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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 6, 2018

### Prospering in Pella

*INMED Aquaponics is spreading across drought regions of South Africa as an affordable means of climate-resilient food security, income generation and community development. INMED's system for the all-female Pella Food Garden Cooperative has increased their income by 900% since it was installed last year in partnership with Old Mutual.*

Pella is located near the border of Namibia, where the land is primarily scrub desert with very low rainfall (approximately 16mm per year) with extreme heat in the summer and frigid cold nights in winter. The high salt content of the soil slows and stunts the growth of crops. Farmed traditionally, it is nearly impossible to eke a living out of this sun-baked terrain.

A year ago, INMED South Africa installed a commercial aquaponics system and adaptive garden with drip irrigation and shade cloth for the Pella Food Garden Cooperative, in addition to providing training and technical assistance. The group of five women had been struggling to farm the land for eight years but was not able to generate enough income to utilize all their land or buy inputs to improve the crops. Before INMED's project, the group earned an average of R200-R300 per month (\$14-21 US), requiring all of the members to rely on government assistance just to survive.

Today, that is no longer the case. In addition to increasing their income by 900%, the co-op has become a sought-after source for high-quality produce and catfish by food service companies, hotels and local grocery stores. The group recently hosted a demonstration of its adaptive agriculture enterprise for interested funders and entrepreneurs. INMED South Africa's licensed dietician, Dr. Sandra Pretorius, also led a cooking demonstration utilizing the fish and produce from system to create tasty, nutritious meals.

Learn more about INMED's climate-smart agriculture program at <https://inmed.org/aquaponics>.

