

Find out more about the student research video competition held in honor of World Food Day, including the prize winners and online video festival.



SPECIAL EDITION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2020



On World Food Day, Celebrating MIT Research

This fall, J-WAFS launched our first student video competition, "[MIT Research for a Food Secure Future.](#)" View the prize winning videos below, which capture these MIT students' passion for food systems solutions.



Re-envisioning drip irrigation systems for farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Congratulations to Georgia Van de Zande, Carolyn Sheline, and Julia Sokol of MechE for their work on solar-powered irrigation. (*\$1500 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

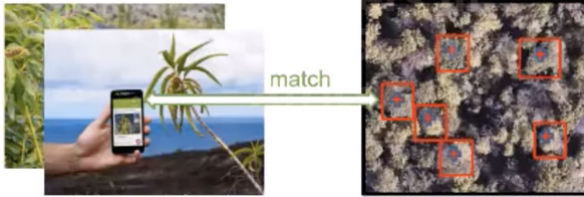
SECOND PLACE WINNER

Björn Lütjens of AeroAstro is using deep learning to accurately assess agroforestry's capacity for sequestering carbon. Congratulations! (*\$1000 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



OneForest: Image Recognition for Monitoring Forests



JUDGES CHOICE AWARD: "Creative Communication"

Congratulations to Alejandro Diaz of EECS and MIT D-Lab for his video "Can We Do Better Than a Fridge? - MIT Evaporative Cooling Tech for Low Income, Rural Communities." (*\$200 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

JUDGES CHOICE AWARD: "Research Originality"

Congratulations to Angela Loescher-Montal, Ous Abou Ras, and Arthur Boscolo of the Department of Architecture for their video "Seaweed Harvesting: A Regenerative Food Community." (*\$200 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

JUDGES CHOICE AWARD: "Potential for Impact"

Congratulations to Celi Khanyile-Lynch MBA '20 for her video "Green Source: For a Food Secure Future." (*\$200 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

JUDGES CHOICE AWARD: "Visualizing Solutions"

Congratulations to Olivier Faber, Eytan Levi, and Tim Cousin of the Department of Architecture for their video "ROOFSCAPES." (*\$200 prize*)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

MIT RESEARCH FOR A FOOD SECURE FUTURE

FOOD SYSTEMS INNOVATIONS

MIT Students Driving Solutions to Food Systems Challenges

"Solar-powered drip irrigation, urban roof gardening, and seaweed harvesting may not be the first things that come to mind for MIT-developed technologies. But as these videos show, MIT students are applying a range of creative research approaches to critical agriculture and food security needs. We are continually impressed by what they set out to accomplish."

Renee Robins

Executive Director, J-WAFS

October 16th, 2020 marks the 41st anniversary of [World Food Day](#), an international day launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations aimed at raising awareness about food and food systems challenges such as hunger and poverty. Over 150 countries observe World Food Day, with ministries, universities, research agencies, and organizations launching awareness-raising initiatives to expand the international conversation around world hunger and food security challenges.



This year, J-WAFS joined the effort with "[MIT Research for a Food Secure Future](#)," a video competition showcasing the many exciting ways MIT students and post-docs are applying the Institute's expertise and research capabilities to the world's food and agriculture challenges. Their work was reviewed by a [distinguished group of judges](#) comprising food systems and science communications experts from across academia, the non-profit sector, and industry.

We at MIT are fortunate to have passionate students working on developing technologies and programs for our food and agriculture sectors. Since 2014, J-WAFS's efforts have helped to greatly expand the food and agriculture research community at MIT, with over \$7.3M in

funding provided to date for agriculture and food system research. As a coordinator of food and water systems research across MIT, J-WAFS is positioned to showcase the numerous innovative ways that MIT students and researchers across diverse disciplines are pursuing exciting solutions to these challenges. Their energy, motivation, and creativity are inspiring, and shine through in their research products.

With this festival, we seek to share their passion and vision with you. On this World Food Day, join us to imagine a resilient future for our world's water and food systems through the eyes of the MIT students who are paving the way forward.

This competition has been funded through the generous support of MIT alumnus Sanjay Manandhar '89, SM '91

[Join us on Twitter 12-12:30 pm ET today \(Friday, 10/16\) for the festival!](#)

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.

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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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