



**Global**  
**Harmonization**  
Advocating safe food for all **Initiative**

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### President's Message

As 2024 comes to a close, we reflect on a year marked by global challenges and achievements. Earth experienced its hottest year on record, with devastating climate events highlighting the urgent need for systemic change. As scientists and policymakers, we must tackle these issues to ensure food security, safety, and sustainability amid unprecedented environmental pressures.

Despite these challenges, 2024 also showcased the power of innovation. Technological advancements like AI, quantum computing, and digital twins have shaped food systems, offering transformative tools to combat food insecurity, optimize production, and reduce waste. Yet, food loss remains a critical issue, with one-third of global food wasted — enough to feed 3 billion people. Encouragingly, COP29 in Baku renewed commitments to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, with initiatives targeting methane reductions from food loss and waste and championing global collaboration for equitable food access.

Looking ahead, there is hope. Our 2nd GHI World Congress in June 2025 will bring together global leaders in Rotterdam to explore solutions for a more resilient and equitable food system. A special panel on Food Security and Emergency Preparedness will kickstart conversations, culminating in actionable outcomes for a sustainable future that benefit all.

Together, through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering commitment, we can turn challenges into opportunities and build a healthier, safer, and more sustainable food

system for future generations. For those eager to contribute, there's still time to submit abstracts by 20 December. Let's unite our efforts and do our best for a better tomorrow. I wish you a time of reflection and renewal. As the year closes, I wish you continued peace, health, and happiness. May we all work toward a world with secure food and prosperity for everyone.  
Warm regards,

***Dr. Diana Bogueva***  
***President, Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)***  
***10 December 2024***

### **Editor's Message,**

I take this earliest opportunity to send a message of good tidings and merry Christmas during this festive season as we close the curtains in 2024. I truly hope you and loved ones have moments of reunification and gratitude. This year has been very important for GHI matters as it shows the leadership transition. As we look forward to the coming year, we look forward to the fulfilment of the GHI congress to be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Even more important, we are celebrating the success of GHI members and ambassadors who have been integral in creating amazing results in different parts of the world. Noteworthy is the GHI board member, Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, as he was awarded the 2024 World Food Prize Top Agri-Food Pioneer Certificate in Iowa. I invite you to enjoy the content and relish the uplifting message from GHI President.  
Warmest regards,

***Dr. Benard Oloo***  
***Editor GHI***  
***14 December 2024***

  
**Global**  
**Harmonization**  
**Initiative**

**2<sup>ND</sup> GHI WORLD CONGRESS**  
Connecting food security, safety, health  
and sustainability - challenges ahead  
25-27 June 2025 • Rotterdam • The Netherlands

### **Join the 2nd GHI World Congress in Rotterdam – Don't Miss Out!**

The GHI Congress (June 25-27, 2025) will be a pivotal event in transforming global food systems. Engage with experts on food security, sustainability, health, and innovation.

#### **Pre-Congress Opportunities:**

- EHEDG Workshop (June 24, 2025): Learn about hygienic design principles.
- Unilever Visit (June 27, 2025): Explore cutting-edge food innovations at the Hive.

Special Perks:

- **KLM & Air France** are offering a 10% discount on flights to the Congress. At any point of their journey, passengers must be able to justify the usage of the discounted Air France-KLM Global Meetings & Events fares by showing a proof of attendance to the registered event, for example an invitation letter or entrance ticket or confirmation of payment of the registration fee.
- Publication Opportunities: Secure your publication in the **Future Foods Journal** (Elsevier) or the **African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Development**, both offering 30% off publishing fees for articles emerging from the Congress.

**AIRFRANCE**  **KLM** 

**Global Meetings & Events**

**10% discount on the Air France or KLM airfare for attendees of  
2nd World Congress of the Global Harmonization Initiative**

Discount is **only** available if booked in **EURO (€)** currency via the AirFrance.com or KLM.com website. If you book from a non € currency country, please change to a website of one of the € currency countries.

