

# NEWSLETTER

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings GHI Members and Friends,  
September is here, and with it comes renewed energy across our vibrant GHI community. This issue is filled with stories that reflect our shared commitment to safer, more sustainable food systems. From harmonizing nutraceutical standards in India to advancing food safety education in Romania, Chile, Nigeria, and beyond, GHI members continue to lead with science, integrity, and collaboration.  
We're especially proud to highlight our growing presence in shaping food safety policies worldwide. Each story is a reminder of how powerful our global network can be when we work together. A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors, ambassadors, and readers — you are the heartbeat of GHI. Enjoy the read, share it widely, and let's keep the momentum going!

Dr Benard Oloo  
Editor GHI Matters 10 September 2025

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Dear GHI community and friends,  
We are all looking forward toward a safer, more sustainable food future. As we approach two key global milestones — International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on September 29 and World Food Day on October 16 — the spotlight turns to the urgent need for safer, more sustainable, and equitable food systems. These internationally recognized campaigns serve as powerful reminders of the collective action needed to reduce waste, protect public health, and ensure food security for all. Recent GHI-led initiatives — from proposing harmonizing nutraceutical standards in New Delhi to advancing food safety education in Bucharest and Beirut demonstrate how science, ethics, and collaboration are driving meaningful change across borders. In a world facing climate disruption, economic uncertainty, and rising health concerns, these efforts reflect a growing global commitment to integrity and innovation in the food chain. Together, we are shaping a future where food is not only safe and nutritious — but also responsibly produced, culturally inclusive, and accessible to every community.

Dr Diana Bogueva,  
GHI President, 10 September 2025

## GHI CONGRESS AND THE ROTTERDAM DECLARATION

The 2nd Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) World Congress, held under the inspiring theme “Connecting Food Security, Safety, Health and Sustainability – Challenges Ahead”, was a resounding success. Experts from around the globe came together to exchange knowledge, debate solutions, and strengthen collaborations across disciplines critical to the future of food and public health. One of the highlights of the congress was the introduction of the Rotterdam Declaration, a visionary call to action aimed at aligning efforts in food security, safety, health, and sustainability. The declaration emphasizes the urgent need for global collaboration, harmonized approaches, and actionable solutions to address the complex challenges we face. We held consultations with the GHI Congress attendees and received valuable feedback. Based on this input, we are now in the final stages of refining the text of the Declaration. Once

finalized, it will be officially published and shared with the global community. Once the Rotterdam Declaration is officially published, the global community will be invited to engage in two important ways:

- Sign the declaration to affirm their commitment to its principles.
- Propose concrete tasks or initiatives they would like to contribute to, ensuring the declaration becomes a living framework that drives real-world meaningful action.

The progress made on these commitments will not end with the congress. All results, achievements, and lessons learned will be collected, evaluated, and reported at the next GHI World Congress in 2027. This ensures accountability, transparency, and a clear path for continuous improvement. This milestone is more than a statement of intent — it embodies the collaborative spirit of the GHI community and sets the stage for measurable impact. Together, we are laying the foundation for a more secure, safe, healthy, and sustainable global food future. Below is the text of the Draft Declaration in case you would like to familiarize yourself with it and proposed your involvement with a specific action.

### **Advancing Global Food Resilience: A GHI Perspective on Food Security, Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and the Right to Food and Health**

#### **A Call to Action**

We invite all panelists and stakeholders of the GHI Congress 2025 to co-sign this Call to Action and plan to engage in the proposed work. Your expertise will shape a global roadmap for food resilience and justice. Together, we can influence policy, inspire innovation, and uphold the right to safe and sufficient food for all. We invite all GHI members to serve as leaders of the initiatives identified here. GHI Leadership will stay in touch with project leaders. Our goal is to see great progress by our next Congress.

#### **Executive summary**

In a world facing significant population growth, escalating climate disruptions, geopolitical instability, and widening inequalities, access to safe, nutritious, and accessible food is more urgent than ever. Our mission is to align food laws with the latest scientific consensus, enabling innovation while safeguarding public health, all with the priority of providing “food dignity,” that is, food support initiatives that prioritize the dignity and human rights of individuals accessing them, ensuring they are treated with respect and have choices, rather than solely focusing on providing basic sustenance. This Call to Action presents the Global Harmonization Initiative’s (GHI) unified vision for strengthening global food systems through science-based regulation, international collaboration, and inclusive innovation. GHI’s approach recognizes that access to nutritious, culturally appropriate, and enjoyable food is a fundamental human right.

