



IN THE NEWS

DECEMBER 2020



GoAigua Becomes J-WAFS Research Affiliate

This water tech company will work with MIT on topics such as big data for COVID-19 tracking in wastewater.

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Seed Grant Supporting MIT Water and Food Systems Research

Funding for new research initiatives that have the potential for significant impact on challenges related to the world's water and food supply; up to \$75,000 per year for two years in awards, overhead free. *(MIT PIs only)*

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Grant Supporting MIT-IIT Ropar Collaborations

Apply to the MIT IIT Ropar Seed Fund and launch collaborative research in water and food systems between MIT and the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar; up to \$30,000 in awards. *(MIT research community only)*

[READ MORE](#)

Applying Mathematical Systems Theory to Sustainability Challenges

Find out how J-WAFS PI, systems

Experts Explore Energy Efficient Desalination

J-WAFS director John Lienhard convened a panel of international

engineer Saurabh Amin of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is helping to improve disaster resilience in transportation, electricity, and water infrastructure.

[READ MORE](#)

experts to discuss membrane distillation as a pathway toward increasing the energy efficiency of desalination.

[READ MORE](#)



Sloan Alumna Driving AgTech Innovation

Sarah Nolet SDM '16 is supporting sustainable ag in Australia through consulting and agrifood venture capital.

[READ MORE](#)

IN-DEPTH LOOK

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHT

MIT Water Summit Brings International Audiences Together in Discussion About Resilience

Early this fall, the MIT student group The Water Club gathered to discuss topics for its eighth annual MIT Water Summit. Given the dramatic challenges of 2020, the group knew this year's decision was particularly weighty. Commenting on the process, Laura Chen, a junior in Course 10 and director of the 2020 Water Summit, recalled, "in light of the effects of COVID-19 across the world, as well as the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in the US, we thought a lot about how we might [through the Water Summit] create a better picture of our future, on the scale of system-wide challenges."

This year's Summit, Reimagining Resilience, was held online from November 11-13 and attracted 480 people from all over the world. Though resilience has reached buzzword status in recent years, this three-day event reminded audience members of the depth and complexity of the term, especially when applied to questions of water sector sustainability. As opening speaker Rebecca Farnum, community outreach advocate at Syracuse University London, commented at the program's start, "who are we expecting to be resilient? What is forcing



certain communities to be resilient? As we reimagine resilience, can our policies and governments be, so our people and ecosystems don't have to?"

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



NEWEA Conference: Water for Life

Jan 26 & 28, Feb 2 & 4 / Times vary / *Online*

Explore wastewater and water-environment issues with engineers, consultants, scientists, operators, & academics at this virtual conference. [MORE INFO](#)

Save the Dates: Student Business Plan Competitions Supporting Water and Food Sector Innovation

The MIT Water Club and the MIT Food and Agriculture Club have launched their student innovation competitions for 2021. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information in the coming months. (Co-sponsored by J-WAFS)

Water Innovation Prize [MORE INFO](#)

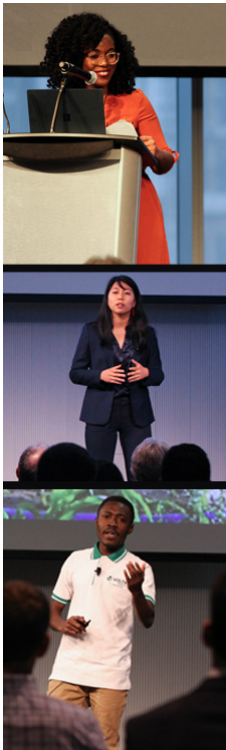
Student startup competition focused on water innovation with up to \$35K in cash awards available to student-led teams from the US and around the world.

January 11, 2021: Startup pitches due
April, 2021: Final Pitch Event

Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize [MORE INFO](#)

Student startup competition focused on students developing new products or technologies to improve sustainability in our food system with up to \$30K in cash awards available to student-led teams, with a focus on the US, Canada, and Mexico.

January 31, 2021: Startup pitches due
April 28, 2021: Final Pitch Event



FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Seed Grant

Deadline: Jan 14

MIT PIs Only

Apply for up to \$150,000, overhead free, to support innovative research that has the potential to have significant impact on issues and challenges related to the world's water and food supply.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT-IIT Ropar Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

Apply for up to \$30,000 to support international collaborations between MIT and the Indian Institute for Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) focused on water, food, and/or agriculture.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT-Imperial College London Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

MIT-Jordan Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

Apply for funding to support international collaborations between MIT and Imperial College London focused on climate solutions and transitions to zero pollution.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Water Innovation Prize

Deadline: Jan 11

[Open to All Students](#)

Submit water sector startup ideas and compete for \$35K in cash awards at this student-led business plan competition.

[MORE INFO](#)

Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize

Deadline: Jan 31

[Open to All Students](#)

Submit food and agriculture sector startup ideas and compete for \$30K in cash awards at this student-led business plan competition.

[MORE INFO](#)

EPA Student Design Competition: People, Prosperity, and the Planet

Deadline: Feb 9

Apply for funding to support international collaborations with universities and public research institutions in Jordan focused on the environment, climate change, food security, sustainable agriculture, and other topics.

[MORE INFO](#)

MITEI Seed Fund

Deadline: Jan 15

[MIT PIs Only](#)

Apply for up to \$150K for new early-stage energy sector research including on topics such as water, food, and the environment.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT ClimateTech and Energy Prize

Deadline: Feb 5

[Open to All](#)

Compete for up to \$100K to help launch a company contributing technological solutions to the climate crisis.

[MORE INFO](#)

Kaiteki Challenge

Deadline: Feb 10

[Open to All](#)

Submit startup proposals and compete for \$25K to support proof-of-concept

[Open to All Students](#)

Compete for up to \$125K for proof-of-concept ideas addressing environmental and public health challenges, including water, food, and agriculture.

[MORE INFO](#)

initiatives focused on alternative proteins, waste plastic recycling, or food waste prevention.

[MORE INFO](#)

Martin Fellows Call for Nominations

Deadline: Feb 28

[Open to All MIT Students](#)

The Martin Society of Fellows for Sustainability seeks nominations for PhD candidates at MIT whose research and activities support environmental and social sustainability. Two semesters of full funding available.

[MORE INFO](#)

National Alliance for Water Innovation (NAWI) Seeks Communications Lead

Rolling Deadline

[Open to All](#)

Apply for a communications position at a new research consortium focused on US water security led by Berkeley lab and three other DOE national laboratories.

[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](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT

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

Copyright © 2020 MIT Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab, All rights reserved.