

GHI MATTERS

Vol. 03 - March 2026

Welcome to our new GHI newsletter

Welcome to our March newsletter. As GHI continues to grow in influence and global reach, we are pleased to bring you another collection of updates, activities, and achievements from across our international community. With membership set to surpass 2,000 in April, our network is becoming an even stronger force for advancing science-based food safety, regulatory alignment, and collaborative innovation.

This edition highlights the progress being made across GHI's initiatives, from research and education to capacity building and global partnerships. Our ambassadors, working groups, and collaborators continue to drive meaningful change, and we are proud to share their contributions with you.

This month brings an exciting milestone for GHI with the official launch of the GHI Congress 2027.

As always, GHI's impact is built on collaboration. We welcome institutions, organisations, and individuals who wish to engage with our mission or support our activities. If you are interested in partnering with us, we would be delighted to connect.

GHI President message

Dear Members of the Global Harmonization Initiative,

March has been an especially active month for the global food community. World Water Day, International School Meals Day, and several regional food-safety alerts have brought renewed attention to the links between safe water, nutrition, and resilient food systems. Many communities also observed significant religious celebrations this month, including Ramadan, Lent, and Holi, each highlighting the deep cultural connections between food, tradition, and shared values.

Governments across Asia and Europe introduced new climate-adaptation measures, including expanded drought-monitoring systems, updated heat-stress guidelines for agriculture, and investments in water-efficient food production. At the same time, international bodies such as FAO, WHO, and Codex advanced discussions on digital traceability frameworks, AI-assisted inspection tools, and sustainable farming practices – signaling a growing global commitment to more transparent, climate-resilient, and science-aligned food systems.

This month also brought extraordinary recognition to one of our own. The announcement of Prof. Dr. h.c. Huub Lelieveld as the 2026 World Food Prize Laureate is a milestone not only for Huub, but for the entire GHI community. His lifelong dedication to science-based harmonization and safer food systems has shaped our mission and inspired countless colleagues across continents. We are immensely proud, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement together at the GHI World Congress in Konya.

March has also been a month of remarkable activity from our ambassadors and working groups. Across regions, they have been engaging with universities, regulators, and industry partners to advance harmonization efforts, promote GHI's mission, and strengthen scientific collaboration. Their work - often behind the scenes - is helping to build bridges where fragmentation still exists. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to each of them for their leadership and commitment.

Amid this global energy, I am delighted to share that we are officially launching the GHI World Congress 2027 website, marking the beginning of an exciting journey toward our gathering in Konya. The Congress will be a space for bold ideas, practical solutions, and cross-border dialogue - a place where science, policy, and innovation meet. With abstract submissions open now, we invite our entire community to contribute to a program that reflects the diversity and expertise of GHI's global network.

As we look ahead, the themes shaping March - resilience, innovation, recognition, and collaboration - will continue to guide our work. Food systems face unprecedented pressures, but they also hold extraordinary potential. By working together, sharing knowledge, and championing harmonized, science-based approaches, we can help shape a future where food is safer, more sustainable, and more equitable for all.

Thank you for your dedication, your insight, and your unwavering support of GHI's mission. I am inspired by what we have achieved this month - and even more inspired by what lies ahead.

Warm regards,
Dr. Diana Bogueva
President, Global Harmonization Initiative



For more information:

Website: <https://www.globalharmonization.net>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-harmonization-initiative/posts/?feedView=all>



WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

Celebrating a Historic Moment: Huub Lelieveld Named 2026 World Food Prize Laureate



We are delighted to share the extraordinary news that Prof. Dr. h.c. Huub Lelieveld has been selected as the 37th World Food Prize Laureate, an honour often described as the Nobel Prize of food and agricultural science. This prestigious award is the world's leading recognition for individuals who have advanced human development and addressed hunger by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food.

This year marks a historic milestone: for the first time, the World Food Prize has been awarded to a leader in the field of food safety. Huub's selection underscores the global significance of his lifelong work and the profound impact he has had on ensuring safe, nutritious food for all. His decades of leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment to strengthening global food systems have shaped the field in ways that will resonate for generations.

