

IN THE NEWS

JUNE 2019



Announcing: J-WAFS Seed Grants

Nine PIs from across MIT have been selected to receive over \$1M in funding for food and water solutions.

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Two Teams Awarded 2019 India Grants

J-WAFS has awarded two teams grants of \$15K each to implement projects that meet water and agriculture needs in India.

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J-WAFS Supports Conference Travel for Three Grad Students

MIT students from three different interdisciplinary programs at MIT have received travel grants to attend the 2019 Stockholm World Water Week.

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J-WAFS Launches MIT-IIT Ropar Seed Fund

J-WAFS and MISTI India have issued the inaugural RFP for up to \$30K in awards for collaborative research with the Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar). *(Included below)*

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J-WAFS-funded Student Wins Fulbright

DUSP PhD candidate Jonars Spielberg recently received a Fulbright for research into irrigation practices in Senegal, expanding upon earlier work funded by a 2017 J-WAFS seed grant.

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J-WAFS-funded Student Named Climate Fellow

MechE graduate Kevin Kung PhD '17 was recently named a 2019 Echoing Green Climate Fellow for his social entrepreneurship startup Takachar, a crop residues-to-fertilizer technology also funded by 2017 and 2018 J-WAFS grants.

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FoodShot Awards Inaugural Groundbreaker Prize

Congratulations to Dr. Keith Paustian of Colorado State, a participant in J-WAFS' 2018 expert workshop on climate and agriculture, who was awarded for COMET, his decision-support tool for sustainable agriculture.

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Announcing: 2019-2020 J-WAFS Fellows

Congrats to MechE's Peter Godart and Sahil Shah, 2019 recipients of J-WAFS



fellowships for water solutions.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

J-WAFS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

J-WAFS Graduate Fellow Untangles the Social Dynamics of Water

Water operator partnerships, or WOPs, bring together water utility employees from different countries to improve public water delivery and sanitation services. “In these partnerships, interpersonal dynamics are so important,” explained Andrea Beck, “and I’m really passionate about hearing people’s stories.” These stories, collected from people involved in WOPs in Malawi and elsewhere, form the foundation of Andrea Beck’s doctoral research at MIT. Beck, a PhD candidate in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) is a 2018-2019 J-WAFS Fellow for Water Solutions.



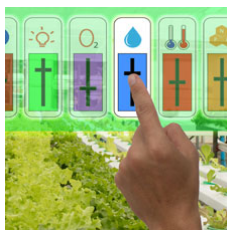
Beck’s interest in water issues and African culture began long before MIT. After finishing high school, Beck volunteered at a cultural center in rural Malawi, where she developed an appreciation for cultural immersion. Her undergraduate and master’s work focused on water resources and transboundary water cooperation; during her PhD studies at MIT, Beck shifted her focus to urban water issues. In her words, water issues “have always been close to my heart.”

Read on to learn more about WOPs and the insights emerging from Beck’s research.

[READ MORE](#)

EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



Digital Agriculture: The Next Agricultural Revolution

Jun. 11 / 4 - 6 PM / 610 Main Street, Cambridge, MA

Meet with local agriculture sector entrepreneurs leveraging technology to support innovation in the field in this LifeHub Boston event. [MORE INFO](#)



New England Water Innovation Network Water Pitch Night

Jun. 19 / 5:30 - 8:30 PM / 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA

Join NEWIN for a pitch night on the impact of IT in the water sector. Keynote by Gigi Karmous-Edwards of Karmous-Edwards Digital Consulting. [MORE INFO](#)



Hacking Weeds: Innovating Weed Management for Agriculture

Jul. 16 - 18 / Full Day / 6:10 Main Street, Cambridge, MA

Join Bayer LifeHub to co-create new business models for integrated weed management for agriculture and municipalities. *(By application only)* [MORE INFO](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Imagine H2O: Urban Water Challenge

Deadline: Jun. 22, 2019

Open to all

Startup grants awarding up to \$100K for innovative tech solutions that promote urban water resilience.

[MORE INFO](#)

FFAR Seeding Solutions Grant

Deadline: Aug. 7, 2019

Open to all

Grants of up to \$1M from the Foundation for Food and Ag Research for projects that address six challenge areas.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT-IIT Ropar Seed Fund (J-WAFS Grant)

Deadline: Sept. 16, 2019

MIT only, with IIT Ropar

Seed grant of up to \$30K in support of collaborative research projects focusing on water, food, and agriculture in India.

[MORE INFO](#)

Lemelson-MIT Student Prize

Deadline: Sept. 27, 2019

Open to all students

Individuals and student teams may apply for awards of up to \$15K for prototypes and tech-based inventions in food, water, and agriculture, among other categories.

[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](#)

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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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