

# Get involved

- 1 Join or start a community group to fundraise, educate, and/or seek justice for those who are hungry.
- 2 Make a contribution to the work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- 3 Insist that the Canadian Government fulfills its 2003 promise to dramatically increase Canada's meagre aid to developing country farmers.
- 4 Consider how your buying habits impact those who provide food for your table.



## Questions?

Please contact:



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Canadian Foodgrains Bank is owned by thirteen church-based member agencies. These agencies partner with organizations overseas to determine the need, develop the programs, and deliver the food or funds to where it is needed. Your donation can support the programming of the agency of your choice.

Members include:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
Canadian Baptist Ministries  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
Christian and Missionary Alliance  
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries  
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada  
Mennonite Central Committee Canada  
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada  
Presbyterian World Service & Development  
The Salvation Army  
United Church of Canada  
World Relief Canada



# HUNGRY FARMERS!?

**END HUNGER**



**Canadian Foodgrains Bank**  
A Christian Response to Hunger

*While you eat your supper tonight, some of the people who provided the food for your table may go to bed hungry.*

**There are 800 million people world-wide who are chronically hungry. Two-thirds of them are involved in some way with the production, processing and marketing of food or other agricultural products.** A significant proportion of Foodgrains Bank food aid goes to agrarian people struggling with hunger. Food aid meets immediate food needs, allows farmers to maintain productive assets such as seeds or farm animals during times of food stress, and provides support as they work on longer-term solutions.

**More than 60% of developing country populations are involved in agriculture. In these same countries the governments spend less than 10% on agricultural support.**

This means farmers have less technical support and less support for infrastructure like roads to get their products to market. The Foodgrains Bank works with citizens' groups in developing countries who lobby their governments for more and better support for farm communities.

**70% of the world's farmers are women.**

Discrimination against women can partially explain why many governments allocate a disproportionately low percentage of their spending toward support for agriculture. Gender sensitivity is important in the planning and evaluation of Foodgrains Bank projects designed to address hunger in rural communities.

**Half of the 30,000 items in the average Canadian grocery store are provided by 10 multinational corporations.**

Most coffee processing, for example, is controlled by four corporations who receive the majority of profits. Ugandan farmers only receive 2.5% of the retail price of coffee. The low price they receive for their coffee means rural families are unable to buy sufficient food, medicine and other necessities of life. Foodgrains Bank projects support farmer owned cooperatives that give farmers more control over marketing their produce.

**In some regions, there is simply not enough land for growing populations.**

In South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, farms have been divided and passed down from father to sons to the point where some farms are less than half an acre. Obviously in cases like this, development has to include the creation of non-farm jobs as well. Much of Africa, on the other hand, has plenty of land that can be brought into production; however much of it would require irrigation to be productive. Foodgrains Bank projects support the expansion of smaller scale irrigation schemes.



**Many farmers in developing countries are hungry because of depressed commodity prices.**

While this problem is as old as agriculture, it can be made worse by cheap imports, which are themselves often subsidized in their production and export. When these imports arrive in developing country markets during harvest times, they depress local prices. Global trading rules, in the drive to increase international trade, remove the ability of developing country governments to block these imports through higher duties. The Foodgrains Bank continues to urge the Canadian government to support trade rules that will prevent this "dumping" of cheap imports and, in the meantime, continue to allow protective tariffs.

*When you sit down to your next meal, consider the people who contributed to it. Commit to ending hunger.*



**END HUNGER** 

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