

GFI's GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

May 2023

The top highlights:

- **The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released [an in-depth report on the strategic importance of alternative proteins](#).** The 4,900-word report calls for more government support for alternative proteins to address food security, global health, climate change, food systems resilience, and global competitiveness. CSIS hosted a [launch event for the report](#) which featured former National Security Council official Matt Spence, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace fellow Jon Bateman, Schmidt Futures scientist Genevieve Croft, and GFI Founder & President Bruce Friedrich. USDA Deputy Under Secretary Sanah Baig delivered the keynote address, speaking powerfully on the vulnerabilities of our protein supply chain and solutions under President Biden's bioeconomy executive order.
- **GFI team members elevated the role of alternative proteins in climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation at the [Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate Summit](#).** Highlights: (1) GFI partnered with the Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return Initiative (FAIRR), Climate Advisers, the UN Foundation, ProVeg, and ClimateWorks Foundation to organize a private ministerial dinner (co-hosted by the governments of Brazil & the Netherlands) for high-level officials from governments to discuss the climate and food security benefits of alternative proteins; (2) we spoke at two official breakout sessions, one hosted by GFI and one hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, that brought together leaders from the private and public sectors; and (3) we ran an alternative protein-focused interactive exhibit in partnership with Aleph Farms and FAIRR.
- **GFI Europe published the first [state of the industry report for Germany \(summary in English\)](#), providing an overview of Germany's commercial and scientific alternative protein ecosystem and describing the need for political action.** The report fills a critical gap and had been consistently requested by many stakeholders across industry, politics, and media.
- **GFI published the first-ever [Japanese translation of the global state of the industry reports \(released in English in April\)](#)** featuring insights on key technologies, market activity, scientific advances, and government and regulatory developments. Translation of GFI's global resources into Japanese has long been sought by industry, government, and the media.
- **GFI India collaborated with India's national investment promotion and facilitation agency, Invest India, to co-author the report [Cultivated meat: key opportunities and recommendations for India](#).** This first-of-its-kind report provides an overview of the technical and market landscapes of cultivated meat with key policy recommendations for India.
- **GFI and Bright Green Partners released a joint [report on plant-based meat manufacturing capacity analysis and pathways for expansion](#).** This analysis quantifies the existing global plant-based meat manufacturing landscape and evaluates the most feasible options for expanding capacity to meet future demand. GFI and representatives from Bright Green Partners co-led a well-attended [webinar](#) summarizing the report's key findings.

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 launched the new-and-improved [alternative protein researcher directory](#), a global database of researchers working on projects related to plant-based, cultivated, or fermentation technologies. Directory members will receive curated updates on research developments, funding opportunities, scientific events and forums, and collaborators that match their skills and interests.
- GFI APAC SciTech Specialist Dean Powell, Ph.D., delivered a presentation on cellular agriculture technological developments and potential climate impacts as part of the Singapore Food Agency's (SFA) seminar series. This seminar series is run for SFA employees and other Singapore Ministry of Sustainability and Environment agencies.
- Research funded by a GFI Israel cultivated meat grant was published in the open-access scientific journal [Nature Communications](#). Led by esteemed scholars Prof. Marcell Machluf, Prof. Ayelet Fishman, and Prof. Maya Davidovich-Pinhas, the research looked into the development of a cultivated meat platform through the structuring of edible microtissues.
- Principal Scientist Elliot Swartz, Ph.D., hosted this month's [Cultivated Meat Collaborative seminar](#) (our monthly call for cultivated meat industry leaders), which featured presentations from [Scientific Bioprocessing](#) and [Numaferm](#). The seminar addressed how to maximize the potential of shake flasks (which enable a liquid culture to undergo continuous shaking at a desired constant temperature) and a unique method of growth factor production.
- Associate Director of Scientific Ecosystems Amy Huang and Lead Scientist Claire Bomkamp, Ph.D., moderated the May [Science of Alt Protein seminar](#) featuring GFI grantee Dr. Frederico Ferreira of the University of Lisbon. Frederico shared how he combines bioprinting, electrospinning, and electrical stimuli to produce cultivated fish filets.
- GFI Brazil SciTech Specialist Amanda Leitolis, Ph.D., presented about the food safety of cultivated meat during the webinar "Bringing Cultivated Meat Biotechnology to the Amazon." The event was hosted and organized by Professor João Paulo Rufino from the Federal University of Amazonas with GFI Brazil support.
- GFI Brazil SciTech Manager Cris Ambiel gave a presentation on alternative proteins to a group of 50 food students at [SENAI](#), the largest private network in Latin America that offers technical and vocational education, technological support, and innovation.

