



Global Harmonization Initiative

Advocating safe food for all

GHI MATTERS FEBRUARY, 2024

ISSUE NO #54

Contents

The President Emeritus’s message	2
Incoming President (Dr. Diana Bogueva)’s Message	2
The Editor’s message,	3
GHI Member publications.....	3
GHI Announces Vacancies.....	4
GHI Congress New Date Now Out	4
GHI Readies Itself for a Robust Financial Future	4
GHI Board Proposes a Creation of an Executive Board	4
GHI Group Influencing Food Safety Conversations in Nigeria	5
GHI Food Safety Club in Nigeria.....	5
Events and conferences	6
Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony between GHI and the IFSA (International Food Safety Association) based in Hong Kong.....	6
Memorandum of understanding for co-operation between Lebanese Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (LAFST) and GHI	6
International Cereal and Bread Congress (ICBC)	6
The 22 nd World Congress of Food Science and Technology IUFoST 2024	7
Upcoming GHI webinars	7
Celebrating the progress of GHI WG	8
Have You Visited the GHI YouTube Channel Lately?	8
World Food Safety Day: What are You Doing about It?	8

The President Emeritus's message

Dear GHI Members,

In 2004 GHI was formed as a response to the news that in various countries thousands of people were dying while in the harbors there was enough food to feed them all. The reason was that governments felt that the food may not be safe although the food was considered safe in the countries of origin. A small group of people meeting at an international scientific conference agreed that this is absurd and unacceptable, and therefore scientists should try to convince the world that food safety regulations should be harmonized. The Global Harmonization Initiative was conceived. Since then, I have been leading GHI but knowing that I would turn 80 early 2024, I felt that GHI, as a fairly young and vibrant organization, needs a younger president.

I am proud of the new GHI Board, elected in November 2022, that on average is much younger than before, is gender-balanced, and has representatives from all five big continents. I felt that I should step down and propose that GHI elect another president. The election took place during the first Board meeting in 2024, on 17 January.

It is a real pleasure to inform you that the newly elected president is Dr. Diana Bogueva. Diana has been extraordinarily active in GHI in the past six years, gradually assuming responsibility for many tasks, including becoming Working Group Director, which means supporting 20 working groups. I have been leaning on Diana's shoulders now for quite a long time. With her motivation and insights in GHI's matters, I am certain that she will be a very good president, and I am happy that the other members of the Board felt the same and are willing to support her as they did support me, the last year as board members but before that in their various other functions on behalf of GHI. Diana is born in Bulgaria but lives in Australia.

Note that I am not resigning from the board. I shall remain a board member at least until the next board election, providing support where and when needed and possible.

Take care and kind regards,

Huub Lelieveld, 29th February, 2024.

Incoming President (Dr. Diana Bogueva)'s Message

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am honored to address you as the newly elected President of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), following in the footsteps of the esteemed Prof Huub Lelieveld. Inspired by his legacy in the realm of food safety and security, I am eager to continue the remarkable journey he began in 2004.

GHI was born out of a commitment to rectify the regrettable destruction of food due to legal correctness at the expense of scientific and moral considerations. Today, with the baton passed to me, I am excited to usher in a new era of progress and innovation within our organization. As we transition to a new chapter, I am committed to preserving our core principles while introducing initiatives that will redefine and elevate our organization.

This journey is not going to be successful without all of you the members of GHI and the support of all the people next to me, our Board members, directors, working groups chairs

and vice chairs. Together, we will amplify the name and expertise of GHI on the world stage. Let's work collaboratively to eliminate differences in food safety and security, laws and regulations between countries. By doing so, we will prevent the needless spoilage, confiscation, and destruction of safe and healthy food, ensuring that no one goes hungry in a world where more than 820 million people still face food insecurity.

