

INCREASING ACCESS TO



CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE *in Jamaica*

Cultivating opportunities for income generation, food security and climate-change resilience through aquaponics

THE FUTURE OF FARMING



THE CHALLENGE

In Jamaica, climate-related events have been identified as major threats to the agricultural sector, which represents about 7 percent of GDP and employs about 18 percent of the country's population. 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.

As climate change threatens economic opportunities for these farmers, it is imperative to introduce new business models and technologies that will enable farmers to not only adapt, but to thrive, in a new context.

THE SOLUTION

To address these challenges, INMED Partnerships for Children/INMED Caribbean have implemented numerous aquaponics systems for technical schools, a residential facility for the disabled, a youth detention center and smallholder farm cooperatives in Jamaica. Based on the success of those projects, INMED is now implementing

a four-year project with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Fund and the Caribbean Development Bank to help emerging farmers launch aquaponics enterprises. Other partners include the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries; Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; Rural Agricultural Development Authority and the College of Agriculture Science and Education.

Aquaponics is a climate-smart farming method that combines soilless crop production with fish farming into one closed-loop system to promote water efficiency, build resilience and enhance livelihoods for small-scale commercial farmers supplying the local market.

INMED's Increasing Access to Climate-Smart Agriculture (IACA) program provides technical and business training, access to affordable loans, ongoing technical assistance and links to markets for high-quality aquaponic fish and produce. With ongoing local extension support from RADA, this program can strengthen Jamaica's agricultural economy, increase food security and improve health.

IACA IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THESE PROGRAM PARTNERS



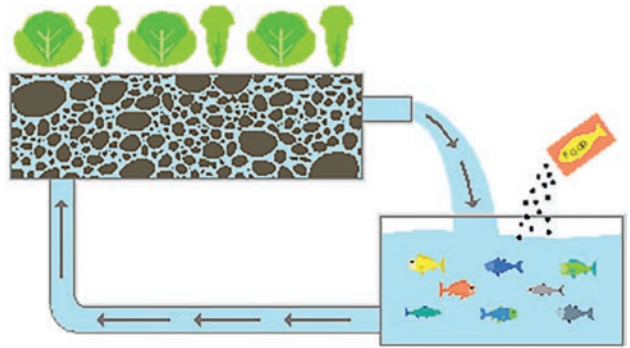
THE BENEFITS OF AQUAPONICS

INMED Partnerships for Children is a global leader in facilitating adaptive agriculture and aquaponics projects in developing regions to help vulnerable communities thrive physically, socially and economically.

Aquaponics is resilient to erratic and destructive climate-change events. INMED's simple, scalable and low-cost system uses easily accessible local materials that can provide year-round sustainable produce and fish for families, small-scale farmers, communities, schools, businesses and government institutions.

Benefits of aquaponics include:

- Crops grow faster, healthier and yield more harvests per year than traditional farming.
- 90% less water consumption than traditional farming.
- No chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
- Low energy consumption.



- Year-round crop production.
- Accessible to women, youth and individuals with disabilities.

INMED has installed numerous commercial aquaponics systems around the world to promote income generation, access to fresh and nutritious foods and greater ability to adapt to climate change, as well as to address complex public health challenges.

HOW THE IACA PROGRAM WORKS



1

Online Prequalification Training

Participants take an online training and loan prequalification course focused on 1) aquaponics technology and implementation, 2) understanding financing and loans, and 3) developing business plans and markets.



2

Hands-On Training

After completing the online prequalification training course, farmers begin hands-on and classroom training in a 3-day workshop to learn how to build, operate and maintain their systems and manage a business.



3

Loan Application

Once participants have successfully completed the online and workshop training sessions and have prepared a business plan, they will be eligible to apply for loan financing with a pre-selected group of financial institutions offering affordable interest rates and appropriate repayment terms.



4

System Construction

With credit for inputs, plus INMED technical support, participants construct their aquaponics systems using easily accessible materials and qualified construction teams. INMED experts and agricultural extension agents provide technical assistance with crop and fish production.



5

Access to Markets

INMED connects participants to selected buyers and aggregators, such as Grace Kennedy Agro Processors, Round Hill Resorts and other specialty hotels, restaurants and supermarkets, to create sustainable markets for their aquaponics produce.



6

Ongoing Support

Participants receive ongoing technical support from INMED and agricultural extension agents as needed, making the program sustainable far into the future.

For more information and to register for this program, visit <https://inmedcaribbean.org>

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OUR STORY



INMED Partnerships for Children is a nonprofit international development organization that has worked in more than 100 countries since 1986 to create a world where all children and families are safe, healthy, educated and have access to opportunities to thrive.

INMED has worked in Jamaica since 2002, focusing on improving the health, education, safety and opportunities of the nation's most vulnerable children and families through climate-smart agriculture, school gardening, climate-change adaptation, nutrition education, positive youth development and teacher training programs. With in-country affiliate INMED Caribbean, officially incorporated in 2010, INMED helps current and future farmers and their families adapt to climate change threats and become economically self-sufficient.

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

"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

"The great thing about this, they're learning something new, they're applying their knowledge, and they're growing something which eventually they will eat and love."

– Tasshei Mitchell, Agriculture Teacher
Metcalf Street Secure Juvenile Center

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INMED Partnerships for Children is ranked a 4-Star Charity (the highest rating) by Charity Navigator