

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



J-WAFS PI fights food insecurity

Benedetto Marelli & others at MIT created a biodegradable tag that can prevent counterfeit agricultural seeds.

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J-WAFS student works on water equity project

Flavio Emilio Vila Skrzypek worked with his advisor, J-WAFS PI Gabriella Carolini, on a J-WAFS project to enhance U.S. water affordability.

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J-WAFS PI hosts high school students

Ariel Furst helped local high school students to experiment with electrodes that could be used to detect toxins in water or soil.

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J-WAFS PI leads MIT fieldwork class

Students in Dave Des Marais' undergraduate experiential research

MIT awards journalism on poultry farming

MIT's Knight Science Journalism Program recognized "Big Poultry," a

class went to Hawaii to study how climate change is affecting the island's water systems.

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series of articles on the unregulated impact of the poultry industry in North Carolina.

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MIT students promote urban gardens

Three MIT students founded Roofscapes to build green spaces on roofs in Paris for growing local food & increasing water retention.

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Novel robot uses AI to help farmers

Farm Wise, co-founded by Sebastien Boyer SM '16, developed an autonomous machine to snip weeds while preserving crops.

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J-WAFS PI transforms agriculture

Michael Strano & researchers in Singapore developed nanosensors to detect plant growth hormones that could help farmers optimize yield.

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AND CONGRATS TO:

J-WAFS PI Mary Gehring for receiving tenure

Gehring received a promotion to full professor in the Department of Biology

J-WAFS spinout for securing new lab space

Via Separation moved to Watertown, MA to build its industrial

in MIT's School of Science.

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decarbonization technology.

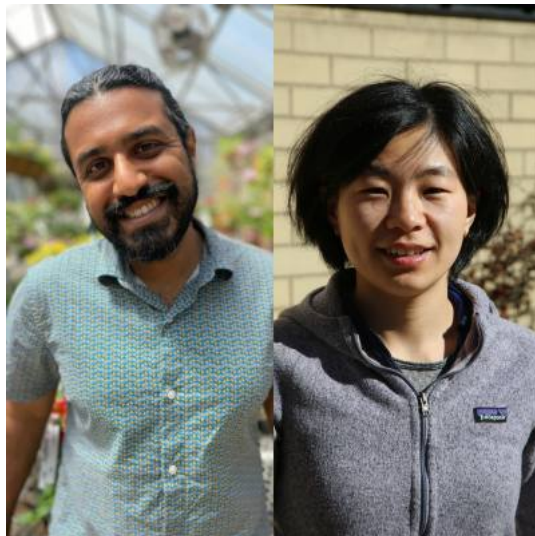
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IN-DEPTH LOOK

MIT PHD STUDENTS HONORED FOR THEIR WORK TO SOLVE CRITICAL ISSUES IN WATER AND FOOD

Gokul Sampath and Jie Yun have been named 2023-24 J-WAFS Fellows

Today, J-WAFS is happy to announce that MIT graduate students Gokul Sampath and Jie Yun have been awarded 2023-24 J-WAFS Fellowships. The J-WAFS Fellowship Program supports outstanding MIT PhD students working to solve humankind's water and food-related challenges. As fellows, Sampath and Yun will receive one academic semester of funding, along with opportunities for networking and mentoring to advance their research.



Gokul Sampath is a PhD candidate in the International Development Group in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning where he studies water access and quality in developing countries. Specifically, Sampath is working on the issue of arsenic in the drinking water supply in India and Bangladesh.

Jie Yun, a PhD student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is studying plant response to drought stress in the hopes of improving agricultural sustainability and yield. Yun's research focuses on something called genotype-by-environment interaction (GxE), which relates to the observation that plant varieties respond to environmental changes differently.

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EVENTS

WATER AND FOOD



Earth Month Student Poster Session & Colloquium (MIT ONLY) Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. ET, In-person

Sponsored by the MIT Climate Nucleus, join J-WAFS, MITEI, and ESI for water, food, energy, & environmental posters and a colloquium with MA State Senator Mike Barrett. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Club of Boston's BioSummit Thursday, April 27, 2023, All-day, In-person

The inaugural event will feature Greg Sixt, the director of the J-WAFS-led FACT Alliance, who will speak on a panel on food supply. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT's 15th Annual Sustainability Summit Friday, April 28, 2023, All day, In-person and online

The summit will bring together diverse perspectives on sustainability—from thought leaders to innovators—to explore the future of carbon markets. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT Water, Food & Agriculture Innovation Prize - Pitch Event Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET, In-person

Join the MIT Water Club and Food & Ag Club, supported by J-WAFS, for an evening of pitches from the seven finalists of the 2023 MIT Water, Food & Agriculture Innovation Prize. [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

**J-WAFS Travel Grant for
Water Conferences**

**Office of Sustainability
call for abstracts**

Deadlines: May 16 & Aug 16, 2023

Open to: MIT graduate students

Students with research in the water sector can apply for funding to attend either Stockholm World Water Week in August or the UNC Water & Health Conference in October.

[MORE INFO](#)

Deadline: April 15, 2023

Open to: Researchers, students, & more

Researchers in N. America & Europe working on sustainable development in higher ed can submit to attend the Transatlantic Symposium of Sustainable Development.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT business plan competition role

Deadline: Ongoing

Open to: MIT students

The MIT Water, Food & Agriculture Innovation Prize is looking a creative director to work w/ 3rd party vendors & assist the event coordinator. Email Kirsten Dotson, kdotson@mit.edu.

[MORE INFO](#)

MITOS student summer positions

Deadline: Ongoing

Open to: MIT students

The MIT Office of Sustainability is hiring student researchers for full-time summer positions, including one to implement a dormitory food waste collection system.

[MORE INFO](#)

2023 Cleantech Open Accelerator Program

Deadline: April 16, 2023

Open to: Entrepreneurs

This program provides resources to launch and grow successful cleantech businesses, including those in the water or food space.

[MORE INFO](#)

MCSC Climate & Sustainability Scholars

Deadline: April 30, 2023

Open to: MIT undergrads

This MIT Climate & Sustainability Consortium program allows students to have yearlong experiences in climate & sustainability research.

[MORE INFO](#)

Xylem internships

Deadline: May 1, 2023

MIT Sea Grant

Deadline: May 8, 2023

Open to: College & university students

Water technology company and J-WAFS Research Affiliate, Xylem, is looking for college students to fill summer internships in industrial engineering, manufacturing, supply chain, and more.

[MORE INFO](#)

Open to: MIT undergrads

The Dean A. Horn Award supports students with marine projects, including ones on fresh submarine groundwater. Nomination of candidates is by letter from the student's faculty supervisor.

[MORE INFO](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2023 Image Awards

Award-winning visuals from the Koch Institute event include one from J-WAFS PI Mary Gehring's lab and another from J-WAFS 2022 Fellow Linzixuan (Rhoda) Zhang.

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Global Change Forum

J-WAFS researcher Kenneth Strzepek discussed water security and conflict at MIT's 45th annual event which also explored climate change's threat to food security.

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ILP AgTech webinar

MIT's Industrial Liaison Program hosted J-WAFS researchers Dave Des Marais & Rajeev Ram, who shared insights into recent research on improving crops in the face of climate change.

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MIT alumni webinar



Current & former J-WAFS researchers Eric Verploegen & Kevin Kung presented to the MIT Alumni Energy, Environment, & Sustainability Network where they shared solutions to help farmers.

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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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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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