This Call also introduces the Food Integrity Africa initiative, a regional movement led by GHI’s Communication Director Catherine Odhiambo, aimed at empowering African nations to build resilient, transparent, and equitable food systems and support GHI food safety clubs and other food safety and security educational initiatives.

#### **Methodology**

GHI members representing academia, industry, and special consumer interest groups, e.g., dealing with religious and allergy-related issues, will work together on specific projects to develop recommendations that, once affirmed by the full GHI

organization, can be taken to government leaders for consideration and implementation. In this way, we can create enforceable frameworks that protect vulnerable populations and support our belief that access to food and good health are fundamental human rights.

#### **GHI’s philosophy and strategic pillars and specific follow-up actions**

**Emergency Preparedness:** GHI advocates for globally harmonized protocols to ensure rapid, coordinated responses to food crises, as highlighted in the GHI World Congress 2025. Members who addressed this issue at the Congress are encouraged to work together to develop specific recommendations for improvement. Ideally, the group can provide more details for a Rotterdam Declaration on Global Food Emergency Readiness, a globally harmonized framework for food emergency response that covers early warning systems, cross-border coordination, and rapid deployment of safe food supplies during crises.

**Food Safety:** We promote evidence-based standards that reduce foodborne risks and eliminate unnecessary trade barriers that waste safe food, as highlighted at the GHI World Congress 2025. Members who addressed this issue at the Congress are encouraged to work together to develop specific recommendations for improvement, developing a charter that delineates best practices for accessing safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. This charter could provide governments and international bodies with wording that could be embedded into national constitutions and global treaties to guarantee access to food as a human right.

#### **The Global Food Safety Science Accord**

There is great need for an open-access, multilingual scientific repository to support evidence-based policymaking in food safety and emergency preparedness - especially in low- and middle-income countries. A first step would be to develop a plan of action as to how to launch this key initiative.

#### **The GHI Youth/NextGen Food Resilience Pledge**

Engage the next generation by launching a GHI youth-led initiative to promote food literacy, emergency preparedness, and/or sustainable food practices in schools and universities worldwide. This activity will build on the GHI Food Safety clubs for greatest impact.

#### **The (new!) Food Integrity Africa Initiative**

GHI’s Communication Director Catherine Odhiambo will lead this new regional movement, aimed at empowering African nations to build resilient, transparent, and equitable food systems that can be trusted. Food integrity is a holistic concept that goes beyond just preventing contamination. It means that the food is what it claims to be: it is safe, authentic, and nutritious; production processes are transparent, ethical and sustainable, and respectful of people and the planet. The Africa Initiative will also support GHI food safety clubs and other food safety and security educational initiatives in Africa. Specifically, the focus of the Initiative’s collaboration with GHI is to:

- Grow awareness and signatures for the Call to Action;
- Boost visibility of GHI’s whistleblower platform within African networks;
- Design the framework for the Truth Tracker, a tool to counter food misinformation;
- Create shared content or mentions within GHI channels and Congress outputs;
- Explore a small cross-sector roundtable if capacity allows.

**For more information and desire to commit and sign to participate, please contact the GHI Vice President Prof. Joe Regenstein at [jmr9@cornell.edu](mailto:jmr9@cornell.edu)**





### HUUB LELIEVELD ROYAL DUTCH AWARD

Many members from GHI including help along the year and a half long process of the nomination of Huub Lelieveld for a Royal Dutch award leading to the appointment of the Majesty the King of Huub as Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau on the June 26, 2025 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Here is the speech of the Mayor of Bilthoven authorized to present the award.

