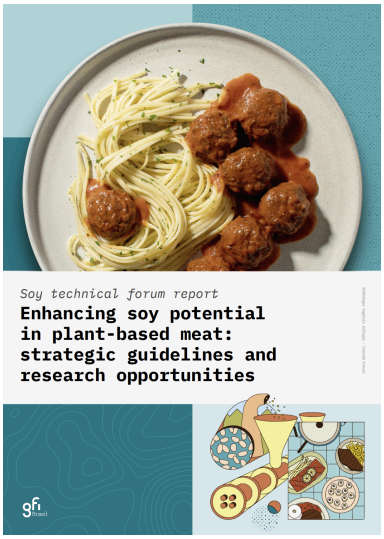
GFI's GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS
July 2025

The top highlights:

- **The Scientific Advisory Board of the German Ministry of Agriculture and Food released a 393-page report calling for increased research and scaling funding for alternative proteins, as well as clear regulatory paths to approval and about 30 other positive recommendations** (English summary). GFI Europe is cited more than 80 times in the report, with eight GFI Europe resources included in the official reference list. More than 400 stakeholders joined the launch presentation, which was widely covered across German media.
- **GFI Brazil released a report based on their work with Brazilian scientists, industry, and government to lay the groundwork for targeted R&D that positions Brazil as a leader in soy research and production for plant-based meat**. Soy is considered one of the most effective proteins for plant-based meat due to its price, high protein digestibility, and relatively low preponderance of off flavors. The report provides strategic guidelines to strengthen soy's performance across the production chain and drive alternative protein adoption.



- **GFI launched a refreshed design of our alternative protein ecosystem map, now featuring three new data types: courses, networks, and research centers.** Combined with existing data on companies, researchers, and university student groups, the updated map makes it easy to visualize and interact with geographical "hot spots" of alternative protein activity across the globe.
- **GFI Europe published a new web page (in English and German) on the state of the alternative protein research ecosystem in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, mirroring a similar page recently published covering the Nordics**. The overview outlines key players, research themes, and funding organizations while highlighting trends, promoting collaboration, and recommending how the region can further bolster its leadership in the global protein transition.
- **GFI and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research co-hosted a workshop titled Ingredient Optimization for Plant-Based and Fermentation-Enabled Proteins**, bringing together a diverse group of global experts from academia, industry, nonprofits, and the public sector. The event explored ingredient sourcing, multifunctional ingredient development, low-cost and mild processing innovations, and catalysts for ingredient innovation.
- **GFI APAC published a new global patent data analysis, showing that of the top 20 cultivated meat patent applicants to date, eight are from China**, compared with four from Israel, and three each from Europe, South Korea, and the United States. Notably, China's applicants include multiple universities and public institutions, underscoring a broader national effort to build a comprehensive innovation ecosystem around cellular agriculture.

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 Europe, in partnership with Arthur D. Little Consultancy and in collaboration with GFI team members in APAC and the United States, released a new report on identifying commercially viable molecules for precision fermentation market entry. The report details a structured approach for selecting target molecules and demonstrates how to analyze them for commercial and technical feasibility. This can help companies build capabilities, lay the groundwork for scaling, and deliver on precision fermentation's full potential to reduce environmental impacts and boost food security.
- Senior Principal Scientist Elliot Swartz, Ph.D., hosted this month's Cultivated Meat Collaborative webinar, which featured a presentation by Human Metabolome Technologies. The presentation addressed metabolomics technologies, applications in the food industry, and how metabolomics strategies enable cultivated meat development.
- Senior Associate Director of Scientific Ecosystems Amy Huang moderated this month's Science of Alt Protein webinar featuring GFI grantee alum Dr. Cathy Walsh of Mote Marine Laboratory. Dr. Walsh presented progress in the isolation, culture, and characterization of cells from Pacific white shrimp and red drum.
- South Korea Startup Lead Yeonjoo La was a featured speaker and panelist at the Korea-Netherlands Alternative Proteins Forum, hosted by North Jeolla Province and the Dutch Embassy in Korea in collaboration with Jeonbuk National University and Jeonbuk Institute for Food-Bioindustry. The event brought together researchers and innovators from leading foodtech companies and academic institutions.
- GFI APAC's strategic partner in China co-authored an article published in *Enterprise Reform and Development*, a monthly magazine under China's National Development and Reform Commission. The article examines AI's role in enhancing the efficiency, quality, and sustainability of alternative proteins.
- GFI India signed an MOU with the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), a premier food research organization of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. The MOU was formalized during CFTRI's inaugural National Symposium on Plant Proteins. The collaboration aims to advance technology transfer and scale-up opportunities within the alternative protein sector and includes joint initiatives in open-access research, talent development, and sustainable protein innovation.



