
CANADA

REVERSE THE DECLINE IN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

Actions and best practices

Food security is a thematic priority for Canada's international assistance. Canada's Food Security Strategy includes three paths to increasing food security, one of which is sustainable agricultural development.

At the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, Canada committed CAD\$1.18 billion over three years for sustainable agricultural development, which includes CAD\$600 million in additional resources.

The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) represents a significant contribution (CAD\$62 million over 5 years) to advance a wide variety of applied research projects that aim to solve immediate and concrete food security challenges on the ground in the developing world. The CIFSRF funds partnerships between research organizations in Canada and in the developing world to promote more productive and sustainable agricultural systems that make food more secure and nutritious. The CIFSRF is designed to benefit the most vulnerable populations, particularly women smallholder farmers and to fund organizations and institutions that can make a difference in sustainable agricultural development.

Results

Working with our partners through civil society, bilateral and multilateral channels, Canada has achieved significant results in food security through sustainable agricultural development.

For example, in Afghanistan, Canada is helping 30,000 families to increase their income through horticulture and livestock thus reducing reliance on opium production.

In Ethiopia, Canada has supported the introduction of new agriculture techniques, which has assisted farmers to gain higher agricultural yields, achieve higher prices for crops sold in markets, and to establish linkages with local markets.

Through a Canada funded Pan-African initiative in 2009 and 2010, over 4 million households accessed improved seeds, 58% of which were women farmers.

Since 2009, the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) has launched 2 calls for proposals and has approved 13 projects for applied research in food security. Projects of approximately CAD\$1 million each in Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and India are already being implemented.

a) Project Title: Fighting hunger in the highlands of Ethiopia

Led by Hawassa University, Ethiopia and the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, this project aims to test, adapt and promote practical solutions for increasing agricultural productivity, improving household nutritional status and facilitating adoption and uptake of chickpeas, lentils, and faba beans in the districts of Zwai, Awassa and Wolaita. Expected results include improved varieties and increased yields of lentils, chickpeas and faba beans; increased soil fertility and improved soil conservation techniques used by farmers, and better nutrition for women, girls and boys and men through the implementation of a nutrition program for health promotion.

b) Project Title: Promoting rural income from sustainable aquaculture through social learning in Sri Lanka

Led by the University of Wayamba, Sri Lanka and the University of Calgary, Canada, this project aims to find innovative ways of delivering market, technology and environmental information to smallholders, particularly women, emerging from a conflict situation. Expected results of the project include increased aquacultural productivity and farm income, the development of policy recommendations for improved smallholder aquaculture

programming, and the empowerment of women farmers to continually access, share and apply knowledge for sustainable aquaculture.

c) Project Title: Harvesting traditional grains to improve nutritional security of rural communities in India

Led by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, India, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, India and McGill University, Canada, this project will address household poverty and nutrient deficiencies in villages in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and Uttarakhand. Crops targeted include four species of millet, grain amaranth and legumes. Focus will be placed on the design or testing of labour-reducing technologies to process these crops. Among the results expected are increased productivity and availability of local traditional crops; reduced physical labour for women through the mechanization of grain processing; value-addition of traditional grains, and preserved genetic diversity of traditional crops.

**SUPPORT REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LED PROCESSES AND PLAN
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Actions and best practices

Canada's food security efforts include sustainable agricultural development to build the capacity of small-scale farmers, agriculture-related organizations, and governments to support national and regional agricultural and food security strategies.

Canada supports national and regional agricultural strategies and their implementation at all levels and the strengthening of an enabling environment for sustainable rural development as well as the development of integrated value chains and the integration of the agricultural market while strengthening the accountability mechanisms in related government ministries and agencies.

Canada also supports agro-ecological approaches that boost farmers' resilience to climate change while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, combating desertification, and preserving and promoting biological diversity.

Canada, plays a significant role within the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) process through its participation as a key member of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team, as well as with organizations and governments who are implementing the CAADP agenda at the regional and country levels.

Results

Canada supports Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the development and application of internationally accepted production practices for key agri-food products to help ensure food quality and safety.

Canada provides support to PROAGRI - the Government of Mozambique's national program for agricultural development, implemented directly by the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG). This continued support has contributed to assisting 378,043 farmers to access public extension services in 2009, and irrigating 2,062 hectares of land through publicly-financed construction of new irrigation schemes and rehabilitation of land.

In 2010, CAADP Development Partners made major efforts to provide technical, political and financial support for the country and regional CAADP processes, which contributed to the quality of the resulting Investment Plans.

At the 6th Partnership Platform (April 2010), Development Partners made significant contributions to establishing the CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework; establishing Guidelines for Non-State Actor Participation; and advancing a joint framework on capacity development. Developing ideas on how to strengthen regional donor coordination.

**SUPPORT STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THROUGH
REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ARCHITECTURE**

Actions and best practices

Canada completed its chairmanship of the Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) in December 2010. The Canadian-chaired AFSI meetings in Ottawa (April 2010) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (December 2010) helped to advance accountability for the AFSI commitment; improve development partner harmonization and alignment in sustainable agricultural development at the regional and country-level; and, demonstrated Canadian leadership on global food security.

Through its Chairmanship of the Food Aid Convention (FAC), Canada aims to help the Convention reflect new approaches to food aid in the 21st century. This includes moving away from commitments based on tonnage quantities; expanding from food aid to food assistance activities, such as the provision of cash and vouchers; and reflecting the importance of nutrition interventions, emphasizing both the quality and quantity of the food provided.

Given Canada's well established global leadership and program expertise in nutrition, Canada has played an active role in advancing the global 'Scaling Up Nutrition' (SUN) Movement. Canada is actively engaged in the movement, as member of the SUN Task Team, which provides global oversight to the movement, and as a member on 3 of the 6 Task Forces (including co-chair of the Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force). In November 2010, Canada hosted a SUN Senior Officials' meeting in Ottawa, which worked to strengthen coordination and harmonization in support of country-led efforts to address under-nutrition, and identify Good Nutrition Partnership Principles (known as the 'Ottawa Principles'). The Ottawa Principles are: country ownership, a focus on results and effectiveness, the need for a multi-sectoral approach, enhanced collaboration and accountability. Canada also participated in the follow-up SUN meetings in New Delhi in February 2011 and will participate in the SUN Development Partners meeting in April in Washington.

Results

Since the Ottawa meeting of SUN Senior Officials, SUN Movement objectives have been established, there has been agreement on common principles to guide partnership on nutrition, and the work of the six Task Forces is underway. Further, Early Riser countries are continuing to come forward, and the criteria and process for becoming an Early Riser country have been elaborated. Canada has agreed to directly support coordination on nutrition in select Early Riser countries and is supporting REACH (a UN interagency team) to improve nutrition coordination in 8 to 10 countries through building national capacity to effectively scale-up nutrition interventions.