

J-WAFS researchers speak at TEDx Boston, the MIT Sustainability Connect, virtual webinars, and more!



Abdul Latif Jameel
Water & Food Systems Lab

Securing humankind's vital resources



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



J-WAFS PI part of new ESI fellowship cohort

Ariel Furst is an Environmental Solutions Initiative Infusion Fellow, helping to make climate, environment, & sustainability part of MIT curriculum.

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J-WAFS PIs research CO2 removal from oceans

Kripa Varanasi & T. Alan Hatton say the removal of carbon dioxide from oceans, along with the reinjection of alkaline water, could slowly start to reverse acidification, which has threatened coral reefs and shellfish.

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J-WAFS student studies Flint's water crisis

Elena Sobrino, a PhD student in MIT's History, Anthropology, Science, Technology and Society Program, explained the ongoing water toxicity issue in Flint, Michigan at a recent MIT List Visual Arts Center event.

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J-WAFS researcher Scott Odell studies mining, water, and society

Odell is a co-author on a recent paper which explores water conflicts between mining companies and local

MIT Water Summit speaker advocates for U.S. water department

Aaron Mandell of Wacomet Water, says the U.S. needs a national water strategy to manage outdated

communities in Chile.

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infrastructure and technology.

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Indonesia's food aid program goes digital

A team of MIT researchers from J-PAL and their collaborators found that replacing rice delivery with digital card vouchers helps recipients get their intended food supplies.

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MIT Sloan class explores sustainability challenges

John Sterman teaches the “laboratory for sustainable business” course where students work with organizations on issues like water shortages & toxins in our food and air.

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An heiress & MIT to thank for Boston's first wastewater system

In the early 1900s, an heiress named Sarah Hughes funded MIT's biology department to develop novel treatment systems to keep sewage from waterways around Boston.

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MIT student evaluates food waste pilot on campus

Janka Hamori, a sophomore working with MIT's Office of Sustainability, provides tools for analyzing food waste in the East Campus undergraduate dorm.

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J-WAFS PI improves white phosphorus production

Yogesh Surendranath sustainably converted phosphate, which is used to make fertilizer, to white phosphorus, found in herbicides & other products.

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AND CONGRATS TO:

Elfatih Eltahir, for being elected to the National Academy of Engineering

The J-WAFS PI studies how impacts of near-term climate change will affect water availability & agriculture.

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J-WAFS spinout NONA Technologies, for ASU Innovation Open award

The maker of portable desalination units won \$25K in the 2023 Arizona State University competition.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

MIT'S OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY HOSTS J-WAFS RESEARCHERS AT THE 2023 SUSTAINABILITY CONNECT

J-WAFS community offers insights at recent sustainability event on campus

On February 14, 2023, MIT's Office of Sustainability hosted "Sustainability Connect," an annual meeting for MIT community members involved in creating game-changing campus sustainability programs. While the last two Sustainability Connect events took place virtually due to the pandemic, this year's meeting returned to an in-person setting in the Samberg Conference Center. Several J-WAFS researchers spoke about how they are helping to make MIT a greener place to study and work.

J-WAFS PI John Fernández talked about what we can learn from the mining industry and its impacts on water supply, which is also the subject of his current [J-WAFS project](#). He advised that at MIT and beyond we need to adopt "radical honesty" when it comes to environmental justice. Ippolyti Dellatolas, a 2021-2022 J-WAFS Fellow for Water Solutions, spoke about how she is working with many people across the Institute to use campus as a test bed for decarbonization. She noted how transparency with the community is key when communicating initiatives and findings from work being conducted on campus. J-WAFS research scientist Kenneth Strzepek discussed his project to map MIT's



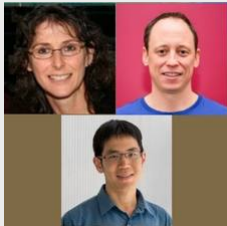
flood risk. He is working with both MIT and the city of Cambridge to build a model to calculate and predict what parts of campus will be most affected by floodwaters.

