



## Country Operations

The ICDF supports international assistance activities designed to alleviate poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world. It believes that the formulation and implementation of sustainable development practices should involve all of the world's people, governments and organizations at all levels.

As a result, the ICDF is currently supporting capacity building projects in many countries with the cooperation of the private and public sectors, as well as with international organizations. This is motivated by a desire to work with allied nations interested in improving bilateral relations with the Republic of China by helping them develop the tools to achieve their specific objectives. The emphasis on sustainable development integrates Taiwan into the global community.

Each country and region has a different set of unique challenges. Before coordinating assistance programs, the ICDF analyzes geographical, cultural and economic characteristics of the host country. Then, using the social and economic development of Taiwan as a model, it implements one or more development projects on a three year rolling program basis.

Broad based economic growth has proved to be the most effective means of bringing disadvantaged and marginalized groups into the mainstream of an economy. The key to sustainable development, is a sound and stable environment that promotes equal opportunity for all members of society. Often the benefits of economic growth can be shared more evenly by encouraging the development of SMEs, and by expanding financial options for micro entrepreneurs.

Since the majority of people in developing countries derive their livelihoods from agriculture, the transformation of agricultural and food distribution systems is an essential aspect of broad-based economic growth. Thus, initiatives in the agricultural sector have and will continue to be an important component of ICDF regional operations.

In 2002, the ICDF sent 40 technical missions to 33 host nations, implemented 67 investment and lending projects, and held 21 professional classes and seminars focusing on growth and stable national development.

ICDF strategies encompass a wide assortment of economic expansion plans, from agricultural upgrading and diversification to the development of SMEs. Social development initiatives, sustainable environmental development, and humanitarian assistance are also important components of ICDF regional strategies. Below is a description of the ICDF's primary strategies in Africa, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe.

## **Agricultural Upgrade and Diversification**

Agricultural development includes improving the quality and quantity of agricultural products, diversifying agricultural production, and then marketing and selling those products in a successful way. The ICDF is promoting this strategy in Central and South America, the Caribbean region and some Asian nations. In Africa and the island nations of the Asia Pacific region, the ICDF is also increasing the output of staple grain crops, with the objective of enabling the production of sufficient supplies to ensure adequate nutritional intake for the population.

## **SME Development**

The development of micro, small and medium enterprises can improve industrial output and quality, stimulate the private sector, and foster economic growth. The ICDF is assisting a number of countries in SME development, thereby enabling them to build up domestic industries and reduce dependence on imports. The ICDF is executing this strategy in Central and South America, the Eastern Caribbean region, Southern Asia and Europe.

## **Social Development**

The goal of social development is to support the empowerment of underprivileged people by improving their social conditions and capacities and promoting inclusive institutions that will ensure secure livelihoods. Access to medical services and educational institutions that are responsive, accountable and inclusive is necessary to achieve this goal, and the ICDF is focusing on this objective by contributing to medical and educational capacity building in Africa, Central and South America and the Eastern Caribbean region.

## **Sustainable Environmental Development**

Natural resources degradation – depleted soils, insufficient water, rapidly disappearing forests, collapsed fisheries – threatens the health of millions of people in many parts of the world and weakens their capacity for growth and livelihood today and in the future. Sustainable environmental development, such as water supply, land reclamation and environmental protection projects, improves the quality of life and agricultural output in communities. The ICDF is committed to conserving and managing natural resources while working to increase food production in all of its missions.

## **Humanitarian Assistance**

To play an active part in healing human misery and repairing the material destruction caused by human made and natural disasters, the ICDF has included humanitarian assistance funding in its

annual budget since fiscal year 2001. Currently, the ICDF is providing natural disaster relief, post disaster reconstruction work and medical services.

*Note: Data in this chapter are based on a combination of World Bank, ADB, IMF, CIA, USAID and UN figures*