*“Honorable Professor Lelieveld, distinguished guests,*

*It happens to all of us regularly: we are deeply moved by something that people elsewhere in the world experience. A disaster. A conflict. A grave injustice. We read about it in the newspaper. We watch it on the news broadcast. It leaves us shaken for a while. We lie awake for a night or so. Perhaps it motivates us to act. So we donate money. Maybe we even become a volunteer. But more often, we feel powerless. What can we do about the suffering in the world? And thus, we return to our daily routines.*



*Just before the end of your professional career, a terrible tragedy unfolded in Africa in 2002. Among other causes, ongoing drought and failed harvests led to severe food shortages in the Horn of Africa. About 15 million people suffered from extreme hunger. The sad thing was, that sufficient emergency food was indeed being supplied. Partly in the form of genetically modified maize. But due to bureaucratic hurdles and regulatory barriers, this emergency food was not allowed into various countries. So it never reached the people who needed it so desperately. Which directly resulting in many, many unnecessary deaths.*

*Instead of feeling powerless, you made a bold decision: The decision to dedicate yourself to alleviating hunger and improving food security. Thanks to your many years of work experience at Unilever, you had the knowledge needed to navigate through complex international regulations and to ensure safe food production. You sought collaboration with like-minded scientists, professionals, and food producers. Together, you embarked on the mission to address issues related to regulation harmonization. And to promote education on food safety and food production. You did not stand by, feeling powerless. Instead, you applied your knowledge, your organizational skills, and your ability to inspire others to volunteer for a good cause. Which lead to the creation of the Global Harmonization Initiative: the GHI.*

*Today, GHI does so much more than promote the harmonization of legislation based on solid scientific research. Under your long-standing chairmanship, it has grown into a network of over fifteen hundred scientists, experts, and representatives from food producers as ambassadors for GHI in more than sixty countries worldwide. GHI's activities also expanded to projects that promote food safety,*





Alongside Huub stands his wife, Paula. Her support and presence have been integral to his many achievements, reminding us that behind every great man is often an equally extraordinary woman.

food security, and sustainable food production globally. This is a truly monumental achievement! With an impact on the lives of so many people!

For example, there is GHI's Safe Water Project. It explores groundbreaking technology to extract safe drinking water from the air. Especially in areas that suffer from water scarcity or pollution. And then there is the Food Safety Clubs initiative. Its goal is to increase understanding of food safety among schoolchildren in Africa. Children who might one day become the food scientists of the future.

There also is the Safe Cassava Project. It investigates how high concentrations of Linamarin can be removed from cassava leaves. Cassava is an essential food in many African countries. But its safety is concerning. Because high levels of Linamarin are linked to a paralysis disease, affecting about 3 million young children in Africa.

And I should also mention the Whistleblowers Food Safety Incidents Report website. Here, anyone working in the food industry can report serious food safety incidents that are not addressed by, for example, food producers themselves. GHI then urges local food safety authorities to take action. And to close the loop, the experiences gained from this, are used as learning cases during conferences.

Your extensive experience as a researcher and manager of the Research & Development department at Unilever helped you to achieve all this. In these roles also, you consistently brought together different disciplines and scientists from around the world, to develop groundbreaking technical innovations in food production and food safety. Even then, you believed that these innovations should benefit not only Unilever, but the entire food industry. This led to the founding of the European Hygienic Design Group, the EHEDG, where you also served as chairman for a long time. This organization continues to have a significant impact on the food industry today. Not only in Europe, but worldwide.

What I've highlighted here, are just a few examples of what you have initiated — during your professional career and ever since you were confronted with the immense human suffering in Africa in 2002. It is very clear, Professor Lelieveld, why you are regarded as a pioneering food scientist, a visionary, a leader, and someone capable of bridging different worlds. Why you are regarded as a pioneer with a deep sense of humanity; a team player who has left a lasting mark on the fields of food technology, food safety, and international regulation. Your simple yet powerful motto is: *If I can help someone, I will.* What a beautiful motto to live by!

After your many years of tireless dedication to GHI, you are now stepping down as its president.

I'm honored to let you know on this occasion, that it has pleased our Majesty the King to appoint you Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. Many congratulations on this very special token of appreciation!"



The Festschrift editors—Dr. Diana Bogueva, Dr. Isabella van Roekel van Rijn, and series editor Prof. Bernd van der Meulen —were joined by Huub Lelieveld and the Mayor of Bilthoven



## Food safety, security and sustainability

Festschrift in honour of the work of Prof. Dr H.C. Huub Lelieveld

*Edited by Diana Bogueva and Tuschelle van Hooft van Rijn*



RIJSLIJN | WAGeningen Academic

## FESTSCHRIFT HONOURING HUIB LELIEVELD

To mark his 80th birthday and the 20th anniversary of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), Prof. Dr.h.c. Huib Lelieveld has been presented with a Festschrift — one of the highest tributes a scientist can receive from peers. The volume celebrates Huib's extraordinary journey through industry, academia, and public service. His unwavering commitment to innovation, ethics, and collaboration has left an indelible mark on colleagues worldwide, from his early days at Unilever to his tireless leadership within GHI.

