



IN THE NEWS

MAY 2020



Making Fertilizer from Sun, Water, & Air

J-WAFS PI Karthish Manthiram is developing affordable, solar-powered, scalable tech for ammonia production.

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2020 Winners of the Rabobank-MIT Food & Agribusiness Innovation Prize

Winners of this MIT Food and Agriculture Club-organized competition include a team using robotics to solve produce packaging challenges and another improving the nutrition of sweet snacks with garbanzos.

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2020 Winners of the Water Innovation Prize

Winners of this MIT Water Club-organized competition include teams that are tackling water sector challenges through affordable 3-D-printed water filtration devices, novel roof de-icing technology, and energy-efficient desalination strategies.

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**Funding Opportunity:
J-WAFS Grant for
Transforming Animal Ag**

**MIT Alumna's Climate
Solutions: Sustainable
Protein Production**

Up to \$20K for MIT projects addressing problems of industrial animal food production. Deadline: 5/18 (*MIT only*)

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Emily Moberg '11, PhD '16, uses a systems-based approach to ag and climate research at the World Wildlife Fund, helping to mitigate the environmental challenges of animal protein production.

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J-WAFS Director Aligns Fluid Dynamics Theory with Practice

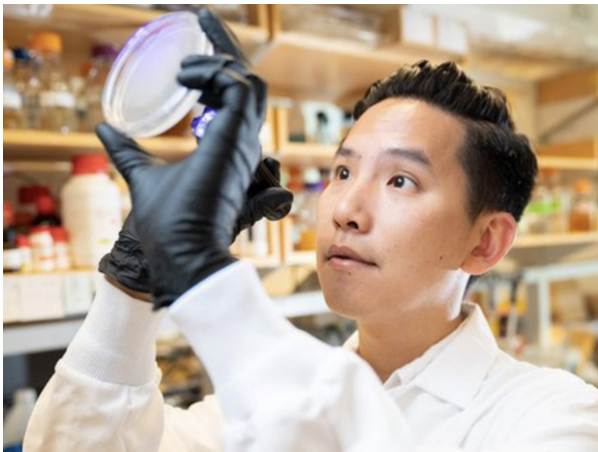
A new study by John Lienhard illuminates a missing element in fluid dynamics theory, important for desalination and other industrial processes. This new knowledge updates theoretical understanding of this process as well as 70-year-old teaching practices.

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J-WAFS' Alliance for Climate Change and Food Systems Research

A new concept note captures the work of this collaborative, trans-disciplinary Alliance, with MIT and 11 other international research institutions connecting research with stakeholder needs to support global food systems' adaptation to climate change.

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J-WAFS Fellow Awarded for Living Water Filters

A Lemelson-MIT Student Prize went to Zijay Tang for his kombucha-inspired, smart, pollutant-sensing filters.

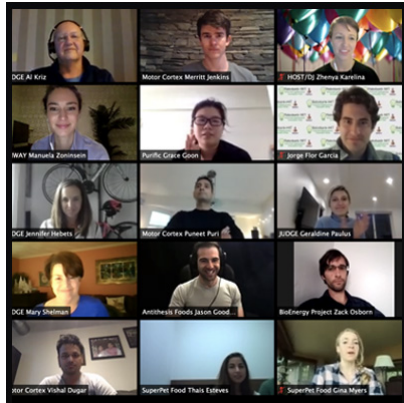
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IN-DEPTH LOOK

WATER AND FOOD SECTOR STUDENT INNOVATION PRIZES

MIT Student Leaders Persevere, Going Virtual with Global Student Startup Competitions

On April 22nd the MIT Water Club hosted its annual Water Innovation Prize Pitch Night, the culminating event of a year-long national competition for student innovators seeking to launch water sector companies. The following week, the MIT Food and Agriculture Club held the Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize. Normally, these prizes gather people from around the country at MIT for an evening of networking, startup pitches, and significant cash awards. Yet, six weeks before both events, COVID-19 upended our world.



Bringing signature MIT resilience and ingenuity, student leaders from both clubs persevered through physical distancing measures, successfully pivoting both events to virtual space. “A lot of these MIT prizes are very similar, but we tend to run them in silos. This seemed, to me, to be a cool opportunity to learn from each other,” reflected Zhenya Karolina, a second year MBA student at Sloan who is also the Food and Agriculture Club’s co-president and director of the Rabobank-MIT Prize. So, she

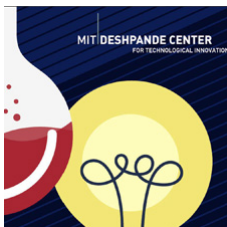
connected leaders from the Clean Energy Prize, the 100K Prize, the Water Innovation Prize, and the Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize via Slack to strategize. Said Javier Renna, a second year MBA student at Sloan who is one of the co-directors for the Water Innovation Prize. “I was amazed by the sense of community in saying, ‘We’re all trying to do the same thing’ and ‘What can we do to help each other out?’”

Find out more about the groups' successes and challenges, as well as the 2020 winners of each prize.

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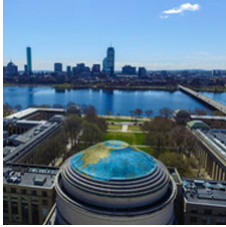
EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



Join MIT's Leading Minds in Entrepreneurship at IdeaStream
May 12-14 / 1-4:30 PM EST / Online

This Deshpande Center event includes J-WAFS Solutions innovations in water and ag, and others in healthcare, energy, and more. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Solve Closing Plenary Session

May 12 / 2:45 - 4:30 PM EST / Online

This MIT Solve event accompanies the international competition focused on solutions to global challenges including sustainable food systems. [MORE INFO](#)



Plastics and the Environment: Science Meets Public Policy

June 18-19 / All Day / Online *Keynote open to the public*

This Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) workshop is focused on mitigating the harm of plastic pollution to our ecosystems, including water. [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Grant for Transforming Animal Agriculture Systems

Deadline: May 18

MIT Only

Grants of up to \$20,000 to support innovative research solutions that will reduce problems associated with industrial animal food production.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Solve Global Challenge: Sustainable Food Systems

Deadline: June 18

Open to All

Submit your ideas for tech-based solutions for a low-carbon global food system providing nutrition with minimal environmental impact. Up to US \$1 million available.

[MORE INFO](#)

James Dyson Award

Deadline: July 16

Open to All

International award focused on sustainability-oriented engineering and design solutions, including those that address water- and food systems challenges.

[MORE INFO](#)

American-Made Solar Desalination Prize

Deadline: July 16

Open to All

Prize competition for low-cost desalination systems that use solar-thermal power to produce clean water. Up to \$9 million available.

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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