



# CANADA'S AID EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA INCREASING FOOD SECURITY

## CIDA'S FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

Increasing food security, children and youth, and sustainable economic growth are three priority themes that will guide the work of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) going forward. Food security is a priority because we recognize that more than one billion men, women and children around the world go to bed hungry every night. Their health, their ability to learn and to earn, their capacity to contribute to their communities and to exercise their rights are all compromised because they cannot get enough to eat.

Lack of access to safe and nutritious food is one of the major obstacles to reducing poverty in developing countries. It is also one of the single greatest threats to public health. And—it's preventable.

Canada has a strong record of helping increase global food security and was one of the first donor countries to increase support during the 2008 food security crisis in the developing world. And now with CIDA's Food Security Strategy in place, programming will be focused on improving the lives of the poor by reducing their vulnerability to immediate and long-term food shortages through three paths:

- sustainable agricultural development
- food aid and nutrition
- research and development



*Once again, Canada is showing bold leadership with a comprehensive new strategy which supports forward-looking approaches to food security to show us how we can end hunger in the 21st century.*

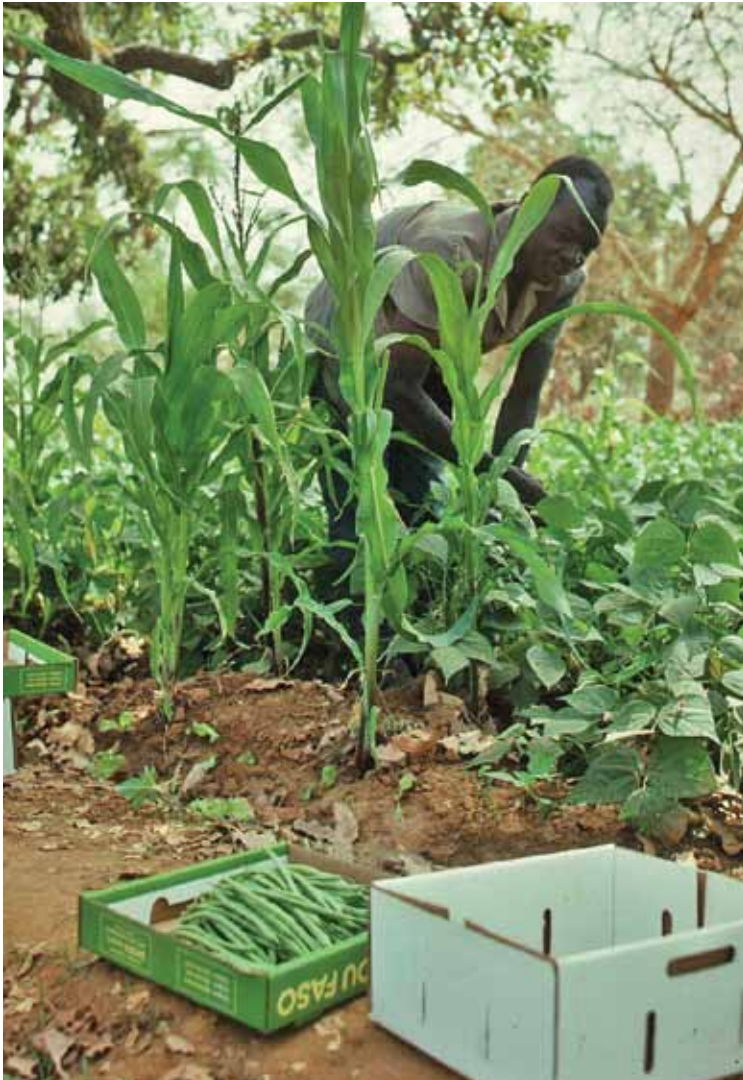
Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Programme

# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Most of the rural poor earn their living from agriculture. Expansion in this sector of the economy is two to four times more effective in reducing poverty than any other kind of growth. To support sustainable agricultural development, CIDA will:

- more than double its investment in this sector;
- support development and implementation of national and, where appropriate, regional agricultural strategies;
- invest in and contribute to the work of the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- advance agro-ecological approaches; and
- take a more proactive role in donor-government agriculture-focused groups in developing countries, especially those where CIDA has strong agricultural programming.

Through supporting sustainable development of the agricultural sector, the benefits will be realized at a number of levels. For example, within partner governments there will be strengthened policies and better management processes which in turn will foster small-scale rural farmers' increased sustainable agricultural production. This will be especially beneficial to women farmers.



*Canada is leading the way by putting a sizable amount of money into its Food Security Program. IFAD shares the Canadian government's focus on food security and sustainable agriculture, food assistance and nutrition, investment in agricultural research, and the role of smallholders, especially women farmers. This makes Canada one of IFAD's closest and most important partners in our efforts to alleviate rural poverty.*

Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, President,  
International Fund for Agricultural Development

## FOOD AID AND NUTRITION

Hunger and malnutrition result in more deaths than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. To meet emergency and long-term nutrition needs, particularly for the most vulnerable and high-risk populations, CIDA will work with the World Food Programme to:

- encourage flexible, predictable funding among the donor community;
- promote the importance of nutrition, the use of social safety nets, food distribution systems, and school feeding programs;
- work with other countries to improve the Food Aid Convention, the only international agreement on food aid; and
- invest in the Purchase for Progress program with pilot projects in Ghana and Afghanistan.

In addition, CIDA will:

- support the incorporation of nutrition considerations into broader food security initiatives, including increasing programming to promote life-saving nutrient food supplements such as vitamin A and salt iodization; and
- support and strengthen national and regional food reserves, as well as food crisis alert and prevention systems.

As a result of focusing on the nutritional aspects of food aid, recipients will be in better health from having sufficient quantities of nutritious food—and more lives will be saved. Overall, the quality and effectiveness of food aid programming will be improved.

# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Canadian government, academic and non-governmental organizations significantly contribute to agricultural research. They also play a critical role in transferring this knowledge to developing countries. To support research and development, CIDA will:

- carry out the work of a new joint initiative between CIDA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to support research partnerships between Canadian and developing-country organizations;
- support the work of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, particularly in increasing the nutritional value of crops and their increased resilience to climate change;
- strengthen national and regional agricultural research systems; and
- ensure that research results are drawn upon for any future food security policies and programs of CIDA and its development partners.

The result of improved crop research and development will be better access to new and locally-adapted technologies, as well as to specialized expertise for farmers in developing countries. Other results will include crop production that is more nutritious and more resilient to climate change. This, in turn, will contribute to more environmentally sustainable agricultural production and productivity.

Through CIDA's Food Security Strategy implementation, more lives will be saved and lasting results will be generated in developing countries. This is in keeping with CIDA's commitment to deliver international assistance that is more efficient, focused and accountable.

CIDA will annually review progress on food security and will report results and lessons learned on a regular basis.



*Canada is making an important investment in development programs that work. Micronutrients are low-cost interventions that have a significant impact on a child, a family, a community and a country's future.*

Venkatesh Mannar, President  
Micronutrient Initiative

*Food aid and nutrition programs not only meet immediate needs but they are also part of breaking the cycle of hunger. They are a key part of a food security challenge.*

Jim Cornelius, Executive Director  
Canadian Foodgrains Bank

## PHOTO CREDITS

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