



Global Harmonization Initiative

Advocating safe food for all

GHI MATTERS OCTOBER, 2024

ISSUE NO #57

Contents

President’s Message.....	2
The Editors Message,	2
2 nd GHI WORLD CONGRESS 2025	3
Join the Global Food Systems Transformation at the GHI Congress 2025!.....	3
Register Now and Save!	3
Why Attend?	3
Special Highlights:.....	3
Meet Our Keynote Speakers:	3
Calling All Innovators!.....	4
Publication opportunities.....	4
Don’t miss the GHI Congress 2025!.....	4
Submit your abstract by 30th November 2024:	4
VISA Information for GHI Congress Attendees	4
IN PREPARATION FOR THE GHI CONGRESS.....	5
GHI AMBASSADORS’ CONSULTATIONS	5
RECOGNITION OF A GHI BOARD MEMBER.....	6
INTRODUCING CATHERINE ODHIAMBO – OUR NEW COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR	7
REFLECTING FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY.....	7
GHI SPECIAL SESSION AT IUFoST.....	7
CENTRAL EUROPEAN FOOD CONFERENCE 2024	13

President's Message

As we mark World Food Day on 16 October, celebrated across more than 150 countries and in over 50 languages, we are reminded that the right to food is fundamental - a right that remains unattainable for far too many people around the world. The day, organized by the United Nations, serves as an annual reminder that food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition persist on a massive scale and, tragically, are worsening in many parts of the world.

At the heart of this issue are the devastating conflicts and wars that are not only causing widespread suffering but also weaponizing food, blocking aid, and driving millions of people into hunger. Hunger caused by conflict has reached record levels, as noted in a recent Oxfam report. This grim reality underscores the urgent need for global solidarity, innovation, and action to ensure that food reaches those who need it most. We cannot afford to look away when up to 21,000 people are dying each day from hunger, largely due to conflict.

Hunger is not just a crisis of underdeveloped countries – although nearly 98% of worldwide hunger is found there - but a global failure. The numbers are staggering - in 2020 155 million people were acutely food insecure, with nearly 30 million on the brink of starvation, uncertain of where their next meal would come from. Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, violent conflict remained the leading cause of hunger that year, a trend that continues today.

World Food Day serves not only to raise awareness but also to mobilize action. As GHI members, we are deeply committed to educating, creating awareness, and driving change. Our collective efforts aim to address failing food systems and highlight the importance of safe, sustainable, equitable access to food for all.

But the world is falling far short of what is needed to achieve *Zero Hunger* - the second of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The global food system must be transformed, and it must happen now. We must ensure that food is never used as a weapon and that access to it is guaranteed, even in the most challenging circumstances and in all conflict areas.

We should not reflect on food insecurity only on World Food Day. Let us recommit ourselves to the fight against hunger, remembering that food is not just nourishment, but a powerful symbol of human dignity. Let us raise our voices for those who are unheard and unite our efforts to make *Zero Hunger* a reality. Let's continue this dialogue at the upcoming GHI World Congress 24-27 June 2025 at the Hilton Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Dr. Diana Bogueva
President,
Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI)
16 October 2024

The Editors Message,

Dear Readers,

It is a joy to return to you with this latest Issue of GHI Matters in which we focus mainly on the success of the last IUFoST Congress and the oncoming 2nd GHI Congress 2025 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

If you missed IUFoST for any reason, we present rich stories and amazing pictures from the event with key Highlights being the GHI sideline event that was very successful. Please take a step to register early for the GHI Congress, 2025 and see you there.

With warm regards,

Dr. Benard Oloo
Editor GHI Matters
24th October, 2024

2nd GHI WORLD CONGRESS 2025



Join the Global Food Systems Transformation at the GHI Congress 2025!

Be part of dynamic conversations and interactive sessions that will shape the future of global food systems at the GHI Congress, from June 25-27, 2025, at the Hilton Rotterdam, The Netherlands. This event will address critical global challenges from food security and safety to health, nutrition and sustainability. Don't miss your chance to connect with top experts, gain cutting-edge insights, and drive impactful solutions.

Register Now and Save!

Secure your spot before the Early Bird deadline on 31st December 2024 to enjoy discounted rates.

Why Attend?

Innovative Sessions: Participate in presentations and panel debates on food security, safety, AI in food systems, food law, and sustainability transitions.

Global Networking: Meet delegates from all around the world and expand your professional network.

Exclusive Insights: Learn from industry and academic leaders about the latest trends and innovations in the food sector.

Pre-congress Workshops: Enhance your expertise with specialized workshops before the main event.

Special Highlights:

Optional Workshop: European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG) on June 24, 2025.

Food Security and Emergency Preparedness panel debate on June 25, 2025

Unilever Visit: Tour Hive, Unilever's Global Foods Innovation Centre, on June 27, 2025.

