

IN THE NEWS

OCTOBER 2019



J-WAFS Director Elected to IDA Board of Directors

John Lienhard and 20 other experts in the field were appointed to lead the International Desalination Association.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

J-WAFS SEED GRANT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Digging Deep: Investigating Manmade Black Soil of the Amazon

“Terra preta is a perfect topic to encourage multidisciplinary research,” explained Morgan Schmidt, postdoctoral researcher in MIT’s Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences. “It’s relevant for climate change, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, tropical forests, and indigenous knowledge and cultural preservation.” Schmidt is an anthropologist and geologist who studies terra preta soils in the Amazon. He is part of an interdisciplinary research team funded by a 2018 J-WAFS seed grant that seeks to understand the formation of this anthropogenic and highly fertile soil that sustained expansive communities across ancient Amazonian civilizations.



By furthering scientific understanding of terra preta’s geographic extent and carbon sequestration potential, this research project—led by MIT professors Dorothy Hosler and Heather Lechtman (both in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering), and Taylor Perron (Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences)—will help inform how this soil could help combat climate change and call attention to the contributions of indigenous peoples. As issues of

deforestation, climate change, and the rights of indigenous peoples grow increasingly relevant, expanding our knowledge of terra preta can provide the foundation for building solutions to these complicated issues.

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EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



Oct. 8 / 3:30-5:30 PM / Askwith Lecture Hall, Harvard GSE

This panel gathers climate experts from around the world (including MIT) to explore the grave water challenges facing numerous world cities. [RSVP HERE](#)



Food & Ag Internship Series: Beyond Meat & More [MORE INFO](#)

Oct. 16 / 11:45 AM / Location TBD, MIT Campus

Learn more about internships in the food and ag industry from an MIT student who has recently interned at Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods. [RSVP HERE](#)



Tech & Smallholder Farming (Co-Sponsored by J-WAFS) [MORE INFO](#)

Oct. 22 / 4 PM / 610 Main Street, Cambridge, MA

Join Bayer and J-WAFS in this networking event addressing how technology is supporting smallholder farming practices. [RSVP HERE](#)



Plastics in the Ocean: What Can be Done? [MORE INFO](#)

Nov. 6-8 / All Day / Samberg Conference Center, MIT Campus

Learn about the latest research in modeling plastic pollution in the planet's waters at this three-day workshop sponsored by [ESI at MIT](#). [RSVP HERE](#)



Food & Ag Innovation Prize Kick-off Dinner [MORE INFO](#)

Nov. 7 / 6 PM / E62-233, MIT Campus

Join the MIT Food and Agriculture Club for the Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize launch dinner. [RSVP HERE](#)

2019 MIT Water Summit: Drowning in Plastic [MORE INFO](#)

Nov. 21 - 22 / All Day / Wong Auditorium, MIT campus

Save the dates for the annual MIT Water Club summit, this year addressing plastic pollution in our water systems. [RSVP HERE](#)



Save the Dates: J-WAFS Co-Sponsors AgConnect Event Series

J-WAFS has teamed up with Bayer and LifeHub Boston to produce a food and agriculture networking series focused on sustainability that is aimed at connecting the MIT research community with other food and agriculture sector innovators around Boston.

Save the dates for upcoming events in the series. Additional details about each theme and presenters will be included in upcoming J-WAFS newsletters.

[Upcoming events](#)

Nov. 12: The Future of Protein

Dec. 10: Social Innovation Ecosystems for Agriculture

[More about the AgConnect Sustainability Series](#)



FUNDING
AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Grant on Reducing Impacts of Industrial Animal Ag

***Deadline This Week*: Oct. 10, 2019**
[MIT Only](#)

Implementation grants of up to \$25K to support research projects that address problems associated with industrial

MassCEC Catalyst Program

Deadline: Oct. 8, 2019
[Open to All](#)

Grants of up to \$65K available for research projects and startups focusing on clean energy and water technologies.

animal food production.

[MORE INFO](#)

Food Systems 6 Startup Support Program

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2019

[Open to All](#)

Apply for this program providing early stage mentorship support for entrepreneurs tackling food systems challenges and \$25K in startup funding.

[MORE INFO](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

Imagine H2O Water Innovation Accelerator

[Open to All](#)

Register your company with this accelerator program in order to be eligible for their 2020 programs including: the Urban Water Challenge, Imagine H2O Asia, and Imagine H2O Accelerator.

[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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