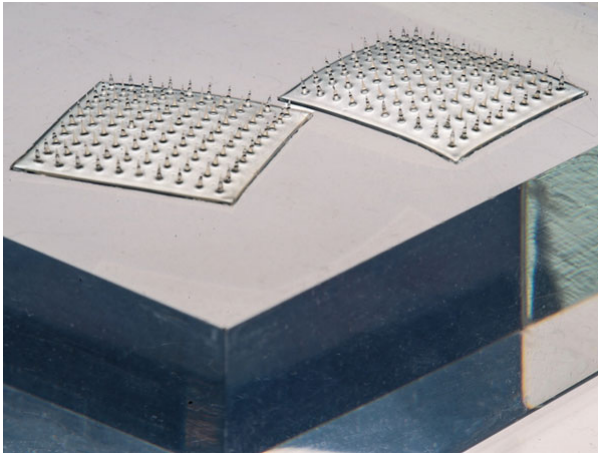


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IN THE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020



Color-changing Food Safety Sensor

J-WAFS PIs developed a silk-based velcro-like sensor to detect food spoilage and contamination.

[READ MORE](#)

World Food Day Student Video Competition

Submit short videos to J-WAFS' "MIT Research for a Food Secure Future" video competition; up to \$3,000 will be awarded. *(MIT students and postdocs only)*

[READ MORE](#)

Podcast On a New Water/Energy Nexus Startup

Learn about MechE PhD candidate Quantum Wei and his startup Harmony Desal, winner of the 2020 MIT Clean Energy Prize.

[READ MORE](#)

MIT Alumna on Nurturing Next Gen Water Leaders

Find out about the water sector career of Delph Mak SM'16, a Singapore regional director at Xylem, Inc., and

J-WAFS PIs "Committed to Caring"

Congratulations to J-WAFS PIs Lawrence Susskind and Collette Heald for this 2020 award honoring their

her work engaging young water innovators.

[READ MORE](#)

commitment to student mentorship and well-being.

[READ MORE](#)

Podcast Exploring Transboundary Water Conflicts

Explore water and other ecological challenges in this podcast interview by J-WAFS PI Lawrence Susskind.

[READ MORE](#)

Stay Tuned J-WAFS Grant Opportunity in Sustainable Animal Ag

The fall 2020 RFP for the J-WAFS Grant for Transforming Animal Agriculture Systems will be announced in the coming weeks; up to \$25,000 in awards. *(MIT research community only)*

Grant deadline: October 28th, 2020



Water, Energy, & Policy

New paper on how governance affects the alignment of the urban water and energy sectors by J-WAFS' Greg Sixt.

[READ MORE](#)

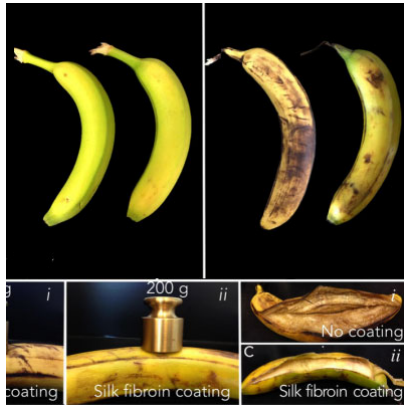
IN-DEPTH LOOK

MIT FOOD SYSTEMS STARTUP PROFILE

MIT startup wraps food in silk for better shelf life

Benedetto Marelli, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at MIT, was a postdoc at Tufts University's Omenetto Lab when he stumbled upon a novel use for silk. Preparing for a lab-wide cooking competition whose one requirement was to incorporate silk into each dish, Marelli accidentally left a silk-dipped strawberry on his

bench: “I came back almost one week later, and the strawberries that were coated were still edible. The ones that were not coated with silk were completely spoiled.” Marelli, whose previous research focused on the biomedical applications of silk, was stunned. “That opened up a new world for me,” he adds. Marelli viewed his inadvertent discovery as an opportunity to explore silk’s ability to address the issue of food waste.



