

In 1976 the agency began to support a new research effort on malaria, sleeping sickness, schistosomiasis and other parasitic diseases which are extremely widespread in tropical countries. This will be administered through an organization similar to the Consultative Group, with the World Health Organization as the executive agency. In addition, the agency planned to contribute \$1.3 million to the World Health Organization program of research and training in human reproduction.

### 9.2.12 International Development Research Centre

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) helps developing regions to build up research capabilities, innovative skills and institutions required to solve their problems. It is a public corporation funded by the federal government through a grant from CIDA. The main approach to this goal is through support of specific projects in developing countries.

Research to improve food production and nutrition has been a foremost concern. Other projects have studied modernization and its consequences, especially in rural communities in developing countries. Environmental health, disease prevention and care in these communities, and the many variables that influence the size of families, have also been focal points of research. The centre also collects and disseminates information about development.

The Agricultural, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division supports research into plant, animal, marine and forest resources, such as research on crops, farming systems and reforestation in arid and semi-arid lands, multiple and inter-cropping, the use of agricultural wastes and by-products in animal feed, fish farming and shellfish culture, fish preservation and processing, post-harvest technology and the needs of the rural family.

An important example of the division's work is research on cassava, a tropical root crop and staple food in many developing countries. It has serious nutritional drawbacks such as low protein content and high toxicity; it is highly perishable after harvesting. The centre has provided, often in conjunction with the CIDA, over \$4 million in support of a network of cassava research projects in recent years. The aim of these projects is to improve production by the use of new varieties and thus increase the use of cassava in Asia and Latin America, as well as to make sure that farmers in each region can get the results of applied research.

Social Sciences and Human Resources Division's research focuses on the effect of modernization and change, especially on rural peoples, on strategies for harmonious development of urban and rural areas, on the formation of appropriate science and technology policies, on delivery systems for mass primary education, and on the determinants of population change and the formulation of population policies. The division also administers a scholarship program to increase the number of scholars trained in the problems of development.

The main research interests of the Population and Health Sciences Division are environmental health and disease prevention, fertility regulation, and rural health care delivery in developing countries. An example is the support for research into biological control of vector-borne diseases. The centre has approved a one-year grant of \$500,000 to a special program, coordinated through the World Health Organization, to develop new tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tropical parasitic diseases. This will help countries where the diseases are endemic by providing training in biomedical sciences and various forms of institutional support. The focus initially will be on the major human parasitic infections encountered in tropical zones.

### 9.2.13 Department of Communications

The Department of Communications expected to spend \$31.1 million for natural sciences activities in 1976-77. A total of \$30.7 million was allocated to R&D of which \$21.7 million was for intramural expenditure.

The department undertakes scientific and technical research both directly, at