

Inaugural Conference 2025

# IMPACT REPORT

15 APR 2026



**GLOBAL FORUM**

GLOBAL FORUM FOR PLANT-BASED  
AND ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS

*Investing in Tomorrow's Food: The Global Plant-Based  
and Alt Protein Marketplace*

December 10–12, 2025 | Research Triangle, North Carolina

GLOBAL FORUM FOR PLANT-BASED  
AND ALTERNATIVE PROTEINS

# A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our inaugural conference convened global leaders, researchers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, and civil-society representatives to advance plant-based and alternative proteins.

## Our Mission

Build a global community for an inclusive, people-centered approach to plant-based and alt proteins focused on public health, climate resilience, economic development, and equitable food systems.



## What We Achieved

Cross-sector and cross-cultural engagement across the entire alt protein value chain — from smallholder farmers and research scientists to plant-based chefs, innovative startups, forward-thinking corporates, and mission-aligned investors.



# BY THE NUMBERS

 \$15K

Raised from  
Sponsors

 90

Attendee  
Registrations

 25

Organizations  
Represented

 6

Countries  
Represented

 8

Startups  
Showcased

 7

In-Kind  
Sponsors

 4

Cash  
Sponsors

 3

Packed  
Days



# THREE DAYS OF IMPACT

## DAY 1

### Innovation Tours

Site visits to local innovation hubs — NC Food Innovation Lab and Buhler Aeroglide — immersing attendees in the Research Triangle's AgTech, biotech, and foodtech ecosystem. Capped by an evening mixer with ATD RTP.



## DAY 2

### Full-Day Symposium

Expert presentations from around the world, nuanced panel discussions on investing, consumer perceptions, regulatory frameworks, and global livelihoods. Startup Showcase with product sampling and a Pitch Competition!



## DAY 3

### Deep-Dive Workshops

Hands-on workshops developing professional skills in food policy change, risk communication, regulation of novel foods, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the alt protein sector.



# CROSS-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

*Amplifying connections across the entire alt protein value chain*



Smallholder  
Farmers



Research  
Scientists



Plant-Based  
Chefs



Innovative  
Startups



Mission-Aligned  
Investors

## Keynote Highlight

The Danish Consulate discussed how Denmark is nudging their entire country toward plant-based and alt proteins because it's good for the people, good for the planet, and good for business. Early indicators are positive!



# STARTUP SHOWCASE

8 startups from around the world | Product sampling | Pitch competition



## Global Reach

Domestic products alongside offerings from as far away as Vietnam and Slovenia! Guests experienced exciting, culturally diverse plant-based and alt protein products.



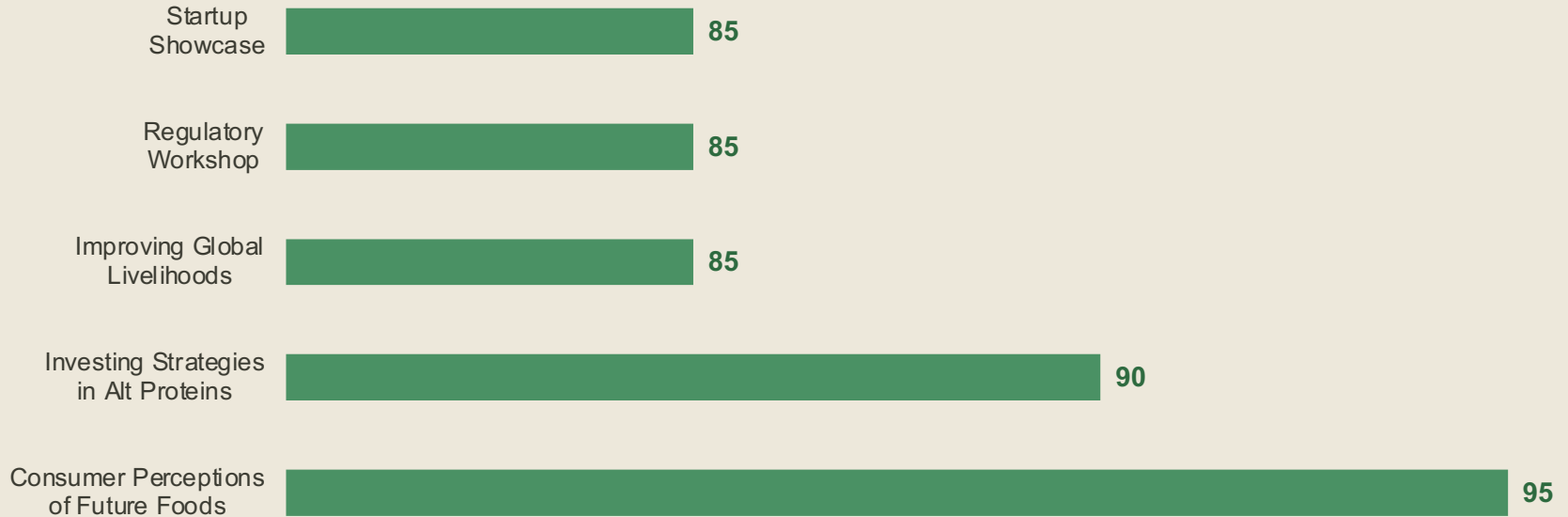
## Pitch Competition

Entrepreneurs pitched their sustainable food innovations to a panel of investors and industry experts, spotlighting ventures ready to disrupt food and agriculture.



