The top highlights:

- The Israel Institute of Technology (the Technion) announced $20 million to launch the world’s first Sustainable Protein Research Center in partnership with GFI Israel. This is double the next highest allocation globally for alt proteins research, and it’s the first major research center grant that includes plant-based meat alongside cultivated meat. The center will allow over 30 researchers from 10 different departments to engage in multi-disciplinary alternative proteins research, commercialization, and entrepreneurship. Led by Director of SciTech Michal Halpert, Ph.D., GFI Israel will continue to serve as the Technion’s strategic partner throughout the SPRC’s establishment process. News of the announcement (and GFI’s strategic partnership) was published in the Jerusalem Post and Ynet (Israel’s leading news website).

- After months of collaboration with GFI, the GEA Group published the New Food Frontiers report (also in German) that focuses exclusively on alternative proteins. The GEA Group is one of the largest industrial technology suppliers for the food, beverage, and pharma industries, employing more than 18,000 employees in 62 countries. The report features an in-depth interview with Founder & President Bruce Friedrich and GFI Europe Corporate Engagement Manager Carlotte Lucas, thought pieces from other leaders across the field, and the results of a survey of more than 1,000 chefs from 11 countries and their views on alternative proteins.

- GFI partnered with California Assemblymember Ash Kalra—who secured the state’s first $5 million investment in alternative protein research last year—to launch a legislative working group to focus on supporting alternative protein research, development, and commercialization. Assemblymember Kalra hosted over two dozen legislators and their staff for the launch of the working group at the California State Capitol. California State Senator Josh Newman will serve as co-chair.

- In response to the intense interest in cultivated meat spurred by the FDA’s green light, GFI’s Corporate Engagement team hosted 330 attendees from across the private sector, media, and regulators for a Business of Alt Protein webinar covering new regulatory, technological, and scientific developments as well as insights from newly commissioned GFI research on messaging and nomenclature. The research demonstrates a clear opportunity to leverage messaging on the benefits of cultivated meat to support consumer acceptance and validates the ongoing use of “cultivated meat” as the go-to term to describe the category to consumers both in social contexts and on product packaging.
How we’re contributing to our core objectives

The following objectives capture GFI’s approach to accelerating the development of alternative proteins and transforming the global food system. Below is a sampling of last month’s work.

GFI fosters a strong open-access alternative protein research and training ecosystem

- GFI published a [cultivated meat growth factor cost and volume analysis](#) on the projected volumes of growth factors by 2030, suitable production cost targets, and regulatory considerations. The analysis was led by Lead Scientist Elliot Swartz, Ph.D., and co-authored by five other individuals from three growth factor startups and the Future Ready Food Safety Hub (FRESH) in Singapore.
- CE Delft and Elliot published an updated cultivated meat life cycle assessment (LCA) in The International Journal of LCA. This release builds upon the findings from the cultivated meat LCA that GFI commissioned and disseminated in 2021.
- The GFI SciTech team is fortunate to have an international cohort of brilliant advisors across academia, industry, and the public sector. A new [webpage](#) features the individuals that serve on the SciTech Advisory Board and the expertise they generously share with GFI.
- Through a project funded by GFI's Research Grant Program, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), a state-owned research corporation affiliated with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, developed a prototype of cultivated chicken that will be the basis of nutritional and sensory analyses throughout the year. The news was featured in at least 40 media outlets, including [Forbes](#) and [Globo Rural](#). The announcement can be found (in Portuguese) on the [Embrapa website](#).
- Lead Scientist Claire Bomkamp, Ph.D., and Science Content Specialist Renee Bell hosted 91 scientists from 52 organizations across 18 countries for a white space workshop on improving proliferation rates in fish cell cultures that generated many new ideas, highlighted shared needs, and clarified how GFI can support the industry going forward. Our report summarizing the workshop outcomes can be found [here](#).
- Academic Community Coordinator Hanna Barlow spearheaded the first strategic planning summit for [the Alt Protein Project](#) (APP), GFI’s student chapter program (and global movement!), at which students from 29 APP chapters collaborated with like-minded students across the globe. Here is a [summary](#) of the key takeaways from the summit.
- GFI Europe SciTech Manager Seren Kell presented at a workshop on future food systems at King's College London which brought together approximately 30 representatives from academia and industry to discuss research priorities and potential collaborations.
- GFI India SciTech Fellow Padma Ishwarya delivered a [technical talk](#) on opportunities for the alternative protein sector at the [Indian Convention of Food Scientists and Technologists (ICFOST)](#), organized by the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India).
- SciTech Specialist Yeshi Liang of GFIC, an independent strategic partner that does mission-aligned work in mainland China, launched two new episodes of a talent-focused podcast on four popular Chinese-language platforms. Over the course of these two episodes, student leader Zhou Hanzhang shared about her Ph.D. project on cultivated meat and her experience in establishing the APP chapter at the National University of Singapore.
- This month’s Cultivated Meat Collaborative seminar (GFI’s invite-only webinars for cultivated meat companies) featured two presentations. Representatives from TPP shared how their
computational tools have the potential to accelerate cultivated meat production (recording here). Moleaer introduced their nanobubble technology and shared how nanobubbles have the potential to improve oxygen transfer efficiency in bioreactors.

