

For several decades the Soil Surveys have been classifying and mapping land according to its inherent characteristics. Most of the agricultural areas have been mapped at varying scales and degrees of intensity, and maps and reports have been published providing much fundamental information on Canadian soils. Although designed to meet the needs of the agricultural industry, the Surveys provide information that can often be used as a basis for assessment of the capability of land for various possible alternative uses. A second type of land classification, according to its present use, has been carried out over much of Canada, particularly by means of the land-use mapping program of the Geographical Branch of the federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys which began in 1950. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the Economics Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture, and the statistical agencies of the province also provide information on the social and economic factors of land use.

The Canada Land Inventory carries out a third type of land classification—according to its assessed capability for different uses. Increasing competition for the use of land has led to recognition by governments of the need to assess land capability and apply this information to land-use policy and programs. On the basis of much fundamental work in classifying and mapping soils, gathering climatic data, studying present uses, and compiling statistics on productive capacity, it is now possible for scientists in the fields of agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife to rate the capability of land, employing classification systems that provide a basis for effective land-use planning in Canada. In October 1963, the Canada Land Inventory was approved as a means of accomplishing this; the Inventory is being planned and implemented co-operatively by the Federal Government and all provincial governments individually with the ARDA Administrations functioning as co-ordinators. The Federal Government will reimburse each province for all additional costs it incurs in the conduct of the Inventory.

The broad objective of the Canada Land Inventory is to classify lands in and adjacent to the settled portions of Canada as to their use capabilities, and to obtain a firm estimate of the extent and location of each class. These lands would be classified according to: their physical capabilities for use in agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife management; their present use; and socio-economic factors relative to their present use. This vast amount of information is to be gathered, stored on computer tapes, analysed and published in such a way that the Inventory will become a working tool in resource use and rural development programs across Canada.

During 1963 and 1964, the federal and provincial ARDA organizations have established co-ordination among the approximately 100 agencies of the 11 senior governments which are concerned with the Inventory, and with the numerous universities, non-governmental organizations, and private companies and individuals who are participating in the Inventory. A nation-wide inventory of soil capability for agriculture and forestry is under way, and planning for the other sectors—recreation and wildlife—is proceeding.

Section 3.—Federal and Provincial Co-ordinating Committees

During the two-year period of preparation for the "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference of October 1961, the Federal Government and all provincial governments established interdepartmental committees of departments concerned with natural resources. Subsequent to the Conference, most of these committees continued—usually in an altered form—to meet the newly emerging need for co-ordination among departments for the implementation of the ARDA program. The committees are as follows.

Federal Government.—The Federal Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Committee, comprised of the Ministers of eight departments—Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Finance, Labour, Industry, Citizenship and Immigration, and Northern Affairs and National Resources. The Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for ARDA, comprised of the Deputy Ministers of these Departments. In practice, co-ordination in detail is achieved through sub-committees or *ad hoc* committees.