The announcement took place on 25 March 2026 at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, during a special event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the World Food Prize. The ceremony was livestreamed as part of the panel discussion "The World Food Prize at 40: Food Security in a Strategic Age." Remarks were delivered by Tom Vilsack, CEO of the World Food Prize Foundation; Mashal Husain, President of the Foundation; and Gebisa Ejeta, the 2009 Laureate and Chair of the Laureate Selection Committee.

Huub was nominated in recognition of his transformative contributions to global food safety and security.

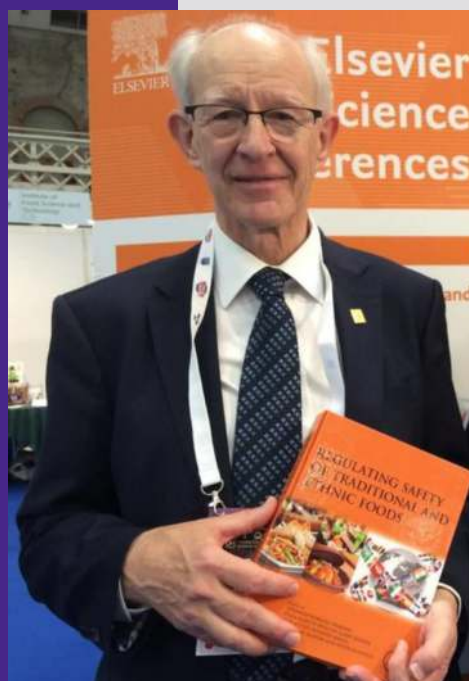


You can watch the World Food Prize announcement here:

<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/index.cfm?nodeid=96992&audienc eID=1&action=viewspeaker&id=2602>

For a concise overview of the history and values behind the World Food Prize, this 15-minute program is highly recommended:

<https://youtu.be/94zhkcLXSQc?si=0zQqpCfcThDmRgT4>



The official award presentation will take place in Des Moines, Iowa, during the annual Borlaug Dialogue (20-22 October 2026), a three-day global symposium that brings together leading experts, policymakers, business executives, and farmers to address the most pressing issues in global food security and nutrition.

For more information about the World Food Prize, visit: www.worldfoodprize.org/en/events/

The entire GHI family sends its heartfelt congratulations to Huub on this remarkable and deeply deserved honour. We are immensely proud to celebrate his achievements and the global recognition of his life's work.

We look forward to coming together as a global community to honour this extraordinary milestone during the GHI World Congress in Konya, Türkiye, a celebration truly worthy of this historic recognition.



Celebrating World Health Day: Harmonizing Food Safety for Global Health

On 7 April, the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) joins the World Health Organization (WHO) and the global community in observing World Health Day. While this day addresses a broad spectrum of medical and public health challenges, it serves as a vital reminder that food safety is health. At GHI, we believe that achieving "Health for All" is impossible without access to safe, nutritious, and harmonized food standards.

Why it matters to our mission

Foodborne diseases and nutritional deficiencies remain significant global health hurdles. Our work in scientific excellence and global collaboration directly supports the pillars of World Health Day by:

Reducing Risks: Harmonizing safety regulations to prevent foodborne illness across borders.

Promoting Nutrition: Ensuring that sustainable food systems provide high-quality nourishment for everyone, everywhere.

Advancing Science: Providing a platform for experts to share research that protects public health.

Join the conversation

As we look toward our upcoming collaborations with ISEKI-Food and EHEDG, we invite our members to reflect on how hygienic design and sustainable research contribute to a healthier world.

To celebrate World Health Day (7 April), GHI is looking for your voice! We are building a vibrant library of knowledge to share with our global community, and we want to feature your expertise in our upcoming newsletters.

How does your work in food science, law, or food safety, and food engineering directly impact global health? We invite you to submit a short essay to help us bridge the gap between food safety and public wellbeing.

