GFI's GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 2024

The top highlights:

- **GFI launched the alternative protein ecosystem map, a resource that allows users to easily visualize and interact with geographical "hot spots" of alternative protein activity across the globe.** This new tool maps alternative protein companies, researchers, and university student groups worldwide, with the ability to navigate and filter by country, alternative protein type, technology focus, and more. Check out our Substack post for all the details.
- **The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded $51 million to the iFAB Tech Hub at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to advance precision fermentation.** Leading up to the award, GFI met with iFAB leadership to discuss policy needs and building support from leaders in Congress and the Illinois State Legislature. This new funding will allow the hub, which partners with precision fermentation-derived alternative protein companies across the region, to expand their pilot-scale infrastructure, partner with additional companies, and train local workers.
- **The first regulatory authorization submission for a cultivated meat product was filed in the European Union.** Gourmey, a French startup working on cultivated foie gras, submitted their safety dossier to EU regulators, as well as to regulators in the United Kingdom, United States, Singapore, and Switzerland. GFI Europe welcomed the announcement and shared information about the regulatory process with journalists across Europe, and will continue to play an active role in policymaker engagement to build on the momentum this provides for the sector.
- **GFI APAC's Policy team presented to senior officials from Nanyang Technological University, Universitas Brawijaya (in Indonesia), and the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)—Indonesia's national research agency.** The meeting introduced BRIN to alternative proteins and explored the formation of a halal working group for cultivated meat in Indonesia.
- **Senior International Collaborations Manager, Hila Goldenberg, collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize an alternative proteins tour for Israeli diplomats and Ministry staff leading the Israeli delegation to COP29**. Hila highlighted the alternative proteins sector as one of Israel's prominent fields of global climate-tech leadership, with the goal of integrating alternative protein initiatives into the work plans of Israeli embassies around the world and emphasizing the significance of alternative proteins in Israel's COP29 activities.
- **Two of Brazil's Alt Protein Project chapters (GFI's global university chapter program) held an inaugural three-day alternative protein conference** hosted at the State University of Campinas, Brazil's top research university. Students, researchers, and industry stakeholders from throughout Brazil attended keynote speeches featuring alternative protein experts from around the world, scientific research poster presentations, roundtable discussions, and workshops.
- **GFI Consultancy (GFIC, an independent strategic partner that does mission-aligned work in mainland China) published an article in the extremely prestigious and influential China Food and Drug Administration Magazine.** The article discusses the current state of cultivated meat regulation and government support around the world.

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's SciTech team hosted a workshop on leveraging AI for alternative proteins. The workshop (summarized here) highlighted the potential of AI to transform the alternative protein landscape by accelerating research, overcoming technical bottlenecks, and reducing costs.
- Following strategic consultations with GFI Israel, the Israeli Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology published a bilateral academic funding opportunity in collaboration with the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Alternative proteins are one of the four selected focus areas of this program, which aims to support the science and innovation sectors in both the United Kingdom and Israel. The initiative offers early-stage grants of up to £200,000 for collaborative research projects, with a potential total funding of £1.8 million. GFI Israel will assist in promoting the initiative, facilitating key connections, and ensuring submissions that are focused on key alternative proteins white spaces.
- The journal *Current Opinion in Food Science* published a technical explainer of precision fermentation authored by Senior Scientist Lucas Eastham, M.Sc., and Lead Scientist Adam Leman, Ph.D. The paper reviews ingredient innovations and the use of microbes to manufacture sustainable proteins.
- The second edition of GFI Brazil's Biomes Program funded seven research projects that involved eight local communities from the Amazon and Cerrado biomes. These projects, which utilized by-products of native plant species, led to the development of 10 new sustainable and innovative ingredients used to create 14 products, one of which is already on the market. Check out the projects' impact videos on the Biomes Program's webpage and YouTube channel.
- GFI APAC SciTech Specialist Maanasa Ravikumar, Ph.D., presented at Bioplus Interphex Korea 2024, South Korea's largest annual biopharmaceutical conference, which featured a dedicated session on cultivated meat for the first time. Maanasa discussed the state of the cultivated meat industry, highlighting impactful avenues for B2B players in the pharma and biotech spaces to facilitate cost reduction and manufacturing scale-up, and participated in a panel alongside representatives focused on strategic ecosystem-building, B2B partnerships, and stronger academic-industry collaborations.