Contributors to the Festschrift — friends and colleagues who have worked alongside Huib — offer research papers on subjects that reflect his wide-ranging influence and passions. Topics include food culture and nutrition, food safety and fortification, religious food regulations in times of conflict, novel technologies such as irradiation, improvements in religious slaughter practices, safe cassava consumption, and sustainable food systems for planetary health. Together, these contributions not only advance the field but also pay tribute to Huib's vision, his enduring legacy, and his role in shaping the global conversation on food and public health.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GHI CONGRESS 2027

We are excited to share that GHI has received three strong bids to host the next GHI World Congress in 2027! This enthusiastic response demonstrates the growing commitment of our community to advancing food safety, security, health, and sustainability worldwide. From Poland, we thank Dr. hab. Barbara Borusiak, prof. UEP, Head of the Department of Commerce and Marketing at Poznań University of Economics and Business, for leading their bid. From Romania, our gratitude goes to Prof. Mihaela Geicu-Cristea and the Head of Department Prof. Elena Popa, at the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania. With the valuable support of Prof. Ramazan Koç from Selçuk University in Konya, Turkey we are also invited to use the premises of one of the largest universities in Turkey. We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and vision that these colleagues have put into preparing their proposals. Their efforts highlight the passion and dedication that make the GHI community so strong. All bids are now under careful consideration, and we will be announcing the official location of GHI Congress 2027 in January 2026. Stay tuned for this exciting announcement — the next chapter of GHI's journey is already taking shape!

As we prepare for the next GHI World Congress, we warmly welcome your ideas and contributions. Do you have a suggestion for the overall theme, a special session, a panel discussion, or any other innovative format? This is your chance to shape the congress program and ensure it reflects the most pressing challenges and opportunities in food safety, security, health, and sustainability. Your creativity and expertise are what make GHI congresses unique. Please share your proposals with us. Contact **Dr. Diana Bogueva** at [diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net](mailto:diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net) with your ideas.

## GHI NEXTGEN: MISSION AND VISSION STATEMENT

### Introduction

The Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) recognizes the vital role of early career scientists, students, and professionals in shaping the future of food safety, food security, and sustainability in the world today. To amplify their voices and create pathways for meaningful participation, GHI is establishing the GHI NextGen. This initiative provides a structured platform for early career people to contribute ideas, take on leadership roles, and represent GHI in academic and public spaces worldwide. By engaging in science communication, education, outreach, and more, GHI NextGen strengthens the bridge between generations of experts and ensures that the future of food safety, food security, and sustainability is driven by innovation and inclusivity.

### Mission

Our mission is to empower the Next Generation of food safety, food security, and sustainability leaders by creating a new dynamic force within the Global Harmonization Initiative. We provide a platform for students and early-career scientists ranging from high school to PhD to actively engage in science communication, leadership, and global collaboration. GHI is committed to fostering inclusivity, innovation, and creativity by encouraging NextGen to lead outreach projects, host webinars, produce various format science explainers, multimedia and participate in international seminars, workshops, and conferences. Through these initiatives, we aim to empower Next Generation professionals to take on leadership roles in shaping global standards and practices in food safety, food security, and sustainability.



## Vision

Our vision is to empower a vibrant, Next Generation-driven community that inspires change and builds a safer, healthier, and more sustainable world. We cultivate a global network of students and young professionals who represent GHI in universities and forums while pioneering new ways of communicating science and raising awareness across diverse audiences. Through roles such as Next Gen Chairs, Outreach Leads, Content Coordinators, and Media Representatives, GHI NextGen will lay a solid foundation for future leadership. Looking ahead, we envision a future where NextGen scientists continue to drive global collaboration, break barriers in science communication, and ensure that the principles of food safety, food security, and sustainability are accessible, engaging, and impactful across all generations.

## Meet the GHI NextGen people



My name is **Daniel Ashenden**. I am a recent Food Science graduate from Coventry University and will soon be starting a postgraduate degree in Food Security at the University of Warwick. My academic interests focus on food sustainability and the resilience of food systems, including research on food for long-duration space missions. My motivation for joining GHI NextGen is to strengthen outreach to younger audiences and ensure that undergraduates, postgraduate students, and early-career researchers are engaged alongside professors, PhD candidates, and industry experts. I believe this involvement is vital for tackling future challenges in food security and sustainability, and I'm excited to contribute.



