

## Technical Cooperation

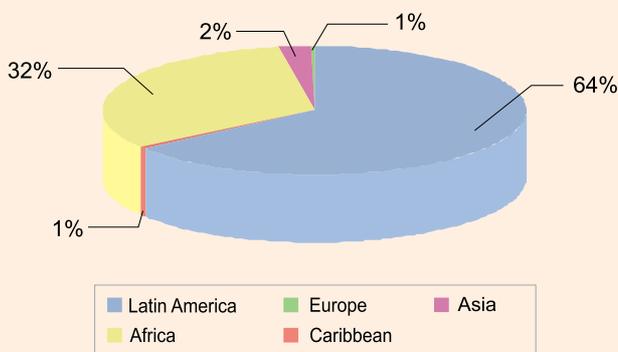
### Summary

In fiscal 2000 the ICDF managed 22 technical assistance projects, six more than in the previous year. These included four SME advisory group and consulting projects; 14 economic, social and political capacity building projects; three special research projects; and the work of the ICDF Volunteer Corps.

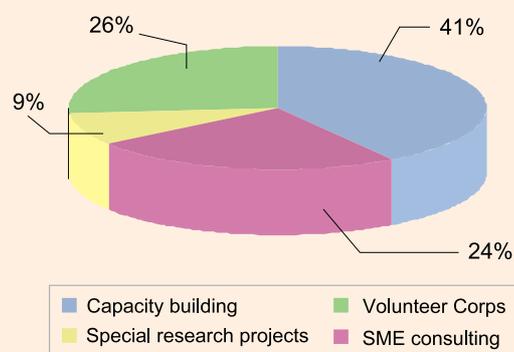
Expenditures for the year's technical cooperation projects totaled US\$5.4 million. Of this, 64 percent was dedicated to Latin American operations, 32 percent to Africa, 2 percent to the Asia Pacific region, 1 percent to the Caribbean, and 1 percent to Europe. The SME projects consumed US\$2.2 million of the total budget, while US\$1.3 million was spent on capacity building projects, and US\$470,000 on special research projects. US\$1.4 million went to the overseas service missions.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICDF managed 41 technical missions (up from 38 in 1999), with 322 staff members working in 34 partner countries. The 12 technical missions located in eight African countries consumed 40 percent of the total budget of NT\$1.9 billion; 10 missions in nine Latin American countries, 22 percent; seven missions in six Caribbean countries, 14 percent; the single European mission 3 percent; eight missions in eight Asia Pacific countries, 17 percent; and three missions in two Middle Eastern countries, 4 percent.

Technical Cooperation Expenditures by Region



Technical Cooperation Expenditures by Project Type



## **SME Advisory Programs**

Economic development is the key to escaping poverty and strengthening human resources, and small and medium enterprises are essential to sound, steady economic growth. Because SMEs have played a central role in the ROC's economic growth, sharing the country's wealth of experience in this field is a core ICDF tenet. Thus the organization allocated 41 percent (US\$2,210,000) of its total ICDF technical cooperation budget to SME development projects.

After carefully considering each country's long-term economic strategy, ICDF specialists assisted partner countries in drafting SME policies, establishing appropriate organizational frameworks, nurturing entrepreneurial endeavors and developing strategic industries. The ROC's SME development experience is particularly relevant in areas such as credit guarantee funds, industrial synergy schemes, industrial development strategies and export promotion. ICDF experts are helping partner nations to establish competitive businesses in industries that can capitalize on existing national resources and policies, and levels of industrial development.

The assistance provided by the ICDF is wide-ranging: factory planning, materials management, process streamlining, quality control, troubleshooting, and organizational system development. In order to ensure that technology transfer is beneficial, firms that receive guidance are expected to assign technical or management personnel to implement the recommended improvements.

A major SME project concluded in the past year was the ICDF Vegetable Research Cooperation Program in Five Central American Countries. Three other SME projects are in progress.

