GFI's GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

June 2024

The top highlights:

- **The Bezos Center for Sustainable Protein at Imperial College London launched with $30 million in funding, the second such alternative protein research center to be announced this year.** As the Bezos Earth Fund's strategic partner on alternative proteins, GFI helped facilitate a rigorous evaluation process of Center proposals and is thrilled to see all the work that Imperial College leadership has done to ensure their university will become a global hub for alternative protein science. At the launch event, Earth Fund CEO Sir Andrew Steer and Earth Fund Future of Food Director Andy Jarvis spoke about the global impact of alternative proteins to change the world for the better. Watch the recording here (10:14-24:00).
- **GFIC, an independent strategic partner that does mission-aligned work in mainland China, published an article about alternative proteins in *Enterprise Reform and Development*, a monthly magazine under China's National Development and Reform Commission**, as part of a six-article feature on food and agriculture. GFIC's contribution explains alternative proteins as a key element of the global bioeconomy with significant economic and sustainability benefits. The article calls for collaboration across Chinese industry, government, and academia.
- **GFI Europe worked with the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT Food) to convene a roundtable on farming and alternative proteins**, with participants spanning farming, large and small companies, NGOs, think tanks, investors, and governments. GFI Europe Senior Policy Manager Ellie Walden presented the GFI Europe-commissioned Green Alliance report about alternative proteins, food security, farming, and land use across 10 European countries.
- **GFI Brazil Policy Analyst Mariana Bernal (pictured, far right) and GFI VP of Policy for Asia Sam Lawrence attended the annual climate negotiations in Bonn, Germany.** GFI co-hosted a dinner with the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the Jeremy Coller Foundation, and ProVeg, which more than 40 delegates attended. We also co-hosted an official side event focused on alternative proteins in the Global South and a press conference on climate finance and protein diversification, where Mariana spoke about leveling the playing field for alternative proteins in the Global South, emphasizing the need for open-access research funding and the importance of cooperation between public agencies and farmer cooperatives. See our blog post about the event here.



- **GFI published the 2023 State of Global Policy Report**, which tracks and analyzes public funding and regulation for alternative proteins across the globe. Abridged versions of the report are available in French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish. Policy experts from GFI's global teams hosted a State of Global Policy webinar highlighting government investment, action, and trends.

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

- For the third consecutive year, the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology partnered with GFI to launch a grant dedicated to alternative protein research. The Ministry's recurring matching of GFI funds for this grant demonstrates a steadfast commitment to advancing alternative protein technologies and enables GFI Israel to guide government funding toward the most impactful and innovative research areas. The grant offers a total of 2 million NIS (~$534,000) for eight potential research projects.
- The journal *Food Reviews International* published a review article co-authored by GFI India SciTech Specialist Padma Ishwarya, Ph.D., that provides a comprehensive understanding of the functionality and extrudability of millets and explores the possibility of using millets in plant-based meat products. India is the world's largest millet producer.
- The journal *Current Research in Food Science* published a GFI Brazil-commissioned study on the nutritional quality of plant-based meat led by the Federal University of São Paulo. The study evaluated and compared the nutritional labels of 700 traditional and plant-based meat products in Brazil and classified them under various Nutrition Classification Schemes.
- GFI APAC SciTech Engagement Specialist Arin Naidu hosted a webinar series on AI technologies in alternative protein development that featured guest experts from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (part one) and the innovative software company Dassault Systèmes (part two). They discussed how AI can accelerate the process from research to pilot-scale production and work across the alternative protein value chain to boost innovation and efficiency.
- In collaboration with the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU), GFI India SciTech Associate Amrutha Girivasan organized a GFIdeas India webinar on extrusion for the texturization of plant-based proteins. TDU Professor and Dean of Research and Outreach Dr. Gurmeet Singh shared insights on extrusion technology, processing parameters, and more.
- Principal Scientist Elliot Swartz, Ph.D., hosted this month's Cultivated Meat Collaborative webinar, which featured presentations from Luyef Biotechnologies about their protein ingredients produced through precision fermentation and Phycin about their algae-derived growth factors.
- Scientific Partnerships Manager Bianca Datta, Ph.D., moderated June's Science of Alt Protein webinar featuring Dr. Daniel Dikovsky, Chief Technology Officer of Redefine Meat. Dr. Dikovsky discussed how plant-based tissue engineering combines plant-based ingredients with advanced fabrication systems to create high-end plant-based meat products.
- Academic Community Specialist Asia Sheehab hosted the newly rebranded Building Your Alt Protein Career quarterly webinar, which included guest speaker Minami Ogawa, Ph.D. candidate at UC Davis, who shared her journey into entrepreneurship and innovative research on edible microcarriers for cultivated meat production.
- GFI APAC and GFI Europe SciTech team members, in collaboration with TUM Venture Labs, hosted a joint hackathon, Bite-sized Innovations: Hacking the Future of Alternative Protein. The virtual hackathon brought together over 60 students and recent graduates to tackle alternative protein

challenges set by industry partners BayWa, Dr. Oetker, Bühler Group, Umami Bioworks, Eridia, and Happy Ocean Foods. Participants worked with industry mentors and presented their solutions to a panel of judges during the final pitch event.
- GFI's SciTech team launched a new research newsletter, The Grazer, with the most recent edition covering the intersection of artificial intelligence and alternative proteins. This bi-monthly newsletter features important science and technology updates, funding announcements, and collaboration opportunities in the alternative protein research ecosystem.

