

CEDASS

Canadian Economic
Development Assistance
for Southern Sudan

What is CEDASS?

CEDASS – Canadian Economic Development for Southern Sudan – is a not-for-profit, volunteer based, charitable organization based in London, Ontario. It was established by a small group of London business leaders in 2006 after the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed. Its main goal is to encourage a self-sustaining economy in Southern Sudan through Canadian agriculture and business training.

Why is CEDASS involved?

After a visit to Southern Sudan by David Tennant Sr., founder of CEDASS, it was clear that this region could benefit from Canadian agriculture and business training to build a self-sufficient economy. It's a matter of corporate social responsibility and global accountability, and one that many members of the London business and agricultural communities are passionate about.

Is this a government-affiliated organization?

No. We are a privately held, not-for-profit organization with charitable status. Our organization is comprised of London business and agriculture leaders and volunteers who want to share their knowledge of agriculture and business methods with the people of Southern Sudan.

What is The Jebel Lado Project?

As a CEDASS initiative, The Jebel Lado Project aims to establish one of the first mechanized farming operation in Southern Sudan in over 20 years. It is one of the only projects of its kind in the Jebel Lado region of Southern Sudan, just outside the city of Juba.

The Jebel Lado Project brings together Canadian farmers, local farm associations, agri-business leaders and worldwide agricultural organizations to teach the Sudanese how to plant, grow and harvest larger crops to feed their families. Eventually, CEDASS will transfer the operation to the people of the region as a self-sustaining resource.

When does CEDASS expect to turn the management of the farm over to the Sudanese people?

CEDASS believes in teaching through hands-on experiences and we're working with the people of the region to train them on every aspect of mechanized farming, year over year. Once we feel that the community is prepared to take over the operation without our support, we will do so.

Does CEDASS have permission to do this?

Yes. The Government of Southern Sudan has given CEDASS permission to work with the local tribes to develop a mechanized farming operation in the region.

Who funds CEDASS efforts and The Jebel Lado Project?

CEDASS is a 100% not-for-profit, volunteer based, charitable organization. The success of

CEDASS efforts in Southern Sudan is made possible through generous donations from individuals and families across Canada, and through contributions from the Canadian business and agriculture communities. Through these donations, CEDASS is able to provide farming equipment, crop seeds and training to the people of the region.

How much land is available to The Jebel Lado Project?

CEDASS has been given permission to operate on 1,000 acres of aerated land in the Jebel Lado region. As the project grows, up to 20,000 acres of land are available in the Jebel Lado area for potential expansion.

Are all 1,000 acres already in use?

Not yet. In early 2010, CEDASS successfully harvested 50 acres of land for its first crop, and has expanded the crop by another 150 acres. Additional acres of land will be cleared this year.

What happens to the crops that are harvested?

CEDASS and the tribes of Jebel Lado harvest the crop and use a portion of it to feed the families within the Jebel Lado region. Another portion is sold at market value to the World Food Programme to provide other neighbouring communities with a much-needed food source. All proceeds from the sale are then funnelled back into the farm to maintain equipment, purchase necessities, and provide wages for workers.

What can be grown in Southern Sudan?

The soil allows for a multitude of crops to grow. In many parts of Africa, a grain called “sorghum” is the main staple, and this grain is native to Southern Sudan. It grows and looks similar to corn or wheat. The soil in this region will allow farmers to grow sorghum, as well as soybeans, vegetables and even corn/maize.

Why can't the Sudanese do it themselves?

Even though there are vast unused lands with fertile soil throughout much of Southern Sudan, there have been no mechanized farms in operation over the past 20 years due to civil unrest in the region. All food is currently imported from Uganda and Kenya, which puts food security at risk. Families currently work individually to plant, harvest and mill small crops by hand and rarely can they grow enough to feed their families. Equipment is also hard to come by and education is needed to teach them how to farm for themselves and use mechanized equipment.

Why did CEDASS call it The Jebel Lado Project? What does the name represent?

Jebel Lado refers to the region where the farming operation is located. Jebel (Je-Bell) means

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“mountain” and Lado (Laa-Doh) means “first born.” A small mountain range gives the entire area its name.

Where is Jebel Lado?

It’s located approximately 20 km or a 1.5 hour drive north of the City of Juba in Southern Sudan. It is about 2 km from the White Nile.

Who lives in Jebel Lado?

A tribe of a few hundred people currently inhabit the region along the White Nile. These are the people who have been directly involved in working, earning a wage and receiving grain from the farm.

Can Canadians outside of London get involved?

Yes, of course! CEDASS is always looking for ways to increase its commitment to the cause, and is working closely with the people of Southern Sudan to find out what is needed to help the program succeed.

How can Canadians support CEDASS and The Jebel Lado Project?

Canadians from coast-to-coast are encouraged to visit www.cedass.org to find out more about the organization, The Jebel Lado Project and how they can be a part of a global effort to build a sustainable economy in Southern Sudan.