

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **INMED Project in Pella Receives Additional Support from Old Mutual**

PELLA, NORTHERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA (October 25, 2018): INMED Partnerships for Children and INMED South Africa are pleased to announce Phase II of our Aquaponics and Adaptive Agriculture Project for the Pella Food Garden Cooperative, in partnership with Old Mutual.

“Based on the outstanding outcomes from Phase I, Old Mutual is proud to further support INMED South Africa’s project expansion to improve food security, income generation opportunities and community development in Pella,” says Dianne Richards, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for the Old Mutual Foundation.

The all-female Pella Food Garden Cooperative was named Best Subsistence Producer by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at this year’s annual Female Entrepreneur Awards. The Group was also named the 2018 Overall Winner of the Provincial Female Entrepreneur Awards by the Department of Agriculture in the Northern Cape. It is the first time a contestant from the Northern Cape has won a top national prize.

Prior to 2017 when INMED South Africa and Old Mutual launched the project in Pella, the co-op struggled to farm their drought-ravaged land for eight years but could not generate enough income to utilise all their land or buy inputs. All the members had to rely on government assistance to make ends meet.

INMED South Africa worked with the co-op to improve their traditional agriculture activities, while also introducing climate-smart aquaponics, with a focus on small-scale farmer entrepreneurship. Within one year, the Pella Food Garden Co-op grew from a subsistence farming operation to a viable enterprise, increasing its crop production, produce variety and buyer base and garnering support from local government structures. The group also increased its monthly income 60-fold.

Phase II of the Pella Project will focus on capacity-building and sustainable profitability through market expansion, further training and the addition of a production processing room and cold storage facility. The Group will learn new farm management skills, such as marketing, risk management, financial management and labour management.

INMED South Africa will also build community support by launching an environmental education programme for the local primary school and provide extensive training for local agricultural extension officers to deliver ongoing technical support after the project's completion.

“By developing the entire value chain of education, training, links to more profitable markets and access to financing and partnerships for future expansion, the Pella Food Garden's success will be sustainable for future generations,” says Unathi Sihlahla, Programme Director of INMED South Africa. “These determined women are already transforming their community by creating jobs, youth development opportunities and access to fresh, affordable food for their neighbours.”

### **Aquaponics: A Solution for Food Security, Income, Community Development & Climate Change**

Aquaponics is an innovative and highly intensive food production technique that combines aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (soilless crop production) in a closed symbiotic system that is easily scalable to meet the needs of smallholder farmers, schools, government institutions, commercial enterprises and even home gardeners.

INMED's system produces year-round harvests despite extreme climate-change events, uses 90% less water than traditional farming, produces significantly more and better quality produce at a faster rate and can be scaled to fit any space in both rural and urban environments. Learn more at <https://inmed.org/aquaponics>.

### **About INMED South Africa:**

Since 2006, INMED South Africa has implemented a variety of aquaponics and adaptive agriculture projects for schools, farming cooperatives and public/private initiatives. INMED's

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#### **INMED South Africa NPC**

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success has been its ability to work in collaboration with a wide range of corporate, foundation and government partners to improve the health, lives and opportunities of tens of thousands of South Africa's most vulnerable children. INMED South Africa, an in-country affiliate of INMED Partnerships for Children, is incorporated under Section 21 and is a registered non-profit organisation (NPC/PBO) recognised by the Department of Social Development. Learn more at <https://inmd.org.za>.

#### **About Old Mutual:**

Old Mutual was established in Cape Town in 1845 as South Africa's first mutual life insurance company, offering financial security in uncertain times. Old Mutual's purpose is to help its customers thrive by enabling them to achieve their lifetime financial goals, while investing their funds in ways that will create a positive future for them, their families, their communities and broader society.

Old Mutual provides financial solutions to individuals, businesses, corporates and institutions across several market segments and geographies in South Africa, the rest of Africa and other select emerging markets. Services include long-term savings and protection, investment and lending. In June 2018, Old Mutual moved its primary listing from the London Stock Exchange to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange as part of its managed separation strategy. Now operating as Old Mutual Limited, an independent entity with a strong, strategic focus on Africa, it also has secondary listings on the stock exchanges in London, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

For further information on Old Mutual, please visit the corporate website at [www.oldmutual.com](http://www.oldmutual.com).

#### **About INMED Partnerships for Children:**

INMED Partnerships for Children is a non-profit international development organisation that has worked in more than 100 countries to create pathways for disadvantaged children and families to achieve well-being and self-reliance. Through multi-sector partnerships, INMED builds effective systems that deliver innovative and sustainable approaches to break complex cycles of poverty and generate opportunities for success. INMED's programmes in climate-smart agriculture/aquaponics, maternal and child health and youth development have made a sustainable impact on the lives of millions of children and their families since 1986. Learn more at <https://inmed.org>.