

of the Department, including scientific and professional groups, technical, administrative and other support staff at various locations across Canada, are conducted by the Personnel Administration Branch.

The International Liaison Service, established in 1969, is the Department's "foreign affairs" arm. It maintains liaison on behalf of the Department with international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Food Programme. The Service co-ordinates the Department's participation in these organizations, and in aid and development programs undertaken by the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre and international foundations. It also reports regularly on agriculture policy trends abroad and evaluates the impact of these changes on Canadian agriculture and trade.

The Information Division gathers and disseminates information on the research, development and regulatory work of the Department, giving service to the news media, to agricultural extension workers and directly to the public through publications, press and radio releases, television material, motion pictures and exhibits.

11.2.2 Farm assistance programs

Basic to the concept of Canada's national agricultural policy is the premise that a stable agriculture is in the interests of the national economy and that farmers as a group are entitled to a fair share of the national income. Consequently the Canada Department of Agriculture has conducted long-term programs designed to aid agriculture through the application of scientific research and the encouragement of improved methods of production and marketing. Over the years, as conditions have warranted, programs have been initiated to deal with special situations. Mitigating the effects of crop failure, assisting the movement of western feed grains to eastern Canada and British Columbia, reclaiming soil in the Maritime Provinces and combating drought in the agricultural areas of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are examples.

Although much has been accomplished and is still being accomplished by these measures, changes in the past two decades have dictated the need for a different approach to some problems. Large-scale mechanization and, in some segments of the industry, automation have reduced manpower requirements significantly; the number of farms has declined but the size of farms has increased; marketing and income problems have taken different forms; and a decline in some rural communities has occurred together with problems of regional disparity. Legislation enacted to meet these situations includes price support (Agricultural Stabilization Act), dairy market and producer income stabilization (Canadian Dairy Commission Act), crop insurance (Crop Insurance Act), feed grain assistance (Livestock Feed Assistance Act), credit facilities (Farm Credit Act, Farm Syndicates Credit Act, Farm Improvement Loans Act), marketing assistance (Canada Grain Act, Agricultural Products Board Act, National Farm Products Marketing Council) and other forms of assistance to meet emergency or long-term conditions (Prairie Farm Assistance Act, Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, Agricultural and Rural Development Act and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act). All these measures are administered by the Canada Department of Agriculture or by organizations responsible to the Minister except the Farm Improvement Loans Act (administered by the Department of Finance), Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act (Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce) and the ARDA and PFRA programs (Department of Regional Economic Expansion) and the Small Farm Development Program.

The Canadian Grain Commission was established in 1971 under the Canada Grain Act replacing the former Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada. For more detailed information on this Commission see Section 11.8.1.2.

The Agricultural Stabilization Board, established in 1958 by the Agricultural Stabilization Act which at the same time repealed the Agricultural Prices Support Act, 1944, is empowered to stabilize the prices of agricultural products to assist the agricultural industry in realizing fair returns for labour and investment, and to maintain a fair relationship between prices received by farmers and the costs of goods and services that they buy.

The Act provides that, for each production year, the Board must support, at not less than 80% of the previous 10-year average market or base price, the prices of nine commodities: cattle, hogs and sheep; butter, cheese and eggs; and wheat, oats and barley produced outside the prairie areas as defined in the Canadian Wheat Board Act. Other commodities may be sup-