

**WORLD FOOD DAY 2024**  
\*\*SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER\*\*



**Today is World Food Day**

This year's theme, marking the 79th anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, is "Right to foods for a better life and a better future." This special edition newsletter highlights food news and events from the MIT community and beyond.



**Susy Jones promotes food security at MIT and locally**

The senior sustainability project manager in the MIT Office of Sustainability works at the intersections of food, climate, and sustainability.

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**Greg Sixt weighs what's good and bad about beef**

The director of the J-WAFS-led FACT Alliance spoke with MIT's Climate Portal on the tradeoffs related to raising and eating beef.

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**MIT alum starts ethical food company**

Joshua Reed-Diawuoh MBA '20 founded GRIA Food Company to support ethically sourced food, economies, and communities in West Africa.

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**OPPORTUNITY IN FOOD**

**FoodTech Challenge**

The FoodTech Challenge (FTC) is a global competition that identifies and supports leading early-stage, tech-driven solutions poised to transform food systems in arid, hot, and increasingly challenging environments. These environments tend to be underserved, untapped for innovations, and underinvested in by traditional agricultural practices.

The challenge has three main focus areas:



- Food and water
- Food and energy
- Food loss and waste

Winners will be provided cash prizes and the opportunity to advance their tech-driven solutions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Global South.

All relevant startups are encouraged to apply and will need to submit a two-minute demo video demonstrating their solution.

Application deadline is December 12, 2024.

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**FOOD AND AG EVENTS**



**Fall 2024 seminars with J-WAFS visiting scholars**  
**Oct 16, Nov 7, & Nov 14, \*Click below for updated times, In-person**

Chandra Madramootoo of McGill Univ, Joanne Tingey-Holyoak of the University of South Australia, and Neda Trifkovic of the University of Copenhagen present in this seminar series on climate and agricultural adaptation and mitigation. [MORE INFO](#)



**2024 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue**  
**Tue, Oct 29 - Thur, Oct 31, All day, In-person in Iowa and online**

J-WAFS researcher Prof. Kenneth Strzpek will introduce the Jameel Index and Greg Sixt, director of the J-WAFS-led FACT Alliance, will facilitate a panel further exploring the Index's value in building food trade resilience. [MORE INFO](#)



**Webinars on climate change impacts to land, water, & food**  
**Oct 31, Nov 21, and Dec 12, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. ET, Online**

These three virtual seminars will address how climate change impacts water and food security. Co-hosted by the J-WAFS-led FACT Alliance and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). [MORE INFO](#)

**FOOD NEWS FROM OUTSIDE MIT**

**Japan commits to organic agriculture**

The country is using sewage sludge as an organic fertilizer to provide a more sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers.

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**Environmental costs of food exposed**

This interactive New York Times piece explores the hidden environmental costs of foods like beef, cheese, chicken, and tofu.

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**Massachusetts reduces food waste**

The state's initiative to ban food waste from businesses showed successful results while similar efforts from other states failed.

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**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**



**Community Jameel staff learn about ag projects**

Colleagues from Community Jameel toured labs at MIT and learned about J-WAFS' work to improve crop resilience.

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**J-PAL evaluates digital aid and food security**

A randomized evaluation showed digital aid payments to Afghan women can improve their food security.

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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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