GFI influences the public sector to support alternative proteins

- ClimateWorks Foundation and the Global Methane Hub released a Global Innovation Needs Assessment (GINA) focused on methane mitigation, including the most promising agricultural methane mitigation interventions. We created [a 1-pager](#) to pull out the top-line findings on alternative proteins, and here's a quick teaser: the report offers an very powerful endorsement of GFI's top policy goal of maximizing government funding globally for alternative proteins.
- The UK Government Office for Science released its report on "[engineering biology: opportunities for the UK economy and national goals](#)," which features multiple references to alternative proteins,

including a [dedicated case study](#) heavily informed by GFI Europe’s discussions with the Office in preparation for the report.

- GFI celebrated the bipartisan passage of Illinois House Bill 3710 which, with leadership from State Representative Lakesia Collins (D-9) and guiding efforts from multiple GFI team members, establishes the Alternative Protein Innovation Task Force Act to study the economic, environmental, and health benefits of alternative proteins within the state.
- GFI APAC SciTech Manager Wasamon Nutakul, Ph.D., participated in this year’s [Food Security Asia Congress](#) as a panelist for a session on the latest breakthroughs, opportunities, and effects of policy changes in alternative proteins and nutrition. She also led a presentation on the state of the science of alternative proteins.
- GFI Europe Senior Public Affairs Manager Ivo Rzegotta participated in a workshop with Germany’s Bioeconomy Council on the topic of food security and the food system. The council is working on policy recommendations on behalf of the German federal government, and Ivo spoke about alternative proteins as a key solution to food security challenges.
- GFI Europe Senior SciTech Manager Seren Kell and GFI Europe Policy Manager Linus Pardoe were part of the inaugural [Innovation Zero](#) climate tech conference in London. Seren spoke on a panel organized by Innovate UK focused on the future of food production, and she and Linus participated in breakout sessions to outline barriers to sustainable protein development and uptake in the UK.
- Senior VP of Policy Jessica Almy, J.D., and Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs Laura Braden, J.D., briefed the CEO of the UK Food Standards Agency and the Head of Food and Chemical Safety Policy Unit at the British Embassy in Washington, DC. The officials were visiting the United States and Canada to better understand the countries’ approaches to novel foods, in particular alternative proteins, and they were deeply engaged and appreciative of GFI’s role in the sector.
- GFI facilitated a briefing to the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during which Scientific Research Advisor Erin Rees Clayton, Ph.D., presented what a significant U.S. investment in alternative proteins could look like. We are hopeful that this will assist OSTP as they prepare the implementation plan for the [Bold Goals report](#) under the bioeconomy executive order.

GFI influences the for-profit sector to prioritize alternative proteins

- GFI Israel hosted an exclusive investor event in Tel Aviv with over 60 attendees. The event featured a deep dive into sales and investment data and trends by GFI Investor Engagement Manager Sharyn Murray, overviews of the Israeli alternative proteins market and the larger Israeli ecosystem by GFI Israel Director of Innovation and Business Engagement Aviv Oren and GFI Israel CEO Nir Goldstein, and panels with leading startups and their investors. At the end of the event, attendees had the opportunity to taste Remilk’s cream cheese and Mush Foods’ mycelium-based burgers.
- Sharyn also joined GFI Israel team members to meet with two Israeli accelerators and about 15 companies over the course of three group meetings. The sessions were designed to support



startups in developing a narrative of the current investment and sales environment, share data and advice to support companies in fundraising, and discuss key GFI resources.

- Senior Scientist Lucas Eastham, M.Sc., presented at the Sosland Food Business News Trends & Innovations webinar on the power and potential of precision fermentation. The live webinar featured Lucas' technical presentation followed by the consumer perspective by Melissa Abbott of the Hartman Group.
- GFI APAC Corporate Engagement Specialist Jennifer Morton participated in two panels focused on partnerships and scaling the industry at [Thaifex Anuga](#)—Asia's largest food and beverage trade show—in Bangkok. Her co-panelists included members from Thai Union and other major food companies from the region.
- Startup Innovation Specialist Audrey Gyr hosted the May [Business of Alt Protein Seminar](#), “Navigating FDA’s Pre-Market Food Ingredient Evaluation Programs: An introduction to food additives, color additives, and GRAS ingredients,” featuring Regulatory Review Scientist and Microbiology Reviewer Dr. Stiffy Hice from the US Food and Drug Administration.
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Manager Laine Clark, joined by a handful of GFI expert scientists and corporate engagement specialists, hosted an industry roundtable focused on leveraging the biomass waste of precision fermentation. Participating organizations included New Culture, Fermtech, Terra Bioindustries, Better Dairy, Yali Bio, Perfect Day, Motif FoodWorks, TurtleTree, revyve, and the University of Kent.
- GFI India Innovation Associate Poorvasha Kar moderated a GFIdeas India [webinar](#) as part of a Financing the Future series. The session was organized in collaboration with the angel investor network BioAngels and featured four panelists who shared insights about the current state of investments in smart protein and how new investors can invest in deep-tech solutions.
- A team from GFI Israel held a two-day open innovation event for entrepreneurs and scientists looking to establish new alternative protein startups. They held eight consultation meetings with entrepreneurs, a few of which are in the advanced stages of launching new startups.
- Senior Corporate Engagement Specialist Marika Azoff met with Vikrum Papa, an investor at [Relish Works](#), the venture capital arm of Gordon Food Service (GFS). GFS is the fourth largest broadline food distributor in North America providing food to more than 120 thousand customers including restaurants, schools/universities, and hospitals in the US and Canada. Relish Works recently invested in the alternative protein ingredient company Shiru.
- GFI Entrepreneur in Residence Deimena Drąsutytė’s [HERlab](#) was awarded its first grant. The [£50k grant](#) from Innovate UK supports transformative technologies in engineering biology.

