

## AQUAPONICS TRAINING

There is a growing interest in developing systems that produce in an environmentally-sustainable and energy-efficient manner, with growing awareness of the need to reduce our footprint on the globe. Again, in realizing our changing world and experience with the global COVID 19 pandemic, it is inevitable to consider self-sustainability and efficiency in food production. Aquaponics is the food production technology of the future, combining both aquaculture (growing fish) and hydroponics (growing plants without soil) within a single closed system. It involves the use of fish waste as the main source of nutrients and the plants in turn purifying the water for the fish.

### Small scale aquaponics set-up

Simple media-systems, using readily available, cheap barrels, can be used for growing more than one plant or polyculture of fruity vegetables, herbs and leafy greens with fish while other systems usually use monoculture practices or growing one vegetable type.

### Aquaponics training costs

Aquaponics training is offered at affordable rates of R3200 p/p over a duration of five days at our ARC Irene Campus. The training course is designed to equip all candidates including beginner or home aquaponics users, DIY hobbyists, or small-scale aspirations with necessary skills to build and maintain a healthy and productive aquaponics system. The course is an engaging, comprehensive series of lectures and practical lessons on aquaponics fundamentals that provides sufficient time to deal with questions and interactions. It consists mainly of basic aquaponics theory and practical components as well as an aquaponics farm tour designed to equip trainees with extensive and intensive insights on the entire aspects of aquaponics. The aquaponics training covers nine-course topics, along with aquaponics equipment and related authorization processes.

### Aquaponics tour and experience

Participants are taken on a tour at one of the commercial aquaponics farms in Lanseria, whose owner is currently a chairperson of the Aquaponics Association. The farm is using deep water culture systems for lettuce and recirculation aquaculture system (RAS) for trout fish production.

For more information, contact Dr Mary-Jane Thaela-Chimuka at 012 672-9316 / [ThaelaMJ@arc.agric.za](mailto:ThaelaMJ@arc.agric.za)

