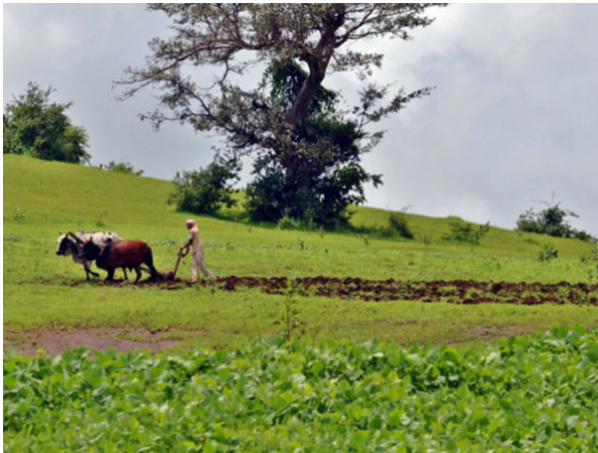


## IN THE NEWS

JANUARY 2021



### MIT Researchers Tackling Animal Waste Pollution

A new J-WAFS grant is supporting economically sustainable solutions for waste management in animal ag.

[READ MORE](#)

### RFID-Based Food Safety Sensor Featured on *CBS This Morning*

Find out how Prof. Fadel Adib's J-WAFS-supported sensor may soon put the assessment of the safety and nutritional quality of food and beverages into consumer's hands.

[READ MORE](#)

### Plant-based Sensors Engineered to Monitor Soil Arsenic Levels

Former J-WAFS PI Michael Strano and researchers from the Singapore-MIT Alliance (SMART) have recently developed a nanoscale sensor that, when embedded in plants, can monitor arsenic in real time.

[READ MORE](#)

### MIT Spinout Sandymount Technology Acquired by Alfa Laval

The US-based beverage technology company, founded by Ronan Killian

### Water Innovation Prize Winner Named *Forbes*' 30 under 30

David Dellal '17 was recently recognized by *Forbes* for his startup

McGovern SM '12, PD '14, PhD '14 of the MIT Lienhard Lab, uses innovative membrane technology to concentrate beer to reduce transport costs.

[READ MORE](#)

Floe, which is developing a sustainable, automated solution that can prevent building water damage from ice dams.

[READ MORE](#)

## World Water Day Student Video Competition

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

[READ MORE](#)

## MIT Technology Review: 2021 Food Issue

Explore the relationship between technology and food systems innovation and how these advances can help ensure equitable access for all with minimal environmental impact.

[READ MORE](#)



## Kombucha-based Water Filters & Living Packaging

2017 J-WAFS fellow Zijay Tang is engineering materials for water filtration and "smart" packaging.

[READ MORE](#)

## IN-DEPTH LOOK

J-WAFS SEED GRANT PROGRAM

### The Catalyzing Potential of J-WAFS Seed Grants

Funding is an essential research driver, with the availability of resources often defining the subject area and scope of individual projects as well as entire careers. Seed grants in particular can be transformational, especially for junior faculty, for the opportunity they provide for exploration. "A seed grant for a risky idea that is mission-driven goes a long way," says Fadel Adib SM '13, PhD '16, an associate professor of

media arts and sciences and of electrical engineering and computer science at the MIT Media Lab and a 2019 recipient of a two-year J-WAFS seed grant.



J-WAFS seed grants have catalyzed research and career growth for a wide variety of faculty across the Institute. The J-WAFS seed grants not only support these faculty members' career advancement, but also help to push the boundaries of water and food systems research overall. Joann de Zegher, Maurice F. Strong Career Development Professor at the Sloan School and another seed grantee puts it this way: “seed grant-funded research is early-stage research—you don't know how it's going to play

out.” In order to go after some of the most challenging problems in water and food systems, “you need that freedom and flexibility.”

Find out more about how J-WAFS seed grants have influenced junior faculty like Adib and de Zegher at MIT.

[READ MORE](#)

## EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



### NEWEA Reverse Pitch Webinar: Workforce Development

Jan 19 / 12-1:30 PM / \*Online\*

Explore strategies to increase diversity and bolster an aging water sector workforce through partnerships & professional development strategies. [MORE INFO](#)



### 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](#)

### DEI and Environmental Justice in the Water Industry

Feb 11, 18, & 26 / 2 PM / \*Online\*



Young professionals: explore diversity and inclusion principles for the water industry with the New England Water Environment Association. [MORE INFO](#)



### Global Food+ 2021

Feb 12, 19, 26, & Mar 5 / All Day / \*Online\*

Explore the latest food systems research on food systems resilience to support growing populations and environmental and natural resources. [MORE INFO](#)



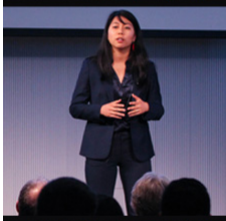
### Save the Dates: Student Business Plan Competitions Supporting Water and Food Sector Innovation

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

## 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

## 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

competition.

[MORE INFO](#)

## J-WAFS World Water Day Student Video Competition

**Deadline: Mar. 10**

[Open to All Students, Recent Alumni, and Postdocs](#)

Submit short videos to J-WAFS' "MIT Research for a Water Secure Future" video competition; up to \$3,000 will be awarded.

[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 initiatives focused on alternative

cash awards at this student-led business plan competition.

[MORE INFO](#)

## MITEI Seed Fund

**Deadline: Jan 15**

[Open to All MIT PIs](#)

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

[MORE INFO](#)

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

**Deadline: Feb 9**

[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](#)

## Martin Fellows Call for Nominations

**Deadline: Feb 28**

[Open to All MIT Students](#)

proteins, waste plastic recycling, or food waste prevention.

[MORE INFO](#)

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](#)

## Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab (J-WEL) Research Grants

### Multiple Deadlines

[Open to All MIT Faculty](#)

Submit short videos to J-WAFS' "MIT Research for a Water Secure Future" video competition; up to \$3,000 will be awarded.

[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](mailto:jwafs@mit.edu)  
P: (617) 715-4222  
W: [jwafs.mit.edu](http://jwafs.mit.edu)

*Copyright © 2021 MIT Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab, All rights reserved.*