**3 steps to claim your unique discount:**

1. Follow the regular booking process, when asked if "travelling for business" select YES and use MICE as "contract name", this ensures the Air France-KLM corporate recognition associated with "Global Meetings and Events" program during your flights.
2. After completing your personal details click on "Proceed to payment details" at the bottom of the page and enter in the "Your discount code" field the discount code:  
**GME50460AF**
3. Click on 'Send discount code' and if conditions are met\* the discount will be applied.

 \* Please scan the QR code to read the general conditions which are applicable to the usage of this event Internet Discount Code (IDC)

 **Booking date**  
from 06/12/24 to 27/06/25  
Departure date: from 18/06/25 to 27/06/25  
Inbound date: from 25/06/25 to 04/07/25

**Extended Congress abstract deadline: December 20, 2024**  
**Early bird registration ends: January 31, 2025**  
**Don't miss your chance to shape the future of food!**

**VISA Information for GHI Congress Attendees**

The GHI Congress 2025 organizers are ready to support your visa application process by providing an official invitation letter after you complete your Congress registration. As many attendees will need to apply for a Schengen visa, it's important to be aware of the varying rejection rates in countries like France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. For a closer look at these challenges, you can review this in-depth analysis: [The Schengen Visa Challenge](#). (The link is here:

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/the-schengen-visa-challenge-a-deep-dive-into-rejection-rates-in-france-spain-the-netherlands-germany-and-italy/>)

Please plan ahead to ensure a smooth visa process and join us at this transformative event!

### **World Food Prize Foundation recognition of a GHI Board member**

We had the honor of following the distinguished GHI board member, Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, as he was awarded the 2024 World Food Prize Top Agri-Food Pioneer Certificate. Along with his recognition, Africa was also a focal point of the conversation during the 2024 World Food Prize Foundation Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue.



**Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, GHI Board Member,  
World Food Prize Top Agri-Food Pioneer, 2024 Awardee**

The 2024 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue was themed “Seeds of Opportunity: Bridging Generations and Cultivating Diplomacy.” It was held in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, October 29-31, 2024. The event brought together over 500 organizations, 28 exhibitors, and more than 1,500 participants from 67 countries. It featured over 30 main sessions, breakout sessions, and side events that addressed a wide range of issues related to food and agriculture.

During the opening session on “Achieving a Hunger-Free World” on October 29, 2024, the President of the African Development Bank Group and 2017 World Food Prize Laureate, Hon. Akinwumi Adesina, and World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga, underscored efforts to reduce global hunger. Their focus was particularly on Africa, emphasizing the importance of partnerships in infrastructure development, the Africa Electrification Initiative, agro-industrial processing, value addition, and poverty reduction.

Several sessions specifically focused on Africa, including:

- “Bold Measures to Feed Africa - Part 1”
- “Feed the Future: Millennium Challenge Corporation and Zambia Celebrate \$458 Million Ag Partnership”
- “Bold Measures to Feed Africa - Part 2”
- “Africa Agriculture Dialogue”

Two African Heads of State, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, and H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, were among the dignitaries delivering presentations. H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Africa's only female president, highlighted Tanzania's significant achievements in food and agriculture under her leadership. These include tripling the annual budget allocation for agriculture, which has enabled the country to achieve food self-sufficiency and become an exporter of surplus produce to neighboring countries. Tanzania has also made remarkable progress in value addition, particularly in cashew nut processing and export. Additionally, nearly 100% of Tanzania's 12,300 villages are now connected to the electricity grid, reducing the reliance on fuelwood by rural households.

H.E. Julius Maada Bio emphasized the need for partnerships with international organizations and the private sector to develop Sierra Leone's food and agricultural sector, calling for foreign direct investment in this area.

On October 30, 2024, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan was interviewed by the Hon. Akinwumi Adesina during the “Africa Agriculture Dialogue” side event. The event also featured panel discussions on promoting food security, agro-industrial processing and value addition, infrastructural development, addressing youth unemployment, and reducing poverty in Africa. Notable panelists included H.E. Caleb Muftwang, Governor of Plateau State, Nigeria, H.E. Dikko Umar Radda, Governor of Katsina State, Nigeria, and Dr. John Coumantaros, Chairman of Flour Mills Nigeria Plc.