Marelli, a J-WAFS PI now focusing on food systems applications for silk, has since partnered with several Boston-based scientists, including Adam Behrens, then a postdoc in the lab of MIT professor Robert Langer, to form Cambridge Crops (now operating under the new name, Mori.) The company aims to expand on the initial discovery, using silk as its core ingredient to develop products that extend the shelf life of all sorts of perishable foods to extend shelf life and reduce food waste.

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



MIT Startup Exchange\ : Sustainable Materials Innovation

Sep 15 / 11 AM / Online

Workshop with industry leaders, academics, and investors focused on sustainable materials development, including the water and food sectors. [MORE INFO](#)



The United Fruit Company and Agricultural 'Diversification'

Sep 25 / 2:30 PM / Online

Join the MIT Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History for an exploration of the history of fruit farming in Latin America. [MORE INFO](#)

The Future of Aquaculture through Tech Innovation

Oct 8 / 2-5:30 PM / Online

Join SeaAhead for this panel discussion and networking event exploring the opportunities for technology and innovation in the aquaculture industry. [MORE INFO](#)



Greentown Labs: ClimateTech Summit

Nov 5-6 / All Day / Online

Explore how to scale climate action through tech, finance, policy, and justice, with startups in water, food, and other climate-related sectors. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Water Summit: A World of Water: Imagining Resilience

Nov 11-13 / All Day / Online

Join the MIT Water Club for the 2020 Water Summit and explore how water sector concerns connect with visions for sustainable, equitable futures. [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

MIT Research for a Food Secure Future Video Competition

Deadline: Sep. 30

[MIT Students and Postdocs Only](#)

Submit a short video about your agriculture- or food systems-related research to this video competition. Up to \$3,000 will be awarded.

[MORE INFO](#)

J-WAFS Grant for Transforming Animal Agriculture Systems

Deadline: Oct. 28

[MIT Only](#)

Apply for up to \$25,000 to support research aimed at reducing the negative impacts of industrial animal agriculture.

RFP announcement to come. Visit the J-WAFS website for more info

Experiential Learning Opportunity in Animal Agriculture

[Rolling Deadline](#)

Sandbox Innovation Fund

Deadline: Sep. 14

[Open to MIT Students](#)

[Open to MIT Undergraduates](#)

Apply to work with MIT postdoc Jasmina Burek on her J-WAFS-funded research to reduce the environmental impact of swine feed.

Contact Jasmina Burek:
jburek@mit.edu

Submit ideas for water and food systems products and startups to this student innovation fund competition. Up to \$5,000 available; proposals for products in other sectors welcome.

[MORE INFO](#)

Lemelson-MIT Student Prize

Deadline: Sep. 25

[Open to All Students](#)

Individuals and teams: submit inventions in food, water, agriculture, healthcare, mobility, and more for \$15,000 in awards.

[MORE INFO](#)

Texas Water Trade Future of Water Intern

Rolling Deadline

[Open to All MIT Undergraduates](#)

Support the advancement of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance strategies for funding water resource resiliency in Texas. (Paid internship)

[MORE INFO](#)

ESI Rapid Response Group

Rolling Deadline

[Open to All MIT Students](#)

Join a team of 20 students to develop targeted materials that directly respond to critical environmental issues with science-based analysis.

More Info: esirrg@mit.edu

Environmental Voter Project

Rolling Deadline

[Open to All Students](#)

Become a campus coordinator for the Environmental Voter Project to help increase voter turnout.

[MORE INFO](#)

INTERESTED IN
SUPPORTING J-WAFS?

When you make a gift, you are making an investment in both the future of J-WAFS and our Institute-wide work to improve the productivity, accessibility, and sustainability of the world's water and food systems.

DONATE ONLINE

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RENEE J. ROBINS
Executive Director, J-WAFS
rrobins@mit.edu or (617) 324-6726



J-WAFS is an Institute-wide effort that brings MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges our food and water systems face.

Our program catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.



Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, E70-1278
Cambridge, MA 02139
E: jwafs@mit.edu
P: (617) 715-4222
W: jwafs.mit.edu

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