

## IN THE NEWS

DECEMBER 2019



### Apply for A Seed Grant

The J-WAFS seed grant call for proposals is now open; grantees receive research funding of \$75K/year for up to two-years, overhead free. *(MIT only)*

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### Silk Seed Coating May Enable Agriculture on Marginal Lands

A new silk-based technology developed by J-WAFS PI Benedetto Marelli could protect food crop seeds from soil salinity.

[READ MORE](#)

### J-WAFS' Funder Community Jameel Launches New Lab

J-IDEA, founded at Imperial College London, will focus on emergency analytics, including disease, extreme climate events, and more.

[READ MORE](#)

### A Deep Dive into Plastics and Water

Catch a glimpse of November's MIT Water Club-produced Water Summit, [Drowning in Plastic](#).



[SEE MORE](#)

## IN-DEPTH LOOK

A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXCHANGE

### Collaborating for Irrigation Access Solutions: Where Policy and Engineering Meet

As food demand rises due to growing populations combined with changing consumption patterns in Africa and around the globe, increased agricultural output is crucial. Since most agriculture across the African continent is currently rain-fed, increased availability of irrigation—especially technologies like drip irrigation that minimize water and energy use—can help.



Two research teams at MIT with support through J-WAFS have been invested in this challenge, exploring irrigation solutions in Senegal from different disciplinary standpoints. But it was not until J-WAFS facilitated a connection between the two teams, that they learned of their overlapping interests and how each groups' research could support the other. Find out more about this meeting of the minds between a team of researchers from the Department of Urban Studies and

Planning and the Sloan School of Management and a team in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, both of which seek to improve the access to and efficiency of irrigation technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[READ MORE](#)

# EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



## Social Innovation Ecosystems for Ag (Co-Sponsored by J-WAFS)

**Dec. 10 / 4 PM / 610 Main Street, Cambridge, MA**

Join Bayer and J-WAFS in this networking event addressing how social innovation ecosystems are supporting advances in agriculture. [MORE INFO](#)



## MIT Class: Water, Climate Change, and Health (MIT Only)

**Spring Semester / Day, time, and room TBD**

Learn more about mitigation strategies for climate change, sanitation, and health in this MIT D-Lab class led by J-WAFS PI Susan Murcott. [MORE INFO](#)



## NEWEA Annual Conference: Inspiring the Water Revolution

**Jan. 26-29 / Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA**

The New England Water Environment Association will convene policy makers, researchers, and industry professionals at this water-focused event. [MORE INFO](#)



## MIT Science Policy Bootcamp (MIT Only)

**Jan. 27-31 / MIT Campus (Building and Room TBD)**

Learn from David Goldston, director of the MIT Washington office, about the dynamics of science policy. (Application only; deadline Dec. 9) [MORE INFO](#)

# FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

## J-WAFS Seed Grant

**Deadline: Jan. 16**

(MIT Only)

This two-year grant provides funding for innovative water- and food systems research. Up to \$150K available to MIT

## MIT Water Innovation Prize

**Deadline: Jan. 10**

(Open to All Students)

Submit water startup ideas to the MIT Water Club's international pitch

researchers with PI status.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize

**Deadline: Jan. 12**

[\(Open to All Students\)](#)

Submit your food and agriculture startup idea to the MIT Food and Ag Club's international pitch competition. Up to \$30K in prizes awarded.

[MORE INFO](#)

## NEWEA Conference Poster Competition

**Deadline: Dec. 10**

[\(Open to All Students\)](#)

Submit water-related research abstracts and innovation ideas to this Boston-based poster and pitch competition.

[MORE INFO](#)

## MIT SOLVE Rethink Plastics Innovation Challenge

**Deadline: Jan. 14**

[\(Open to All\)](#)

Submit your ideas for how consumers, businesses, and governments can reduce or eliminate single-use plastic

competition. Up to \$35K in prizes awarded.

[MORE INFO](#)

## MIT Water Hackathon

**Rolling Deadline**

[\(Open to All MIT Students\)](#)

Join the MIT Water Club's organizing committee for MIT's first water hackathon.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Cambridge Science Festival

**Deadline: Dec. 15**

[\(Open to All\)](#)

Propose an event to this city-wide science festival; water, food, or agriculture topics welcome, as well as others.

[MORE INFO](#)

## Food for Good Challenge

**Deadline: Feb. 14**

[\(Open to All\)](#)

Develop an innovative and concrete solution from field to fork to deliver sustainable and healthy food to everyone, everywhere. Up to EUR 2 million available.

and plastic waste.

[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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