### **Vegetable Research Cooperation Program in Five Central American Countries**

This program succeeded in creating the Central American Vegetable Research Network, which is now coordinating training, materials exchange, product testing and technology transfer among the five countries. The new technology fostered by the program will aid agronomists and farmers in developing and selecting better vegetable strains. The long-term result will be to make the Central American nations more self-reliant in agricultural research, enhanced conservation efforts, improved breeding stocks, and pest control practices.

### **Small and Medium Enterprises Advisory Project in Senegal**

This project will provide a line of short- and medium-term advisory services to the Republic of Senegal, to assist it in developing special local industries, improving agricultural product processing, raising professional management and sales standards, and setting up an advisory system for SMEs.

### **Paraguay Synergy System Development Project**

The goal is to develop a hub-satellite system that will enable SMEs to function as suppliers for larger industries. The expectation is that, in addition to improving product quality, the system will help to stabilize and enlarge Paraguayan SME markets. In cooperation with the Center for Business Cooperation and Industrial Development (CEDIAL), the specialists selected two factories, Ala Moana and Chemitec, for consultation and demonstration in 2000.

### **SME Advisory Groups in Seven Central American Countries**

This project is helping Central American nations map SME development strategies. Over the past year, it conducted seminars in organizational and systems policy, while continuing to assist the participating nations to establish sound SME policy environments, set up allocated networks in industrial production, improve competitiveness and stimulate exports.

## **Capacity Building Projects**

In order to modernize and expand, a country requires sufficient capacity for growth and improvement in its economy, its governmental institutions, its agricultural and industrial infrastructure, and its socioeconomic service areas. The ICDF is supporting an impressive variety of capacity building projects in different countries.

An important focus of ICDF capacity building was on medical services, especially in Africa. The objective is to enable the partner nations—such as landlocked Chad and the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe—raise overall standards of medical care by upgrading equipment and helping them to improve management efficiency.

Also in Africa, but in the agricultural sector, the ICDF provided gifts of agricultural equipment to Senegal and The Gambia, in order to enlarge their food production capacities. In Senegal, the ICDF provided several new pieces of milling and processing equipment, and completed its Project for Rice Reclamation.

Among the capacity building projects in Africa which achieved their objectives were the Rice Reclamation and Extension Project in The Gambia, the Capacity Building Project for Rice Reclamation in Senegal, and the Handicraft Training Project in Swaziland. In Burkina Faso the efforts to establish a viable garment manufacturing training center are continuing.

Concluded in Central America was the Product Packaging and Inspection Center Project for Seven Central American Countries, which has modernized product packaging in those countries.

In Europe, the ICDF completed one phase of its Macedonian governmental capacity building project, by providing computer hardware and software, and training in information systems, to Macedonian government agencies.

### **Product Packaging and Inspection Center Project for Seven Central American Countries**

This project, which involved 91 person-months of assistance, was completed in 2000. It was designed to provide packaging and packaging inspection equipment and expertise to countries in Central America, as well as to establish sound management systems and inspection standards, and raise the competitiveness of products in the region. A package inspection center was established at the University of El Salvador. The management and packaging experts trained there will disseminate modern packaging concepts among workers and management throughout the region.

### **Macedonian Government Capacity Building Project**

This governmental capacity building project, which was completed in 2000, involved provision of computer hardware and software, bolstered by information systems training for government personnel. The equipment and training provided will enhance the administrative efficiency and professional capabilities of the Macedonian government.

### **Capacity Building Project for Rice Reclamation in Senegal**

This project, which provided farm machines to farmers in Senegal, resolved many of the existing labor and rice milling problems. The ICDF provided 19 rice mills, 6 rice sifters, 4 package sealing machines, and 45 pairs of dray cattle. These machines and animals are not only lessening labor problems but also making it possible for farmers to earn additional income.

### **Rice Reclamation and Extension in The Gambia**

Also completed, this project's goal was to assist The Gambia in increasing its paddy rice harvest by providing small farming machinery. The ICDF provided farmers with six pedal-operated threshing machines (popular for their portability and efficiency) and seven small rice-milling machines. The equipment has greatly improved farming productivity.

