INCREASING ACCESS TO

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
in Jamaica

Cultivating opportunities for income generation, entrepreneurship, food security and climate-change resilience through aquaponics
THE CHALLENGE
In Jamaica, climate-related events are major threats to the agricultural sector, which represents about 7 percent of GDP and employs about 18 percent of the country’s population. Small agricultural enterprises are among the most vulnerable, because they lack the technology, knowledge and financing to implement adaptive measures.

As climate change threatens economic opportunities for the agricultural sector, it’s imperative to introduce new business models and technologies for 21st Century producers to thrive.

THE SOLUTION
INMED Partnerships for Children and INMED Caribbean are world leaders in the field of aquaponics and have implemented numerous aquaponics systems for technical schools, incarcerated youth, individuals with disabilities and farm cooperatives throughout Jamaica. Based on the success of those projects, INMED is now offering Access to Climate-Smart Agriculture (IACA), a multi-year program to provide small-scale producers and emerging entrepreneurs with sustainable income-generation opportunities through aquaponics.

Aquaponics is a climate-adaptive agriculture technique that combines aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponics (soilless crop production) in a closed system that produces year-round crops at a rate roughly 10 times higher than traditionally farmed plots of equivalent size. Aquaponics consumes up to 90% less water, is scalable to any space (urban or rural) and is resilient to destructive climate change events.

IACA’s 3-pillar model of technical training, access to affordable financing and links to markets enables small producers and first-time entrepreneurs to create sustainable incomes and economic growth for their communities. With ongoing support from INMED-trained RADA extension agents, IACA can strengthen Jamaica’s economy, food security and public health.

3-PILLAR MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRIBUSINESS

INMED-TRAINED AG EXTENSION AGENTS PROVIDE ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
INMED's scalable and low-cost system uses structurally sturdy, locally available materials that can withstand extreme weather events. The ebb-and-flow design requires only one mechanical pump per unit.

The fish tank produces nutrient-rich water that is piped through the grow beds, fertilizing the crops and eliminating the need for costly pesticides, herbicides or fungicides.

The water is filtered via gravity flow through the gravel in the grow beds and returned to the fish tank, where the cycle continues.

The system is far less labor-intensive than traditional farming and can be adapted for individuals with disabilities. It also can equipped for rainwater harvesting and with solar panels to further reduce costs and energy consumption.

For more information about IACA, visit https://inmedcaribbean.org/aquaponics-training/
OUR STORY

INMED Caribbean is an in-country affiliate of INMED Partnerships for Children, an international nonprofit humanitarian development organization that has been working since 2002 to improve the health, education, safety and opportunities of Jamaica’s most vulnerable citizens through adaptive agriculture, school gardening, climate-change adaptation, nutrition education, youth development and teacher training programs. INMED Caribbean was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in Jamaica in 2010.

INMED Partnerships for Children has worked in more than 100 countries since 1986 to create pathways for disadvantaged children and families to achieve well-being and self-reliance. Through multi-sector partnerships, INMED builds pioneering and sustainable approaches to break complex cycles of poverty.

OUR IMPACT

“Five years ago, if you told me I would be a farmer, I would say ‘no,’ because I’m not the type of person who’s going to go to the bush and do all of that stuff. But when I was told about aquaponics, and I did my research, I realized it’s an innovative way of farming, and I think it’s very interesting.”

– Monique Henry, Vice President Youth in Action Environmental Club

“INMED has shown us the way... It is now our job to till the soil, may it be gravel, clay or dirt. Our job right now is to get the right pH balance and oxygenate our mission forward by feeding and teaching our nation what we have learned.”

– Norman Walters IACA Participant

“The profit margin is good, and it’s using space in a very limited way, and producing a lot of crops, a lot of good-quality crops, and I’m sure that’s what they [students] want—making money.”

– Robert Henry, Head of Agriculture Dinthill Technical High School

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INMED Partnerships for Children is ranked a Four-Star Charity (the highest rating) by Charity Navigator