- Maanasa presented at the official launch ceremony of South Korea's recently announced cellular agriculture Regulatory-Free Zone (RFZ). Her speech highlighted the need for greater scale-up financing and related public funding and was attended by high-level industry and government representatives. She also outlined how the proposed activities at the RFZ's Bio Valley Industrial Complex can play a significant role in strengthening South Korea's capabilities as a cultivated meat manufacturing hub.

- Founder & President Bruce Friedrich spoke at a fireside chat at the annual Institute of Food Technology Expo in Chicago. The discussion covered the first decade of alternative proteins, GFI's vision for the future, and the critical role of food technologists in shaping the next generation of alternative protein products.
- GFIC Senior SciTech Consultant Minqi Wang hosted an alternative protein webinar featuring Dr. Ximing Zhang from Zhejiang University. Dr. Zhang spoke about using fermentation technology in cultivated meat and micro-algae-based seafood.

GFI influences the public sector to support alternative proteins

- Associate Director of Industry Intelligence and Initiatives Emma Ignaszewski and Business Analyst Daniel Gertner collaborated with Boston Consulting Group and Synthesis Capital to publish a report revealing the striking parallels between the alternative protein and electric vehicle industries. The report identifies key lessons alternative proteins can learn from the electric vehicle industry's growth. Read a summary here.
- GFI Israel VP of Strategy and Policy Alla Voldman-Rantzer collaborated with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) and the Israeli Food Association for a special event to promote the launch of the IIA's new call for proposals aimed at fostering innovation through startup and food industry manufacturer partnerships. The event enabled startups and manufacturing companies to explore potential collaborations for joint submissions, with each project eligible for funding of up to $1.3 million, and Alla provided an overview of existing partnerships throughout the sector.
- GFI Israel CEO Nir Goldstein, Sustainability & Food Security Senior Manager Shiri Heffer, SciTech Manager Anton Slavkin, and Alla participated in a roundtable discussion at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology on the future of food security in Israel and the potential role of alternative proteins. The roundtable was led by the Samuel Neaman Institute, a national policy think tank focused on policies in science, technology, the environment, and the economy. The discussion led to initial agreements and opportunities for collaboration with leading nutrition entities in Israel, including the Ministry of Health, the Dietitians Association, and more.

GFI influences the private sector to prioritize alternative proteins

- GFIC Director of Strategic Partnerships Grace Liu presented at a roundtable discussion at The Institute of Finance and Sustainability's (IFS) First China International Conference for Blue Finance Innovation held in Yantai, one of China's pioneering demonstration cities for marine economic innovation and development that has formulated the nation's first blue finance standard. Grace highlighted the connection between blue finance and the alternative protein industry and how its growth necessitates the support of blue finance. Attendees included representatives from the World Economic Forum, WWF-China, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.



- GFI launched a new email list to share public funding opportunities for alternative protein commercialization, including government loan programs,

manufacturing grants, tax incentives, and government-led business services. Interested parties can sign up to receive opportunities matching their company's location, production platform, and manufacturing scale.