WATCH EVENT

RECORDINGS

EVENTS

WATER AND FOOD



MIT Alumni Innovating for a Sustainable Food System

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET, Online

J-WAFS executive director, Renee Robins and MIT researchers Eric Verploegen and Kevin Kung will discuss J-WAFS-funded innovations for smallholder farmers at this J-WAFS and MIT Alumni Association event. [MORE INFO](#)



2023 AgTech Webinar: Advances in Agricultural Biology and Sensing

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET, Online

This MIT Industrial Liaison Program event will feature trends and advances in agriculture biology and sensing, plus engaging presentations from J-WAFS PI Dave Des Marais, among others. [MORE INFO](#)



2023 MIT Climate & Energy Prize: U.S. Semi-Final

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. ET, In-person

This competition seeks to empower ambitious entrepreneurs to solve the world's climate challenges. Participants will present their business plans and prototypes to a panel of judges. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Climate Machine: The Image-in Session

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET, Online

Hosted by MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative, this workshop will combine climate knowledge and the arts through things like music sharing and AI art. [MORE INFO](#)



World Water Day 2023

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, All day, Online

Stay tuned for World Water Day content including research highlights, water-related facts, an MIT News feature of a J-WAFS PI, a special edition newsletter, and more!

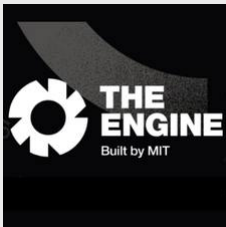
[MORE INFO](#)



Fireside Chat with Dr. Desh Deshpande (MIT ONLY)

Thur, March 23, 2023, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. ET, In-person & online

MIT Venture Mentoring Service's will host entrepreneur & MIT Corporation Life Member Desh Deshpande for an informal lunch and chat on entrepreneurship & how to make impact on challenges like securing fresh water & food. [MORE INFO](#)



The Engine's Tough Tech Talent Fair

Friday, March 24, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET, In-person

Job seekers can connect with Tough Tech founders looking for candidates to join their team, and get an introduction to the breakthroughs being developed within the Tough Tech community, including those in water and food. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Energy Conference

Tue, April 11th - Wed, April 12th, 2023, All day, In-person

The largest annual student-led energy and climate conference in the U.S., this event will address the global energy crisis brought on by the pandemic and the War in Ukraine. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Earth Month Student Poster Session

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 4:00 p.m. ET, In-person

J-WAFS, MITEI, and ESI will host a student poster session, sponsored by the MIT Climate Nucleus, on "MIT research for a changing planet" as part of Earth Month at MIT, featuring water, food, energy, & environmental research posters. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT's 15th Annual Sustainability Summit

Friday, April 28, 2023, All day, In-person and online

This year's theme of "De-mystifying Carbon Markets" seeks to educate present & future leaders on carbon markets as we move towards durable, equitable climate solutions. [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING
AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS, MITEI, and ESI call for posters

Open to: MIT undergrads, grads, postdocs

Deadline: March 20, 2023

Seeking student research projects on water, food, energy, and the environment for an Earth Day poster session on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Water, Food & Agriculture Innovation Prize

Open to: U.S. university students

Deadline: March 20, 2023

Student teams developing businesses or technologies to improve water, food, & agriculture systems should apply to this prize supported partly by J-WAFS.

[MORE INFO](#)

The Engine Blueprint Program

Open to: grad students, postdocs, & research scientists

Deadline: March 17, 2023

Future Tough Tech leaders, including those in the water or food sectors, will learn about things like the commercialization process, IP, market discovery, and team building.

[MORE INFO](#)

Xylem Global Student Innovation Challenge

Open to: Student teams ages 13-25

Deadline: April 22, 2023

J-WAFS research affiliate Xylem seeks students working to solve water challenges for an 8-week program, where teams will be mentored by water industry experts, & possibly win cash prizes!

[MORE INFO](#)

Oman Humanitarian Desalination Challenge

Open to: Individuals, teams, or organizations worldwide

Deadline: May 31, 2023

This challenge seeks to create a hand-held, stand-alone, low-cost, desalination device for short-term use, and rapid deployment following humanitarian crises.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

Open to: MIT undergraduates

Deadline: Ongoing

J-WAFS PI Lawrence Susskind is hiring research positions in spring 2023 for a project titled "Overcoming Local Opposition to Renewable Energy Facility Siting in the United States."

[MORE INFO](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



J-WAFS PI speaks at TEDx Boston

David Des Marais spoke about his work using core principles in plant physiology to build resilient crops.

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J-WAFS researchers help farmers in Cameroon

This video explains the team's project to build an improved brooder, or heated enclosure, to keep chicks warm.

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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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FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:

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