**The Hon. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group (left) with H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President, United Republic of Tanzania.**



**The Hon. Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group (left) with H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President, Republic of Sierra Leone.**



**H.E. Caleb Muftwang, Governor of Plateau State, Nigeria (left) with Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, GHI Board Member.**





**Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, GHI Board Member (left)  
with H.E. Dikko Umar Radda, Governor of Katsina State, Nigeria**

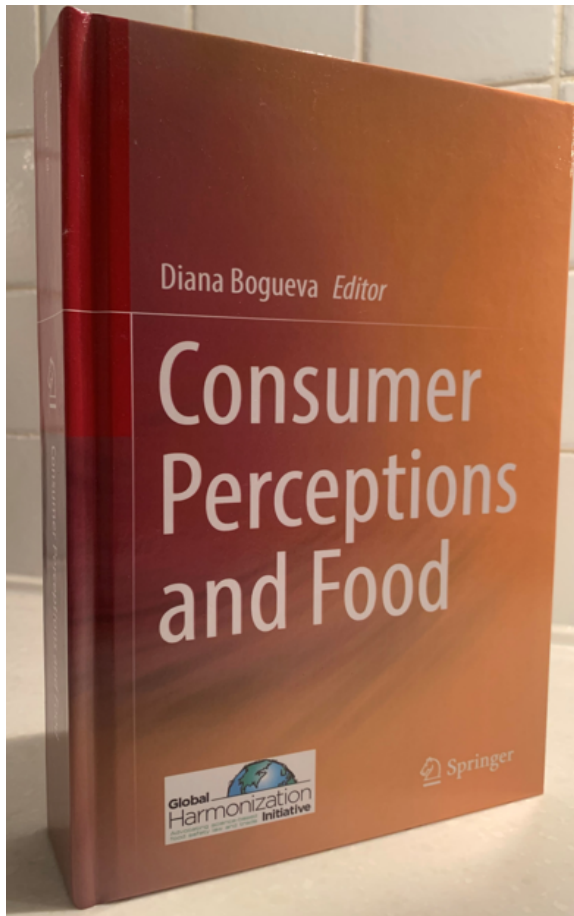
The highpoint of the 2024 World Food Prize Foundation Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue was the Laureate Award Ceremony, held on October 31, 2024, at the historic Iowa State Capitol. During the ceremony, the 2024 World Food Prize was awarded to Dr. Gary Fowler (USA) and Dr. Geoffrey Hawtin (United Kingdom) in recognition of their over 50 years of work in crop biodiversity conservation. They were honored for their efforts to conserve more than 6,000 species of crops and culturally significant plants from nearly every country in the world. Both Dr. Fowler and Dr. Hawtin were instrumental in establishing the highly acclaimed Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, the world's long-term safe backup repository for crop diversity.

The Award Ceremony included a Procession of Laureates and Dignitaries, with a welcome address by World Food Prize Foundation President Amb. Terry E. Branstad and Chief Operating Officer Mashal Husain. The Laureate Proclamation was made by the Hon. Kim Reynolds, the Governor of Iowa, who chaired the event. The ceremony also featured Laureate Tributes and the Presentation of the World Food Prize.

Again, we are very proud of Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh, a GHI Board Member, who was recognized as one of the recipients of the inaugural World Food Prize Top Agri-Food Pioneer Award during this prestigious event.

**The Book on Consumer Perception Perceptions and Food launched.**

**Exciting Launch for the GHI Consumer Perceptions Working Group: *Consumer Perceptions and Food* is now published!**



We are thrilled to announce the release of *Consumer Perceptions and Food*, a groundbreaking book now officially published by Springer Nature. This collaborative effort brings together the expertise of 51 remarkable contributors from 24 countries and 6 continents, highlighting the diverse global perspectives that have shaped the work of the Consumer Perceptions Working Group of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI).

This book offers a comprehensive and timely exploration of how consumer perceptions influence our relationship with food. It covers a wide range of topics including consumer decision-making, behavior change, food safety, sustainability, and the acceptance of new food technologies. With a focus on how sensory, cultural, and emotional factors shape what we eat, this work provides a deeper understanding of the underlying forces driving food choices.