Meet Our Keynote Speakers:

Prof. Ruth Khasaya Oniang'o

(Rural Outreach Africa, Kenya) – The Role of Women in Food Security in Africa

Prof. Stanley Brul
(University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) – Exploring the Gut Microbiome:
Unlocking Health and Disease Solutions

Prof. Mark Post
(Maastricht University, Mosa Meat, The Netherlands) – Challenges of Cultivated
Meat

George Monbiot
(Guardian Columnist, UK) – Feeding the World without Devouring the Planet

Prof. Arnold van Huis
(Wageningen University, The Netherlands) – Edible Insects and Food Security

Prof. Adewale Olusegun Obadina
(Federal University of Agriculture and WHO Guideline Development Group on
Traditional Food Markets, Nigeria) – The Safe Casava Project

Prof. Carlos Gonçalo das Neves
(European Food Safety Authority Chief Scientist, Italy) – Topic to be announced

Prof. Dora Marinova
(Curtin University, Australia) – Food Sustainability Transition

Prof. Pete Smith
(University of Aberdeen, UK) – Towards a Sustainable Global Food System

Dr. Eelco Franz
(National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands)
– One Health Control of Foodborne Disease

...and many more distinguished experts from around the world.

Calling All Innovators!

Submit your abstract by 30th November 2024 to showcase your research and stand a chance to win the Best Young Researcher Presentation Award. Don't miss the opportunity to share your work and gain recognition!

Publication opportunities

Authors of approved abstracts will be invited to submit a full-size paper. All submissions received on time and accepted by peer reviewed process will be published at a discounted 30% APC in the special Congress issue of *Future Foods*, a journal with a 7.2 *impact factor*. Here is the journal link for your reference: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/future-foods>

Don't miss the GHI Congress 2025!

Don't miss your chance to be part of a groundbreaking global event that's shaping the future of food systems. Whether you join us **in person** or **virtually**, this congress guarantees a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and innovate with experts from around the world.

Submit your abstract by 30th November 2024:

And join the transformative discussions that will drive real change in addressing the challenges of global food systems, food safety and security, health, and sustainability. Be part of the movement—your contribution matters!

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/>)

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

IN PREPARATION FOR THE GHI CONGRESS

In anticipation of the upcoming GHI World Congress, GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva recently visited Amsterdam for a series of strategic meetings. She met with GHI founder and former President Prof. Huub Lelieveld, along with key members of the Congress' Local Organizing Committee. This included Prof. Stanley Brul from Amsterdam University (also chair of the Food Microbiology Working Group (WG)), Prof. Heidy den Besten from Wageningen University, as well as GHI WG Chairs Prof. Peter Overbosch (Ethics in Food Safety Practices WG), Dr. Isabella van Rijn (Food Safety in Relation to Religious Dietary Laws WG), and Dr. Adina Baicu (Food Law and Regulations WG). Dr. Bogueva also met with GHI event coordinator Dr. Folake Idowu-Adebayo and Secretary General Adriana Sterian.

In addition to these internal meetings, Dr. Bogueva held discussions with industry leaders, including Dr. Ghislain Schyns from DSM-Firmenich, Dr. Hand Hoogland from Unilever, and Adwy van den Berg from European Hygienic Engineering and Design Group (EHEDG).

A highlight of the congress will be a special pre-congress session hosted by EHEDG on June 24, 2025. To conclude the congress, delegates will have the unique opportunity to visit the Hive - Unilever's Global Foods Innovation Centre in Wageningen.

These productive meetings have set the stage for an exciting and impactful Congress, and we look forward to welcoming global experts to Rotterdam in June 2025!

GHI AMBASSADORS' CONSULTATIONS

GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva and GHI Ambassador Director Dr. Marilda Freund recently held a series of online meetings with our GHI Ambassadors to discuss their vital role in supporting the upcoming GHI World Congress. These discussions focused on how ambassadors can engage local food safety authorities, organizations, and universities to raise awareness and encourage participation in the Congress.

An important topic was exploring sponsorship opportunities. To assist in these efforts, Dr. Bogueva developed a concise PowerPoint presentation about GHI, which ambassadors can use directly or adapt to suit their needs in promoting the event and seeking sponsorships. Additionally, we have created a one-page informational document and a Congress flyer to be shared widely, making it easier for ambassadors to spread the word.

Ambassadors seeking financial support were encouraged to actively pursue sponsorship opportunities. We also discussed ways to enhance their work as GHI representatives in their respective countries. To strengthen GHI's global presence and visibility as a network of experts, it was proposed that regional group meetings be held among ambassadors, allowing for collaboration on shared projects and initiatives within specific regions. This approach aims to further the efforts to promote GHI's mission.

