

in farming. The loans are for the shared purchase and use of farm machinery, buildings and installed equipment.

**The Farm Debt Review Assistance Program** provides assistance to farmers in financial difficulty through participation by the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) in financial arrangements between farmers and their creditors. Agriculture Canada makes contributions to farmers payable to the FCC in amounts equal to concessions made by the FCC, under arrangements arrived at pursuant to the Farm Debt Review Act.

**The Advance Payments for Crops Act (APCA)** provides an incentive to producers to store certain designated agricultural products immediately after harvest in order to improve their farm income by marketing over an extended season. The Act applies to all storable crops grown in Canada, except wheat, oats and barley grown in the area covered by the Canadian Wheat Board. This program gives producers an advance payment to help meet their short-term monetary commitments. An individual producer may receive an advance of up to \$30,000; business organizations may receive up to \$90,000 for all crops produced each year. The Minister of Agriculture guarantees these advances through eligible producer organizations that must administer the program on behalf of their members.

Benefits of APCA are: producers receive an interest-free cash advance on their storable crops in order to meet their short-term obligations; dumping of products at harvest time is reduced; returns to producers are improved by selling their product when market conditions are good; and more orderly marketing of the products is achieved.

**The Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act (APCMA)** is a market development program designed to assist and encourage co-operative marketing of agricultural products. This is accomplished by providing a minimum average price guarantee to a co-operative marketing pool prior to the crop year. The price guarantee is divided into two segments, an initial payment guarantee to producers and a maximum cost guarantee to the co-operative which covers the costs of marketing the crop. At the end of the marketing period for that crop year, if the average price received by the co-operative is less than the level of price guarantee, the government makes payment for the difference to the co-operative.

**Crop development fund.** Agriculture Canada is helping the private sector and universities in their efforts to broaden Canada's agricultural base.

The objective is to help stimulate the development and acceptance of new crops and varieties, and new more efficient production methods and technologies. It plays a prominent role in bridging the gap between basic research and commercial production.

Examples of complete and ongoing projects, financed in part by the fund, can be found in all regions of Canada. For example, a three-year project in Ontario is determining the feasibility of commercial production of high density cell-tray type tomato transplants. In another project, trials have been conducted, in southern Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley, to evaluate the commercial viability and establish production methods for kiwi fruit. In addition, the lakeland forage association in Alberta compared the production of forage using three major range improvement methods.

## 9.6 Provincial services

Provincial departments responsible for agriculture have regional offices and extension programs with qualified professional representatives working in rural centres to provide advice on farm management, farm labour, home design and home economics, education and development for 4-H and youth groups. Advice is available in veterinary services, livestock improvement and crop management.

Engineering services provide advice on rural water and sewer systems, farm machinery and such projects as irrigation and land drainage in the Prairies and in parts of Ontario.

Marketing activities are carried out to expand domestic and foreign markets and encourage increased food processing. Market development programs supplement those of the federal government.

In several provinces, loans, grants and services are available to farmers to enable them to upgrade or expand their operations. Services provided by New Brunswick include the potato seed farm at Bon Accord, marketing seminars for potato shippers and initiatives in the following areas: land improvement and soil conservation; market development; and accelerated adoption of technology for the production and marketing of agricultural products.

Financial and technical assistance is available to agricultural producers in Quebec through programs currently in effect. The conservation of agricultural soil and water resources is one of Quebec's strategic targets. In addition, there is an assistance program for improving the