GHI and ISEKI-Food 2026: Partnering for a Sustainable Future

The Global Harmonization Initiative is proud to be an endorsing organisation of ISEKI-Food 2026, the 8th edition of the renowned ISEKI-Food Conference series. This year's theme - "Innovation in Research and Education for the Transition to Sustainable Food Systems" - aligns strongly with GHI's mission to advance global collaboration and scientific excellence in food safety and sustainability.

Hosted by the University of Algarve, the conference will take place 1-3 June 2026 in Faro, Portugal, bringing together researchers, educators, industry leaders, and policymakers committed to shaping the future of sustainable food systems.

To register and for more information:
<https://isekiconferences.com/faro2026/>

Submission details

Topic: Any subject related to food safety, nutrition, or global harmonization in the context of world health.

Length: Up to 1,000 words.

Format: Please include together with your essay a brief 50-word bio and a professional headshot. We suggest a "3-2-1" format:
3 Key challenges in their specific field.
2 Innovations that are changing the game.
1 Direct call to action for the global health community.

Deadline: 20 April 2026

How to submit: Email your draft to wg@globalharmonization.net with the subject line: World Health Day Submission.

Stay tuned to our social media channels on April 7th as we highlight key breakthroughs in food safety that are saving lives globally. "Food safety is everyone's business and on World Health Day, we reaffirm our commitment to making it a global reality."

EHEDG World Congress 2026

'Ensuring Food Safety and Optimising Hygienic Production'

The Global Harmonization Initiative is proud to collaborate with EHEDG for their upcoming World Congress 7-8 October 2026 in Vienna, Austria. Under the theme "Ensuring Food Safety and Optimising Hygienic Production," this gathering will showcase expert insights and groundbreaking research in hygienic design.

Exclusive Perk for GHI Members

We have exciting news: GHI members will have access to a special registration fee option! We are currently finalizing the details, so stay tuned to our next newsletter and social media channels. We'll be announcing the full details and how to claim your discount very soon. Don't miss out - mark your calendars for Vienna!

For more information: <https://www.ehedg.org/congress-2026/>

GHI President Dr Diana Bogueva has been invited to deliver a keynote address at the conference. Her presentation, "Are consumers the problem or the solution? Rethinking responsibility in sustainable food systems," will examine the role of consumer behaviour and responsibility within the broader shift toward sustainable food systems.

As an endorsing organisation, GHI supports the conference's mission to strengthen innovation in food research and education - key drivers in the global transition toward sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems.

Important Dates

Early Bird Registration: 13 April 2026

Online Registration Closes: 1 May 2026

We look forward to connecting with colleagues and partners at this important international event.

8TH
INTERNATIONAL
ISEKI-FOOD
CONFERENCE

1-3 JUNE
UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE
FARO, PORTUGAL



ISEKI-FOOD
ASSOCIATION



UAlg

UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

It's Official! The GHI World Congress 2027 Website Has Launched – Abstracts Now Welcome!

We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the 3rd World Congress of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) website – your gateway to one of the most important global gatherings shaping the future of food systems. From 5–9 July 2027, the international food-science, regulatory, and policy community will come together at Selçuk University in Konya, Türkiye, under the theme: Harmonized Global Food Systems for a Changing World.

The global food system is being reshaped by environmental pressures, political shifts, rapid technological advances, and changing consumer needs. Yet despite this fast-moving transformation, food regulations remain uneven across countries, making it difficult to address shared challenges with coordinated global action.

The 2027 GHI World Congress takes this challenge head-on

Building on the momentum of the 2025 Congress in Rotterdam, this edition moves the conversation from identifying problems → toward solutions → and into implementation. It is a platform for shaping globally aligned, science-based, equitable food systems that can withstand the pressures of a rapidly changing world.

Use our QR Code to check our website or go to: <https://www.ghiworldcongress.org>



Special GHI Congress 2027 Program Highlights - COMING SOON!

Get ready - the 3rd GHI World Congress is shaping up to be our most dynamic and inspiring event yet. While the full program will be unveiled soon, here is a sneak peek at what's in development:

➤ Congress Special Sessions

Expect high-impact sessions led by global experts tackling the most urgent issues in food safety, regulation, innovation, and harmonization. These sessions will bring together thought leaders from science, policy, industry, and international organizations to explore bold, solution-driven ideas.