My name is **Chinonso Benson**, a Public Health Nutritionist with a strong academic foundation in Food Technology from the University of Ibadan and currently pursuing an MSc in Public Health Nutrition at Coventry University. My professional journey spans food quality assurance, nutrition research, and teaching, with a core focus on bridging food

science and public health. I am particularly interested in translating research findings into practical strategies that enhance food safety, improve nutritional quality, and promote better health outcomes. Through GHI, I am motivated to engage with global experts, exchange ideas, and contribute to advancing evidence-based food systems.



My name is **Mahsa Farrokhi**, and I am a PhD researcher at Universidade Católica Portuguesa. I am delighted to join the GHI Next Gen Group and become part of this inspiring global network. What motivated me is GHI's mission to promote science-based and

harmonized food regulations worldwide. I believe strongly in building consensus from international scientific evidence and turning that knowledge into practical outcomes that guide policymakers, industry, and society. For me, the Next Gen group is a chance to contribute to this vision while learning from both experienced experts and young professionals who share the same passion. I am especially interested in fostering inclusive collaboration, supporting innovation, and helping ensure our outputs are accessible, impactful, and globally relevant



I am **Mark Sandow**, a graduate in food technology from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, specialized in food safety and health. Guided by his thesis supervisor, Dr Adriana Sterian, GHI general secretary he was invited to represent students as an ambassador at the GHI Conference in Rotterdam. The experience

inspired him to continue his involvement with GHI. Today, Sandow is committed to using GHI NextGen as a platform to promote awareness of food safety and health worldwide.



My name is **Sandra Nnamani**. I am a master's student in Public Health Nutrition with a background in Food Science and Technology. My academic interests center on food security,

nutrition, , and the role of sustainable food systems in improving public health. What motivated me to join GHI NextGen is the opportunity to connect with like-minded researchers and industry experts committed to tackling global food challenges. I am particularly inspired by GHI's mission to harmonize food safety and nutrition standards worldwide. Through this platform, I aim to strengthen outreach, build collaborations, and contribute to creating resilient and sustainable food systems for future generations.

GHI CONGRESS SPECIAL ISSUES PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

We are pleased to announce two Special Issue dedicated to the 2nd GHI World Congress, held in Rotterdam, Netherlands for people that have attended the congress and presented their work.

One of the special issues is with the **Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods (QASCF) journal** (Q1 /Impact factor 5.3) journal. This special issue aims to showcase cutting-edge research and reviews presented during the Congress, as well as relevant contributions from the broader scientific community working in food quality, safety, and regulation.

**Topics of interest** include (but are not limited to):

- Food safety and Toxicology
- Food quality traceability
- Risk assessment management
- Sustainability & regulatory science
- Innovations in food processing and packaging

**Submission Timeline:**

- Opens: July 2025
- Closes: 31 October 2025
- Fast-track Peer Review: The first decision within 31 days

**Article Processing Charges (APC) – Special Discounts:**

Thanks to the journal partnership with GHI as its exclusive journal, all participants of GHI congress and members should enjoy from:

- Research Articles: \$875 (50% off)**
- Review Articles: \$750 (50% off)**
- Short Communications: \$650 (50% off)**
- 2 full waivers for selected outstanding submissions

**Editorial Support:**

The special issue will be edited under the guidance of Dr. Iuliana Vintila, with scientific oversight by Dr. Amin Mousavi Khaneghah, Co-Editor-in-Chief of QASCF.

Why publish in this special issue?

- Be part of a high-visibility gold-sponsored collaboration
- Benefit from wide dissemination via QASCF and GHI platforms. Receive expedited peer-review and publication.
- For manuscript submissions and guidelines, visit:

**[www.qascf.com](http://www.qascf.com)**

For questions, please contact:

- Dr. Amin Mousavi Khaneghah – [mousavi@qascf.com](mailto:mousavi@qascf.com)
- Dr. Iuliana Vintila – [vintilaIuliana70@gmail.com](mailto:vintilaIuliana70@gmail.com)

The other special issue is with **Future Foods** journal Elsevier. The submission website for this journal is located at: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/fufo/default2.aspx>

Article Processing Charges (APC) – Special Discounts of 30% apply to all the articles stating the special issue.

