)

## **INSTITUTION FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 494,100 CAD (358,000 USD)

Other donors (expected) 1.8 million CAN (1.3 million USD)

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Numerous local and regional research centres

## **DURATION**

February 1998 to February 2001 (Phase 1)

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Networking ( researchers and policy makers)

Setting research priorities and agendas

Research support

Capacity building

Dissemination

Mobilization of research funding

## **LOCATION**

Middle East and North Africa

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY IDRC:**

The project will establish a multi-donor funded network, which will be initially based at IDRC's office in Cairo. IDRC will provide overall coordination and administration of all aspects related to the network and its activities. This role includes substantial programmatic and technical support, in addition to the management and financial administration of all funds provided by other donors and general administrative support.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

In the Middle East and North Africa, the supply of water has not kept pace with rapidly increasing consumption due to high population and economic growth rates, with many countries in the region already consuming much more water than their annual renewable supplies permit. The limitation of water resources, and the economic and environmental costs involved in tapping the few remaining sources, dictate a shift in water management perspectives from the conventional supply-oriented approach to a demand management approach which seeks to meet the requirements of current and future generations without sacrificing water-dependent ecosystems.

This project will establish and promote a formal water demand management research network in the Middle East and North Africa aiming at enhancing applied research and the effective dissemination of research findings to policy makers and to water end-users. This multi donor-funded network will provide an institutional mechanism for sustained support to a wide range of activities including networking, research promotion, capacity-building and dissemination. The active participation of researchers, practitioners and decision makers in network activities is expected to result in greater awareness among policy makers of various water demand management options as viable alternatives to traditional supply-management approaches. This awareness will greatly enhance the likelihood that demand management practices, measures and policies will be promoted and adopted leading to a more efficient and sustainable management of the limited water resources in the region.

# **Water Demand Management (Tunisia)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

263,470 CAD (190,900 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion de Tunis

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

## **DURATION**

1995-1998

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Estimation of demand for water in various sectors

Alternative water pricing mechanisms and their potential social, economic and environmental implications

Potential for inter-sectoral and inter-regional reallocation of water

Dissemination of research results to policy makers and the public

## **LOCATION**

Tunisia

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

In Tunisia the supply of water for food production, domestic and industrial uses has not kept pace with the rate of population increase, and water consumption is higher than the country's annual renewable supply. At the same time new or additional sources of water are becoming scarce and more expensive to develop, and widespread pollution and salinity of surface and ground water sources is further reducing available supplies. The limitation of water resources, and the economic and environmental costs involved in tapping the few remaining sources, dictate a shift in water management perspectives from the conventional supply-oriented approach that focuses on satisfying demand through ever-increasing supply to a demand management approach. The latter approach seeks to meet the requirements of current and future generations without sacrificing or mortgaging water-dependent ecosystems.

The main objective of this project is to develop a global and integrated strategy for water demand management in Tunisia. This strategy should provide an alternative to current practices such as the unsustainable over-exploitation of ground water resources.

Institutional, environmental and social equity aspects of water management have been integrated in this design in order to attain a more optimal management of the limited water resources. These issues ultimately relate to how to achieve sustainable development.

# Supplemental Irrigation with Brackish Water (Syria)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

248,812 CAD (180,290 USD)

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

McGill University, Canada

University of Aleppo, Syria

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

An Advisory Committee (AC) comprised of representatives of different Syrian ministries has been established to ensure proper project development and results dissemination to policy makers and researchers throughout Syria. The following ministries are represented:

Ministry of Irrigation, Irrigation Projects Directorate;

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Use Directorate;

Ministry of Agriculture, Soils Directorate;

Ministry of Environment; and

Ministry of Planning

## DURATION

July 1997 to December 1999

## LOCATION

Syrian Arab Republic

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Capacity building

Disseminate project findings

Research design and evaluation

Training and transfer of technology

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

As a result of fresh water scarcity and increased salinity of aquifers, farmers in North Eastern Syria, as in other regions in the Middle East and North Africa, increasingly practice supplemental irrigation with underground brackish water. This practice results in salt build-up in the soil that leads to significant reductions in the crop yield.

