Typical of the major federal-provincial projects of soil and water conservation and land-use projects under ARDA were: development of the Belmont community pasture in Prince Edward Island at a cost of $110,000; land clearing for development of submarginal land for blueberry production in Roberval County in Quebec at a cost of $207,000; acquisition of marginal land in seven counties of Ontario for forestry, wildlife and recreation at a cost of $1,689,000; development of the Bechard flood control project in Saskatchewan at a cost of $103,000; and rehabilitation of the Summerland Municipality irrigation system in British Columbia at a cost of $150,000. Research programs vary from a simple study of types of looms suitable for cottage industry, costing $1,000, to complex regional studies such as the inventory of natural resources and appraisal of socio-economic conditions in the Lower St. Lawrence Rural Development Region, costing $1,700,000.

The Canada Land Inventory.—The Canada Land Inventory being co-ordinated by the ARDA Administration has been made possible by the extensive soil classification work undertaken in Canada over the past half-century. The co-operative Soil Surveys, which have been under way since 1935, are staffed by soil specialists of federal and provincial governments and universities and are supported by all senior governments.

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 provinces 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 are currently being 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.

By 1965, the federal and provincial ARDA organizations had 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.