GFI positions alternative proteins as a scalable solution to global challenges

- Complementing the release of the 2022 State of the Industry Reports, Senior VP of Communications Sheila Voss and Corporate Engagement Project Manager Maille O'Donnell coauthored an inspiring new [blog post](#) that shines a light on the incredible progress happening in the alternative protein industry. While there are more alternative protein products available than ever before, breaking through to compete with conventional products is not guaranteed. This field still has miles to go to reach its full potential, but thanks to our global family of donors, we're in this for the long haul, knowing we can solve this together.

- GFI Israel participated in Reichman University's FoodTech Nation event “How to Feed 9 Billion People.” Nir joined Michal Levy, Chief Scientist of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, for a fireside chat on the evolving landscape of agriculture and technology, highlighting the importance of alternative proteins and food security. Aviv gave a keynote address highlighting the transformative power of innovation in food tech, and VP of Strategy and Policy Alla Voldman moderated a discussion on government investments and regulatory challenges in food tech.



- In collaboration with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GFI Israel Senior Marketing Manager Hadas Karshai and GFI Israel Senior Collaborations Manager Hila Goldenberg developed an inspiring [video clip](#) promoting alternative proteins, featuring several Israeli startups as well as Alla. The video was presented at an event for the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including remote attendance by embassies in over 30 countries. The Ministry is working on a distribution plan for the video and has already shared it in an internal newsletter to all Israeli embassies and Israeli representatives in multilateral organizations.



Top media mentions:

- GFI APAC Managing Director Mirte Gosker was extensively quoted in a [full-page spread](#) published by the *Straits Times*—Singapore’s top newspaper—about the need for greater investment and talent development for the cultivated meat industry. Excerpt: “Although the cultivated meat industry has been on the upswing in recent years, the sector is still facing significant underinvestment relative to the enormous potential it offers in resolving our global protein supply’s escalating food security and climate challenges.”
- A chapter penned by GFI on “[Applications of Fungi for Alternative Protein](#)” was published in a new Springer Nature book titled *Fungi and Fungal Products in Human Welfare and Biotechnology*. GFI APAC Senior Communications Manager Ryan Huling authored the piece with the support of SciTech experts from across GFI’s global teams.
- In a [CNBC](#) piece about UPSIDE Foods, Elliot was quoted in support of traditional meat companies investing in cultivated meat start-ups: “That sort of perspective from a meat company says a lot about how they view the potential consumer base.”
- GFI APAC’s “cultivated” meat nomenclature MOU was featured in a new article by [FoodNavigator-Asia](#). Excerpt: “TissenBioFarm's chief strategy officer, Yeonjoo La, said that it is adopting the term set by the MOU: ‘We used to use cultured meat because in my opinion, it was easier to understand what it means and easier to pronounce too. When I did some consumer research, the top two candidates were cultivated meat and cultured meat. We did not have a [strong] preference between both, so we were okay to follow GFI’s guidance as they are actively

working to advance the industry and they work a lot with other cultivated meat players and government agencies. We could support them in that way.”

- [Outlook Business](#), a very influential Indian business magazine, quoted GFI India Senior Innovation Specialist Nicole Rocque extensively on the potential and future of the alternative protein industry in India: “A key to unlocking the affordability of plant-based foods will be to increase the scale of production, eventually achieving economies of scale across the entire value chain.” Around 60 to 70 percent of the article quotes our responses and the research and data from our economic analysis and industry reports.

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From everyone on [Team GFI](#), thank you for your enthusiasm, partnership, and commitment to a better future.

Sincerely,



Bruce Friedrich
President and Founder