- GFI APAC SciTech Manager Wasamon Nutakul, Ph.D., presented on sustainable proteins and nutrition at the Growth Asia Summit 2025, a flagship event for nutrition and food-tech innovation.
- GFI India Scientific Engagement Coordinator Amrutha Girivasan hosted a two-part webinar on the nutrition of alternative proteins for the new Alt Protein Dialogues series, co-organized by GFI India,

GFI APAC, and GFI APAC's strategic partners in China. Parts one and two featured experts from Australia's Queensland University of Technology, China's Shaanxi Normal University, India's Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, and Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research to discuss topics such as nutritional formulation, biofortification, and digestibility.

- As part of GFI's global college chapter program, the Alt Protein Project (APP), GFI teams across the globe hosted virtual Regional Week events for their region's APP student groups, strengthening their knowledge of the alternative protein sector and the opportunities and challenges in the field.

GFI influences the public sector to support alternative proteins

- GFI Israel organized and chaired a food track session on alternative proteins at Israel's largest annual environmental conference. The session featured a keynote from Founder & President Bruce Friedrich and presentations from participants of GFI Israel's Executive Leadership Program that explored cross-sector climate innovation and the role of ecosystem stakeholders in advancing food system transformation. Bruce also joined Galit Cohen, former director-general of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, for a fireside chat during the conference's opening plenary session. Bruce highlighted Israel's innovation capacity and its potential role as a global leader in driving the next wave of alternative protein innovation and adoption. (Photo credit: Yuval Youssef).



- The European Union launched its Life Sciences Strategy, which aims to make Europe a global leader in life sciences by 2030. GFI Europe Policy team members contributed to the preparation of the strategy through public consultation and meetings with European Commission representatives. The strategy highlights the potential of precision and biomass fermentation to produce high-end products from renewable resources with low environmental impact. It also announces €350 million in funding opportunities, some of which could be directed to food applications, and plans to support the scale-up and uptake of advanced fermentation technologies.
- Associate Director of Regulatory Affairs Maddie Cohen, J.D., presented on alternative protein regulation at the 2025 American Conference Institute's Food Law and Regulation Boot Camp. The event features regulatory leaders to share critical knowledge for navigating the evolving landscape under the current administration.
- GFI Europe Senior Policy Manager Linus Pardoe and GFI Europe Senior Research and Grants Manager Stella Child, Ph.D., hosted a Food Fermentation Fair in the UK Parliament, with parliamentarians and staffers in attendance. They collaborated with 14 partners from across the fermentation science and industry ecosystem to showcase the diversity of fermentation with food samples, product concepts, and high-level findings from SystemIQ's analysis of the economic impact of fermentation in the United Kingdom. (Photo credit: Jonathan Goldberg)



- Following four months of engagement and input by GFI Europe Policy team members, the European Parliament adopted its non-binding report on biotechnology. The report explicitly covers food biotechnology, calls for regulatory streamlining of bio-based products, and includes positive provisions on funding through instruments such as Horizon Europe, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and public-private partnerships.

