

programs: grants-in-aid of research, direct personnel support and special programs. The estimated 1976-77 payments of the MRC to Canadian universities was \$46.3 million.

The major portion of MRC expenditures are for grants-in-aid of research, of which there are two main types: operating grants and major equipment grants. These are intended to cover the normal direct costs of research. Grant expenditures were forecast at \$43.1 million for 1976-77. To encourage maximum utilization of facilities major equipment grants are normally made to the head of the department or division where the equipment will be located. Wherever possible, highly specialized equipment is provided for regional or national use, an example being the high resolution mass spectrograph facility at McMaster University. Operating grants represent the bulk of the grants program expenditures. Normally made to a principal investigator to support his own research, such grants are not intended to cover the entire costs of a project; space and basic facilities must be provided by the institution. The scientific merit of applications is assessed by the council's Grants Committees, comprised of working scientists assisted by external reviewers.

The special programs of the MRC are designed to promote the development of medical research in Canada. This includes the financing of MRC groups for research in especially productive areas; for example, the Group for Transplantation Research at the University of Alberta. Development grants assist universities in recruiting highly qualified investigators for full-time positions in areas (geographic or subject) needing development. In order to encourage collaboration and exchange of information the council offers visiting professorships, awards to visiting scientists and support for scientific symposia. General research grants are made to deans of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy for use at their discretion in support of research in their schools.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

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The main objective of CIDA is to support the efforts of developing countries in fostering their economic growth and the evolution of their social systems in ways that will produce a wide distribution of the benefits of development among the populations of these countries, enhance the quality of life and improve the capacity of all sectors of their population to participate in national development efforts.

Expenditures by CIDA include grants to international research organizations, scholarships to foreign students for study in Canada and assistance to Canadian scholars for studies related to international development.

Total expenditures for scientific activities in 1976-77 were expected to be \$45.7 million, \$30.6 million for natural sciences activities. Funds to the foreign sector were estimated at \$40.4 million.

A principal activity is the participation in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, which coordinates support for agencies such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (Mexico) and the International Rice Research Institute (the Philippines). CIDA contributes over \$7 million — about 9% of the international total — in grants to such institutions. These agencies study a wide range of crops with the object of doubling current yields through genetic improvement and by selectively breeding a crop for pest and disease resistance. Success with wheat doubled India's production over a six-year period. At least one of the improved varieties is grown in Canada. Similarly, rice production has been increased by more than 30 million tons (27 million t) per annum. These increases are enough to provide a subsistence ration of a pound (0.454 kg) of grain a day each for 300 million people.

In addition to the crop-oriented institutes, CIDA supports the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases in Kenya, which is searching for immunological solutions to trypanosomiasis (spread by tse-tse flies) and East Coast fever (spread by ticks). Control of these diseases in Africa will increase pasture-land available for cattle ranching and other animal agriculture.