

water resources; and (4) projects for research relative to the foregoing. Discussions with the provincial governments, beginning in 1961, resulted in the signing, by October 1962, of a general ARDA agreement between the Federal Government and all provincial governments. The General Agreement, operative until 1965, provided a more detailed interpretation of the Act and established an operating policy. The first Federal-Provincial Conference on ARDA, held in November 1964, resulted in the acceptance of a new General Agreement to come into effect on Apr. 1, 1965, covering ARDA operations until 1970; the total federal contribution was raised from \$50,000,000 to \$125,000,000, and an additional \$50,000,000 Special Fund for Rural Economic Development was established to implement major projects that are part of comprehensive development programs in specially designated areas.

The ARDA legislation arose out of recognition of a national interest in achieving better land use, improving the viability of farm units which are at present uneconomic, and of improving income and employment opportunities in rural areas. In many rural areas of Canada, income and living standards are unacceptably low and present land use is faulty or inefficient. To some considerable degree these economic, social and conservation problems, which interact to produce an adverse effect on rural standard of life, arise from farm mechanization; the more efficient, highly mechanized farmers, with adequate land and operating capital, are able to maintain profitable farming operations notwithstanding a relatively low market price for farm produce and the operators of smaller, less mechanized farms are thereby placed at a severe disadvantage. As a result, the number of farms in Canada has decreased since 1931 from about three quarters of a million to fewer than half a million and the trend toward farm consolidation and abandonment is continuing.

The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act is enabling legislation, intended to be complementary and supplementary to existing federal and provincial legislation in respect of renewable resources and rural social and economic development. It is intended to aid in the correlation and expansion of existing programs, and to fill substantial gaps where current programs do not meet present needs. It has been clearly recognized that, in addition to improved conservation and resource utilization and general economic stimulation, a social process of community development is essential—a process whereby local citizens organize to bring together local institutions and employ the technical counsel of university, professional and governmental agencies to study their physical and economic resources and the capabilities of the people; subsequently developing comprehensive economic and social plans to be implemented co-operatively by all levels of government and private organizations.

Under the ARDA program up to Mar. 31, 1965, 735 projects had been approved; their estimated sharable cost was \$64,477,000, of which the Federal Government portion was \$33,277,000. These included 211 alternate land-use projects, 207 soil and water conservation projects, 50 rural development projects, and 267 research projects. Federal commitments in respect of approved ARDA projects in each province were as follows:—

	\$
Newfoundland.....	1,080,000
Prince Edward Island.....	330,000
Nova Scotia.....	974,000
New Brunswick.....	755,000
Quebec.....	11,851,000
Ontario.....	2,672,000
Manitoba.....	3,741,000
Saskatchewan.....	7,304,000
Alberta.....	2,537,000
British Columbia.....	2,033,000

Additional solely federal ARDA expenditures totalled \$1,242,000.