ported at such percentage of the base price as may be approved by the Governor in Council. Since the Act came into force the following farm products, other than the nine named, have been supported at one time or another: honey, potatoes, soya beans, sunflower seeds, sugar beets, apples, peaches, wool, fowl, blueberries, rutabagas, carrots, sour cherries, raspberries, asparagus, tomatoes, milk for manufacturing, casein, cream, fluid milk, fluid cream and skim milk powder. The Board may stabilize the price of any product by an offer-to-purchase, by a deficiency payment or by making such payment for the benefit of producers as may be authorized.

In stabilizing prices of certain commodities by means of assistance payments, the price stabilization program has been assisting the agricultural industry to balance production and demand. During the period of adjustment the Board guarantees a minimum average return to producers for their product on a national average basis.

The cost of stabilization programs under the Act has averaged approximately $85.5 million a year. The Board has available a revolving fund of $250 million, according to the Act; losses incurred are made up by Parliamentary appropriations and any surplus is paid back to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. An advisory committee named by the Minister of Agriculture and composed of farmers or representatives of farm organizations assists the Board in its operations.

The Agricultural Products Board was established in 1951 to administer contracts with other countries for the purchase or sale of agricultural products and to perform other commodity operations as Canadian needs may dictate. The Board's recent activities have included the purchasing of surplus Canadian commodities with resulting improvement in producer prices. Some of these commodities have been processed, packaged and delivered to the World Food Programme as part of Canada's commitment to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Crop Insurance Act was passed in 1959 (RSC 1970, c.C-36) to permit the federal government to assist the provinces in making all-risk crop insurance available to farmers across Canada on a shared-cost basis under the terms and conditions of federal-provincial agreements. Crop insurance is intended to protect the farmer against unforeseen losses by spreading their impact over a number of years. The initiative for establishing crop insurance rests with the provinces and schemes may be organized to meet provincial requirements for insurable crops and areas.

Under the Act as amended the federal government contributes a portion of premium costs and/or administration costs and shares the risk by providing loans or re-insurance when indemnities greatly exceed premiums and reserves. Commencing with the 1973 crop year the farmers pay 50% of the total premiums required to make the schemes self-sustaining. The remainder is contributed by the federal government if the province elects to pay all administrative costs, and is shared equally between the provincial and federal governments if the province elects to share the administrative costs equally.

In the 1973 crop year about 73,200 farmers purchased $375 million in crop insurance coverage under 112 plans. Premiums totalled $32.8 million (including government contributions) and indemnities to be paid out are estimated to be $22.3 million, for a loss-to-premium ratio of .68. The number of farmers participating increased by 49% over 1972 while coverage increased by 128%. The most significant increase in participation and coverage occurred in Saskatchewan.

Crops harvested in most areas of Canada were average in 1973. However, yields were reduced by rain and snow during the harvest period in the Peace River areas of British Columbia and Alberta and in northern Alberta, by hailstorms in the Prairie grain-producing areas and by excessive rain in Ontario and Quebec during the spring and early summer and in Nova Scotia during the growing season.

The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939 (RSC 1970, c.P-16) was designed to provide for direct cash payments by the federal government on an acreage-and-yield basis to farmers in areas of low crop yield in the Prairie Provinces and the Peace River area of British Columbia.

The program has been phased out gradually since 1971, when the collection of levies was suspended, and is scheduled to terminate at the end of the 1973-74 crop year as crop insurance schemes take over many of its functions. During the 1973-74 crop year benefits were limited to growers located in certain areas of Alberta where crop insurance was not available.