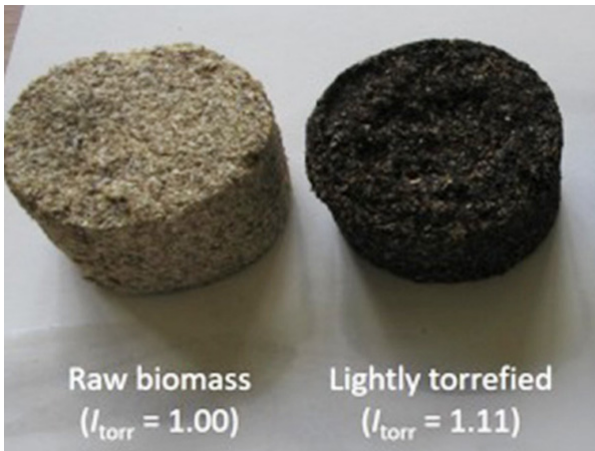


IN THE NEWS

MARCH 2020



Turning Agriculture Biomass into Fuel

J-WAFS Solutions-funded researchers evaluate the potential for torrefied biomass to be used as cookstove fuel.

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Grant for Water & Food Projects in India

Attention MIT research community: Apply for a \$15K grant to support on-the-ground research in India focused on solving water and food challenges.
Deadline: 3/20/20

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions

Attention MIT faculty: Nominate an advanced PhD student working on water solutions for one of two one-semester fellowships. **Deadline: 4/17/20**

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS PI Caroline Uhler Receives Tenure

Congratulations to Caroline Uhler who recently received tenure by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT.

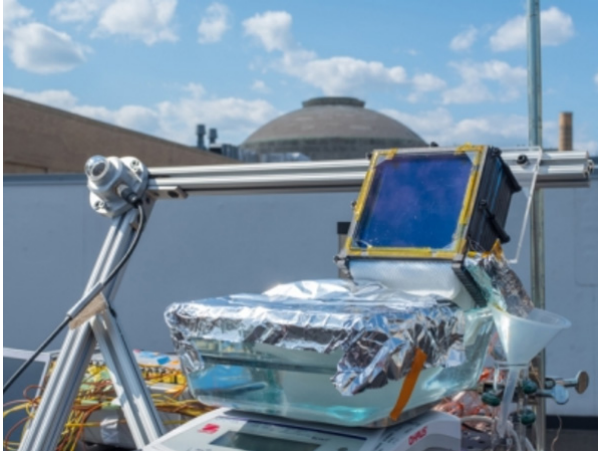
J-WAFS-funded Student Advocates for US Food Policy to End Hunger

In this recent OpEd published in *The Hill*, DUSP PhD Mark Brennan challenges proposed changes to US

food safety net policies.

READ MORE

READ MORE



Solar Desalination for Off-Grid Water Access

Researchers in MIT's MechE department have developed a solar still to provide low-cost water in remote settings.

READ MORE

IN-DEPTH LOOK

J-WAFS SEED GRANT INNOVATIONS

Spinning out a Water Contamination-detecting Technology that...Spins!

Lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals are increasingly present in water systems around the world due to human activities, such as pesticide use and, more recently, the inadequate disposal of electronic waste. Chronic exposure to even trace levels of these contaminants can cause debilitating health conditions in pregnant women, children, and other vulnerable populations.



Monitoring water for heavy metals is a formidable task, however, particularly for resource-constrained regions where workers must collect many liters of water and chemically preserve samples before transporting them to distant laboratories for analysis. To simplify the monitoring process, MIT researchers have developed a portable whisk-shaped device for the extraction, preservation, storage, and transportation of trace contaminants. This technology,

launched by a [2015 J-WAFS seed grant](#), absorbs trace contaminants in water and preserves them in a dry state so that the samples can be

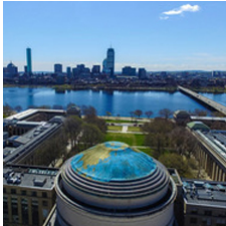
easily dropped in the mail and shipped to a laboratory for analysis.

The research team has recently published the successful results of its design tests, and is now partnering with a company in India to commercialize the device.

