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Government of Canada Highlights IDRC's Efforts in Fighting Hunger in Guatemala

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A Canadian project designed to supply the science needed to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in Guatemala was launched in that country by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (the Americas), the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, in early December. The 3-year, \$450,000 project is supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Crown corporation which supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development.



Geoff Regan (MP), Renaud De Plaen, Ottoniel Montorosso, Minister Ablonczy

Minister Ablonczy announced the project while speaking at a round table on food security in Guatemala City accompanied by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. IDRC Senior Program Specialist, Renaud De Plaen, was among the experts invited to participate. In his presentation, De Plaen spoke about how food security indicators in Guatemala have not improved in twenty years, in part because national and international investments too often ignored the importance of small scale agriculture and research in informing food security policies – something the IDRC project seeks to change.



Renaud De Plaen, Ottoniel Montorosso, David Johnston

The project brings leading researchers from Canada's McGill University together with those of Guatemala's Rafael Landívar University's Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to address food insecurity in a country where 25% of the population is malnourished and one-in-every-two children don't have enough nutritious food to eat.

The researchers will focus on four test areas in Guatemala to identify, measure, and compare the impact of particular policies and practices on food security and nutrition to determine which have proven most effective, especially in the area of small-scale agriculture. The results will be used to help guide future investment decisions by the Guatemalan government, national and international donors, and the private sector.

The project – one of several food security initiatives funded by IDRC in the Americas – is helping to meet the Government of Canada's Food Security Strategy as well as make good on its commitment to strengthening ties in the hemisphere as best expressed in Canada's Americas Strategy.



Geoff Regan, Renaud De Plaen, Ottoniel Montorosso, Minister Ablonczy

Read the government's [news release](#)

Learn more about the project in [English](#), [French](#), or [Spanish](#).

Learn more about [IDRC](#).

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