To ensure that all manuscripts are correctly identified for inclusion into the special issue, it is important that authors select “**VSI: GHI Congress 2025**” when they reach the “Article Type” step in the submission process. This is the step after you choose submit new manuscript.

Special issue editors: Dr Diana Bogueva and Prof Huub Lelieveld. For questions contact [diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net](mailto:diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net)

GHI BOARD ELECTION

The election of new GHI Board members will take place at the end of November 2025. This is a crucial opportunity to help shape the future of GHI, and we warmly invite all members to participate. If you would like to stand as a candidate - including through self-nomination - please send the following to the General Secretary, **Dr Adriana Sterian** at [adriana.sterian@globalharmonization.net](mailto:adriana.sterian@globalharmonization.net), no later than **15 October 2025**:

- A short CV or professional profile
- A brief statement explaining why you wish to serve on the Board
- Current Board members who wish to continue serving are also requested to confirm their candidacy by submitting the same information.

Your involvement is vital to the strength and success of GHI. We encourage you to consider putting your name forward and contributing to our shared mission.

NIFST REGIONAL SUMMIT

GHI Board Member Prof. Charles Aworh Joins Forces with NIFST at Regional Summit. In a powerful display of collaboration between academia and the food science industry, Prof. Emeritus Charles Aworh, esteemed Board Member of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), took part in the 2025 Regional Summit of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST). Ahead of the official Opening Ceremony on June 17, 2025, Prof. Aworh accompanied the NIFST President and delegation on a courtesy visit to the Acting Vice Chancellor and senior leadership of Federal University Oye Ekiti. The visit underscored the Summit's commitment to fostering institutional partnerships and advancing food science innovation across Nigeria.



This year's Summit brought together thought leaders, researchers, and industry experts to explore emerging trends, regulatory harmonization, and the future of food systems in Africa. Prof. Aworh's presence highlighted GHI's ongoing dedication to global dialogue and scientific exchange.







In the center is NIFST President, Dr. Bola Osinowo, FIAFoST, flanked on his left by Prof. Olubunmi Shittu, Acting Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Oye Ekiti, and on his right Prof. (Mrs.) Bolanle Akinwande, Chairperson Western Chapter. Next to Prof. Shittu is Prof. Emeritus Charles Aworh.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CHILE'S 10-YEAR NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Chile's ACHIPIA (Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality) has just begun a public consultation process for the "National Food Safety and Quality Policy". The formulation of the National Food Safety and Quality Policy was mandated by Decree No. 83 of 2005 from the Ministry General Secretariat of the Presidency. This policy was created to guide the actions of the State in matters of food safety and quality, promoting coordination among public institutions with authority in the field, the productive sector, academia, and consumers.

The policy is established with a 10-year outlook and seeks to help Chile consolidate its status in food safety and quality, aiming to safeguard public health, protect consumer rights, and boost the competitiveness of its food products — while addressing new challenges arising from the global landscape. Members of the public are invited to participate in the public consultation process for the National Food Safety and Quality 2025–2035 Policy document. They are also encouraged to share and disseminate this information through digital platforms and social media.

Global Harmonization Initiative is participating in the consultation represented by its Chile ambassador Prof. Franco Pedresschi.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

Santiago to host the 11th International Symposium on Functionality in Complex Food Systems. Join leading scientists including the GHI ambassador Prof. Franco Pedresschi, researchers, and industry professionals at the 11th International Symposium on the Delivery of Functionality in Complex Food Systems (DOF2025), taking place in Santiago, Chile, from November 5–7, 2025. This premier event will explore the latest advances in food functionality, structure, and health, offering a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. For more details and registration visit: <https://www.dof2025.cl/>

## MITIGATING HEAT-INDUCED CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN STARCHY FOODS

Prof. Franco Pedreschi, a GHI Ambassador from Chile, has become an active member of the Red Iberoamericana de Productos Finales de Glicación Avanzada (AGE) y Salud (RIAS). RIAS is planning to hold a conference in November 2026, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where Pedreschi is expected to be one of the featured speakers.

Pedreschi carried out a research stay at the Instituto de Biotecnología (IBT), Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru, in January 2025. During this stay, he studied topics related to the formation and mitigation of acrylamide, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF), and dietary advanced glycation end products (dAGE) in starchy food matrices subjected to high-temperature unit operations.

