

implement and equipment sales appear in Chapter 19, Merchandising and trade, and on manufacturing of agricultural implements in Chapter 18, Manufacturing.

11.2 Federal government services

11.2.1 Agriculture Canada

Responsibilities of the department cover three broad areas: research, promotional and regulatory services and assistance programs. Research aims at solving practical farm problems by applying fundamental scientific research to soil management, agricultural engineering, and crop and animal production. Promotional and regulatory services apply to such areas as marketing and market development, crop and livestock improvement, inspection and grading of agricultural products, control of insect pests and diseases of plants and livestock, and registration of pesticides and fertilizers. Assistance programs include those which provide for price stabilization, compensation, and income security in the event of a crop failure. The department's many services are provided under the authority of 38 acts of Parliament.

11.2.2 Government and the grains industry

Government's interest and involvement in the grains industry predates Confederation and is a record of policies relating to land use and settlement; transportation; grain elevators, storage, handling and forwarding; marketing methods and opportunities; income security; and the many ramifications of international competition and the search for international co-operation in the sale of grain. The federal government's role in the grains industry is carried out by the agriculture department, the industry, trade and commerce department and two semi-autonomous bodies which report to Parliament through federal ministers: the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board.

Three other agencies also play integral roles: the Canadian International Grains Institute, the Canada Grains Council and the Grains Group. The grains institute contributes to the maintenance and expansion of markets for Canadian grains and oilseeds and their products in Canada and abroad. The grains council provides a forum for co-ordination, consultation and consensus on industry recommendations to government.

Grains Group. In 1970 the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board organized a special advisory group representing the departments of agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, and transport. The group examines problems of the grains industry in production, transportation and handling, and marketing. It co-ordinates, reviews and recommends federal policies for these areas. Policies adopted are implemented through government departments or other agencies concerned with the grains industry.

Production. Agriculture Canada conducts research in plant breeding and production methods to improve varieties, yields and quality of grains for which there is a domestic and export demand. An innovation has been the provision each March, well in advance of spring planting, of information on initial prices to be guaranteed farmers for new crops of wheat, oats and barley, and on minimum deliveries to be accepted by the wheat board during the crop year. These are announced by the minister responsible for the wheat board.

Marketing. To broaden assistance for sales and market development of grains, oilseeds and products, pertinent services of the industry, trade and commerce department are consolidated in the grain marketing office. Regular contact is maintained with the wheat board, other agencies and organizations concerned with grain marketing, trade commissioners abroad and the private trade sector. A program of trade promotion includes participation in missions and trade fairs abroad. The department also provides cost- or risk-sharing to projects, designed to increase sales of grains and other products, which would not be realized without incentives.