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



MIT Events and The Institute's Response to COVID-19

In response to the direction of MIT's administration, many previously-scheduled large on-campus events have been postponed. As things evolve, some of the events listed below may be postponed or held virtually. In the coming weeks, check event webpages for cancellations before attending. [More information](#)



Thinking Forward Through the Past: Farm Animal Requiem

Mar. 20 / 2:30 - 4:30 PM / E51-095, MIT Campus

Karen Sayer of Leeds Trinity University to consider the future of livestock breeds in a future of largescale global alternative protein consumption. [MORE INFO](#)



Legislative Breakfast on the State of Our Waters

Mar. 31 / 9:45 AM - 1 PM / Massachusetts State House, Boston

At this public event, join the Watershed Action Alliance and state legislators to discuss water quantity, quality, and connectivity across MA. [MORE INFO](#)



Innovating in African Agriculture (Co-sponsored by J-WAFS)

Apr. 13 / 11:45 AM - 1 PM / 10-105, MIT Campus

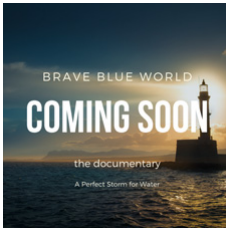
Alternative proteins? Affordable irrigation tech? African ag entrepreneurs? Policy interventions? Find out more at this J-WAFS & MIT Africa Forum event. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Water Innovation Prize (Co-sponsored by J-WAFS)

Apr. 22 / 6 - 9 PM / Wong Auditorium, MIT Campus

Water solutions-focused student startups from around the world will compete for cash prizes at this MIT Water Club event. [MORE INFO](#)



Brave Blue World: Film Screening at MIT

Apr. 28 / 6 PM / E14-633, MIT Media Lab, MIT Campus

Join the MIT Water Club for this documentary film featuring how tech and innovation are changing global water management practices. [MORE INFO](#)



Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize

Apr. 29 / 6 - 9 PM / Location TBD

Student startups in food and ag will compete for cash prizes at this MIT Food and Agriculture Club event, co-sponsored by J-WAFS. [MORE INFO](#)



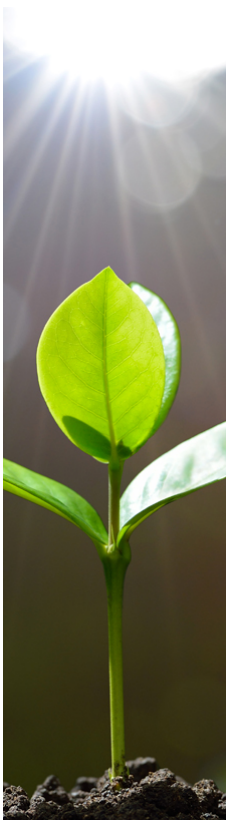
Professional Education Opportunities for International Development

Interested in social and development-oriented international research? Consider these summer courses offered by J-WAFS partners MIT D-Lab and J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab).

J-PAL Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs [MORE INFO](#)

MIT D-Lab: Inclusive Innovation: Designing for a Better World [MORE INFO](#)

MIT D-Lab: Applied Inclusive Business: Scaling Technology in Low-Income Markets [MORE INFO](#)



POSTPONED EVENTS

In response to the direction of MIT's administration, several of the large on-campus events that we have included in past J-WAFS newsletters have been postponed. The decision to postpone these large events has been made out of an abundance of caution, as well as an interest in protecting the health of MIT's campus community and the broader communities we belong to during the evolving COVID-19 situation.

MIT Water Night (*Previously scheduled for April 21st, 2020)

MIT Climate Action Symposia: MIT Climate Initiatives and the Role of Research Universities (Previously scheduled for April 2nd, 2020)

MIT Climate Action Symposia: Summing it Up: Why is the World Waiting? (Previously scheduled for April 22nd, 2020)

MIT Sustainability Summit: Food for Thought (Previously scheduled for April 24th, 2020)

We are closely following the Institute's response to this evolving situation, and will notify our community of further cancellations and changes to our regular business practices.

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Grants for Water and Food Projects in India

Deadline: Mar. 20, 2020

(Open to All MIT Researchers)

Apply for grants of up to \$15K to support research addressing a water or food challenge in India.

[MORE INFO](#)

J-WAFS Fellowships for Water Solutions

Deadline: Apr. 17, 2020

(Open to Select MIT PhD Students)

MIT faculty: nominate an advanced PhD student pursuing exciting water sector research. These fellowships provide one-semester of funding.

[MORE INFO](#)

American Water Works Association Journal: Potable Reuse

Deadline: Apr. 1

(Open to All)

AWWA seeks contributions to an upcoming issue on the theme of potable water and reuse.

[MORE INFO](#)

Water Resource Recovery Prize

Deadline: Apr. 28

(Open to All)

The US Department of Energy seeks proposals for projects that recover resources from municipal wastewater across the US. Up to \$1 million available.

[MORE INFO](#)

Millennium Fellowship

Deadline: Apr. 30

(Open to All Students)

This student leadership development program supports students working to implement UN sustainable development goals locally, among them: zero hunger, clean water, and

MIT Solve Global Challenge: Sustainable Food Systems

Deadline: June 18

(Open to All)

Submit your ideas for tech-based solutions for a low-carbon global food system providing nutrition with minimal environmental impact. Up to

climate action.

\$1 million available.

[MORE INFO](#)

[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**

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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.



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