Agriculture and Food Security: Where research can make a difference

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A key part of Canada’s aid program, IDRC supports research around the world to promote growth and development.

**Strategic objectives 2015-2020:**
- Invest in knowledge and innovation for **large-scale positive change**
- **Build the leaders** for today and tomorrow
- Be the **partner of choice** for greater impact
Responding to priorities by...

- fostering science and innovation...
- boosting agriculture production and food security...
- strengthening health systems...
- promoting equitable growth...
Feeding an estimated 9 billion people with safe and nutritious food by the year 2050 remains a challenge for agricultural research, development and policies.

- Responding to growing demand – rural/urban linkages
- Focusing on small-holder farmers – men and women
- Environmental sustainability and climate change

Need for MEDIUM and LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS
• A focus on
  • technologies to improve agricultural productivity and reduce post-harvest losses,
  • interventions to improve nutrition,
  • Increased commercial focus of agriculture.

• Rural / Urban linkages
• Financial services
• Research and policy agenda
Challenges for Research

Key strategy for us: Ensuring research benefits large numbers of poor people

FROM THE LAB  TO THE FIELD

Ensuring that RESEARCH can make a difference in people’s lives: This is IDRC’s mission
Canadian International Food Security Research Fund
Partnerships, R4D at Scale, Policy

$124 million CAD committed for the program’s two phases

39 projects in 22 countries around the world (to date)

>110,000 farmers testing improved agriculture technologies (after Phase 1)

>340,000 farmers using improved agriculture technologies (after Phase 1)

Target 1,000,000 farmers by end of Phase 2
CultiAF at a glance


8 projects commenced

12 Current grantees

5 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using applied research to:</th>
<th>Increase agricultural productivity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raise farmers’ incomes</td>
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<td>Improve nutrition</td>
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Pulse Research ≈ CAD $ 15 million through CultiAf and CIFRSF
Ensuring that new innovations reach small scale producers
  • increased production of food leads to increased availability for consumers

Foster public-private research partnerships to transform promising proof-of-concept research into development outcomes at scale
  • improve food and nutritional security for small-holder farmers;
  • help to develop the rural economy – an economy that can support an expanding agriculture sector;
  • Create farm and non-farm jobs for men, women and youth