He also attended the XXIII European Conference on Food Chemistry (XXIII EUROFOODCHEM 2025), which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia from June 11 to 13, 2025 where he successfully delivered an oral presentation entitled: "Simultaneous Reduction of Acrylamide and 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural in Crackers Using a Sustainable Extract from Purple Corn (*Zea mays* L.) Cob via Hot Pressurized Liquid Extraction".

## ALARM ON OCEAN BOUND PLASTICS

GHI ambassador in the UK Dr. Alaa Alaizoki draw our attention on the current UK Food Safety Authorities Sound Alarm on Ocean Bound Plastics in Packaging.

The UK Joint Expert Group for Food Contact Materials has published its assessment on the use of ocean-bound plastics in food contact materials (FCM). The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) have reviewed the assessment and concluded there is not enough evidence to confirm the safety of this type of plastic used in food packaging, hence they advised against the use of environmental plastic, including ocean-bound plastic, in food packaging.





EXPLORING THE POWER OF BROWN SEAWEED:  
UNLOCKING ANTIOXIDANT POTENTIAL

At the recent XXIV Congress of the Chilean Association of Food Science and Technology and the XXIII Congress of the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Food Science and Technology, held at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile, Dr. María Salomé Mariotti-Celis (GHI Chilean Ambassador) delivered a compelling oral presentation that shed light on the intricate factors influencing the health-promoting properties of brown seaweed. Her talk, titled “Aging, Digestion, and Matrix Composition: Critical Factors Affecting the Stability and Accessibility of Antioxidant Compounds in Brown Seaweed-Based Products”, addressed a growing area of interest in functional foods and marine bioactives. Brown seaweed, rich in phenolic compounds like phlorotannins, has garnered attention for its potent antioxidant activity—yet its effectiveness in real-world applications depends heavily on how these compounds behave during digestion, how they interact with food matrices, and how they degrade over time.

SOUNDING THE ALARM: GHI'S WHISTLEBLOWER  
SYSTEM CAPTURES ATTENTION AT DUTCH FOOD  
LAW SEMINAR

On 23 June 2025, the Dutch Association for Food Law (NVLR) hosted a thought-provoking seminar titled “The Alarm Bell”, diving deep into the complex world of whistleblowing, reporting structures, and the ethical and legal tensions that surround them. Prof. Bernd van der Meulen talked about many aspects of the whistleblower law. Among the standout moments of the day was the presentation by Dr. Diana Bogueva, President of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), and board member Dr. Nicola Stanley, who introduced the audience to a whistleblower system unlike any other.

Previously little-known in Dutch food law circles, GHI made a striking impression by demonstrating that safeguarding consumer protection and integrity in the food chain doesn't have to follow the familiar EU playbook. While institutions like the NVWA and the House for Whistleblowers rely on legal mandates, verification protocols, and structured feedback, GHI offered a radically different model—one built on scientific independence, personal commitment, and absolute anonymity.



Dr. Bogueva and Dr. Stanley delivered a modest yet powerful presentation, reminding attendees that integrity in the food system must be protected not just by law, but by conscience. Their message resonated so strongly that it sparked two published articles: “A Report-Safe Environment from Mailroom to Boardroom: NVLR Study Afternoon” by Marijn Albus in Dutch Journal of Food Law – Law and Policy in the Agri-Food Chain, 2025 No. 3 “How Does the Whistleblower Protection Act and the House for Whistleblowers Work?” by \*Charlotte ter Haar-Schröder. GHI's appearance at “The Alarm Bell” was more than a presentation — it was a wake-up call. And for many in the room, it rang loud and clear.