GFI influences the public sector to support alternative proteins
- GFI Brazil participated in the planning meeting for the activities of the Parliamentary Front for the Bioeconomy (FPBio), a group of over 200 parliamentarians. FPBio approved the creation of a working group on food innovation, and we expect alternative proteins and other bio-economy matters to grow in importance under the new Congress.
- GFI Israel VP of Strategy and Policy Alla Voldman, GFI Israel International Collaborations Manager Hila Goldenberg, and GFI Israel Policy Manager Adi Ben Tov took part in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs climate diplomacy training program and collaborated with two alternative protein startups to deliver an alternative proteins training session to over 20 diplomats, including deputy chiefs of mission from 12 strategic countries.
- VP of Policy Jessica Almy, J.D., Director of Policy Curt Chaffin, and Associate Legislative Director Penny Eastman met with the White House’s Office of Management and Budget to discuss the need for a robust increase of funding in Fiscal Year 2024 for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service to conduct alternative protein research.
- GFI Europe Policy Manager Linus Pardoe presented at a panel event about alternative proteins at the Worcestershire branch of the National Farmers Union's annual conference. The session was attended by around 100 people, mostly farmers, and the Vice President of the NFU was on the panel. Linus provided as much information about alternative proteins as possible, speaking about opportunities for farmers and how to enable “high-nature value farming” approaches.
- Senior Regulatory Attorney Maddie Cohen, J.D., submitted a formal written comment on the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a congressionally-mandated report that helps the U.S. government “understand, assess, predict, and respond to” climate change. The comment positioned alternative proteins as a climate and sustainable agriculture solution.
- Bruce and Jessica participated in an invitation-only roundtable hosted by the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington, D.C. The topic was alternative proteins and antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic disease, pandemic preparedness, and supply chain disruptions.
- GFI Brazil Policy Specialist Alysson Soares attended the inauguration of the new Minister of Indigenous Peoples, Sonia Guajajara, to strengthen ties with indigenous stakeholders. These relationships are critically important to the success of the GFI Brazil Biomes Project.
- GFI India Policy Associate Radhika Ramesh and VP of Asia Strategy Varun Deshpande attended a fireside chat organized by Credit Suisse to discuss India’s market outlook and India’s G20 leadership. They met with Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India and former CEO of Niti Aayog (the top think tank of the Indian government), to push for alternative protein’s inclusion within the G20 agenda and request GFI India's involvement in several working groups.

GFI influences the for-profit sector to prioritize alternative proteins
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Manager Laine Clark was a panelist for a BioInnovation + Climate event at The Engine, a venture firm spun out of MIT. The panel, dedicated to synthetic biology’s potential impact on food and agriculture, explored major opportunities and challenges in the
food/ag space for which synbio can provide an effective and cost-efficient solution. Co-panelists were from Bayer and PepsiCo and the discussion largely focused on enabling technologies in alternative proteins. The 175 attendees included investors, founders, MIT and Harvard Ph.D. and masters candidates, and alternative protein professionals from large corporations.

- Laine hosted an Industry Roundtable on scaling cultivated meat that included representatives from Aleph Farms, Mosa Meat, Ark Biotech, Merck KGaA, Good Meat, and JBT.
- GFI facilitated 12 meetings with 11 different investors, including Invesco’s ESG research team, Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Blue Horizon, Synthesis Capital, ZX Ventures, and the InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB).
- GFI APAC Innovation Associate Valerie Pang delivered a presentation to more than 100 participants of the Global Foodture’s workshop on the future of proteins.
- VP of Corporate Engagement Caroline Bushnell and Senior Corporate Engagement Specialist Marika Azoff met with one of the world’s largest quick-service restaurant chains to present on opportunities in the alternative protein industry, and subsequently prepared a range of follow-ups to continue helping the company develop its alternative protein strategy.
- GFI Brazil Corporate Engagement Specialist Guilherme Vilela met with a representative from GLOCAL, a foodtech innovation hub that operates in Latin America, to formalize GFI Brazil’s partnership with the institution’s foodtech acceleration program that will launch later this year.

