

Announcing: J-WAFS seventh seed grant RFP, new video about J-WAFS engagement in climate and food systems challenges, events, and funding ops galore!



IN THE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020



Collaborating for Climate & Food Systems Research

MIT J-WAFS leads a group of 12 premier global research institutions to drive research on food systems resilience.

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Seed Grant Supporting MIT Water and Food Systems Research

Funding for new research initiatives that have the potential for significant impact on challenges related to the world's water and food supply; up to \$75,000 per year for two years in awards, overhead free. *(MIT PIs only)*

[READ MORE](#)

J-WAFS Grant Supporting MIT-IIT Ropar Collaborations

Apply to the MIT IIT Ropar Seed Fund and launch collaborative research in water and food systems between MIT and the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar; up to \$30,000 in awards. *(MIT research community only)*

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Intensive Farming Worldwide Threatens Paris Climate Accord

Is It Too Late to Prevent Climate Change?

Join former J-WAFS PI Noelle Selin in

In a new *Nature* paper, researchers including Ronald Prinn (MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change) find that global food production poses an increasing climate threat due to rising nitrous oxide emissions from farming.

[READ MORE](#)

this "TILclimate" podcast interview and explore the projected consequences of climate change and ways worst-case projections can still be mitigated by human intervention.

[READ MORE](#)

Examining MIT's Waste Stream Contamination

Explore these pilot studies by the MIT Office of Sustainability to explore MIT's waste disposal practices and the effects of contamination, including food waste.

[READ MORE](#)

Venture Support for MIT Water-sector Spinout

MIT venture firm The Engine announced its second round of funding for tech companies, including Biobot Analytics, a wastewater epidemiology company focused on Covid-19 tracing, launched by MIT Biological Engineering professor Eric Alm and team.

[READ MORE](#)



MIT Supports Fisheries & Food Access

MIT Sea Grant is collaborating with local fisheries to provide food to communities in need during Covid-19.

[READ MORE](#)

IN-DEPTH LOOK
J-WAFS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

J-WAFS Announces RFP for Seventh Round of Seed Funding

Fueling water and food systems research is the core of J-WAFS' mission, and is the foundation from which all of our programming and other activities emerge. At the root of this work is the J-WAFS seed grant program, which provides funding to support new research initiatives that have the potential to have significant impact on issues and challenges related to the world's water and food supply. We have just launched our request for proposals for our seventh round of seed funding. Through this program, MIT principal investigators are eligible for funding of up to \$75,000 per year for one to two years, overhead free.



Since J-WAFS' launch in 2014, our seed grant program has been the major funding mechanism by which we stimulate and support new food and water research at MIT. To date, we have distributed nearly \$8M in overhead-free funding to the MIT research community, engaging nearly two dozen MIT departments, labs and centers. J-WAFS seed grant projects have resulted in major discoveries in basic science, numerous papers in high-level journals and publications, commercialization efforts and spinout

companies, and have collectively brought in over \$12.5 million in follow-on funding to support future development of these water and food systems-related research projects.

Some notable projects have involved new cross-disciplinary collaborations, which demonstrate the creative thinking and problem solving that MIT researchers bring to their research. A few of the novel approaches we have funded include a machine learning expert collaborating with a plant biologist to tease out how a plant's genes interact with environmental factors, an anthropologist partnering with a civil and environmental engineer to identify approaches for smallholder farmers to increase crop yield, and a mechanical engineer working with a researcher from Sloan to develop new methods and strategies for assessing water quality in rural water districts in India. Additionally, the grant program's focus on funding new research initiatives opens the door to PIs interested in engaging in water and food topics for the first time. The grants can have a profound impact on the research trajectories and careers of funded principal investigators (PIs), students, and researchers.

Over the past six years, we have grown a remarkable and diverse portfolio of research, helped launch many new research directions, and supported small projects that have developed into substantial research programs. We have supported work applying MIT expertise to a wide range of the worlds' food and water challenges, some of which focuses on specific geographical areas. Our support has also helped initiate a number of cross-institutional collaborations, some of which are international. [We invite you to visit our website](#), which includes webpages showcasing all of our current and completed seed grant projects. There are also links to all of our outstanding funded

researchers, further elaborating on their interests.

We welcome proposals from MIT principal investigators from all MIT departments, labs, and centers.

[VIEW RFP](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



MIT Climate Symposium: What is the World Waiting For?

