



INMED Aquaponics® in Free State Draws Attention of National Government in South Africa

Our team at INMED South Africa was pleased to give Thembi Siweya, Deputy Minister in the Presidency, a tour of our INMED Aquaponics® project for the Lentsweleng Cooperative in Kroonstad, Free State. She was accompanied by MEC Bulwane, the Executive Council responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Free State, the Executive Mayor of the District, Mayor Phoolo, as well as the Local Mayor and Councilors and other senior government officials.

With the support of USAID, INMED South Africa has installed commercial aquaponics systems at three farming cooperative sites run by individuals with disabilities in the Free State to provide food security, climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. In addition to the systems, INMED South Africa has delivered technical and business training, including links to markets to ensure sustainability.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the co-ops have continued to operate their systems, which have provided the surrounding communities access to fresh produce and fish during the national lockdown.

“We were so impressed with the site,” said Deputy Minister Siweya. “This initiative is contributing to food security in the region and we really would like to see this model replicated in other areas of the country.”

Health in Action Still Active in Brazil



Despite the state-wide school closing in Pernambuco just weeks after resuming our Health in Action program for the new school year, students have been practicing the program's nutrition and healthy lifestyles lessons during the pandemic. While distributing food baskets and hygiene kits to distressed communities in Pombos, our INMED Brasil team used the opportunity to record children's body mass index (BMI) and other evaluation factors to see how the pandemic lockdown has affected participants' health as well as knowledge retention.

We're pleased to report that 63% of students have improved their BMI, eating more fresh foods from home gardens and practicing healthy lifestyles lessons they learned at school. Nearly 70% of those who improved their BMI moved to a more favorable weight category (e.g., obese to overweight). Facing COVID-related food shortages and increased poverty, a third of the students showed a negative change in BMI, which our team is addressing with food baskets and other provisions.

Our Health in Action team also performed a knowledge survey of school cooks to measure attitudes and practices on nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. The survey showed a 50% increase in knowledge among cooks who have participated in the program over the last two years.

"We are happy to see that our program has had good results even in the midst of the pandemic," says INMED Brasil Program Manager Paula Sanches.

Farmers Embrace Community Aquaponics in Jamaica



Curious students in the Alston District of Clarendon peer into the fish tank that feeds grow beds in their new community aquaponics system.



Newly trained aquaponics farmers in Clarendon tend their systems throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the coronavirus pandemic has heightened awareness of the need for home-based food production, five communities in Clarendon, Jamaica are watching their food security strengthen by the day. In a recent article on INMED's community-based aquaponics project with the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and IDB Lab, farmers expressed great hope for the future of their new farming technique. Throughout the COVID-19 shutdown, the new aquaponics farmers continued to tend their crops undeterred. That also bodes well for their ability to maintain production during severe climate events and other natural disasters that disrupts food supplies and income generation.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a recent article about INMED Aquaponics® in Clarendon.

New Faces at INMED



Sean Patrick
Senior Technical Advisor
INMED Caribbean



Rachel Clarke
Project Administrator
INMED Caribbean



Dr. Ntobeko Mchunu
Program Manager-Adaptive Ag
INMED South Africa

We are pleased to introduce three new members of our INMED family. **Sean Patrick** is our new Regional Technical Officer for INMED Caribbean's Adaptive Agriculture and Aquaponics Program. A Marine Biology major, Sean has done extensive work in the aquaculture sector, working as an integral part of its rejuvenation in Jamaica over the last several years. His work

as a business consultant, providing support for startups and other SMEs makes him the ideal candidate for his role, providing technical and business support to the small farmers as they adopt the INMED Aquaponics® technology.

Rachel Clarke is INMED Caribbean's new Project Administrator. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences from Adelphi University in New York. She is an operations management and customer service professional with a wealth of experience in the healthcare field. Before joining INMED Caribbean, Clarke was the Executive Assistant at the Heart Institute of the Caribbean and HIC Heart Hospital, where she spearheaded the management and coordination of programs, projects and educational conferences.

INMED South Africa welcomes **Dr. Ntobeko Mchunu** as its new Program Manager-Adaptive Agriculture. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in agriculture, a postgraduate diploma in food security and a Ph.D. in philosophy of bioresources systems engineering from the University of KwaZulu Natal. His research on aquaponics has been widely published in a number of leading journals within South Africa and across the continent. Ntobeko's insights and experience will be a huge asset to the local INMED South Africa team, particularly in their efforts to expand INMED Aquaponics® in vulnerable communities.

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Food for Mnzansi

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Show Me Pretoria

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Farmer's Weekly

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The Jamaica Gleaner

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Herald Live

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