I invite you to join me on this journey as we transform GHI into a beacon of global cooperation. Together, we can make a lasting impact on food safety, security, and the well-being of millions.
Best regards,

Diana Bogueva, 29 February 2024

The Editor's message,

Dear Readers,

Greetings of the year and first quarter of 2024. It is indeed a great opportunity to continue with the aspects of informing all the GHI members of the incredible activities currently on going at GHI.

Prof. Huub our President-emeritus, recently celebrated his 80th birthday and a few of us had a chance to wish a happy birthday and thank him for all his effort to steer GHI to these heights. The short video can be accessed [here](#). You can reach out to Huub and do the same even belatedly.

This Newsletter also carries the fantastic news of a changing of the guard at the helm of GHI with Diana Bogueva coming in as the New President of GHI following her election by the Board. I take this opportunity to welcome Diana to this New role and seek your support even as I pledge my personal commitment to continue supporting her as she settles in her role as GHI president.

In this Newsletter, I draw your attention to important communication from the Board including changes, to GHI leadership structure, vacancies for volunteer services at GHI and even about the new dates for the GHI Congress.

Should you have any information to share with members, please feel free to write to me as Editor at: benard.oloo@globalharmonization.net

Yours Truly,

Benard Oloo, 29th February, 2024

GHI Member publications

A book chapter "Introductory Chapter: Pseudocereals as Subexploited Food" has been published by GHI member and ambassador for Sri Lanka Dr. Viduranga Waisundara; by IntecOpen and can be accessed [here](#). The author writes that 'pseudocereals are viewed as a category of food products, which have a significant potential in curbing food insecurity, malnutrition, and agricultural losses due to climate change'. You can access to read more about this field of great potential especially in the context of climate change.

GHI Announces Vacancies

A group of GHI members have put together a listing of positions available for GHI members to serve. We have two requests. If you are holding one of these positions, please share with us any further and more detailed requirements of the position not yet in the position descriptions. Some positions are vacant, and members are encouraged to volunteer to fill these. Full details are listed on the website. Please send any information or a request to fill a position to Joe Regenstein, Vice-President at jmr9@cornell.edu. If you are applying for a position, please enclose a SHORT biography and any information as to why you would like to serve in that position. Please access the full announcement [here](#)

GHI Congress New Date Now Out

The 2nd GHI Congress is now scheduled for June 25-27, 2025, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The extra time will give GHI a better opportunity to organize the meeting. And hopefully, as members, it gives you time to plan on attending, either in person or remotely. The Organizing and Scientific Committees are being updated along with bringing in other members with tasks to make the meeting a success. (Volunteers can still join either committee. Please enclose a SHORT biography to jmr9@cornell.edu and any information as to why you would like to serve in that position.) Besides the scientific program, this is also an opportunity for the working groups and other parts of GHI to meet in person, and for the organization to informally discuss relevant issues with its members. The General Assembly and the Board of GHI are looking forward to getting to know many of you and to share scientific insights. Please let Joe Regenstein (jmr9@cornell.edu) know if you would like to arrange a Working Group meeting, volunteer to be involved in other ways, or have suggestions for topics or speakers.

GHI Readies Itself for a Robust Financial Future

GHI is finding itself limited in what it can do because of limited financial resources. Thus, the Board has approved having a membership fee (which will need approval by the General Assembly and will hopefully be instituted in 2025 – currently, the plan is to have multiple level with the highest level for general membership for members from developed countries at 50 euros with as low as 10 euros for students from developing countries. A letter with more details is being prepared to share with all the members

GHI Board Proposes a Creation of an Executive Board

The Board of GHI has approved a series of resolutions changing the Constitution and By-Laws beyond the Membership fees. They are creating an Executive Committee of the Board (consisting of the 4 officers) that rather than the President could make interim decisions. And each of these 4 officer positions could be joint if determined by the Board.

