



ADVANTAGES

In addition to the environmental benefits of aquaponics, there are many financial advantages for aquaponics farms vs. traditional farms. A Jamaican validation study shows that aquaponics systems improve rural livelihoods by enabling the production of high-quality crops as a source of income. Experts predict that aquaponics will become a US\$2 billion industry within this decade.

In aquaponics, there is no waste; all resources are directed to growth, producing crops more efficiently and sustainably than some traditional farming methods.

The Jamaica Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA) publishes comparative costs for 1-acre plots of all crop cycles using specific input variables. Depending on the crop, MICAFA's findings indicate that aquaponics can produce up to 5 times the crop yield of traditional field production—and sometimes more.

The comparative information of aquaponics production vs. traditional farming is presented in the table below, demonstrating that crops can be produced between 20% and

Comparative Analysis of Yields and Costs of Farming Methods								
EXAMPLE CROPS	AQUAPONICS SYSTEM ¹			TRADITIONAL FARMING ²			RATIO ³	
	Yield per acre (lbs)	Production Cost per lb (J\$)	Production Cost per lb (US\$)	Yield per acre (lbs)	Production Cost per lb (J\$)	Production Cost per lb (US\$)	Yield Aquaponics vs Traditional	Production Cost
Tomato	97,920	J\$ 9	\$ 0.07	19,333	J\$ 27	\$ 0.21	5:1	0.3
Pepper	65,280	J\$ 13	\$ 0.11	28,750	J\$ 14	\$ 0.11	2:1	0.9
Escallion	18,360	J\$ 47	\$ 0.38	10,750	J\$ 81	\$0.65	2:1	0.6

1. Reported by one local case study; aquaponics also produces fish, not usually produced with traditional open-field farming
 2. Reported by Ministry of Agriculture: http://www.moa.gov.jm/CostProduction/cop_2016/COP_2016_combined.pdf
 3. Calculated as aquaponics over traditional farming production yield and cost (costs include apportioned wages, other inputs)

Learn more about INMED Aquaponics in Jamaica at <https://inmedcaribbean.org> or <https://inmed.org/aquaponics>

