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## **World Bank, IDB Approve Loans for Infrastructure, Agriculture Projects in Mexico**

*by LADB Staff*

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In August and September, two multilateral institutions announced separate loans to Mexico for infrastructure and agricultural research. The World Bank approved a US\$30 million loan to finance technical studies aimed at improving strategic infrastructure that has either already been privatized, or that is targeted for privatization. The World Bank loan will supplement another US\$18 million that the Mexican government has committed to the project. The funds will finance studies focusing on the legal and regulatory framework that has been set up to oversee newly privatized infrastructure in the telecommunications, electricity generation, secondary petrochemicals, and transportation sectors.

"The Mexican government has taken strong steps to modernize infrastructure in numerous sectors of the economy," said a World Bank statement. "This loan of US\$30 million is designed to support those initiatives." Separately, in mid-September the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced a loan of US\$1.5 million for Mexico's international corn and wheat research center (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento del Maiz y Trigo). The funding will be used for training, expansion, and improvement of research facilities, and environmental protection. The loan will come from a special IDB fund of US\$7 million that the Bank recently established to finance agricultural research institutions throughout Latin America. The aim is to improve the quality of an array of basic crops, particularly grain, banana, and potato harvests. (Sources: Agence France-Presse, 08/29/95; El Financiero International, 09/04/95; Notimex, 09/12/95; Excelsior, 09/13/95)

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