GHI Group Influencing Food Safety Conversations in Nigeria

GHI Food Safety Club in Nigeria



To reduce the number of food safety incidents in Nigeria, a Food Safety (NFSC) club has been formed at Nkwelle-Ezunaka University, formerly known as the Federal Government Girls' College, Onitsha as the club's headquarters. The club will help foster a greater understanding of food safety and other food-related issues among school children and grow future food scientists. Also, it will promote good hygiene during the preparation and handling of food in Nigerian Unity (Religious) Colleges and beyond.

The launching of the first GHI Food Safety Club at the Federal Government Girls' College, Nkwelle-Ezunaka (Onitsha) in Nigeria has proven successful. The club started its activities on the 20 February 2024 with a grand-opening in the presence of students and the college authorities during a special assembly. The college management believes GHI's initiative aligns with the World Health Organization's efforts to combat foodborne diseases, thereby addressing the escalating instances of foodborne poisoning in Nigeria. By establishing this club in unity colleges across the country, GHI aspires to instigate a positive shift in the behavior of school children, fostering an enhanced food safety culture within society.

"The administration of the Federal Government Girls' College, Nkwelle-Ezunaka (Onitsha), extends gratitude to the Leadership of the Global Harmonization Initiative for their generosity and deeming our school worthy to serve as the starting ground for this wonderful project".



Photo 1: From right Mr. Ayimhense Azeke John (Vice Principal's Admin), Dr. (Mrs.) Ibeugu Victoria Ozo (College Clubs' Coordinator), Onuzurike Chinwe Charity (Vice Principal Student Affairs) Ezenweani Emmanuel Chidi (GHI Food Safety Club Coordinator) and Miss Okafor Josephine Nkemjika (Vice Principal Academics)



Photo 2: Ezenweani Emmanuel Chidi (GHI Food Safety Club Coordinator) with the new members of the GHI Food Safety Club

Events and conferences

Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony between GHI and the IFSA (International Food Safety Association) based in Hong Kong



On the 4th of December, GHI and the IFSA (International Food Safety Association) based in Hong Kong set up a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This was signed in an online ceremony to coincide with the IFSA annual dinner. Dr. Emily Choi, Chair of IFSA signed the agreement on behalf of IFSA, witnessed by Becky Cheung,

Founder and Honorary Chair of IFSA. On behalf of GHI, Dr. Huub Lelieveld, President of GHI, signed the agreement witnessed by other members of the GH Board, Dr. Diana Bogueva, Dr. Gerhard Schleining, Dr. Ogugua Charles Aworh, Dr. Vishweshwaraiah Prakash and Dr. Nicola Stanley. The video of the signing can be seen [here](#).

Our two organisations now look forward to working together on our shared vision of improving food safety across the world. We already have some joint webinars in preparation please see the next item to find out more.

Memorandum of understanding for co-operation between Lebanese Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (LAFST) and GHI

Memorandum of understanding for co-operation was signed between the Lebanese Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (LAFST) and GHI on the 8 February 2024. On behalf of GHI, Dr. Huub Lelieveld, President of GHI, signed the agreement witnessed by Dr. Diana Bogueva from the GHI Board and from the LAFST side the MOU was signed by Ms Rana Cheaito, President of LAFST and witnessed by Aline Issa, a member and association consultant. Both organizations agreed to co-operate on food-safety and regulations projects and events.

International Cereal and Bread Congress (ICBC)



The International Cereal and Bread Congress, which takes place every four years, involves numerous cereal scientists, technologists, millers, bakers, and ingredients and equipment suppliers around the globe. After stops in Beijing, Istanbul and a virtual New Zealand meeting in April, 2024, the cosmopolitan community gathers in Nantes, France, the green city on the

Loire, to discuss and share knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of grain science and technology. INRAE, France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment with its science dedicated to life, humans and the earth is providing its competence together with the ICC, the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology, to organize and frame an unforgettable event for the global cereal community. The full details regarding the conference can be accessed [here](#).
GHI happily endorses this congress.