This project will enhance the knowledge base of the local scientific and user communities in Syria by detailing the impacts of irrigation and crop management practices, and by identifying alternative management systems that can contribute to sustainable crop production systems using supplemental irrigation with brackish water. The project will also formulate a long-term research strategy and action plan for the management supplemental irrigation using brackish water with special emphasis on wheat. The result of this work will also be relevant to several other countries of the Middle East and North Africa where similar conditions prevail.

# Farmer Participation in Barley Breeding (Morocco, Tunisia)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

219,370 CAD (159,420 USD)

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA), Aleppo

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Morocco

Institut de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur agricole (IRESA), Tunisia

## Collaboration with other donors:

This project constitutes part of IDRC's annual contribution to the CGIAR. Other donors are also involved in supporting this ICARDA initiative: BMZ/GTZ is supporting a very similar project in Syria valued at 987,000 DM over three years. The project incorporates studies of straw quality and market factors, the results of which would support work in North Africa. The Government of Netherlands supports a barley project in Ethiopia (1.6 million USD) that incorporates participatory research and use of land races under the low input conditions of subsistence Ethiopian farmers. GTZ has requested about 200,000 DM to explore quick ways to improve yield of barley land races in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and southern Tunisia. OPEC has been funding ICARDA barley breeding activities with a grant of 60,000 USD per year for the last 5 years (except 1994).

## DURATION

1996-1999

## LOCATION

Morocco and Tunisia

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Capacity building

Environmental policy

Research agenda setting

Training and transfer of technology

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Barley is the predominant crop in the dry arable areas of Middle East and North Africa. It is resilient to harsh environmental conditions and is an important source of food and animal feed, grain, straw, green pasture and dry forage. However, barley production levels have remained broadly unchanged since 1945 to the detriment of farmers and the communities they serve. Poor farmers in marginal environments suffer from chronically low yields, crop failures and, in the worst case scenarios, malnutrition and famine.

This project aims at involving farmers in the on-farm selection of barley cultivars. By actively involving farmers in crop improvement, the approach can incorporate the diverse local criteria, beyond simple yield, that can enable farmers to identify cultivars that fit into sustainable production systems. Ultimately, the project will lead to the implementation of a novel breeding approach for barley improvement in the low potential, marginal rainfall environments of Morocco and Tunisia.

# **Joint Israeli-Palestinian Management of the Mountain Aquifer II (Palestine, Israel)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

310,000 CAD (224,750 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) 230,000 CAD (166,670 USD) — Palestinian component  
CRB Foundation 80,000 CAD (58,000 USD) — Israeli component

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Palestine Consultancy Group (recipient)  
Truman Research Institute of Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## **DURATION**

1995-1999

## **LOCATION**

Palestine and Israel

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Convening power and contact brokering  
Management advisory services  
National policy development  
Policy and sector studies

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Palestinians and Israelis share the Mountain Yarqon-Tannin Aquifer, which has its main catchment on the West Bank and flows into Israeli territory. It is a vital source of water for both national communities. It is critical that the aquifer be carefully managed to preserve the quality and quantity of water, something that would be difficult enough given the complexity of the natural structure, but which is compounded by the political history of the area. With the Peace Accord of September 1993 and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians to manage their own water systems, the need for joint management of the Aquifer became clear.

A previous phase to this project looked at existing experiences and international models in joint management in an attempt to find viable scenarios for joint Palestinian-Israeli management of the Mountain Aquifer. Phase II builds on the first phase by holding workshops in which selected topics will be discussed. More importantly, perhaps, the workshops will serve as a forum where both Palestinians and Israelis can present and discuss their positions and strategies for water management and by so doing reduce disagreement and reach a greater level of compromise and cooperation.

# **Sustainable Improvement of Marginal Lands in Lebanon: Irsal, a Case Study (Lebanon)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

225, 570 CAD (163, 450 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

American University in Beirut (AUB)

## **DURATION**

1995 to 1998

## **LOCATION**

Lebanon

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Capacity building

Environmental policy

Network creation and management

Project monitoring and evaluation

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Traditional agropastoral Lebanese villages in marginal lands have been undergoing drastic changes in the past 25 years due to socio-economic pressures such as the development of a market-oriented economy, a sharp decline in purchasing power and rural-urban migration. Productivity of marginal lands in Lebanon and other areas of the Near East has declined as practices such as over-cultivation, overgrazing, and massive deforestation have increased.

