

# Special Reports

The four programs described in this chapter illustrate various aspects of the ICDF's assistance operations in partner nations: assistance to SMEs, equity investments in promising ventures, small farmer loan programs, and improvements to technical and vocational training.

## I. The Macedonian Equity Investment Fund

This fund is an instrument for direct investment during the start-up or development phase of private enterprises. The chief stockholders may be either Macedonian or ROC investors, and there is no restriction on the type of industry.

Included are observations about factors for success in such investments, as well as reflections on the ICDF's negotiation experiences with local partners.

## II. Small Farmer Loans and Investment in Agricultural Enterprises

In the process of shifting its focus from demonstration farms to production/marketing team projects, the ICDF has appropriated several million dollars for loan programs that will give extension farmers the funds they need to upgrade their agricultural technology and expand production. The guidelines for loan and investment projects are reviewed, and examples of successful loan programs are presented.

## III. Benefits of Combined Technology Assistance Projects and Technical Mission Projects

This demonstrates how regional aid strategies exist for different parts of the world. Reflected are the food processing project conducted by the technical mission to Belize and the rice growing project conducted by the technical mission to The Gambia.

## IV. Extending Taiwan's Vocational Educational System to Central America

Taiwan's economic growth owes much to the establishment and development of vocational education. A key to success was the ability of educational goals to adapt to changing economic needs. Today the ICDF is helping to transfer its vocational education experience to several Central American countries.