In today's world, where mindful eating, sustainable consumption, and food safety are more important than ever, *Consumer Perceptions and Food* serves as both a guide and a call to action. It challenges consumers, businesses, and policymakers to rethink how we engage with food, not just as a commodity, but as a crucial element of our health, environment, and society.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the incredible contributors who made this book possible: Dora Marinova, Isabella Nyambayo, Andrej Ovca, Christelle Bou-Mitri Ph.D., PCQI, Zuzana Kapsdorferova, Temitope Akinyemi, Nicola Stanley Ph.D., Oyinbolaji A. Ajetunmobi, Adewale Olusegun Obadina (Prof.), Diána Bánáti, Adina Baicu, Chin-Kun Wang, Barbara Borusiak, Vinh The Bui, Esra Çelik, Romy Chammas,

Tonia Chahine, Svetla Danova, Nayil Dinkçi, Jacqueline Doumit, Chinwe Catherine Eze (BSc. MBA MPH MSc PhD), Diana Milena Galindo-Pineda, Geicu Mihaela, Slavica Grujić, Nestor Guity-Zapata, Behannis Mena, Mojca Jevšnik, Oluwatoyin Idowu-Mogaji, Nurcan Koca, Sanjana Laobangdisa, Esmeralda Paz Lemus, Maedeh Javadi, Itohan Ebunoluwa Martins, Simin Hagh Nazari, Adebukola Omidiran, Pat Darko, Tulay Ozcan, Popa Elisabeta-Elena, Mirna Raad Aoun, Joe Regenstein, Ghenwa Sarieiddin, Alexandrina Sirbu, Hamid Reza Taher, Mesfin W. Tenagashaw, Elohor Izevbekhai, Krisztina Varga, Thy Bao Vuong, Lutfiye Yilmaz-Ersan, and Pouran Zakani. We hope we did not miss anyone of these very talented contributors.

Their invaluable insights and dedication are at the heart of this work. We are excited to share this important resource with the world and look forward to collaborating on shaping a more informed, sustainable, and conscious food future. A special thank you to *Springer Nature* for bringing this vision to life!

### **Spotlight on Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and Banja Luke University Contributions to Consumer Perceptions and Food**

The *Consumer Perceptions and Food* book has garnered attention across institutions, including the Faculty of Nutrition and Health Sciences at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), Lebanon. Spearheaded by Associate Professor Dr. Christelle Bou Mitri, an active member of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) Consumer Perceptions Working Group, the NDU team made significant contributions to this impactful volume.

Dr. Bou Mitri led the organization of high-quality chapters written by her colleagues and students, highlighting NDU's academic excellence and commitment to advancing food and consumer behavior research.



The NDU contributors include:

Dr. Jacqueline Doumit, Professor of Biochemistry.

Romy Chammas, MSc in Human Nutrition and part-time faculty instructor.

Mirna Raad, MSc in Food Safety and Quality and Management.

Ghenwa Sarieddin, MSc student in Human Nutrition.

Tonia Chahine, MSc student in Food Safety and Quality and Management.

Their collective work adds valuable insights to this Springer Nature publication, showcasing the collaborative spirit and expertise of Lebanese researchers in the global conversation on food and consumer behavior.

(Link is here: [News & Events | News | NDU RESEARCHERS CO-AUTHOR CHAPTERS IN SPRINGER NATURE BOOK ON CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS AND FOOD | NDU](#))

The Faculty of Technology at the University of Banja Luka, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, proudly announces the contribution of **Professor Slavica Grujić, PhD**, to the internationally acclaimed scientific monograph *Consumer Perceptions and Food*.

Published by Springer Nature, this comprehensive work explores global consumer behavior and its impact on the food industry.

Professor Grujić authored the chapter titled “**The Food Product Quality Harmonization with Identified Consumers’ Preferences**”, which appears on pages 107–120 of the monograph (*Consumer Perceptions and Food*, Springer, 2024). This significant chapter delves into the alignment of food product quality with consumer preferences, offering valuable insights for academics, policymakers, and industry professionals worldwide.



Consumer Perception Working Group



CONSUMER  
PERCEPTION



This publication reinforces the University of Banja Luka's commitment to contributing to impactful international research and advancing knowledge in the fields of food science and consumer behavior.