🌱 Expert Panel Discussions

Engage with influential voices in interactive panels that dive deep into the future of global food systems. These conversations will challenge assumptions, spark debate, and highlight pathways toward coordinated global action.

🏠 Optional Workshops & Masterclasses

Hands-on, skills-focused sessions will offer participants the chance to explore cutting-edge tools, regulatory approaches, an emerging technologies shaping the next generation of food systems governance.

🏭 Industry Field Trips - Details Coming Soon

Exclusive field visits will give participants a behind-the-scenes look at Türkiye's innovative food industry, research facilities, and regulatory infrastructure. More information will be announced shortly – stay tuned.

🌄 Congress Exclusive: 2-Day Cappadocia Extension Tour

Extend your Congress experience with a private, GHI-exclusive tour of Cappadocia, one of Türkiye's most breathtaking regions. This two-day journey will combine comfort, culture, and unforgettable landscapes - from ancient cave dwellings to sunrise views over the fairy chimneys. Spaces will be limited, so keep an eye on the website for booking details.

📄 Abstract submissions are now open

We invite researchers, scientists, regulators, industry experts, students, and global stakeholders to submit abstracts that contribute to harmonized, science-based, cross-border solutions. Submissions are encouraged across a wide range of themes, including:

- Harmonized global food laws and regulatory alignment
- Climate-driven risks, resilience, and crisis preparedness
- Trade, geopolitics, and global supply chain vulnerabilities
- AI, digitalization, and global data governance
- Novel foods, biotechnology, nutraceuticals, and emerging production systems
- Food processing, packaging, and technological innovation
- Ethics, equity, and governance of global food systems
- Laboratory methods, validation, and harmonized monitoring
- Future-focused and cross-cutting themes shaping food systems to 2050

This is your opportunity to help shape the global conversation - and contribute to real, actionable pathways toward harmonized food systems.

👉 Explore the full list of topics and submit your abstract on the website.

The Congress is guided by an exceptional team of international leaders in food science, safety, nutrition, regulation, and policy. These distinguished experts bring together decades of experience and global perspectives – ensuring a Congress that is ambitious, rigorous, and deeply relevant to the challenges ahead. Visit our website to meet the GHI Congress 2027 Organising Committee.

Be Part of the Global Movement Toward Harmonized Food Systems

The need for coordinated, science-based global food policies has never been greater. The 3rd GHI World Congress is more than a conference - it is a platform for shaping the future of global food governance. Join us in Konya in July 2027 to:

- Engage with leading voices from around the world
- Contribute to global alignment efforts
- Share your research and insights
- Build partnerships that drive real-world impact
- Help shape the future of food systems

Visit the newly launched website, explore the program that is shaping every day, meet the organising and the scientific committees, and submit your abstract.

Be part of the solution - and part of the global movement toward harmonized food systems.

GHI Food Safety Club Kenya Opens Its Doors

The GHI Food Safety Club in Kenya officially opened its doors on 10 March 2026, joining our growing network of clubs already active in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Africa. This new Club strengthens our shared mission to empower young people with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed, safe, and healthy food choices.

The Club aims to build strong understanding of food safety and related food issues among schoolchildren and young consumers. Through hands-on learning and community engagement, it promotes good hygiene practices, safe food handling, informed consumer awareness, and a clearer understanding of food regulations- all aligned with GHI's broader goals of harmonized food safety practices and grassroots consumer protection.



We are also proud to share that 17-year-old Lamar Sako has been elected by Club members to serve as the GHI Food Safety Club President for a one-year term. As she shared with us, her leadership reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of the students who are eager to make a positive impact

in their community. Through education, engagement, and the right tools, the Kenya Food Safety Club is helping reshape the local narrative around food, nutrition, and wellbeing.



The Kenya Club is guided by Paul Oluoch, a Biology and Chemistry teacher at Ojola Secondary School in western Kenya. The school serves a remote community in Siaya County, where limited access to reliable information on nutrition and safe food practices has contributed to rising cases of malnutrition and food-related illnesses. With the GHI curriculum already adopted and in use, Paul established the Club to help transform how students and families understand and interact with food.



