Creating pathways for income generation, entrepreneurship, food security, health and climate-change resilience through aquaponics
Sustainable food systems represent one of the greatest development challenges of the coming decade, especially in the age of climate change. INMED Partnerships for Children is a global leader in facilitating adaptive agriculture and aquaponics in developing regions to help vulnerable communities strengthen food security, foster business development and improve public health.

Aquaponics is an innovative farming technique that combines aquaculture (fish farming) with hydroponics (soilless crop production) into a closed system that is resilient to destructive climate change events. INMED has developed a simple, scalable and low-cost system using locally available materials that can provide year-round sustainable produce and fish for families, small-scale producers, communities, schools, businesses and government institutions.

Benefits of aquaponics include:
- Crop production up to 10 times higher than traditionally cultivated plots of equivalent size.
- 85-90% less water consumption.
- No chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
- Low energy consumption.
- Year-round crop production.
- Significantly less labor than traditional farming, making it accessible to individuals with disabilities, beneficial for female-led households and attractive to youth.

Using a 3-pillar model of technical training, access to affordable financing and links to markets, INMED enables small producers and first-time entrepreneurs to launch sustainable agribusinesses.

3-PILLAR MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRIBUSINESS

INMED-TRAINED AG EXTENSION AGENTS PROVIDE ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
INMED’s simplified ebb-and-flow design eliminates the need for expensive filters and oxygenation systems. With just fish tanks, grow beds and pumps, the entire system is constructed on the project site using local building materials.

Units are designed to fit the space available and production objectives in urban and rural environments. Nutrient-rich water from the fish tank is piped into and through the grow beds, fertilizing the crops and eliminating the need for pesticides. The water is cleaned and oxygenated as it filters through the gravel before returning to the fish tank. Far less labor-intensive than traditional farming, the system can be adapted for individuals with disabilities. Rainwater harvesting and solar panels can be added to further reduce energy consumption.

**HOW INMED IS USING AQUAPONICS TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Jamaica**

**Mission:** Address climate-related threats, degraded soils, water scarcity, food insecurity and economic decline.

**Current Focus:** Addressing the entire value chain for Increasing Access to Climate-Smart Agriculture (IACA), a multi-sector partnership of development banks, government, ag schools and private-sector to help producers and emerging entrepreneurs start aquaponics enterprises, while developing a scalable model.

**The Future:** An INMED aquaponics training, demonstration and consolidation center. [https://inmedcaribbean.org](https://inmedcaribbean.org)

**Peru**

**Mission:** Improve nutrition, climate change impacts and economic opportunities for disadvantaged populations.

**Current Focus:** School-based systems to help impoverished communities improve food security and employment for indigenous students and proliferation of endangered Amazonian fish.

**The Future:** An aquaponics research center and expanded regional projects. [https://inmedandes.org](https://inmedandes.org)

**South Africa**

**Mission:** Improve climate-change adaptation, food security, widespread malnutrition and economic development.

**Current Focus:** Aquaponics systems as sustainable sources of fresh food, skills development and income for disadvantaged schools, small farming cooperatives, people with disabilities, women and youth.

**The Future:** Regional aquaponics training and consolidation centers. [https://inmed.org.za](https://inmed.org.za)

**Brazil**

**Mission:** Introduce climate-smart agriculture techniques to improve nutrition and access to fresh food, as well as rehabilitate environmental destruction from natural and man-made causes.

**Current Focus:** School and community aquaponics for food security, business development and environmental restoration.

**The Future:** Multi-sector regional aquaponics training and consolidation centers. [https://paracriancas.org.br](https://paracriancas.org.br)
OUR STORY

INMED Partnerships for Children is a nonprofit international development organization that creates pathways for disadvantaged children and families to achieve well-being and self-reliance. Since 1986, INMED and its in-country affiliates have improved access to basic healthcare, education and economic opportunities by aggregating innovative and sustainable approaches to breaking complex cycles of poverty.

Our core programs in adaptive agriculture/aquaponics, health and nutrition and youth development have made a transformational impact on the lives of millions of children and their families in more than 100 countries. Join our cause by becoming an INMED partner, supporter or volunteer.

OUR IMPACT

“We were suffering a lot ... INMED has changed our lives. I see a lot of success in our project and we are going to generate much more profit.”

— Pietrus Moshoeshoe
Farm co-op leader, South Africa

“Our group is now totally different... because now we co-op members have a good commitment and cooperation, and with INMED we’re moving forward. Our project is growing bigger and bigger.”

— Rosie Mateko
Monyakeng cooperative for the Disabled, South Africa

“We have 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, Jamaica

“It has given us our hope and confidence back, and we now see ourselves becoming commercial farmers, and for that we will always be grateful.”

— Small farm co-op member
South Africa

Learn more about INMED Adaptive Agriculture & Aquaponics at https://inmed.org/aquaponics

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