A case study conducted in 1991-1993 on the Lebanese village Israel revealed the extent and consequences of the transformation of the village's production system from a traditional cereal/livestock based economy to one based on rainfed fruit. This project takes the findings of the previous study to analyze trends and sustainability in the emerging production system and address ways of improving sustainable community development and soil and water conservation strategies. It also explores avenues for non-agricultural income-generating activities for women.

# Options for Rainwater Catchment Systems in the Gaza Strip (Palestine)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

150,000 CAD (108,700 USD)

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Al-Azhar University, Gaza

Save the Children Federation (SCF), Gaza

The International Water Engineering Centre (IWEC), University of Ottawa

The Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG)

## DURATION

October 1994- September 1997

## LOCATION

Palestine

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Program design

Contact brokering

Project monitoring and evaluation

Training and transfer of technology

## DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY IDRC

IDRC's contacts within the Canadian, Palestinian and international communities helped broker the linkages needed to bring this project to fruition. As a result, researchers from Al-Azhar University in Gaza, Save the Children (Gaza), and the International Water Engineering Centre at the University of Ottawa were brought together to collaborate on this project. IDRC provided the research team with scientific, administrative and financial support.

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The absence of potable water is a growing problem throughout the Middle East, but nowhere more than in the Gaza Strip, which suffers from polluted groundwater. Part of Canada's contribution to the Middle East Peace Process, where water and land issues have been at the forefront of peace negotiations, has been the review of alternative, small-scale systems to provide water in arid and semi-arid regions such as Gaza. One promising option involves the use of roofs to gather rain water and direct it to a protected cistern from which it can later be drawn. These rainwater catchment systems (RWCS) are widely used in some parts of the world but are almost unknown in the Gaza Strip. The objective of the project is to investigate the technical, economic, and social feasibility of rainwater catchment systems in the context of Gaza, with the aim of assessing the opportunity to provide potable water to a significant portion of the population in the area.

# **Irrigation Management (West Bank)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

498,400 CAD (394,000 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)

## **DURATION**

1993 to 1998

## **LOCATION**

Palestine (West Bank)

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Environmental studies

Management information systems (for environment)

Policy and sector studies

Research design and evaluation

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Agriculture forms the backbone of the local economy in the West Bank. However, the agricultural sector is largely underdeveloped and poorly managed. Irrigated agriculture, which is generally more productive and profitable than non-irrigated agriculture, constitutes only five percent of the cultivated land in the West Bank.

Data relating to land and water uses in the West Bank have been scarce and unreliable. This project utilized novel information technologies for purposes of inventorying, mapping and representing land uses. The data provides valuable information on potential areas for irrigation that can lead to more efficient use of land in the West Bank. Positive change in this area will contribute to a more sustainable and equitable form of agricultural development and, ultimately, lead to a healthier local economy.

# Mountain Terraces (Yemen)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

297,910 CAD (215,870 USD)

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Agriculture Research & Extension Authority (AREA)

Faculty of Agriculture, Sana'a University (FASU)

Faculty of Agriculture, Aden University (FAAU)

## DURATION

1994 to 1998

## LOCATION

Yemen

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Capacity building

Network creation

Research agenda setting

Transfer of technology

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Agriculture is an important sector of the Yemeni economy. It accounts for roughly 23% of the gross domestic product and employs 56% of the labor force. The most productive agricultural lands in Yemen are located in the highlands, which for centuries had been well managed by Yemeni farmers who maintained sustainable farming systems. With the rapid social and economic development of the past three decades however, these areas have rapidly deteriorated and now suffer from poor soil and water conditions that threaten food production and the livelihood of farmers.

A study that resulted from an earlier phase of the current project identified the sources of physical degradation of the highlands and came up with hypotheses on how to better maintain them. This current phase of the project examines problems of resource conservation and sustainable production. It involves testing the hypotheses with the cooperation of farmers and land users to assess whether the new technologies and practices introduced by the research team would be accepted and embraced by the local population.