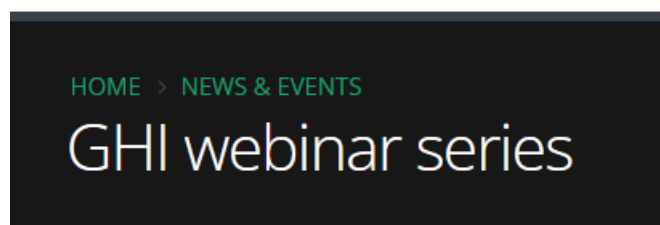
The 22nd World Congress of Food Science and Technology IUFOST 2024



The 22nd World Congress of Food Science and Technology 2024 is coming up in 2024. The Congress theme will be 'Future of Food is Now: Development, Functionality & Sustainability'. The 22nd IUFOST World Congress 2024 of Food Science and Technology will be held in Rimini, certainly among the most welcoming places in Italy, from 8 to 12 of September 2024. The Congress aims to outline the new challenges that the sector will face and for this reason the multi- and interdisciplinary meeting of all the scientific communities, that too often operate isolated from each other, will be welcomed. More details about this meeting can be accessed [here](#). GHI will host a special session with the theme "Debating the Future of Food" as part of the IUFOST Congress scientific program. We already have 5 speakers, but we could have another potential speaker if anyone is interested and has a topic to offer in line with the special session theme. If you plan to attend the Congress, kindly notify Dr. Diana Bogueva diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net, the organizer of the special session, as she is compiling a list of GHI members attending. This will enable us to avail us of a 12% discount on fees for groups of 20 or more attending members.

GHI happily endorses this congress.

Upcoming GHI webinars



GHI webinar 14: Palm Oil - The Basics and Beyond

Date: 22 March 2024, Time: 12 noon CET

GHI webinar 15: Potential Toxic Compounds in Foods

Date: 29 April, 2024 Time: 12 noon CEST

Save the Dates!

19th April – Joint webinar - GHI and IFSA – Careers in Food Safety

7th June - World Food Safety Day – Joint Webinar – GHI and IFSA

10th June – World Food Safety Day – Joint Webinar – GHI and LAFST

To find out more and register your attendance at these webinars, please visit the website [here](#).

Celebrating the progress of GHI WG

The GHI WG are working hard on many important projects. The Consumer Perception WG delivered a webinar about food labelling, regulations, and quality standards: and the Reducing Post-harvest Losses WG in collaboration with GHI Board members organized another webinar on 27 July 2023: ‘Practical and workable systems and strategies for reducing post-harvest food losses and wastage’. These can all be accessed at the GHI YouTube channel [here](#) in case you missed any of them.

Have You Visited the GHI YouTube Channel Lately?

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the GHI YouTube channel. Please subscribe to this YouTube channel [here](#) to keep up to date on new content.

World Food Safety Day: What are You Doing about It?

World Food Safety Day 2024 will occur on 7 June, 2024. Log onto the World Food Safety Day website and Codex Twitter feeds (@FAOWHOCodex) to find out this year’s theme and how you can play your part in keeping food safe! Please also do not forget to share your food safety day celebrations with GHI. We shall be happy to carry the reports of the successful World Safety Day celebrations in GHI Matters.

[GHI](#) is an initiative of the European Federation of Food Science and Technology ([EFFoST](#)), which is the European part of the International Union of Food Science and Technology ([IUFoST](#)) and the International Division of the Institute of Food Technologists ([IFT](#)). GHI is supported by the European Engineering and Design Group ([EHEDG](#)). The goal of GHI is "Achieving consensus on the science of food regulations and legislations to ensure the global availability of safe and wholesome food products for all consumers".

GHI has legal non-profit entity status, registered in Austria as "GHI-Association - Globale Harmonisierungs Initiative für Gesetze und Verordnungen im Bereich Lebensmittel", ZVR number 453446383.