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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **INMED Works to Help Crack the Nut in Antigua, Guatemala**

STERLING, VA (June 19, 2018): Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, founder and CEO of INMED Partnerships for Children, just returned from the Cracking the Nut conference in Antigua, Guatemala, where she was a session presenter, along with INMED International Programs Director Kristin Callahan. Cracking the Nut is an annual international event highlighting pioneering technologies and approaches to mitigate and adapt to global changes related to rural and agricultural development. Nearly 200 of the world's leading industry thought leaders from private-sector companies, financial institutions, investors, donors and development practitioners convened to find solutions to cracking the "tough nuts" related to implementing and scaling climate-smart agriculture, promoting technology adoption and building resilience.

INMED was one of 18 presenters selected to showcase its Increasing Access to Climate-Smart Agriculture (IACA) program in Jamaica, the cornerstone of which is the aquaponics. In partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Fund, the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Government of Jamaica, IACA focuses on investing in the entire value chain and equipping smallholder farmers, women and youth to launch their own aquaponics enterprises.

Aquaponics is an innovative food production technique that combines aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponics (soilless crop production in water) in a closed symbiotic system. Advantages of aquaponics include crop production at least 5 times higher than traditionally farmed plots of



equivalent size, 90% less water consumption than traditional irrigation, low energy consumption, year-round crop production and resilience to climate change events. It also is scalable to any space in both rural and urban environments. For more than a decade, INMED has facilitated aquaponics projects in Jamaica, South Africa and Peru to provide schools, disadvantaged communities, small farming cooperatives and government facilities with food security, access to a steady source of fresh produce and fish, skills development and income-generation opportunities.

“We were honored to be featured among such an exclusive group of agriculture and development experts,” said Pfeiffer. INMED’s IACA program is unique among climate-adaptive development approaches in that it provides a full circle of support for aquaponics farmers, including online and hands-on training, access to affordable financing, links to ready markets and value chain building as well as ongoing technical support from INMED-trained local agricultural extension agents.

“Small- and medium-scale farmers are among the most vulnerable to the current and future effects of climate change, because they lack the technology, knowledge and financing to implement adaptive measures,” explained Pfeiffer. “With our comprehensive model, aquaponics farmers can not only launch sustainable agri-businesses, but also will ultimately invest more than 10 times their investment back into their distressed communities.”

To learn more about INMED’s IACA program, visit <https://inmedcaribbean.org> or <https://inmed.org>. For more information about Cracking the Nut, visit <https://crackingthenutconference.com/>.

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

INMED Partnerships for Children is a nonprofit international development organization headquartered in Sterling, Virginia 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 programs in adaptive agriculture/aquaponics, maternal and child health and nutrition, and income generation have made a sustainable impact on the lives of millions of children and their families since 1986. Learn more at <https://inmed.org> and <https://inmedcaribbean.org>.