# **Date Palm Mid-Rib Utilization (Egypt)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

243,343 CAD (176,335 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Ain Shams University

## **DURATION**

1993 to 1995

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Environmental policy

Training and transfer of technology

## **LOCATION**

Egypt

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Egypt and most countries in the region depend heavily on imports to meet their wood needs. Due to growing population and changes in consumption patterns, Egypt's wood imports have increased seven fold from 1980 to 1990 and place a heavy burden on the balance of payments in the country. It is therefore imperative that Egypt investigate viable, cost effective and environmentally sound ways of local wood production.

An ongoing study at Ain Shams University in Cairo has been exploring the possibilities of manufacturing wood from the midrib sections of date palm leaves (DPLM) which are abundant in Egypt and the Arab world. Indeed the palm tree is one of the basic elements of the flora in the region and supplies 1.4 million tons of DPLM annually. The current project involves the design of technologies to produce wood strips from the leaves that can be assembled into boards and logs at local villages. It also addresses the ways in which these wood producing technologies can be used for local development. Finally, the project investigates how pollution levels and waste products caused by palm tree pruning can be minimized and used for economic gain.

# Participatory Land & Water in Dryland Agropastoral Areas: North West Coast of Egypt, Phase II (Egypt)

## APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE

230,993 CAD

## INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT

International Development Research Centre

Recipient Contribution

## RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

University of Guelph

University of Alexandria

## DURATION

1998-2001

## LOCATION

Egypt

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research design and evaluation

Policy and sector studies

National policy development

Environmental studies

## DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Northwest Coastal zone of Egypt extends 350 km from west of Alexandria to the Libyan boarder and houses about 120,000 agropastoralists. Like most semi-arid regions, this area possesses a fragile natural resource base and offers limited alternatives for sustainable increases in agricultural productivity. Starting in 1960 a seden-traization program have been implemented with dramatic effects. More than 60% of the nomadic population were settled, Cultivation is now undertaken by almost 75% of the households in some regions and sheep and goat populations have increased dramatically. Increased cultivation and livestock production have resulted in the soil degradation and competition over scarce water resources. The present project follows an initial research project whose aim was to evaluate the potential production capacity of the current land use system in a representative watershed of the NW Coast of Egypt, given environmental constraints and population pressure. It aims at integrating in a practical and cost effective manner, a wide range of formal and informally gathered, quantitative and qualitative biophysical and socio-economic information to ensure that needs and constraints are identified and practical solutions adoptable by inhabitants are generated. The project will integrate aspects of land evaluation and watershed planning and management, farming systems analysis and indigenous knowledge. The methodology includes formal and participatory research and remote sensing for data acquisition together with modeling and GIS for analysis and integration. The final goal of the project is to develop and apply a functional area planning tool to support participatory natural resource management and agricultural development in this dryland agro-pastoral area. This collaborative project between Egypt and Canada will be implemented by the university of Alexandria in Egypt and the university of Guelph, in Canada.

# **Palestinian Women in Society: Social Policies, Gender and Social Equity (Palestine)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

240,840 CAD (174,520 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Birzeit University

## **DURATION**

1996 to 1998

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Agenda setting

Policy and sector studies

## **LOCATION**

Palestine (West Bank)

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Following the historic signing of the Oslo agreement in September 1993, Palestinians have witnessed momentous changes in their lives. The Palestinian national authority (PNA) was established and the territories under their jurisdiction were gradually expanded. As the new governmental institutions have taken shape, non-governmental actors have positioned themselves to participate actively in the development of the new public policy framework. The Palestinian women's movement has been among the most actively engaged sectors in this regard.

At the forefront of contemporary Palestinian women's activism, a group of academics at Birzeit University established a Women's Studies Program in 1994 dedicated to teaching, training, research and outreach. They launched and successfully carried out a multi-phased research program entitled Palestinian Women in Society to promote and strengthen gender-based policy research and analysis.

The current project represents a second phase of this program. It aims to consolidate and build upon the previous accomplishments by undertaking a research project that focuses specifically on reform in social security and education. The objective is to examine these two areas in light of the linkages between economic and social policies, equity, growth and citizenship. This gender-informed analysis will propose alternative frameworks, concepts, approaches and policy formulations in the areas of education and social security.

