



Africa

The eight nations with which the ROC maintains formal diplomatic relations in Africa include Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Senegal, Swaziland, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The ICDF has long focused on agricultural upgrade and transformation in these nations, to elevate the quality and quantity of food supplies, and increase employment opportunities. In addition to these efforts to build the foundations of economies, the ICDF is now working to improve health care, human resources training and natural resources, which have been deemed high priorities in Africa.

Agriculture is Africa's principal industry, employing approximately 81 percent of the workforces in the nations named above. Unfortunately, a lack of agricultural product diversity, outmoded technology and undeveloped infrastructure have restricted the contribution agriculture makes to overall economic growth. To bolster agricultural quality and output, ICDF assistance during the year included agricultural infrastructure projects such as irrigation engineering and farmland development; transfer of high-yield rice-production technology; financing, including micro-credit to stimulate agricultural industry growth and as a basis for expanded rural financial services; and farmer training in combined production-marketing methods.

Improving and modernizing a nation's agricultural foundation can set into motion a process of superior product production, which contributes to improved regional health and quality of life, spurs agricultural product sales, increases incomes, and leads

to support of nascent industries (including exports of agricultural products, various SMEs and banking and lending activities). From this starting point, widening economic growth can ensue.

As noted, the ICDF has focused energy on staple crop production in Africa. Lack of staple crops has required many African nations to import large quantities of basic foodstuffs such as rice and corn. In 2001, ICDF-sponsored upland rice extension, farmland development, and sweet potato and corn projects provided African nations with essential staple food crops and grains.

Lack of medical resources in Africa is a serious problem, and so in addition to agricultural development, the ROC has established medical missions in Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi and São Tomé and Príncipe. These missions are providing medical services and equipment, hospital management expertise, outpatient treatment, medical treatment in rural areas, modern obstetrics services and current medical information and technology.

Medical Service Mission to São Tomé and Príncipe

The medical service mission to São Tomé and Príncipe has gained firsthand understanding of the country's medical needs and drug management requirements. To improve medical standards and practices, the mission is helping strengthen the country's medical organizations, upgrade medical equipment and improve drug management.



- ① Successful cultivation of Taichung Hsien No. 10 rice in Burkina Faso
- ② Market scene in Swaziland

Education and human resources enable well-rounded, more promising lives. Underdeveloped elementary education in Africa has contributed to illiteracy, and many adults lack necessary job skills. To help solve this problem, ICDF assistance this year included vocational training projects, such as handicrafts production training in Swaziland and a training project in Malawi, to improve job skills and increase employment opportunities. In addition to in-country programs, 105 Africans attended professional seminars on agricultural development and trade promotion in the ROC. The ICDF is vigorously addressing environmental problems in Africa, and is helping implement sustainable land management and water use in many projects. The Bagre Right Bank farmland development project, and the Kubuta Reservoir Feasibility Study are two large ICDF projects with important environmental ramifications.

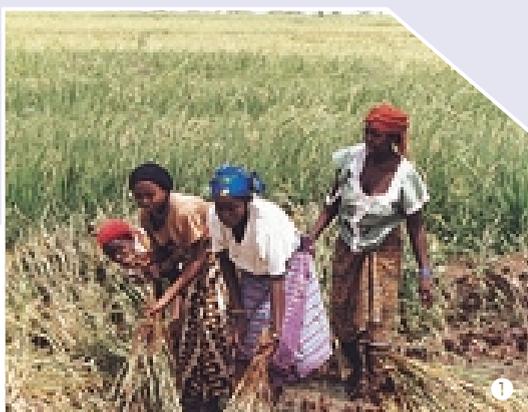
Kubuta Reservoir Feasibility Study

During 2001 the ICDF commissioned Sinotech Engineering Consultants, Ltd. to perform a feasibility study for a new reservoir in Swaziland's Shiselweni District. The reservoir project will improve regional agriculture by developing water resources, and will foster economic growth by creating an environment favorable to industry and commerce.

Non-agricultural economic sectors are typically developed to the degree that nations have privatized industry and encouraged development of the private sector. Some African nations geographically close to Europe have developed tourism industries and service sectors, which, though still smaller in absolute terms, are generally growing faster than agriculture. In manufacturing, many African nations need to extend their industrial scope beyond reliance on primary products such as raw materials and minerals. The development of micro-, small and medium enterprises supporting new and established industries is a key to economic expansion and diversification. The ICDF is supporting emerging industries and SME growth in Africa through projects such as consulting and lending projects for Senegal SMEs, and transportation infrastructure projects in Swaziland and Malawi. The Mango Processing Project in Senegal illustrates how development of SMEs and associated industries can add value to products, and grow businesses and industries.

Mango Processing Project in Senegal

The Mango Processing Project studied the food processing industry in Senegal and formulated a detailed plan for modernization and growth. The project helped mango growers process their crops and increase the fruit's added value by instituting centralized collection, processing, packing and marketing processes.



ICDF Africa Projects, 2001

Burkina Faso

- Bagre Right Bank farmland development project
- Upland rice extension project
- Cooperative medical services project
- Rural micro-credit project

Chad

- Rice production improvement project
- Vegetable production-marketing project
- Cooperative medical services project
- Research and application of organic matter project (second year)

Liberia

- Rice production project
- Rice and vegetable development project
- Research and application of organic matter project (second year)

Malawi

- Grain development and extension project
- Horticulture development and extension project
- Cooperative vocational training project
- Cooperative medical services project
- Transportation infrastructure project

São Tomé and Príncipe

- Cereal grains project
- Vegetable production improvement project
- Livestock development project

- Cooperative medical services project
- Overseas volunteers project

Senegal

- Assistance and lending for SME projects (2)
- Rice extension project
- Vegetable extension project
- Aquaculture development project

South Africa

- South African small farmer lending project

Swaziland

- Small farmer corn and sweet potato project
- Royal project
- Handicrafts training project
- Highway project
- Kubuta reservoir feasibility study

The Gambia

- Paddy Rice Yield Increase and Agricultural Machinery Center project
- Vegetable yield increase and production-marketing project