# MOST POPULAR SESSIONS

*Based on attendee survey feedback*



# WHAT ATTENDEES SAID



High quality networking and relationships formed; the intimate size enabled meaningful, in-depth conversations.

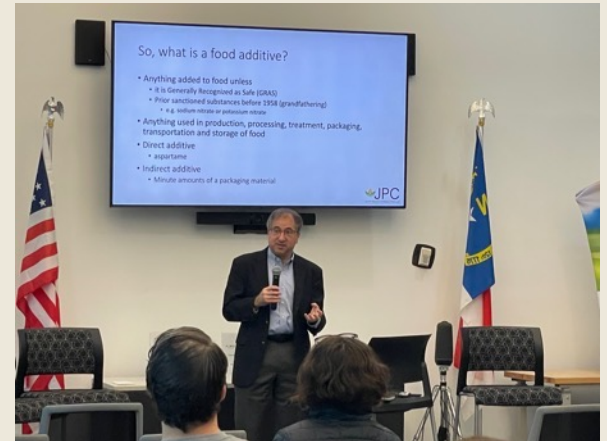


Valued connecting with a diverse, global group of stakeholders — startups, investors, researchers, and communicators.



Workshops on risk communication, regulation, and novel foods provided practical insights directly applicable to their work.

*Attendees appreciated the thoughtful programming, expert speakers, and intentional space for connection.*



# TESTIMONIALS

“

*“This event was immensely substantive, valuable, and insightful. The speakers were exceptional. I saw and heard deals being made. I’m looking forward to the next one!”*

— Karen Brown, Bridge Arrow

“

*“Thanks to strong industry connections, excellent organization, and deep subject-matter expertise, the inaugural conference was a remarkably enlightening, useful, and enjoyable event!”*

— Claudia O'Donnell, Food Trends & Tech.

“

*“A top event for convening thought leaders in the alternative and plant-based protein space who actually want to solve intractable global problems.”*

— Megan Thomas, Ladder 17



# IN THE PRESS

Food Processing Magazine covered our conference!

## From Our Keynote by the Danish Consulate General

*"Denmark is nudging an entire population into plant-based foods"*

[foodprocessing.com](https://www.foodprocessing.com)



## From Our Investments Outlook Panel Session

*"Sustainability messaging [is] holding back alternative proteins"*

[foodprocessing.com](https://www.foodprocessing.com)





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to ALL the volunteers that made this event possible!

## Volunteer Conference Committee

Matt Tom, Tawanda Muzhingi, Jaishree Singh, Chanel Nestor, Megan Thomas, Claudia O'Donnell, Kaitlin Grady, Laine Clark; Volunteer Students - Hugh Foley, Maksim Postnov

## Volunteer Speakers

Jeppe Juul Petersen, Rohan Shirwaiker, Roberta Claro Da Silva, Nathan Ahlgrim, Dave Reynolds, Justine Sosne, Kenneth Lindharth Madsen, Michael Snodgrass, Laine Clark, Steve Simitzis, Balaji Vasudevan, Jonathan Avesar, Alex Huen, Cheryl Preyer, Sheetal Shah, Tim Olsen, Josip Simunovic, Ian Banks, Leila Strickland, Sue Marshall, Laura Oxner, Sanjay Sethi, Kaitlin Grady, Paul Ulanich, Khara Grieger, Joe Hildebrand, Caroline Morrison, Tanya & Clarence Dubois, Michelle Shcroeder-Moreno, Jaishree Singh, Taylor Quinn, David Piza, Megan Thomas, Tawanda Muzhingi, Matt DiLeo, Ram Nair, Katie Sanders, Kate Stanley, Matt Tom, Scott May, Chris Aurand, Karen Brown, Greg Jaffe, Katariina Kouvusaari, Andrew Powell, Malorie Bice, CJ Scott



LOOKING AHEAD

# GFC 2026

Our next conference is focused on building community with innovative plant-based and alt protein startups from around the world.

## Become a Sponsor

Help us amplify the impact of the global alt protein movement in 2026!

## Partner with Us

Collaborate on programming, startup showcases, and cross-sector dialogues.



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# OUR TEAM WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU!



**Tawanda Muzhingiri**

Executive Director



**Matt Tom**

Executive Chairperson



**Jaishree Singh**

Director of Partnerships,  
Memberships & Sponsorships

Upcoming events we'll be at!

- Tawanda – **Bezos Alt Protein Symposium**, Apr 9-10; **IFT FIRST**, Jul 12-15
- Matt – **F4T 2026**, Apr 17-18; **SF Climate Week**, Apr 20-23; **NCASM**, May 1-2; **NCIFT**, May 5
- Whole team – **NYC Climate Week**, Sept 21-25



# LET'S CONNECT

We're eager to collaborate  
with interested parties!



[info@globalforumaltproteins.org](mailto:info@globalforumaltproteins.org)



Global Forum for Plant-Based  
and Alternative Proteins



[globalforumaltproteins.org](https://globalforumaltproteins.org)

Reach out to sponsor GFC 2026!