GFI positions alternative proteins as a scalable solution to global challenges

- GFI launched a new circle-widening campaign titled “Let’s solve it together” that aims to put alternative proteins on the radars of those working on the frontlines of climate, biodiversity, food security, and global health.

Top media mentions:

- GFI APAC Senior Communications Manager Ryan Huling co-authored an infrastructure-focused column for the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong’s newspaper of record. The piece was written in collaboration with Diane Fermin from ScaleUp Bio. Excerpt: “Just as [Asia] successfully harnessed the power of the sun and wind to satisfy skyrocketing electricity needs, we must now harness protein directly from plants, microbes, and cultivated animal cells.”
- An article on cultivated meat and Mission Barns in The Guardian quotes Elliot: “The production process is more efficient, you have significantly less feed material to get the same amount of calories out and you have a huge opportunity to restore ecosystems and slow biodiversity loss.”
- GFI APAC Corporate Engagement Specialist Jennifer Morton was featured in a new podcast episode hosted by digital outlet Eco-Business, alongside a representative from Kerry. She noted, “We have a lot of beef burgers and chicken nuggets in the plant-based sector, but in Asia, we need pork buns and shrimp dumplings.”
- VP of Science & Technology Liz Specht, Ph.D., was a guest on the BBC World Service podcast The Inquiry for an episode titled “Can microbes feed the world?” Excerpt: “There’s a huge opportunity to better develop microbes that can metabolize a much broader diversity of feedstocks, including things like greenhouse gases.”
- A story in the Washington Post about barriers to consumer adoption of plant-based meat quotes Associate Director of Industry Intelligence and Initiatives Emma Ignaszewski: “From consumer
studies, we see that 53 percent of consumers agree that plant-based meat products should taste just like meat.”

- A Food Dive piece about the potential for food to play a role in sustainability policy in 2023 highlighted GFI’s work at COP27 and the State of Global Policy Report and focused heavily on alternative proteins’ potential as a climate solution. It quotes VP of Communications Sheila Voss: “There’s a far way to go in terms of translating that momentum into actual policies, investments, governments investing in food and ag and alt protein R&D.”

- A separate article from Food Dive that highlights precision fermentation and cultivated meat as food trends to watch in 2023 quotes Emma: “As consumers become more familiar with not only the idea of these products, but familiar with the products themselves... and as they use them in meals that they know and love, we expect that acceptance will continue to grow. I see food innovation in alternative protein and consumer acceptance as a potentially virtuous cycle.”

- Ryan coordinated GFI APAC’s role in this month’s announcement that cultivated meat startup GOOD Meat has received regulatory approval in Singapore for its serum-free cell culture media. Managing Director Mirte Gosker was featured in GOOD Meat’s official press release, which led to our quotes being cited by Singapore’s Economic Development Board, the Straits Times (Singapore’s newspaper of record), Tech in Asia, and more.

- Elliot was featured in a Food Navigator piece about a new study in the journal Nature Food from scientists at Believer Meats, which is now considered “the most comprehensive study to date on cultivated meat production.” Check out Elliot’s Twitter thread on the subject for his insights!

- GFI APAC’s “cultivated” nomenclature MOU was featured in an article by the National Law Review, one of the most widely read business law websites in the United States. FoodNavigator-Asia also included the MOU on their list of “need-to-know policies” going into 2023.

- GFI Israel CEO Nir Goldstein was interviewed on Galatz, one of Israel’s leading radio channels, on the recent statement by the Chief Rabbi of Israel who concluded that Aleph Farms’ cultivated meat steak is Kosher.

Thank you for fueling our mission!
GFI is powered by philanthropy; these accomplishments are only possible thanks to gifts and grants from our family of donors. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about supporting the work you read about in our Global Highlights, please contact philanthropy@gfi.org.

From everyone on Team GFI, thank you for your enthusiasm, partnership, and commitment to a better future.

Sincerely,

Bruce Friedrich
President and Founder