Food Safety Clubs - Kenya leadership team with the school club organiser Paul Oluoch.

We are thrilled to welcome this new Club into the GHI family and look forward to seeing its impact grow.

GHI Food Safety Club - Kenya members from Ojola Secondary School in Siaya County western Kenya



Call for Contributions

Special Issue on “Challenges and Opportunities of Sustainable Food Systems for Global Health”

Global food systems are at a pivotal moment. While they have increased food availability, they have also contributed to persistent undernutrition, rising obesity and diet-related diseases, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. These interconnected challenges highlight the need to transform how food is produced, processed, distributed, and consumed, placing human and planetary health at the centre. Sustainable food systems offer a pathway to address global health inequities while staying within ecological limits.

This Special Issue is part of the “Sustainable Food” section in the Sustainability journal and explores the transition toward sustainable food systems that promote nutrition, public health, environmental resilience, and social equity. We welcome contributions examining the links between agriculture, nutrition, health outcomes, climate resilience, economic development, and governance. Topics may include sustainable agricultural practices; food environments and dietary transitions; policy and governance for sustainable diets; equity and access to nutritious foods; Indigenous and local food systems; technological and social innovations; and the impacts of climate change on food security and health. Our aim is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and generate evidence to inform policy and practice at local, national, and global levels. We invite original research, systematic or scoping reviews, policy analyses, case studies, and conceptual or methodological papers from disciplines including public health, nutrition, agriculture, social sciences, environmental sciences, and economics. By bringing together diverse perspectives, this Special Issue seeks to advance understanding of how sustainable food systems can support healthier populations and a more resilient planet. You could contact us with an abstract proposal or submit a full paper at:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/23549QB119

Guest Editors

Dr. Diana Bogueva and Prof. Dr. Dora Marinova



A Critical Moment for Venezuela’s Food Safety System

The "Food Safety in Venezuela: Current Status and Strategic Action Plan" has gained renewed urgency following the events of January 3, 2026. Originally presented by the Inter-Academic Commission on Food Systems and Nutrition¹ at the 2nd GHI Congress in Rotterdam, this plan outlines strategic actions to strengthen the national food safety and quality control system.

As a cornerstone of public health and food security, food safety is essential for the agri-food sector’s international competitiveness. This is especially critical now that trade barriers are falling, and foreign investment is expected to flow into the country. Strengthening our food safety systems is a strategic necessity for restoring the nation’s economy and the well-being and nutritional security of the population.

Current Challenges

The analysis reveals that, despite a solid historical foundation in regulatory and institutional frameworks, the country is experiencing a weakening process that is resulting in technical and operational setbacks.

Key contributing factors include:

- Loss of state oversight and control functions.
- Disengagement from international forums such as ISO and Codex Alimentarius.

- Loss of technical expertise within key regulatory bodies.
- Expropriated food industries—either entirely non-productive or operating at very low levels.
- Rising informality in food production and marketing.
- Limited reliability of analytical laboratories.
- Non-compliance with mandatory fortification programs.
- Presence of contaminants, such as mycotoxins and heavy metals, in mass-consumption products.
- Imported food products failing to comply with national and international standards.
- Outdated regulations and the absence of epidemiological bulletins on foodborne diseases.

A Call to Action

In light of this situation, the report proposes concrete measures and calls for coordinated action between the government, industry, academia, and civil society. The goal is to rebuild a robust food safety system aligned with international standards, capable of protecting public health and ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of the Venezuelan agri-food sector.

Improving food safety cannot rely on isolated actions; it requires a joint effort following the multisectoral "One Health" approach. It is imperative to rebuild the technical capacities of oversight bodies, update regulatory frameworks with a preventive focus, and foster a "food safety culture" throughout the entire value chain.

Institutional Commitment

Our Commission, in its technical and apolitical role, reiterates its firm commitment to collaborating on training, regulatory updates, and the issuance of science-based recommendations. Protecting the health of the Venezuelan population and ensuring a secure, reliable agri-food system is a shared responsibility and an urgent national priority.

