

March 2020



## **INMED Aquaponics Under Construction in Brazil**

We are excited to start construction on our first <u>INMED Aquaponics</u> project in Brazil at SERTA, an adaptive agriculture learning center in Pombos, Pernambuco. The system is the cornerstone of Phase III of our <u>Health in Action</u> program with <u>Mondelēz</u> <u>International</u> Foundation in Pombos, Recife and Tucumã.

The food harvested from the system will be distributed to disadvantaged schools in Pombos and Recife for students' meals. We'll also host field trips and training opprtunities at the site. Stay tuned for more updates from our <a href="INMED Parcerias para Crianças">INMED Parcerias para Crianças</a> team!

## First Baby Treated with the Bilikit in Trujillo, Peru



Baby diagnosed with jaundice.



Baby receives phototherapy treatment in the Bilihut



Within a few hours, this baby is all better!

Babies born this year in Trujillo, Peru will get a healthier start in life, thanks to the Bilikit ™. It is the second high-jaundice region in Peru where INMED Partnerships for Children/INMED

Andes has introduced this ground-breaking trio of low-cost and portable technologies to screen for, diagnose and treat neonatal jaundice in low-resource regions.

Neonatal jaundice is the most common condition requiring medical treatment in newborns. Occurring in approximately 60% of term infants, it is usually self-resolving. However, an estimated 10% of all newborns have jaundice severe enough to require intervention. Left untreated, jaundice can lead to permanent neurological damage such as cerebral palsy—or even death. Approximately 1 million newborns are affected by severe jaundice annually.

In Peru, where INMED is implementing the Bilikit<sup>TM</sup> project, more than 90% of health facilities lack the equipment and training to adequately diagnose and treat neonatal jaundice, contributing to a rate of jaundice-linked brain damage (kernicterus) up to 20 times higher than in high-income countries.

Funded by a Saving Lives at Birth grant from Grand Challenges Canada, INMED Andes introduced the Bilikit<sup>TM</sup> last year in Peru's Junín region. Health workers have since screened more than 3,000 newborns at 13 health facilities serving remote communities. An additional seven hospitals will implement the Bilikit<sup>TM</sup> in the La Libertad region in 2020.

"Before we had the Bilikit<sup>TM</sup>, we had to conduct a lab test to detect bilirubin levels, which is not possible for babies in remote areas," said nurse Nancy Aponte. "But now, from the first hours after birth, we can determine if a newborn is jaundiced or non-jaundiced." Getting treatment in the first days of life is critical to preventing irreversible neurological damage.

Click here to read more.

## **Big News for INMED Aquaponics in Jamaica**









This month, INMED Caribbean turned over 5 completed aquaponics systems to vulnerable communities in Clarendon, Jamaica. The region's agriculture has been severely degraded by floods, landslides, drought and wild fires—threatening the food security and livelihoods of roughly 69,000 individuals.

An official hand-off event was held at the INMED Aquaponics system in the Alston District of Clarendon. It was already lush with crops nearly ready for harvest. Representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Lab, Caribbean Development Bank, Jamaica's Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, and Peace Corps volunteers joined INMED and local farmers to celebrate the opportunity for food security, skills development, employment and climate resilience.

INMED Caribbean will continue to hold technical and agribusiness training workshops for the community cooperatives taking over the systems. **Click here** to read updates about this project and support our adaptive agriculture work in Jamaica.

**Check Out Our Updated Web Site!** 



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