

and special programs. Estimated 1977-78 payments of the MRC to Canadian universities totalled \$54.2 million.

The major portion of MRC expenditures are for research grants. There are two main types: operating grants and major equipment grants. These are intended to cover normal direct costs of research. To encourage maximum use of facilities major equipment grants are normally made to heads of departments or divisions where equipment will be located. Wherever possible, highly specialized equipment is provided for regional or national use — an example is the high resolution mass spectrograph facility at McMaster University. Operating grants represent the bulk of grants program expenditures. Normally made to a principal investigator to support his own research, 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.

Special programs of the MRC are designed to promote development of medical research in Canada. This includes financing of MRC groups for research in especially productive areas — for example, a transplant research group at the University of Alberta. Development grants help universities recruit highly qualified investigators for full-time positions in areas (geographic or subject) needing development. 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)

9.2.11

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

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.

Expenditures for scientific activities in 1977-78 were expected to total \$83.6 million, \$62.5 million for natural science activities. Funds to the foreign sector for both natural and social sciences were estimated at \$24.0 million. The agency participates in an international consultative group on agricultural research, which co-ordinates support for such agencies as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre and the International Rice Research Institute. CIDA contributes over \$7 million — about 9% of the international total — in such grants.

CIDA also supports an African international laboratory for research on animal diseases in a search 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 pastureland available for ranching and other animal agriculture.

International Development Research Centre

9.2.12

This centre helps developing regions to build up research capabilities, innovative skills and institutions to solve their problems. It is a public corporation funded by the federal government through a CIDA grant. The main approach to its goal is through support of specific projects.

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

A division of agriculture and nutrition supports research on crops, farming systems and reforestation in arid and semi-arid lands. This includes multiple cropping, growing more than one crop in the same year on the same land, and inter-cropping with two or