# **Integrated Watershed Development (Syria)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

1.26 million CAD (.91 million USD)

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 421,610 CAD (305,600 USD)

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 68,000 CAD (50,000 USD)

Recipient Contribution 773,550 CAD (560,800 USD)

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Dept. of Irrigation & Water Use (DWI), Ministry of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform (MOAAR), Damascus, Syria

International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

A Steering Committee for the project, comprised of representatives of the following institutions and beneficiaries, will overview the formulation of the overall research protocols, evaluate research progress and be responsible for the annual planning of research activities:

Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform

Ministry of Irrigation

ICARDA Representative

Cooperative for Range Improvement and Sheep Husbandry

Local beneficiaries

## **DURATION**

1993 to 1998

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Environmental studies

National policy development

Research agenda setting

## **LOCATION**

Syria

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Animal production by semi-nomadic pastoralist on the Syrian steppes makes an important contribution to the Syrian economy and has increased sharply in recent years. However, land degradation due to over-pumping of groundwater, over-grazing and barley cultivation is a serious problem. The government of Syria has recently given top priority to applied research programs aimed at the conservation and development of soils, water, and vegetation resources in the rangelands, and particularly in the area of integrated watershed management.

This project was the first of its kind to address the integrated development of natural resources of the Syrian steppes. Its ultimate objective has been to improve range productivity in forage production while reducing soil degradation and erosion, and improving the efficiency of water use.

# **Integrated Water and Wastewater, Phase II (Egypt)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

776,800 CAD (563,500 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 245,400 CAD (177,826 USD)

Egyptian Ministry of Scientific Research (multiple donors) 216,900 CAD (157,000 USD)

Recipient contribution 315,500 CAD (228,700 USD)

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Mansoura University

## **DURATION**

1996 to 1998

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Policy development

Transfer of technology

## **LOCATION**

El Mansoura, Egypt

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

The majority of Egyptian villages suffer from a lack of reliable, safe, and affordable potable water supply as well as wastewater collection and treatment systems. IDRC has funded a slow-sand filtration research project to adapt the technology to a rural Egyptian context. The plants, which can produce potable water, have low capital, operation, and maintenance costs. Effective low-cost sewerage systems using septic tanks and small, pressurized pipes have also been piloted in Egypt.

This project introduces these proven, simple, and effective systems into a village in Beheira Governorate in Egypt. It pilots the systems in a village to identify the technical, educational, institutional, social and economic conditions necessary for villagers to finance, construct, operate and maintain their own sustainable integrated water supply and wastewater treatment system. The governorate, which is also financially supporting this project, can then use the lessons learned to introduce the systems into villages throughout its jurisdiction. Its ultimate goal is to improve the health and well-being of rural Egyptians.

# **Added Value to By-products of Agricultural and Food Industries by Biotransformation (Morocco)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

146,112 CAD (361,500 USD)

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 278,840 CAD  
Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) 130,850 CAD  
Dept. Chimie-Biochimie Alimentaires (CRDA) 70,000 CAD

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV)  
Dept. Chimie-Biochimie Alimentaires (CRDA)  
Direction de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche, du Développement Agricole (DERD)  
Office Regional de mise en valeur agricole du Haouz (ORMVAH)  
National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA)

## **DURATION**

1996-1999

## **LOCATION**

Morocco

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Technology transfer  
Environmental policy  
Policy and sector studies

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Morocco is an agricultural country that produces a wide range of food products. A large portion of these foods are intended for food processing, an activity that generates a significant quantity of waste products that can cause environmental damage. Olive pressing alone accounts for 25% of the by-products of agricultural industries.

Using biological transformation techniques however, these cheap and available byproducts can be enriched with protein and used as a source of cheap and balanced feed for livestock. This project, which explores the productive uses of agricultural by-products, can have a profound impact on scientific, industrial, social and environmental policies in Morocco.

# **Egyptian Small and Micro Enterprise Association, ESMA (Egypt)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

166,580 CAD

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 166,580 CAD

USAID / Cairo 520,000 CAD

Other Donors 80,000 CAD

Recipient Contribution 9,608 CAD

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Egyptian Small and Micro Enterprise Association (ESMA) / CARE Egypt

## **DURATION**

1998-2000

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Improved collaboration between SME support services

Sharing of lessons learned

Setting research priorities and dissemination of research results

Policy Development

## **LOCATION**

Egypt

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Over the last five years, small and micro enterprise (SME) development has been gaining attention and resources in Egypt. This is a result of the central role the informal economy plays in supporting the working poor and importance in job creation. The wide range of funding for small and micro enterprise initiatives has led to a SME development community with a diverse set of objectives. While some SME promotion efforts have an emphasis on social equality and gender issues others have had specific cost recovery objectives and highlighted the importance of broad-based private sector development.