- GFI India organized a GFIdeas India community event in Bangalore in collaboration with Terrarium, a sustainable materials startup platform. The event included closed-door focused group discussions with 18 high-profile stakeholders discussing financing and infrastructure scale-up solutions for the alternative protein sector. GFI India Policy Specialist Radhika Ramesh moderated an exploratory panel on advancing alternative proteins with lessons from allied industries.
- GFI India Senior Policy Specialist Astha Gaur and GFI India Market and Insights Advisor Raji Gummadi were panelists for the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council's panel discussions on Pulses Innovation Day in Delhi and Mumbai. At the Delhi panel, Astha highlighted the trends in research and development that are shaping the future of smart proteins, particularly with pulses, and discussed policies needed to accelerate their growth. In Mumbai, Raji contributed to an insightful discussion on consumer trends and innovative approaches to incorporating pulse ingredients.
- Protein Production Technology International (PPTI) magazine featured a column written by Senior Corporate Engagement Manager Laine Clark about startup culture, challenges, and opportunities in the alternative protein sector, and a recent PPTI webinar featured Senior Scientific Research Advisor Erin Rees Clayton, Ph.D., and Senior Manager, Investor Engagement and Financing Sharyn Murray as panelists to talk about financing pathways for fermentation research and development.
- Corporate Engagement Lead Marika Azoff and Research Analyst Ben Pierce hosted the July Business of Alt Protein webinar on building relationships with foodservice companies. Ben shared key insights from GFI's latest U.S. plant-based foodservice market report, and Marika led a panel discussion focused on practices for positioning plant-based proteins, strategies for approaching foodservice companies, and common pitfalls. Panelists included leaders from Sodexo Campus, World Resources Institute, and Palate Insights.
- GFI Israel Business Development Manager Eden Pozin and GFI Israel Director of Innovation and Business Engagement Aviv Oren launched a new business community, GFI for Startups. The group includes founders and executives from 75 Israeli startups and establishes a direct communication channel with the local ecosystem to distribute and leverage grants and funding opportunities, discuss future initiatives and events, and receive feedback from stakeholders.
- Marika led a panel discussion at the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Conference, kicking it off with an introduction to GFI and alternative proteins. Chefs from The Good Eating Company, Ingredion, and MUSH Foods discussed how sustainable proteins can support businesses while helping feed a growing population.



- Swissnex, a global network connecting Switzerland and the world in education, research, and innovation, published an article authored by GFIC Innovation & Entrepreneurship Manager Viola Chen titled "Alternative Proteins are Shaping Future Food Trends in China" that explores China's increasing interest in alternative proteins and notable market opportunities.

- GFI updated the database of alternative protein companies currently engaged in fundraising. Companies can opt in to share information about their fundraising status, and interested investors can filter by company and characteristics and view live deals from alternative protein companies.

Top media mentions:

- GFI Europe's UK Policy Manager Linus Pardoe was quoted about the United Kingdom approving a cultivated pet food for sale in *The Guardian* and the *New York Times*. He told *The Guardian*: "The UK is a world leader in developing cultivated meat and the approval of a cultivated pet food is an important milestone... If we're to realise the full potential benefits of cultivated meat... the government must invest in the research and infrastructure needed to make it delicious, affordable and accessible for people across the UK."
- Maanasa was quoted in *The Chosun Ilbo*, South Korea's largest newspaper, and Dong-A Science, a prominent Korean media company that focuses on science and technology journalism. Both articles highlighted the growing cultivated meat market in Korea and the need for continued R&D.
- GFI India's enthusiasm for the government's proposed agricultural budget was covered by multiple English and Hindi publications, including the Economic Times, Business Standard, and Deccan Herald.
- Nir was interviewed for an article in Ha'aretz, one of Israel's leading newspapers, where he shifted the narrative from skepticism to optimism regarding alternative proteins. Initially critical, the article was transformed as Nir provided historical context and realistic expectations, highlighting the early stage of plant-based meats in comparison to other disruptive technologies. The article featured promising developments in alternative proteins, including many notable Israeli alternative protein companies in the industry.
- Emma was quoted in an article in Grist about the recent Boston Consulting Group report and the need for public investment in alternative proteins. Excerpt: "If the U.S. is serious about technical solutions to address climate change, the food system is a really important piece of that puzzle."

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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