María S. Tapia

Venezuela GHI Ambassador

Member of the Inter-Academic Commission on Food Systems and Nutrition

[1] Commission composed of members from the Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (ACFIMAN) and the National Academy of Engineering and Habitat (ANIH).

Call for Contributions: Special Issue on Food Processing & Sensory Quality

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity from **Prof. Dr. Franco Pedreschi**, Co-Chair of the GHI Chemical Food Safety Working Group and GHI Ambassador for Chile. In his role as Guest Editor of the Special Issue “Effects of Processing Technologies on the Physicochemical and Sensory Properties of Food Products” in the journal Foods, he invites researchers from our community to contribute their latest work. Foods journal (<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/foods/>, ISSN 2304-8158) is an international, peer-reviewed, and open access journal advancing knowledge in the field of food research.

This Special Issue welcomes both original research articles and comprehensive reviews exploring how processing technologies influence the physical, chemical, and sensory characteristics of food products.

Learn more about the Special Issue and submission guidelines: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/foods/special_issues/KT44P57ZAG

March Is a Delicious Month: Food Days to Celebrate!

March is packed with quirky, tasty, and globally loved food celebrations - a perfect excuse to explore new flavours, highlight food culture, and spark conversations about food safety, nutrition, and consumer awareness.

Early March

National Peanut Butter Lover's Day (March 1) - United States (widely shared online globally)

National Mulled Wine Day (March 3) - United States 🍷 Popular in Europe (Germany, Austria, Nordic countries), though not an official "day"

National Frozen Food Day (March 6) - United States

National Cereal Day (March 7) - United States

National Meatball Day (March 9) - United States 🍝 Celebrated informally in Italy, Sweden, and globally due to popularity

Pi Day (March 14) 🍷 International (originated in the US but now celebrated worldwide)

St. Patrick's Day (March 17) - Ireland 🍀 Celebrated globally (US, UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand)

National Poultry Day (March 19) - United States

Mid-Late March

National Chip and Dip Day (March 23) us United States

International Waffle Day (March 25) SE Sweden (origin: Våffeldagen) 🍷 Now celebrated internationally

National Spinach Day (March 26) us United States

International Whisk(e)y Day (March 27) 🍷 International (founded in the Netherlands; celebrated in Scotland, Ireland, US, Canada, Japan)

National Spanish Paella Day (March 27) us United States (origin) ES Spain (widely embraced informally)

Something on a Stick Day (March 28) us United States

National Tater Day (March 31) us United States (origin: Kentucky tradition)

National Clams on the Half Shell Day (March 31) us United States (especially coastal regions)

Join us on Instagram

GHI is now on Instagram, and we're excited to open another space for connecting with our global community. Our new account will showcase moments from across the GHI network – updates, visuals from events, highlights of our ambassadors' work, and snapshots that reflect the diversity of the global food-science landscape. We invite our members, partners, and supporters to join us there and be part of building an active, engaging presence for GHI.

Follow us on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/globalharmonizationinitiative/>

GHI Ambassador's Research Highlighted by the Institute of Food Technologists

A recent review paper co-authored by our GHI South Africa Ambassador, Associate Professor Belinda Meiring, has been featured in the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Food News Now Weekly Brief. This recognition places the team's work in the international spotlight and underscores its contribution to advancing biotechnology and food science.

The publication reflects a strong collaborative effort, with fellow GHI Ambassador Prof. Thierry Regnier, Kayise Maseko, and Paul Bartels contributing to the research. The visibility provided by IFT reinforces the global relevance of their findings and the growing impact of GHI's scientific community.

The feature appeared in the 6 March 2026 edition of the IFT Weekly Brief. The full article is available in the Journal of Food Science: <https://lnkd.in/dyMCuruQ>

World Water Day: GHI Safe Water Working Group Reaffirms Its Mission

On World Water Day (22 March), the GHI Safe Water Working Group renews its commitment to advancing harmonized, science-based approaches to water safety – a foundation of public health, food security, and sustainable development. With climate pressures and water scarcity increasing, coordinated global action on water safety is more urgent than ever.

