



INMED
South Africa
SUCCESS STORY

Hope for the Future



School leads the way with aquaponics education

The first thing you notice when you enter the premises of Laerskool Kempton Park (LKP) – a full service primary school located in one of Johannesburg's eastern suburbs – are the well-manicured gardens and fragrant roses. The second thing is gardener and aquaponics system caretaker, Phillemon Mothoa's brilliant smile as he proudly shows off the impeccably maintained fish tanks, green house, sensory garden and traditional vegetable garden.

Air Products South Africa, the funder of this INMED South Africa Adaptive Agriculture project at LKP, has described the school as the “jewel” among their corporate social investment (CSI) programmes. It's easy to see why, as it has bloomed and flourished under Phillemon's watchful eye.



He was appointed just over two years ago when the aquaponics system at the school was completed and the school needed someone to maintain the garden, manage the aquaponics system and work with the pupils.

The pupils love working on the system and learning about the fish and the agricultural techniques and the close bond between Phillemon and the children is immediately obvious as he instructs them on how far apart to plant the seedlings, the right amount of water to use and how to feed the fish.

Learning from each other

“They have learnt about gardening and aquaponics from me and I continue to learn from them about maths and science and history and all the subjects they learn in school and can apply to aquaponics,” Phillemon says.

The primary school introduced aquaponics as a subject two years ago, following the installation of their aquaponics system which not only offers an educational platform for learners across all grades but simultaneously provides a sustainable supply of vegetables and fish for the school's feeding scheme.



Students add fingerlings to the fish tanks.



The sensory garden is therapeutic & educational.

In addition to the aquaponics system and traditional garden, is the special sensory garden. As many of the pupils at the school have a physical disability or learning challenges, INMED installed a special sensory garden, featuring a barefoot walking path of various textures, water and sound walls, fragrant fruit trees, brightly coloured plants and garden toys.

“At Air Products, we place emphasis on making a difference in the communities in which the company operates, and even more importantly in the current strained economy, we believe transferring skills and assisting communities to become self-sustainable has a socio-economic development advantage,” said Rob Richardson, Air Products SA MD.

[CLICK HERE to learn more about this programme](#)