### **Malaria Control Project in São Tomé and Príncipe**

Malaria is the leading cause of death in São Tome and Príncipe, an equatorial island nation in the Gulf of Guinea off the bend of Africa. In October 2000 the ICDF invited experts to conduct an initial evaluation of the disease's distribution and strains in São Tomé and Príncipe.

### **Capacity Building Project for Handicraft Training in Swaziland**

The completion of this project has made handicraft training centers in Swaziland more effective, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the country's handicraft businesses in southern African markets. In addition to providing materials for handicrafts training classes, the project made equipment and tools available to the graduates.

### **Capacity Building Projects for Medicine Management in Chad and for Medical Institutions and Medicine Management in São Tomé and Príncipe**

These projects are helping medical institutions in Chad and São Tomé and Príncipe to serve more patients, improve their overall efficiency, and heighten general health and medicine standards. The missions are assisting medical practitioners and facilities to upgrade their equipment and improve their pharmaceutical handling practices. Currently, the medical missions are intensifying their efforts to develop effective plans for the distribution of donated medical equipment and the improvement of pharmaceutical management.

### **Hog Raising and Extension Project in Nicaragua**

This project involves the donation of premium hogs and breeding and raising equipment to hog farmers; the provision of expertise in the selection and breeding of high-quality, disease-free swine; and assistance in the establishment of new hog farms. Product marketing techniques designed to increase income in this sector are also being developed. The project managers and the Nicaraguan Department of Agriculture agreed to construct a hog farm in Rivas province by February 2001.

### **Burkina Faso Small-scale Vocational Training Center**

The ICDF is assisting the government of Burkina Faso to set up a garment manufacturing training center. The objective is to enable the country's entrepreneurs to manufacture products for domestic markets, thereby lessening the dependence on imports. With the necessary agreements signed, bidding for equipment completed and instructors selected, the project began in earnest during the past year.

### **Special Research Projects**

The special research projects that were conducted in partner countries in 2000 focused primarily on economic and agricultural topics. The in-depth analyses and evaluations that resulted from these projects are serving as bases for governmental planning and policy making recommendations. The research is also helping the ROC to understand better the developmental needs of its partner nations.

Two research projects were completed: one on the bicycle industry in Central America and another on lake fishing in Malawi. A third project, involving research on the effects of fertilizer application on rice production in The Gambia, is continuing.

### **Special Study on Investment and Trade for the Bicycle Industry in Central America**

Although the study concluded that the Central American market is currently too small to support substantial Taiwanese investment in bicycle manufacturing, the findings of this research project will be used to improve bicycle production standards and develop a multinational system of job allocation. The information gathered will also be helpful in building stronger relations with the well-established Taiwanese bicycle industry.

### **Feasibility Study on Lake Fishing in Malawi**

This project studied the feasibility of increasing production in Malawi's lake fishing industry. The conclusion was that fish supplies in Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi), the largest lake in the country, are seriously depleted, and that action is needed to prevent overfishing and to develop freshwater fish stocks.

### Research on the Effects of Fertilizer Application on Rice Production in The Gambia

The ICDF commissioned experts from the Taichung District Agricultural Improvement Station to conduct specialized research on paddy rice production in The Gambia. The research will include a survey of soil types, testing of fertilizer applications, the development of a plan to expand the rate of land use in paddy areas, and the drawing up of recommendations for the encouragement of sound paddy rice cultivation techniques.

### ICDF Volunteer Corps

In its four and one half years of existence, the ICDF Volunteer Corps has bolstered ICDF operations immeasurably. Dedicated volunteers, supervised by the ICDF technical missions, are working alongside ICDF professionals and local people in several countries around the world.

The ICDF Volunteer Corps recruits qualified people with a global perspective. This year, following rigorous screening, 17 volunteers were selected from 143 applicants. Thirteen recruits were sent to Costa Rica for language training, following which they were dispatched to Central America and the Caribbean to teach folk arts, computer skills, Chinese language, office administration and other subjects. The remaining four recruits were sent to Myanmar to teach Chinese, English and mathematics.

Among the services that ICDF volunteers are currently providing to host countries are basic consulting services for small and medium enterprises; vocational and computer training; instruction in Chinese language, mathematics, science and other subjects; and rural area improvement.