Finally, it was suggested - and endorsed by both Dr. Bogueva and Dr. Freund - that GHI should actively participate in a range of initiatives, forums, and events to further enhance its impact and reach.

We are excited about the continued dedication of our ambassadors in supporting GHI's goals and look forward to seeing the results of these collaborative efforts at the upcoming congress and beyond!

RECOGNITION OF A GHI BOARD MEMBER

The World Food Prize Foundation on 27th August, 2024 announced that Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh was one of the recipients of its inaugural Top Agrifood Pioneer (TAP) award in honour of the Foundation's 38th anniversary. The investiture will take place at the 2024 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, 29-31 October, 2024.



The prestigious recognition celebrates Prof. Aworh's outstanding contributions to transforming food systems worldwide and the citation for his award is as follows: "Ogugua Aworh is a distinguished Nigerian food scientist and professor at the University of Ibadan, renowned for his expertise in food processing and preservation technologies. His research focuses on enhancing the safety, shelf life, and quality of traditional African foods, significantly contributing to food security and rural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Aworh has played a key role in advancing indigenous food processing methods and is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of scientists. Widely published, his work bridges academic research and practical applications, making a lasting impact on the field of food science and the broader African agricultural landscape."

INTRODUCING CATHERINE ODHIAMBO – OUR NEW COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR



We are thrilled to welcome Catherine Odhiambo as the new Communication Director. Based in Kenya, Catherine is an award-winning food safety expert, editor, and food scientist, deeply committed to improving food safety and quality across Africa.

Catherine's impressive career began in food manufacturing, where she served as a Quality Assurance Officer and earned the prestigious Early Careers Food Safety Specialist Award from the international Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST). Her passion for food safety has since grown, and she played a pivotal role in launching Africa's first-ever Food Safety Magazine.

In her current role as Head of Media, Community & Events at the Foodpreneurs Hub, she drives innovation and growth within the food industry. She is also the founder of TechPalate Insights, a platform at the intersection of food safety and technology, where she leads discussions on how data and technical solutions can address critical food system challenges.

With expertise in content creation, market research, event organization, and strategic leadership, Catherine is a thought leader in sustainable food systems, food safety, and technological innovation. Her efforts are reshaping the food industry and inspiring change across multiple platforms.

We look forward to the fresh perspectives Catherine will bring to our organization as she steps into this exciting new role!

REFLECTING FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY

We wanted to highlight an important article by Ken Marsh and Charles Aworh, "*Alleviating Hunger: Work Smarter, Not Harder*", which we highly recommend to our members, especially if you missed it. The Editor-in-Chief of the *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND)*, Prof. Ruth Khasaya Oniang'o, specifically emphasized this article in her last editorial reflection. Their insights offer valuable perspectives on addressing global food security challenges more effectively.

As we approach World Food Day, it's a great time to reflect on food as a basic human right and consider how we can all contribute to alleviating hunger through smarter, more sustainable solutions. If you haven't already, make sure to read this thought-provoking piece as part of your World Food Day reflections. Here's the link to the article: [Guest Editorial: Alleviating Hunger: Work Smarter, Not Harder.](#)

(This is the link: <https://doi.org/10.18697/ajfand.134.ED145>)

GHI SPECIAL SESSION AT IUFoST

We had a fantastic opportunity to showcase GHI's excellent work during a special session that we organized at the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST)

conference, held in Rimini, Italy, from September 8-12, 2024. Our lineup of outstanding GHI speakers engaged in thought-provoking discussions on the future of food.



Our Special GHI session presenters Prof. Anselimo Makokha, Prof. Dora Marinova, Dr. Diana Bogueva, Prof. Michael Murkovic, Prof. Christelle Bou-Mitri and Dr. Nicola Stanley

Prof. Dora Marinova explored whether the future of food will play a key role in the sustainability transition. Dr. Nicola Stanley delved into the exciting possibilities of 3D food printing for the future, while Prof. Michael Murkovic addressed the challenges of chemical contamination in food. We also heard from Prof. Anselimo Makokha, who shared insightful perspectives on the future of indigenous African foods, and Prof. Christelle Bou-Mitri, who discussed innovative food processing technologies and their potential to revolutionize pulses-based alternatives to meat and dairy products. The session wrapped up with a compelling presentation by Dr. Diana Bogueva on “What is the Future of Food in the Eyes of Consumers?”



IUFoST Secretary Judith Meech, Prof. Charles Aworh and Dr. Diana Bogueva

Thank you to IUFoST for providing the platform for our special GHI session. It was wonderful to reconnect with so many GHI members and friends, including Prof. Chin-Kun Wang, Prof. Ogugua Aworh, Prof. Obadina Adewale, Prof. Vish Prakash, Prof. Thierry Regnier, Thierry Astruc, Prof. Rui Costa, Prof. Marco Dalla Rosa, Prof. Diána Bánáti, Prof. Mona Popa, Assoc. Prof. Mohsen Gavahian, Prof. Natalie Persson Andrianasitera, Prof. Agnieszca Orcusz, Sheila Kilonzi and many more. We cherished the time spent together, adding to the memories we've shared over the years.