The Working Group continues to strengthen collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building across borders in support of Sustainable Development Goal 6. By aligning scientific expertise with practical solutions, we aim to improve monitoring, risk assessment, and the adoption of harmonized water safety standards worldwide.

World Water Day reminds us that safe water is a human right and essential to resilient communities. GHI remains committed to driving globally aligned solutions that protect people and ensure a safer water future for all.



Friday, March 6, 2026

Subscribe



CONTENT SPOTLIGHT: BIOTECHNOLOGY

A weekly collection of new and archived IFT resources focused on the hottest topics impacting the science of food.



IFT's Journal of Food Science

Mushroom mycelia explored as protein source for hybrid cultured meat

A review in the *Journal of Food Science* examines how mushroom mycelia and mycoprotein could serve as sustainable protein ingredients in hybrid cell-cultured meat, highlighting fermentation processes, cultivation parameters, and potential environmental advantages.

GHI Leadership Spotlight: Prof. Adewale Obadina Contributes to Major Advances in Africa's Quality Infrastructure

As Chair of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) Food Safety Training and Education Working Group, Prof. Adewale Olusegun Obadina continues to play an important role in strengthening food safety education and quality systems across Africa. A respected authority in agrifood systems, HACCP, quality assurance, and international standards, Prof. Obadina is also a prominent higher-education leader and advisor to Codex and ISO.

In March 2026, he represented the Association of African Universities (AAU) at the Africa Quality Policy Council meeting in Mombasa, Kenya – a gathering that brought together key actors shaping the continent's quality landscape. His participation reflects GHI's commitment to advancing science-based education, harmonized standards, and capacity building across regions.

Prof. Obadina's involvement also highlights the increasing visibility of African scientific leadership in shaping global quality and safety frameworks. As African nations expand their industrial and agricultural capacity, the need for harmonized, evidence-based systems becomes even more critical. His contributions ensure that African priorities are represented in continental and international discussions.

This work is particularly timely as Africa positions itself for deeper integration into global markets. By supporting the development of strong quality infrastructure, Prof. Obadina and his colleagues are helping to create an environment where African products can compete internationally, meet global expectations, and contribute to sustainable economic development.

Driving Continental Progress

The meeting, chaired by Mrs. Ron Osman Omar, Director of Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism at the African Union (ETTİM), concluded on 12 March 2026 with several important milestones aimed at strengthening Africa's quality infrastructure and boosting competitiveness.

Delegates from academia, consumer organizations, the private sector, Regional Economic Communities, and development partners worked

collectively to advance Africa's quality agenda.

Among the major outcomes:

Progress on the "Made in Africa" Certification Scheme Framework documents for the new certification program were adopted, paving the way for a credible quality mark that will enhance trust in African products and support their competitiveness in regional and global markets.

A Roadmap for the Africa Quality Awards Scheme (AQAS)

The Council endorsed a detailed plan for implementing AQAS, which will recognize excellence in quality standards and encourage continuous improvement across sectors.

Strategies for Sustainable Resource Mobilization

Participants outlined approaches to secure long-term financing for Africa's quality infrastructure – including laboratories, institutions, and regulatory systems – ensuring that quality remains a driver of economic growth and market access.

A Message from Prof. Obadina

Reflecting on the significance of the meeting, Prof. Obadina emphasized the importance of harmonized standards and strong educational foundations:

"Africa's future competitiveness depends on our ability to build robust, science-based quality systems. This meeting demonstrated a shared commitment to that vision. As educators and technical leaders, we must ensure that the next generation is equipped to uphold and advance these standards across the continent."

GHI's Ongoing Commitment

Prof. Obadina's contributions highlight the essential role of education and harmonization in shaping resilient, high-quality food and product systems. His leadership within GHI reinforces our mission to support global alignment, strengthen capacity, and promote evidence-based approaches that benefit communities worldwide. His work also exemplifies how GHI's Working Groups can influence policy, drive innovation, and support regional development through scientific collaboration.



