

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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Contribution of Canada

to the CSTD 2016-17 priority theme on 'New innovation approaches to support the
implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals'

**DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views
and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.**

CSTD 2016-17 Priority Theme 1 on New Innovation Approaches:

The examples herein are in response to the questions below, posed by the CSTD Secretariat for their issue paper on priority theme 1 for the 2016-2017 'New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals'.

1. *Can you give examples of 1-2 applications of new innovation approaches and how they contributed to sustainable development?*
2. *Do you have any documentation, references, or reports on the specific examples cited or more generally with respect to the role of new innovation approaches in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in your country or region?*
3. *Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for new innovation approaches as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with new innovation approaches that support sustainable development efforts? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD intersessional panel and annual session.*

Project: Grand Challenges Canada - Development Innovation Fund-Health (DIF-H)

Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) is a Canadian, federally incorporated, not-for-profit organization launched in 2010 to implement the Government of Canada's Development Innovation Fund-Health. The Fund was established to support innovators in Canada and the developing world to address and solve difficult challenges faced in health across the world. GCC is an innovation platform based on a venture capital model that develops ideas, tests them and prepares them to scale. GCC has over 700 innovations in its pipeline and programs. GCC delivers calls for proposals to invite innovators from Canada and low- and middle-income countries to propose solutions to saving lives at birth, stimulating early brain development, mental health and innovator defined challenges

Project timeframe: 2010 – March 2017 (with additional projects extended through 2025)

Executing Agency: Grand Challenges Canada (GCC), in a consortium with the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

SDG: 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

Country/Region: Low and Middle Income countries

Sector focus: Health

- Medical services
- Basic health infrastructure
- Basic nutrition
- Infectious disease control
- Basic health care
- Health education
- Health policy and administrative management
- Medical education/training
- Medical research
- Medical services
- Basic sanitation

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GCC programming focuses on developing global health innovations to address defined and targeted challenges.

- Stars in Global Health Challenge: Innovator-defined programming - Bold Ideas with Big Impact.
- Saving Brains Challenge: Promote and nurture healthy child and brain development in the first 1000 days.
- Saving Lives at Birth Challenge: Promote and nurture healthy child and brain development in the first 1000 days.
- Global Mental Health Challenge: Promote and nurture healthy child and brain development in the first 1000 days

The GCC innovation model begins with a Proof of Concept phase, which an innovative initiative is 100% subsidized. The second phase is to Transition to Scale, where GCC funds 50% of the initiative. While the first two phases of GCC projects are supported by GCC Management, the third phase of initiatives is completely hands off. This third, Scaling, phase is when the initiative receives no GCC funds or support, and is instead supported by Social Venture Capital, the private sector, donor governments, or other sources.

This project aims to improve the health of people in developing countries by supporting the introduction of health and financial innovations. The project supports eligible researchers and scientists from Canada and the developing world to implement their proven innovations where people suffer disproportionately from poor health. The aim is to implement low-tech, low-cost innovations that have the potential to be disseminated widely and successfully, and that use novel approaches to increase the delivery and demand of local health services. The project also aims to explore, test, and validate new financial mechanisms to encourage greater innovation and improved health outcomes.

Innovative financing mechanisms include approaches whereby recipient countries or organizations receive financial support based on the fulfillment of specific conditions, such as the improvement of the health of mothers and children.

See more on our website: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vWebProjByPartnerEn?OpenView&RestrictToCategory=Grand%20Challenge%20Canada&altcat=Grand%20%C3%A9fis%20Canada>

There are a number of reports, blogs and news resources from Grand Challenges Canada on their website: <http://www.grandchallenges.ca/>

Including:

<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/grantee-stars/0108-01/>

<http://www.grandchallenges.ca/grantee-stars/0745-05/>

Contact at Grand Challenges Canada: Jocelyn Mackie, VP and General Counsel: 1-416-673-6555, jocelyn.mackie@grandchallenges.ca

Project: Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia

Through the provision of unconditionally repayable contributions, Canada's support focuses on leveraging private sector investments to address climate change, while supporting jobs creation and

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creating opportunities in developing countries. Innovative financing offers lower interest, longer tenor, and/or funding for higher risk loans needed to jump-start a project.

Project timeframe: 2013-03-26 – 2037-03-26

Executing Agency: Asian Development Bank

SDG: 13- Climate Action

Country/Region: Asia, multiple countries

Sector focus: Environment. Investments may include the following areas:

- Energy generation, renewable sources - multiple technologies
- Geothermal energy
- Solar energy

The Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia supports private sector projects across Asia and the Pacific that help countries reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. The Fund focuses on projects aimed at increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency, supporting urban infrastructure and sustainable transportation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing climate resilience.

