



## Who We Are

Launched in 2014, the Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab, or J-WAFS, sits under MIT's Office of the Vice President for Research. We support research and students across the Institute through a variety of funding programs for research and related activities. J-WAFS focuses exclusively on applying MIT's expertise and resources to find solutions to urgent global water and food systems challenges to secure humankind's vital resources.

### Leadership Team



**Rohit Karnik, PhD**  
Director



**Renee J. Robins**  
Executive Director



**John H. Lienhard V, PhD**  
Senior Advisor and Founding Director

## Our Mission

The Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) 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.

## J-WAFS Funding Opportunities

### Seed Grants

\$75K per year, overhead free for up to two years for new, early-stage projects addressing water and food supply challenges for human need.

### Commercialization Grants

The J-WAFS Solutions Program helps commercialize breakthrough MIT technologies and inventions with grants of up to \$150K per year.

### Funding and Mentorship for MIT students

We support students through fellowships for PhD students, travel grants for grad students to attend water conferences, and support for MIT student clubs and business plan competitions.

### Corporate Sponsored Research

Through the Research Affiliate Program, we engage with sponsors to support MIT research.

### Collaboration Opportunities

- The Food and Climate Systems Transformation (FACT) Alliance: Over 20 institutions working to drive innovation and inform decision making for sustainable food systems.
- J-WAFS Water and Food Grand Challenge Grant: Leverages multiple areas of expertise to address a significant challenge in water and/or food for human need, specifically in the context of climate change.

## Our Impact

- J-WAFS programs have awarded nearly \$25M in funding to date to the MIT community, which has supported:
  - 124 faculty, 200 students/postdocs, and nearly 100 research staff
  - Research in 40 different departments, labs, and centers from all 5 schools and the Schwarzman College of Computing
- J-WAFS support has helped MIT researchers to:
  - Publish 130 papers in peer-reviewed journals
  - Create 12 spinout companies and 2 products
  - Secure \$20M+ in follow-on funding

## Research We Fund

### Impact Areas



Water



Food



Climate and Sustainability

### Research Themes

- Water Purification & Desalination
- Sensors & Monitoring
- Water Resources & Infrastructure
- Technology & Commercialization
- Sustainability & Adaptation
- Soil Fertility & Crop Productivity
- Economics, Policy, & Practices
- Transforming Food Systems
- Modeling & Data Analytics
- Equity & Access

## For More Info

**Website:**  
[jwafs.mit.edu](http://jwafs.mit.edu)

**Email:**  
[jwafs@mit.edu](mailto:jwafs@mit.edu)

