



Regional Operations

Today, 20 percent of the world's population controls 80 percent of global resources and wealth, while half makes due on less than US\$2 a day. Even more sobering, roughly one fifth earn less than US\$1 a day. Increasing globalization and interdependence makes the long-term resolution of poverty in the developing world a critical task for all nations. The level of success achieved will affect ultimately the ability of the global community of nations to continue to grow and prosper as well as live together in peace.

As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan has a long tradition of providing international cooperation and developmental assistance. Since its establishment in 1996, the ICDF's fundamental goals remain the reduction of poverty and promotion of regional development. The ICDF concentrates its energies in the four core work areas of technical cooperation, international human resource development, investment and lending operations, and humanitarian assistance. Through agricultural diversification, medical improvement, educational upgrading, vocational training, MSME development, and other various programs, the ICDF, in cooperation with government agencies in host nations as well as international organizations, is working to improve the economic and social climate in allied and friendly countries.

To address the variety of complex developmental challenges faced by nations targeted by its assistance, the ICDF formulates and implements a wide variety of programs. Prior to administering individual assistance programs, the ICDF conducts feasibility studies that take into consideration a country's macroeconomic, structural and social environment. Programs are designed with the development strategies for each region in mind.

Given the limited resources of developing nations, the ICDF makes a priority of improving the economic structure of cooperating countries—initially focusing on agricultural sector modernization and then gradually leveraging agriculture sector surpluses to support industrial growth. As industrial capabilities improve, industry can then be used to drive improvements and raise efficiency in the agriculture sector. The ultimate goal is to have an economy that has balanced agricultural and industrial development. Whether through technical or financial assistance, the ICDF is keenly aware that the improvement of lifestyles and economic development can only be achieved through human resource development and through technology transfers. Assistance aiming at sustainable development provides the people of the recipient nation with the ability to become stronger and carry out development on their own.

The following is a description of the ICDF's four core program activities conducted in host countries.



Agricultural Upgrading and Diversification

Many of Taiwan's diplomatic allies are developing nations that require food security. In light of this, the ICDF provides agricultural technical assistance to help countries increase output and achieve self-sufficiency in agricultural production. African and South Pacific Island nations are the primary hosts of this assistance. For regions or countries with relatively stable agricultural output, the ICDF provides assistance to raise the quality of agricultural production and institute agricultural diversification, food processing, and commercialization. Such programs are currently focused on nations in Latin America and Asia.

MSME Development

MSMEs represent a principal driving force in economic development, stimulating private ownership and entrepreneurial skills, generating employment, helping diversify economic activity, and boosting exports and trade. In light of the trend among developing countries to foster a private sector, the ICDF is assisting a number of countries by providing the capital, technology and education essential to healthy MSME development. All projects are designed to meet the needs of MSMEs in developing countries, including capacity building, information and technology growth, enhanced access to capital, and business environment improvements. The ICDF is executing this type of assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asia-Pacific, and Europe.



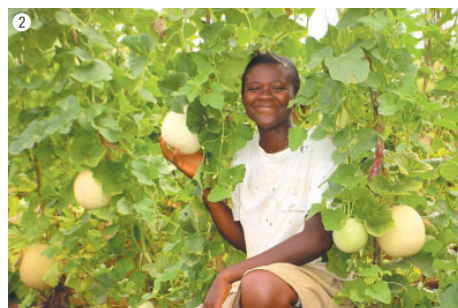
①The ICDF Industry Service Mission in the Dominican Republic provides instruction on ceramics and other industrial arts ②The ICDF provides indirect investment to this factory in Nicaragua ③Local fishermen raise tilapia fish in the Senegal Aquaculture Project

International Human Resource Development

Economic growth in developing countries demands the creation of a productive and skilled workforce. The ICDF is emphasizing education as part of its focus on social development. International human resource development programs are held regularly to train the personnel needed by allied and friendly countries in the fields of economics and trade, education, medicine, and agriculture. The ICDF holds various international workshops and seminars on various topics and seeks to share the “Taiwan experience” with others. Furthermore, the ICDF works with local and international agencies and universities to carry out human resource training programs, helping foster internationalization and broaden international perspectives.

Strengthening Cooperative Relationships with International Organizations

To achieve the greatest benefit while reducing project costs, the ICDF cooperates bilaterally and multilaterally on various development projects with the ADB, the AfDB, the CABI, the EBRD, the IDB, and the OAS. Various technical cooperation, investment and lending, international human resource development, and humanitarian assistance programs have been implemented successfully through such joint cooperation. In addition, the ICDF is also strengthening cooperative relationships with NGOs.



① Farmers in the Haiti Rice Yield Enhancement Project ② Horticultural diversification is the main goal of the São Tomé and Príncipe Vegetable Yield Increase Project ③ Staff members provide medical services to Tibetan refugees at the ICDF-donated Mobile Diagnostic Clinic and Research Center