GFI influences the public sector to support alternative proteins

- The UK Day One project published a briefing authored by GFI Europe Policy Manager Linus Pardoe on how the new UK Government can advance alternative proteins, with actionable ideas on science and technology policy.
- GFI Brazil took part in the launch of the Virada Parlamentar Sustentável (Sustainable Parliamentary Turn), an initiative designed to hold public hearings and events in the National Congress to discuss proposals and tools for mitigating climate impacts, including alternative proteins. GFI Brazil showcased materials on the Biomes program as part of the Virada exhibition, which took place in the corridor of the Plenary of the House of Representatives for display to the public who visit parliament daily.
- GFI was instrumental in driving the Arizona Senate to vote against HB2244, which would have imposed onerous labeling requirements on cultivated meat and plant-based food products. The team also defeated two attempts in Congress to prohibit federal funding of alternative protein research.
- The latest quarterly issue of the *International Journal for Rural Development*, commonly known as Rural 21, published an article on alternative proteins and the Global South authored by GFI Europe Senior Public Affairs Manager Ivo Rzegotta. The article addresses the benefits of protein diversification and the need for open-access alternative protein research.
- GFI APAC welcomed a Korean delegation of senior officials from the Gyeongbuk TechnoPark, Gyeongbuk Provincial Government, and Uiseong County. During the delegation's visit to Singapore, the team led a knowledge-sharing session highlighting recent developments and the road ahead in APAC's cultivated meat landscape.
- Senior Regulatory Attorney Maddie Cohen, J.D., presented on the regulation and labeling of alternative proteins at the 37th Annual Food Label Conference in Washington, DC. Attendees included food and beverage manufacturers, retailers, consultants, and lawyers, as well as officials from the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- GFI Europe Senior Policy Manager Acacia Smith participated in two European Sustainable Agriculture Dialogue events. At a lunch with Martien van Nieuwkoop, director for agricultural development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Acacia highlighted the need for more impact-focused innovation, and during a workshop on a new narrative for agricultural innovation, the group highlighted the future of farming and stronger policy and innovation support as two priorities for the European Union.
- GFI Israel SciTech Manager Anton Slavkin presented at a food security roundtable at the Agri-Tech convention in Lyon, France, organized by the Chamber of Commerce France-Israel. He spoke about national food security, alternative proteins, and the diversification of global food systems.

- Ivo spoke about the state of alternative protein policy in Germany as a panelist at the Food Innovation Camp 2024 in Hamburg. The event brought together stakeholders from the sustainable food sector, including startups, retail, investors, and policymakers.

GFI influences the private sector to prioritize alternative proteins

- The GFIC team played a large role in the Food and Beverage Innovation Forum (FBIF), one of China's biggest industry forums. GFIC CEO Doris Lee chaired Day 2 of the Dairy Talks track, which included a session by GFIC Innovation & Entrepreneurship Manager Viola Chen and Associate Business Analyst Rachel Chen on alternative dairy products and the findings of a study on consumers' perceptions of fermented proteins. Doris also joined a panel about technical solutions in food innovation organized by Jiangnan University and the Bühler Group. (Photo credit: FBIF)



- Initiated by GFI Israel, the Israel Innovation Authority published a new call for proposals with $1 million in funding aimed at fostering innovation by connecting startups and food industry manufacturers, with alternative protein designated as a priority area.
- GFI Corporate Engagement and SciTech experts presented a custom State of the Industry Report for team members across R&D, marketing, business development, and innovation at one of the world's largest global meat producers.
- Senior Corporate Engagement Manager Laine Clark hosted the June Business of Alt Protein webinar with guest speaker Marissa Bronfman, founder and executive director of Future Ocean Foods. Marissa led a panel discussion on developments and opportunities across the aquatic value chain featuring leaders in the alternative seafood space.
- GFI India published their fourth consumer insights report of the year that compares user experiences of plant-based meat with conventional meat products in India. The study includes actionable recommendations to improve the sensory experience of plant-based meat.
- GFI Israel Business Development Manager Eden Pozin and CEO Nir Goldstein orchestrated an exclusive alternative protein-focused side event at the Hack Summit in Switzerland, which featured presentations by 17 Israeli startups. The startups showcased their innovations to over 120 attendees, comprising prominent industry leaders, investors, and stakeholders from the EU ecosystem.



