

# Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC)

*Tobacco – more than “just” a health issue.*



# Tobacco – a Development Issue

- ▶ With 70% of world's smokers - growing realization of health impacts.
  - ▶ Shift in epidemiology of disease – the double burden
- ▶ Economic impact at the national and household level
- ▶ Exacerbated by “Globalization”
- ▶ Bulk of production in developing countries

## Corporate Social Responsibility?



# RITC: a Program of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

- ▶ IDRC – a Canadian Crown Corporation supporting **southern-led research**
- ▶ Focuses on developing country researchers
- ▶ Supports applied research leading to healthier, more equitable and more prosperous societies

# RITC: A Unique Program

- ▶ Exclusively focused on supporting research for tobacco control policy
- ▶ Emphasizes Southern-led, multi-disciplinary research
- ▶ Particularly concerned about poor and vulnerable communities
- ▶ Sees tobacco as a development issue not just a health issue

# RITC's Mission

To create a strong research, knowledge and funding base for the development of effective tobacco control policies that will minimize the threat of tobacco production and consumption to health and human development in **developing countries**.

# Funding Streams for 2008-10

- ▶ Core themes (with emphasis on the first two):
  - ▶ Health Policy and Systems Interventions for TC
  - ▶ Tobacco Farming: Health, Livelihoods, Economics and Environment
  - ▶ Globalization, Trade and Tobacco
  - ▶ Poverty and Tobacco
  - ▶ Alternative Forms of Tobacco Use

# Funding Streams for 2008-10

- ▶ Support for the FCTC:
  - ▶ Competitive small and medium grants
  - ▶ Rapid response mechanism
- ▶ **Special Initiatives:**
  - ▶ Exploration on gendered aspects of tobacco use and production
  - ▶ Africa Tobacco Situational Analysis



**Funding Streams  
2008-10**

**Special  
Initiatives**

**Support  
for the  
FCTC**

**Core  
Themes**

**African  
Tobacco  
Situational  
Analysis**

**Gender  
Exploration**

**Competitive  
Grants**

**Rapid  
Response  
Mechanism**

**Health  
Systems  
and Policy**

**Tobacco  
Farming**

# Capacity Building, Networking and Dissemination

- ▶ Capacity building: (technical assistance, mentorship, library support, fellowships, training at workshops, tobacco control centres)
- ▶ Networking: (FCTC grantees + thematically specific areas – farming, stressed youth)
- ▶ Dissemination: Built into every project with often huge impacts (e.g. India health warnings, Pacific Islands trade agreement, Kyrgystan's ratification, tax increases South Africa and Jamaica)

# Summary

- ▶ Southern-led and defined research
- ▶ Encourage multi-disciplinary, gender-sensitive applied research addressing the needs of the poor and marginalized
- ▶ See tobacco as a development issue
- ▶ Exclusive focus on “developing countries”

*For more information:*

*<http://www.idrc.ca/ritc>*