As a way to share the experiences and views of these different programs, an informal networking group was established in January 1995 called the Egyptian Small and Micro Enterprise Association (ESMA). Since this time, ESMA has served an important role in bringing together practitioners from government and non-government organizations, academics, donors and business groups to share ideas regarding small and micro enterprise (SME) development in Egypt. In addition, its meetings and workshops attempt to expose Egypt's practitioners to the most current thinking in the field.

As ESMA has matured, it has identified a range of needs that cannot be served through its current informal structure. These needs include: (1) a more centralized and systematic mechanism to access information on SME programs and activities; (2) better dissemination of new ideas and research findings on small and micro enterprise development; (3) a more systematic approach to conducting applied research on SME issues; (4) better coordination among various programs, organizations and individuals involved in SME development issues; and (5) expansion of ESMA's membership base to include a broader representation of institution and practitioners involved in SME issues.

The main objective of ESMA is to provide an institutional mechanism and forum for the regular sharing of information experiences and research findings among the SME development community in Egypt, in view of enhancing the effectiveness of current and future SME development programs and activities in Egypt.

# **Economic, Social & Environmental Impacts of SAP on Agriculture: The Case of Fertilizer and Pesticide Use in Egypt (Egypt)**

## **APPROXIMATE PROJECT VALUE**

90,512 CAD

## **INSTITUTIONS FINANCING PROJECT**

International Development Research Centre 90,512 CAD

Ford Foundation 55,600 CAD

## **RECIPIENT/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Center for Agricultural Economic Studies, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University,

## **DURATION**

1996-1998

## **LOCATION**

Egypt

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Farm-level diagnosis

Raising awareness & knowledge on agrochemicals

Stimulation of responses to alternative SAP policies

Policy development and reform

Settling research priorities

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

An important direct effect of SAP policies on Egyptian agriculture was the substantial increase in fertilizer and pesticide prices which has resulted in a sharp decline in their aggregate consumption. Although this is expected to lead to substantial decline in nitrate and pesticide soil and water pollution levels, it may also imply a sharp decline in yields, farms incomes and a possible increase in rural poverty. The main goal of this research project is to undertake an in-depth empirical examination of the impacts of liberalization of the market for agro-chemicals and other related SAP policies on agricultural productivity, farm income and employment, and on rural poverty.

The main objectives include: (1) to identify how the various landholding categories of farmers and farm households have responded to increases in the costs of agro-chemicals and other SAP policies and to estimate their impacts on productivity, resource use and allocation, farm and household incomes and employment; (2) to simulate the potential farmers' responses to alternative policies and their impacts; (3) to identify farmers' awareness and knowledge about alternative production methods and about pollution and other issues related to the use of agro-chemicals; (4) to identify the main issues and concerns at the rural community level as they relate to the liberalization of the agro-chemical market and other SAP policies; (5) to provide policy makers with recommendations on alternative policies and regulatory and institutional reforms; and (6) to identify key priorities for agricultural extension and future research activities.

The main methodological approach will be based on a series of farm and farm household surveys in the Fayoum region, as a case study to address the above objectives. Estimations of production/profit functions and compilation of whole-farm and household budgets will be the basis for developing Linear Programming (LP) models for each farm-size category. These models will allow analysis of the effect of SAP policies and simulation of various alternative policy scenarios which will constitute the basis for policy recommendations.

## SELECTED PARTNERS

Asian Development Bank ■ Canadian International Development Agency ■ Carnegie Corporation ■ Danish International Development Agency ■ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■ Environment Canada ■ Food and Agriculture Organization ■ Ford Foundation ■ Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada ■ Government of South Africa ■ Industry Canada ■ International Plant Genetic Resources Institute ■ International Fund for Agricultural Development ■ MacArthur Foundation ■ Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■ Panicaro Foundation ■ Rockefeller Foundation ■ Swedish International Development Authority ■ Teleglobe Canada ■ United Nations Childrens Fund ■ United Nations Development Programme ■ United States Agency for International Development ■ World Bank ■ World Health Organization

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