- GFI Israel Director of Innovation and Business Engagement Aviv Oren and Nir delivered a presentation on the state of the fermentation industry at the opening event of YDLabs, a new pilot-scale manufacturing facility for precision fermentation startups. GFI Israel's 2022 gap analyses identified the need for such a facility—a space for developing, optimizing, and scaling up fermentation processes with up to 1,000L

fermenters. With continuous support from GFI Israel throughout the bidding process, the facility received partial funding through a $15 million grant from the Israel Innovation Authority.

- At the Convention on Pharmaceutical Ingredients Biomanufacturing Innovation Summit in Shanghai, Doris gave a main forum speech about cultivated meat, fermentation, and the bioeconomy, and Viola joined a closed-door regulatory meeting about novel food in China.
- Corporate Engagement Lead Marika Azoff co-organized a Future of Food Day at the Culinary Institute of America in California in collaboration with the dean of the institute. Marika led the event's kick-off presentation, which was followed by presentations, demos, and tastings by The EVERY Company and Savor.
- GFI India Corporate Engagement Specialist Divya Saravana participated in a panel discussion on trends in food delivery at the third National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) Cloud Kitchen and Delivery Summit in Bangalore, which gathers leaders of high-profile food service and hospitality companies. This is the first time NRAI hosted conversations on protein sustainability and the need for alternatives.
- GFI Europe Head of Science & Technology Seren Kell presented the State of the Industry reports and GFI Europe Managing Director Alex Mayers spoke on a panel about consumer insights at the Bridge2Food Europe summit in the Hague, which focused on the latest developments from the plant-based and fermentation sectors in Europe.
- GFI Brazil Corporate Engagement Specialist Guilherme Vilela shared GFI Brazil's refreshed startup guide at two meetup events in Minas Gerais and São Paulo. The meetups were held in partnership with federal and state research universities and included roundtable discussions that fostered connections between industries, researchers, startups, and investors in the respective regions.

GFI positions alternative proteins as a scalable solution to global challenges

- Founder & President Bruce Friedrich spoke at an invite-only luncheon organized by Climate Lead as part of the Breakthrough Energy Summit. Climate Lead chose alternative proteins as one of only three focus opportunities on the agenda at this high-profile gathering of funders. Nir also joined the two-day summit, serving as an expert at one of the six luncheon breakout conversations.
- Bruce moderated a Breakthrough Session on alternative proteins as part of TED Countdown, TED's invite-only climate-focused conference. Panelists included Sanah Baig from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Allyson Fish from ADM, and Oliver Zahn from Climax Foods.
- Ivo spoke on a panel at the Tech Open Air conference in Berlin on the role of alternative proteins in climate mitigation and the future of sustainable food systems. The deep tech conference was attended by investors from across the globe.
- Investor Engagement Manager Sharyn Murray moderated the panel The Future of Food: Alternative, Regenerative, Circular at ClimateCon! Boulder, with panelists from jack & annie's, Meati, the City of Boulder, and Drylands Agroecology Research. Colorado Governor Jared Polis joined the event to speak about the importance of making the food system more sustainable.



- GFI Israel Associate Director of Policy Adi Ben Tov and GFI Israel VP of Strategy and Policy Alla Voldman-Rantzer presented the first-ever World Economic Forum report dedicated to alternative proteins, jointly drafted with GFI Israel and the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), to the EARTH5 food tech working group. This working group is part of EARTH Global Climate-Tech Alliance (E5), an initiative by the IIA that includes innovation authorities from five countries: Israel, Sweden, Finland, Austria, and Singapore.

Top media mentions:

- GFI APAC Managing Director Mirte Gosker was quoted by the *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong's newspaper of record, in an article about cultivated seafood. Excerpt: "By decoupling seafood production from conventional aquaculture and fishing methods, [alternative proteins] offer a reduced risk of foodborne illness, a complete absence of microplastics, and a guaranteed lack of contamination by mercury and other heavy metals."
- GFI India Communications Associate Jaanvi Parekh wrote an article on alternative seafood that was published in *Hospitality World*, a news website run by the popular finance website *Economic Times*. Excerpt: "With several innovators already working on cultivated meat end-products and rising support from organisations like The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) toward cultivating high-demand and endangered Indian species of fish — it won't be long before we can have genuine fish — without the fish!"
- GFI Brazil Corporate Engagement Director Raquel Casselli was interviewed by *O Globo*, Brazil's leading daily newspaper, to discuss opportunities and challenges for the cultivated meat sector in Brazil. The interview was published on their Instagram page.

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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