

**CLOSING REMARKS AT THE AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM  
EVENT, 'RESEARCH TO FEED AFRICA POLICY DIALOGUE'**

**AMY BAKER, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, CANADA**

Monday, September 1, 2014, Sheraton Ballroom 1 & 2, Addis Ababa

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The Honourable Monti Solberg, Chairman of the IDRC

Dr. Jean Lebel, President of the IDRC

Ms. Jane Karuka, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa,

Ministers, Ambassadors, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

While it is a great honour to me to be offering closing remarks on behalf of the Government of Canada, I realize I am the last thing standing between you and continuing some very interesting informal discussions with your colleagues that you would have started here today.

So I will not take long.

I would like to begin by extending a heartfelt thank you to our partners at IDRC, FANRPAN, AGRA, and the African Union, for bringing us such a fulsome discussion of issues including a wide variety of perspectives.

This day has been a wonderful pre-cursor to the African Green Revolution Forum starting tomorrow. It has been one filled with sharing of ideas at that nexus between policy and science – which is so important for the success of efforts to increase food security.

During the day, many of you asked 'what is it that DFATD has to gain from investing in research and development in agriculture'?

Many of you will be aware of the important priority Canada puts on investment in this sector around the world. Following the global economic crisis in 2007-2008, and its devastating impact on food prices and poverty, Canada adopted food security as one of its three thematic priorities for our development assistance. Since that time, more than 50% of Canada's support in this sector has been in Africa, where the needs are the greatest.

The Government of Canada has focused on four paths to increased food security - support to increasing sustainable agricultural production, leadership to improve food assistance, strengthened focus on nutrition, and, importantly, scaling up research and development.

For us, supporting research like that done through CIFSRF was one way to help reach these objectives. We have seen many extraordinary research successes, such as new livestock vaccines and scalable delivery systems, and improved cropping systems based on pulses that are already being rolled out in new areas here in Ethiopia. But we cannot neglect the equally impressive level of capacity building that is required to achieve such results.

So, we gain in terms of development results, and we gain in terms of the sustainability of those results.

I would now like to focus my closing remarks a bit more on the 'how' of the collective work we have undertaken – the partnerships that make it successful.

This Dialogue has been far more than a knowledge exchange. It has been a repeated recognition of the importance of partnership. Many of you in the room are part of research teams that have worked closely together for years, in the context of institutional relationships that span continents and decades.

In 2014, we are harvesting from seeds planted long before the CIFSRF was launched in 2009.

CIFSRF results are just one outcome of a much larger process of institutional strengthening of Africa's agri-food research systems, but an important one.

As many of you are aware, the Prime Minister of Canada has announced a second Phase of the CIFSRF, which was launched last year. In his announcement, he stated that the new Phase would aim at *'scaling up successful research results...to a sufficient size to help meet future global food demand.'* Obviously, we cannot achieve this aim without the vital role of governments, researchers, civil society, and the private sector.

Through CIFSRF, and other Canadian supported initiatives, we do not seek to bring ready-made solutions to our partners. Instead, we have an array of tools that they can use and adapt in order to create their own locally-grown solutions that meet their unique needs.

We also work hard to ensure the needs and realities of girls and women are explicitly taken into account in our collective efforts – given the importance we all place on inclusive growth and the awareness we all have of the important role women and girls can - and should have the opportunity to - play in sustainable development.

After seeing the various groups stand up this morning – researchers, private sector partners, farmers and civil society organizations – who are all active in this forum today, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the role that as a Government of Canada official, I see Canada's own private sector and civil society partners playing on the international stage - through partnerships with their African and global counterparts that I know will continue to mature and diversify.

The Research to Feed Africa Policy Dialogue has been an important step in our collective efforts to chart a new course for expanding our notion of partnerships so that, as others have highlighted, we can get the science out to those who can use it.

Let us carry this new mindset forward with us when we go into the Africa Green Revolution Forum tomorrow, so that our research will continue to enhance the food security of the poorest and most vulnerable in Africa and the world.

Thank you.