



# Scope of Initiative

## Food Security through Rural Development

2009-10 Budget

As announced in the 2009-10 Budget, the Australian Government will implement initiatives targeted at responding to the global recession and advancing the Millennium Development Goals. The 2009-10 Budget underlines the Government's ongoing commitment to increasing Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16. This budget initiative is an important part of that commitment.

The *Food Security through Rural Development* initiative aims to support increases in food production globally and strengthen the ability of selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa to address food insecurity. This initiative is a key element of the Government's aid response to the global recession.

The initiative will invest \$464.2 million over four years.

The initiative will target the major causes of food insecurity. Activities include:

**Lifting  
Agricultural  
Productivity**

- Increased investment in science and innovation, to boost productivity using environmentally sustainable approaches.
- Increased support for research institutions, including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

**Improved Rural  
Livelihoods**

- Improving the functioning of markets. Key markets targeted will include agricultural input and output markets, land, finance and labour markets.
- Expanded assistance to increase the poor's access to financial services, including savings and insurance schemes and microfinance.

**Building  
Community  
Resilience**

- Supporting social protection mechanisms to enable vulnerable people to withstand natural and economic shocks that increase food prices.