The Fund provides concessional financing to catalyze private sector investments in climate mitigation and adaptation projects that require loans with concessionary terms to be viable. It helps countries overcome perceived investment risks and cost hurdles to initiate and scale-up projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience. The Fund may provide up to a third of its financing in repayable contributions offered in the local currency, to encourage local companies to invest by protecting them from unexpected borrowing costs that might result from fluctuations in the US dollar. All Fund investments are co-financed by the Asian Development Bank.

During the five-year investment period, the Fund also provides technical assistance to select climate-friendly private sector projects or public sector projects that improve the enabling environment for private sector investments.

Canada's contribution to the Fund is expected to leverage up to US \$300 million in private sector investment over the Fund's 24-year life and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 750,000 tonnes per annum.

For an example of a project financed by the Fund and its innovative approach, see the Sarulla Geothermal project example in the Project Finance International: Asia Best Practices report: <http://www.pfie.com/pfi-asia-best-practice-report-2014/21145582.fullarticle>.

See more on our website: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb%5Ccpo.nsf/projEn/M013850002>

Project Profile: Purchase for Progress (P4P) and Scaling Up Nutrition in Guatemala

Through Canada's contribution, we are assisting Guatemala in its efforts to improve the nutrition and health of thousands of women and children and helping small-scale farmers increase their profits. They created a platform by which surplus grains bought from P4P smallholder women and men farmers are then used to support food for work and nutrition programs that invest in creating resilience in drought prone and chronically malnourished communities.

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Project timeframes: 2013 – 2018

Executing Agency: World Food Program

SDG: 2- Zero hunger

Country/Region: Guatemala

Sector focus:

Improving health

- Basic nutrition

Private sector development

- Food crop production
- Plant and post-harvest protection and pest control

This project aims to improve access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food for women, men, girls and boys in Guatemala. The project supports the World Food Programme's (WFP) Purchase for Progress (P4P) Program in Guatemala. It promotes an integrated strategy comprising three components: i) Purchase for Progress, which improves the incomes of smallholder farmers through the increased quantity and quality of production and sales of surpluses to markets; ii) Scaling-up Nutrition, which helps prevent and reduce chronic malnutrition through distribution of fortified food and nutrition education; and iii) Resilience, which improves community conditions in disaster-prone areas, and enhances food availability throughout the year.

Project activities include the following: (1) providing technical assistance to and sharing best practices with small-scale farmers on crop management and technologies to increase the quality and quantity of their yields; (2) promoting better post-harvest management to reduce crop losses; (3) assisting farmer organizations to increase sales and receive fair market prices from buyers; (4) purchasing food from participating farmer organizations' crop surpluses to feed up to 17,500 infants and children aged 6-23 months per year and up to 10,000 pregnant and lactating women per year to complement breastfeeding and prevent stunting or chronic undernutrition; and (5) strengthening the business management skills of small-scale farmer organizations and increasing women farmers' participation, representation and skills.

See more on our website: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vWebCSAZEn/F250327B942545CE85257C0C00359C63#h2sectors>

Project: Community Radio and other ICTs for farmer value-chain development

This project is innovative for its emphasis not only on the participation of local farmers, their families and local communities in the development of radio programs, and its use of radio and other information and communications technologies (including mobile phones) but also as a multisectoral platform for a wide range of local and international development priorities. The use of participatory radio broadcasting to inform and train farmers is new in this region.

Project timeframe: 2012-07-12 – 2017-08-30

Executing Agency: Farm Radio International

SDG: 2- Zero Hunger

Country/Region: Ghana; Mali; Malawi; Tanzania.

Sector focus:

- Private sector development
- Agricultural extension

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- Radio/television/print media/mobile phones

This project helps one million women and men small-scale farmers raise their incomes and feed their families with more nutritious foods. Small-scale African farmers are among the most vulnerable to hunger. Many factors contribute to this problem, but an important part of the solution is to share information and knowledge of how to derive more benefits from the agri-food chain. This is achieved through participatory radio programs produced by community radio stations in local languages, with the participation of farmers and the input of national experts. By choosing the right planting materials, planting and harvesting at the right time, storing and processing produce carefully, and negotiating with different buyers, the farmers are able to gain more from their activities. The capacities of ten radio stations are enhanced to create programs appealing to the farmers while sharing information on weather, technologies and good farming practices, agricultural prices and markets that produce the most impact. Organizations involved in linking producers and buyers, and national sector specialists, help create relevant programs. Farm Radio International headquarters are in Ottawa and it has field offices in Mali, Ghana and Tanzania. Farm Radio Trust, an independent local entity, serves as FRI's partner in Malawi.