GHI Nutrition Co-Chair Dr. Sunita Singh Celebrates the Release of Her Third CRC Book



We are delighted to share an inspiring milestone from within the GHI community. Dr. Sunita Singh, Co-Chair of the GHI Nutrition Working Group, has received the printed edition of her latest CRC Press publication, *Plant-Associated Medicinal Nanochemistry*. This marks her third book with CRC - a testament to her sustained dedication to advancing scientific knowledge in nutrition, plant chemistry, and nanotechnology.

For Dr. Singh, holding the finished volume is more than an academic achievement. It represents years of persistence, collaboration, and the quiet determination required to bring complex research to life. In reflecting on this moment, she shared a thoughtful reminder that progress is not measured by competing with others, but by staying true to one's own rhythm and purpose. Her message resonates deeply: *"pace and competition are not the same"*. Finding one's own steady momentum - rather than running someone else's race - is what allows meaningful work to flourish.

Dr. Singh's new book explores the emerging field of medicinal nanochemistry in plant systems - a topic with significant implications

for nutrition, health, and sustainable innovation. Her work continues to elevate the scientific dialogue within GHI and reinforce the importance of evidence-based approaches in shaping the future of global nutrition.

Dr. Singh also expressed heartfelt gratitude to her children (at the photo below holding her co-edited book with pride), whose support, patience and understanding made it possible for her to devote the time and focus needed for this project. Their encouragement, she noted, adds a special significance to this accomplishment.

We congratulate Dr. Singh on this remarkable achievement and celebrate the dedication behind it. Her success is an inspiration to our entire community.



GHI Working Groups Chairs & Co-Chairs Meeting - Strengthening Scientific Leadership Across GHI

We are pleased to announce that GHI will convene two virtual meetings with the GHI President Dr Diana Bogueva, Vice President Prof. Joe Regenstein and Board members in April (20 and 21) for all Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs. These sessions are designed to ensure global participation across time zones and to reinforce the essential role our Working Groups play in advancing GHI's mission. GHI's Working Groups form the scientific backbone of our organization. Their leadership connects experts across disciplines, countries, and institutions, ensuring that harmonization efforts are informed by real-world challenges and grounded in scientific excellence. This upcoming meeting will focus on strengthening the impact and visibility of our Working Groups across the global food safety and nutrition landscape. Key discussion areas will include:

- Deepening engagement of Working Group Chairs, Co-Chairs, and members in ongoing and upcoming GHI initiatives
- Identifying scientific priorities and emerging issues within each Working Group's domain
- Developing a topic of interest and engaging the broader GHI audience in webinar presentations with the GHI webinar series
- Enhancing collaboration across Working Groups to address cross-cutting global challenges
- Improving communication channels between Working Groups and the GHI Board to support more agile and coordinated action
- Expanding outreach and visibility within national, regional, and international networks and events participation
- Strategic role of Working Groups in shaping the scientific program of the 2027 Global Harmonization Initiative Congress in Konya, Türkiye. Beyond holding their own internal meetings Working Groups will be invited to propose special sessions, symposia, and panel discussions, showcase innovative research, case studies, and harmonization efforts, engage early-career scientists and build cross-regional collaborations, contribute to a Congress program that reflects the full diversity and expertise of the GHI community. Your leadership will be instrumental in ensuring that the 2027 Congress becomes a landmark event - scientifically rich, globally inclusive, and aligned with GHI's long-term vision. GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva will follow up shortly with the confirmed meeting dates and connection details. We look forward to productive discussions.

Share Your News With Us

Our strength as a global network comes from the knowledge, achievements, and initiatives of our members. If you have:

- project updates
- event announcements
- publications
- regional activities
- food safety or harmonization news

...we encourage you to send them to us. Your contributions help keep the GHI community informed, connected, and inspired.

NEW!

The official GHI journal:
Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods (QASCF)

published by:


Discounts and Waivers - 25% APC discount to GHI members. Additional waivers or discounts for authors from low-income countries or for special GHI-led initiatives.

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