GFI influences the private sector to prioritize alternative proteins

- Interim CEO Jessica Almy spoke at the grand opening of the GEA Group's New Food Application & Technology Center in Wisconsin, GEA's second Center of Excellence for sustainable food solutions. Jessica's keynote spotlighted how the Midwest is emerging as an alternative protein innovation hub, citing real-world proof points from across Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.
- GFI Israel hosted the Future of Meat Forum, a first-of-its-kind event convening key stakeholders from across Israel's alternative proteins ecosystem, including the food industry, government, startups, investors, culinary sectors, and incubators. Participants discussed pressing challenges in the industry, working toward a shared roadmap for scaling innovation and accelerating market adoption. The forum highlighted the power of cross-sector engagement to drive long-term impact.
- Senior Policy Specialist Maille O'Donnell hosted the July Business of Alt Proteins webinar (slides), which featured Joel Armin-Hoiland, founder and CEO of Climate Finance Solutions, who presented on how alternative protein companies can identify and secure government financing. He spoke about competing for public grant funding in Europe and the United States, including practical advice on what makes a competitive grant application.
- Corporate Engagement Manager Marika Azoff and GFI Europe Head of Industry Carlotte Lucas hosted a second July Business of Alt Proteins webinar (slides) on navigating global regulations for precision fermentation. Policy experts from GFI's global teams shared regulatory developments and frameworks in Brazil, Canada, Europe, Israel, and the United States.
- GFI India launched a new GFIdeas India podcast, the Smart Protein Pod, a series of future-focused conversations on food innovation, industry trends and opportunities, and building a successful career in the alternative protein sector. GFI India Industry Engagement Associate Aakashraj Bhople hosted the first episode (available on YouTube and Spotify), which features Armaan Dhanda, a Smart Protein Innovation Challenge alum and co-founder of Anomaly Bio.
- Maille published a new fact sheet outlining U.S. loan and loan guarantee programs available to alternative protein companies and investors.
- Associate Vice President of Corporate Engagement Emma Ignaszewski moderated a Reuters Events webinar on aligning food innovation with shifting consumer preferences and global challenges. She spoke with executives from Cargill and Kellanova about consumer-centric innovation, strategic partnerships between commodity producers and consumer packaged goods companies, and scaling for impact.
- GFI APAC's strategic partner in China published a Chinese version of GFI's latest fermentation State of the Industry Report, amplified through a summarized article.

GFI positions alternative proteins as a scalable solution to global challenges

- GFI Brazil launched the Global Coalition for Alternative Proteins Community, a virtual space for startups, companies, industry, the public sector, researchers, and students to share knowledge,

foster innovation, and drive transformation in food systems. The community welcome video introduces the various groups available for collaboration and partnership building.
- GFI Europe Public Affairs Manager Carlos Campillos Martínez spoke at a roundtable hosted by Climate Strategy & Partners on the decarbonization of the agrifood and construction sectors in Spain, alongside representatives from government, banks, NGOs, and industry. He highlighted the opportunities alternative proteins offer agrifood producers and stressed the need for public and private investment and access to scale-up infrastructure.

Top media mentions:

- Tech in Asia quoted GFI APAC CEO Mirte Gosker in an article about fermentation-derived proteins. Excerpt: "'Focusing on niche, premium markets to commercialize a new food product makes sense for early-stage startups in the alt-protein sector,' Mirte said. 'High retail prices help mitigate production costs.... To reach economies of scale, alt-protein companies have to broaden their revenue sources and cater to other market segments.'"
- *Inc.* quoted Associate Director of Market Insights Jody Kirchner in a piece about challenges in the plant-based meat industry: "'We see a huge segment of the population open to these products. There is certainly work to do around taste and price and value proposition to capture that demand, but it exists,' Kirchner says. 'There is a lot of opportunity for growth in this category.'"
- GFI Europe Senior Public Affairs Manager Ivo Rzegotta was quoted in a print and online article in *Der Spiegel*, one of the most influential news outlets in Germany, on the perspective of German startups and the EU Novel Food Regulation. Ivo noted that while the regulation is fundamentally well-suited to alternative proteins, slow approvals and limited support for companies put Europe at a competitive disadvantage and risk undermining Europe's leadership in sustainable proteins. He also gave a subsequent radio interview for a public broadcaster.

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