Nov 16 / 2-4 PM / Online

Concluding event in the MIT Climate Action Symposia focusing on US and global climate policy making and opportunities for systemic change. [MORE INFO](#)



Shaking Up the Food System

Nov 17 / 9:15 - 10:15 AM / Online

Join the EAT Forum for an online event focused on citizen-driven innovations shifting diet and consumption patterns toward sustainability. [MORE INFO](#)



NEWEA Conference: Water for Life

Jan 26 & 28, Feb 2 & 4 / Times vary / Online

Explore wastewater and water-environment issues with engineers, consultants, scientists, operators, & academics at this virtual conference. [MORE INFO](#)

Save the Dates: Student Business Plan Competitions Supporting Water and Food Sector Innovation

The MIT Water Club and the MIT Food and Agriculture Club have launched their student innovation competitions for 2021. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information in the coming months. (Co-sponsored by J-WAFS)

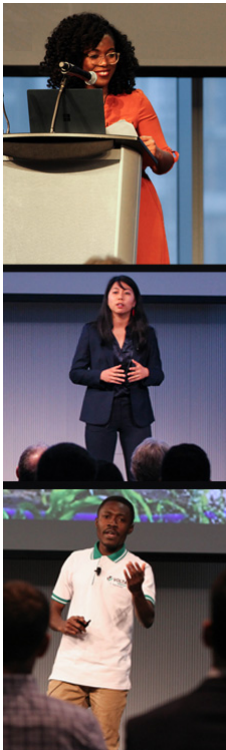
Water Innovation Prize [MORE INFO](#)

Student startup competition focused on water innovation with up to \$35K in cash awards available to student-led teams from the US and around the world.

- **January, 2021:** Startup pitches due
- **April, 2021:** Final Pitch Event

Rabobank-MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize [MORE INFO](#)

Student startup competition focused on students developing new products or technologies to improve sustainability in our food system with up to \$30K in



cash awards available to student-led teams from the US and around the world.

- **January 31, 2021:** Startup pitches due
- **April 28, 2021:** Final Pitch Event

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

J-WAFS Seed Grant

Deadline: Jan 14

MIT PIs Only

Apply for up to \$150,000, overhead free, to support innovative research that has the potential to have significant impact on issues and challenges related to the world's water and food supply.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT-IIT Ropar Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

Apply for up to \$30,000 to support international collaborations between MIT and the Indian Institute for Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) focused on water, food, and/or agriculture.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT-Imperial College London Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

MIT-Jordan Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Seed Fund

Deadline: Dec 14

MIT Only

Apply for funding to support international collaborations between MIT and Imperial College London focused on climate solutions and transitions to zero pollution.

[MORE INFO](#)

Apply for funding to support international collaborations with universities and public research institutions in Jordan focused on the environment, climate change, food security, sustainable agriculture, and other topics.

[MORE INFO](#)

San Francisco Estuary Institute Water Data Challenge

Deadline: Nov 27

[Open to All](#)

Help San Francisco communities assess the safety of local fishing areas by contributing to this data challenge by mapping mercury and PCBs in the water.

[MORE INFO](#)

Environmental Innovation Policy Center Water Data Prize

Deadline: Dec 1

[Open to All](#)

Data scientists, visualization experts, water tech engineers, artists, and others: submit design proposals for how water utilities could more effectively convey information in annual Consumer Confidence Reports.

[MORE INFO](#)

New England Water Environment Association Student Scholarship

Deadline: Dec 4

[Open to All Students](#)

Apply for scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study focused on the water industry; \$1,200 available.

[MORE INFO](#)

Intern with Xylem, Inc.

Rolling Deadline

[Open to All Students](#)

Apply to be a project management intern for Project Ignite with Xylem, Inc., a leading global water technology company and J-WAFS Research Affiliate.

[MORE INFO](#)

Intern with Takachar

Rolling Deadline

IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition:

[Open to MIT Students](#)

Apply to intern over IAP with the MIT spinout company Takachar, which is focusing on converting agricultural waste into marketable, affordable, locally-sourced products such as affordable, locally available fertilizers.

[MORE INFO](#)

Next Generation Water Action Program

[Rolling Deadline](#)

[Open to MIT Students](#)

Apply to join a collaboration with the Technical University of Denmark and MIT-Denmark and form student teams that will develop water solutions for "smart cities."

[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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