Dr. Diana Bogueva, Prof. Chin-Kun Wang, Prof. Dona Marinova, Prof. Natalie Persson Andrianasitera



Dr. Nicola Stanley, Prof. Dora Marinova, Prof. Christelle Bou-Mitri, Prof. Sheila Kilonzi, Prof. Michael Murkovic, Prof. Charles Aworh, Prof. Diána Bánáti, Prof. Marco Dalla Rosa, Dr. Diana Bogueva, Prof. Chin-Kun Wang, Prof. Obadina Adewale, Prof. Anselimo Makokha, Prof. Rui Costa, Thierry Astruc



Our GHI special session audience





We look forward to continuing these important discussions on the future of food security, safety, health, and sustainability at the GHI World Congress in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from June 24-27, 2025. See you there! <http://www.ghiworldcongress.org>



CENTRAL EUROPEAN FOOD CONFERENCE 2024

During the same week as the World Food Day, one of our esteemed members, Prof. Dr. Diana Bánáti (member of the GHI Consumer Perception Working Group), served as Chair of the 12th Central European Conference on Food (CEFood 2024 <https://lnkd.in/gYNCT9ME>) in Szeged, Hungary. Prof. Bánáti had an important role in facilitating discussions on the critical issues surrounding food, consumers, and the impact of food science and technology in addressing global challenges.

The Central European Forum in Szeged is an important platform for exploring the future of food systems, digitalization, AI, and their role in transforming our food systems. GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva delivered a plenary speech on “Consumer Perception of Gen-Z on the Future of Food”, discussing how this generation is poised to reshape food systems with their values around health, sustainability, and innovation.

Other GHI members also made significant contributions during the conference, including Prof. Andrej Ovca, a member of the GHI Consumer Perception Working Group, and Prof. Dr. Livia Simon-Sarkadi, the GHI Ambassador for Hungary and Thierry Regnier, the GHI Ambassador for South Africa. This gathering has once again underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing the complex challenges facing the global food system.



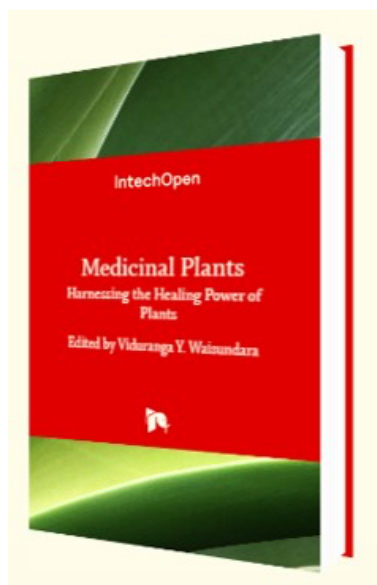


Prof. Andrej Ovca



Prof. Dr. Diana Bánáti

GHI Members' Work



Plants have long been the most dependable and easily accessible source of healing for living beings. They are essential to human life and well-being because they naturally possess the ability to treat, prevent, and promote health. A thorough examination of the long history of plant-based medicine is found in the book "***Medicinal Plants: Harnessing the Healing Power of Plants***" edited by Dr. Viduranga Y. Waisundara - GHI Ambassador for Sri Lanka and Vice Chair of the Nutrition Working Group. By providing readers with a comprehensive overview of the advantages of medicinal herbs, it seeks to close the knowledge gap between traditional wisdom and contemporary scientific understanding. At the same time, the book explores the history, production and use of these amazing plants via meticulous study and practical applications, with a focus on how they might be integrated into everyday health practices.

We are pleased to announce the publication of *Food Safety Short Stories: 87 Real-Life Cases*, edited by Peter Overbosch, Yasmine Motarjemi, and Huub Lelieveld. The book is now available in all formats—Hardback, Paperback, and eBook.

For more details, visit the publisher's website: <https://www.ethicspress.com/products/food-safety-short-stories>. Colleagues, students, and event participants can enjoy a 15% discount when ordering through this link: <https://www.ethicspress.com/products/food-safety-short-stories/?INTEGRITY>.

In addition Yasmine Mortajemi, our Ethics in Food Safety Practices WG member post an article about [The Story of a Failed Food Safety Management, Whistleblowing, and Governance](#)

This article is the autopsy of two foodborne outbreaks of E. coli, in the USA and France. They occurred due to a chain of failures in food safety management, whistleblowing, and governance.

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 (**EHDG**). 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.