

continue. During the 1970s this decline was offset by an increase in hired farm labour. The ratio of hired labour to farmers is expected to increase. A unionized farm labour force is a possibility; farm labourers will be not only traditional hired hands but qualified scientists, technicians and machine operators. Rural communities will change because of the smaller number of farmer entrepreneurs and a relatively larger proportion of salaried farm employees.

The new technologies are expected to concentrate production on fewer and larger farms, particularly in the confinement production of animals and horticultural crops. Individual proprietorships and partnerships, traditionally the legal form of farm ownership, are likely to be increasingly displaced by incorporated farms. Most of these will be large units operated by farm families who have incorporated to gain tax and inheritance advantages. But as farm production is standardized, a certain amount of it may be directly controlled by business corporations.

Indirect control by business corporations may be even more important. Agribusiness concerns may be expected to increase their vertical contracting with producers, to maintain a guaranteed supply of products of uniform quality and at predictable prices, or to supply a reliable and expanding market for farm inputs. Some decision-making may be expected to be transferred from farmers to corporate managers.

Who will be the farmers in this new agricultural sector? What kind of farms will provide the food supply? The 1981 Census of Agriculture suggested some answers. Only one-third of the farmers enumerated in the 1971 Census of Agriculture were still farming in 1981 and had increased the real output of their farms during the decade. Only some farmers succeed in taking advantage of new opportunities. Rapid structural change may result if only a minority of Canadian farmers adapt to the new technologies promptly, gain production advantages which permit them to outbid their neighbours in the land market, and expand their operations to the considerably larger scale permitted by the new agricultural technology.

Market changes. Will there be a market for a growing level of output permitted by technology? Canada's population is expected to grow slowly. Food consumption per capita has also tended to grow slowly. Present policy specifies that milk, eggs, chicken meat, and turkey meat be produced nearly exclusively for the Canadian market.

Beef, pork, other livestock, and all crop production have access to foreign markets. World population growth will increase the need for food from countries such as Canada, but developing countries with rapidly growing populations will likely find it difficult to earn the foreign exchange required to satisfy these food needs. Developed countries have adopted policies of self-sufficiency in meat production

and are increasingly moving in this direction for feedgrains as well. Communist countries have been major importers of Canadian wheat and barley. Their demand has fluctuated due to their varying ability to achieve their production goals, vigorous competition from major exporters, and the political element in purchasing decisions. One of the growth points in world food imports has been among the developing countries, but these countries also pursue goals of self-sufficiency. Recent Canadian sales of breeding cattle to South Korea indicate one kind of market niche which might enable the agricultural sector to thrive in world trade. As the year 2000 approaches, Canadian farmers, agribusiness concerns, and governments will have to be as innovative in their marketing practices as in their adoption of new technologies if Canada's position as a major agricultural exporter is to be maintained and expanded. — PHILLIP EHRENSAFT and RAY BOLLMAN.

9.3 Agricultural resources

Agriculture is a major industry in Canada. About 68.3 million hectares in 10 provinces are cultivated; 46.1 million hectares are improved land. Farm cash receipts exceeded \$18.8 billion in 1982 and agricultural and food exports exceeded \$9.3 billion accounting for 11.4% of Canada's total exports.

Including the processing, wholesale and retail sectors, agriculture accounts for more than 25% of Canada's economic activity. Canada is one of four net food exporting countries in the world today.

9.3.1 Agricultural regions

There are four main types of farms in Canada. Livestock farms include those specializing in feedlot finishing of cattle, large-scale feeding of hogs bought as weanlings, breeding and raising other livestock, dairying, and poultry production for meat and eggs. Grain farms produce such crops as wheat, oats, flax and canola/rapeseed. Combination farms produce both grain and livestock. Special crop farms produce vegetables, fruits, potatoes or other root crops, tobacco or forest products. Each region has its specialties, but none is limited to one type of farming.

The Atlantic region includes Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Gaspé district of Quebec. It is hilly, with a covering of relatively fertile soil developed under forest cover. The climate is modified by the sea, but also affected by cold currents from the coast of Labrador and by northern winds. Precipitation averages 760 to 1 400 mm (millimetres) annually. Mixed farming is general and forage crops support a healthy livestock industry. Small farmers may combine fishing or lumbering with farming.

Newfoundland agriculture is only important locally because of rough terrain. Bogland offers potential for reclaiming and vegetable farming.