Link is here: <https://www.unibl.org/en/news/2024/10/prof-slavica-grujic-phd-co-author-of-an-international-scientific-monograph>

You can purchase the book from <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-97-7870-6>.

## Workshop on Planning National-Specific Nutrient Fortification Blueprint and Intervention Programs 2024

**Workshop on Planning National-Specific Nutrient Fortification Blueprint and Intervention Programs 2024** This workshop was successfully held in Taiwan, organized by **Distinguished Professor Chin-Kun Wang**, from the Department of Nutrition at Chung Shan Medical University, Taiwan. Professor Wang, who is also a GHI Ambassador and active member, presented insights into the **Taiwanese Blueprint on Dietary Fiber and Magnesium Fortification**, as part of the Dietary Fiber, Magnesium, and Zinc Working Group.

The workshop featured engaging presentations from several esteemed GHI members, who shared diverse perspectives on food fortification:

- **Prof. Dr. Jun Nishihira** (Hokkaido University, GHI Ambassador in Japan) discussed **Nutritional Fortification and Policy in Japan**, shedding light on effective approaches to fortification strategies.
- **Professor Dr. Katarzyna Świąder** (Warsaw University of Life Sciences, GHI Ambassador in Poland) explored **Food Fortification for Vegans and People Allergic to Animal Proteins**, emphasizing inclusivity in nutrition.
- **Professor Dr. Petras Rimantas Venskutonis** (Kaunas University of Technology, GHI Ambassador in Lithuania) presented on the **Role of Phytochemicals in Health During Nutritional Fortification**, highlighting the health benefits of bioactive compounds.
- **Dr. Diana Bogueva** (GHI President) spoke about **The Relationship Between Consumer Behavior and Nutritional Fortification**, bridging consumer insights with fortification policies.



### **Workshop on Planning National-Specific Nutrient Fortification Blueprint and Intervention Programs 2024 attendees.**

One of the key outcomes of the workshop was a focus on developing Intervention Policy Blueprints, aimed at guiding Taiwan's national strategies for effective nutrient fortification and improved public health outcomes.

The workshop demonstrated the collaborative efforts of GHI members in advancing global food fortification initiatives and fostering dialogue on policy development tailored to diverse national contexts.

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Nutrition and Health

### GHI's important contributions to Global Nutrition, Food Safety, and Sustainability Discussions

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Nutrition and Health, held on 5 and 6 December 2024 at Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) in Riga, Latvia, was a pivotal event in the global conversation on nutritional science. Organized by RSU, the University of Latvia, and the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, the conference brought together leading experts to discuss critical topics surrounding nutrition policy, public health, and sustainable food practices.



GHI members were instrumental in shaping the event, with **Ida Jākobsons**, Dr. Chem., University of Latvia, serving as the Conference Vice-Chair. Her leadership role within the organizing committee highlighted

GHI's ongoing influence in fostering global collaboration on nutrition, food safety, and sustainability issues.

**Dr. Diana Bogueva**, President of GHI, was invited to deliver an important online keynote speech on “**Dietary Guidelines and Sustainability: The Need for Global Harmonization.**” In her presentation, Dr. Bogueva highlighted GHI’s ongoing efforts to create consensus around harmonizing global dietary guidelines, aiming to address nutrition and sustainability challenges on a worldwide scale.

**Prof. Iuliana Vintila**, Chair of the GHI Nutrition Working Group, chaired the **Sustainable and Functional Food session** and presented a talk on **Menu Nutritional Labeling**. Her insights focused on how clear and consistent nutritional labeling can guide healthier food choices and promote sustainability in food systems.





**Prof. Iuliana Vintila, Chair of the GHI Nutrition Working Group**

The conference covered an extensive range of topics, including:

- Nutrition policy, public health, and epidemiology
- Nutrition science and chronic disease prevention
- Sustainable food and food quality and safety
- Sports nutrition, metabolism, and metabolic syndrome
- Microbiome alterations in health and disease

The event was an outstanding opportunity for professionals to collaborate, share knowledge, and advance the global agenda of nutrition, health, and sustainability.

For more details on the conference program, visit [RSU Nutrition and Health eBrochure](#).

The involvement of GHI members underscores the organization's important role in shaping the future of global nutrition harmonization.

[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.