ADVOCATING FOR ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

On April 2, 2025, renowned food safety expert and GHI Ethics Working Group member Dr. Yasmine Motarjemi delivered a powerful and deeply personal testimony before the French Senate's Commission of Inquiry on Bottled Water Companies. This commission was convened to investigate serious allegations of fraud, health risks, and regulatory failures involving major bottled water producers, including Nestlé Waters. Drawing from her experience as Corporate Food Safety Manager at Nestlé, Dr. Motarjemi exposed what she described as a “pathogenic organizational culture”—one that prioritizes profit over consumer safety and systematically suppresses internal dissent. Her testimony underscored the urgent need for transparency, ethical governance, and whistleblower protection in the food industry. Key issues highlighted in her statement included:

- ✓ Lack of clear accountability among senior managers
- ✓ Delays in addressing product safety concerns and initiating recalls
- ✓ Fragmented oversight across Nestlé's subsidiaries
- ✓ Systemic retaliation against whistleblowers who raise safety concerns
- ✓ Regulatory gaps that hinder effective oversight of bottled water production



Dr. Motarjemi's intervention not only shed light on internal failures within one of the world's largest food corporations but also emphasized the broader implications for public health and consumer trust. The commission aims to assess the scope of these issues and recommend reforms to strengthen corporate responsibility and consumer protection across the sector. Her testimony, published in full on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/investigative-commission-bottled-water-yasmine-motarjemi-rbw9e/>), continues to resonate as a courageous stand for integrity in food safety.

INITIATIVE FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

As has now become a meaningful tradition, members and ambassadors of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) are once again stepping forward to lead impactful events and collaborations around the world. These initiatives — each unique in scope and setting — share a common goal: to advance food safety through science, integrity, and global cooperation. They reflect the growing momentum behind harmonized, transparent, and ethically grounded food systems.

Celebrating World Food Safety Day in Bucharest: Romanian GHI Ambassadors Lead the Way

On June 6, 2025, the spirit of World Food Safety Day came alive in Bucharest as the Romanian Ambassadors of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) hosted a dynamic workshop titled “Global Initiatives on Shaping the Future of Food Safety.” Set within the prestigious International Conference ‘Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture’ at USAMV Bucharest, this event brought together scientists, students, and the public to explore the future of food safety through a global lens. Held in the Aula Magna “Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Câmpeanu” at the Faculty of Biotechnologies, the workshop was a standout feature of Section 6 – Biotechnology, offering fresh perspectives on international collaboration, innovation, and harmonization in food safety regulation. Attendees engaged with cutting-edge ideas and global strategies aimed at strengthening food safety systems, highlighting the importance of scientific consensus, transparency, and international cooperation. The workshop underscored GHI’s mission: to harmonize food legislation worldwide through independent, science-driven advocacy. As part of the broader celebration of World Food Safety Day, this workshop was more than an academic gathering—it was a call to action. A reminder that safe food is not just a policy goal, but a shared responsibility across borders and disciplines.



GHI Secretary General and Board Member Adriana Sterian

The event was spearheaded by GHI Ambassadors Assist. Prof. Dr. Mihaela Geicu-Cristea and Prof. Liviu Gaceu, with invaluable support from Prof. Mona Popa, Prof. Amalia Mitelut, Dr. Paul Popescu, and Adrana Sterian. Their combined efforts — alongside the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences – Food Industry Section — created a vibrant platform for dialogue and discovery.





Science in Action: NDU Hosts World Food Safety Day 2025 Webinar

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, the Faculty of Health Sciences at Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU) joined forces with the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) and the Lebanese Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (LAFST) to host a compelling World Food Safety Day webinar titled “Food Safety: Science in Action.”

The session opened with welcoming remarks from the GHI president Dr. Diana Bogueva, setting the tone for a dynamic exchange of ideas centered on the critical role of science in safeguarding public health and shaping resilient global food systems. The webinar explored four key themes:

- Advances in Food Microbiology and Analysis
- Traditional Food Fermentation
- The Science Behind Standards and Regulations
- Building Reliable Food Safety Systems

This virtual gathering brought together a diverse audience of professionals, academics, and students, all united by a shared commitment to food safety. The discussions emphasized the importance of scientific collaboration, innovation, and harmonized approaches to ensure a healthier, safer food future for all.

The event was also featured on the FAO Codex Alimentarius website, reinforcing its global relevance and alignment with this year’s FAO/WHO theme. More information here: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1738512/>



From microbiology to policy, fermentation to regulation, the NDU webinar showcased how science truly is in action—driving progress, protecting lives, and inspiring the next generation of food safety leaders.

HARMONIZING NUTRACEUTICALS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Held in New Delhi, India from 4–6 September 2025, the Bharat Nutraverse Expo brought together global experts to shape the future of nutraceuticals. Representing the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), Dr. Diana Bogueva delivered a keynote titled “One Standard, Many Cultures: Harmonizing Nutraceuticals for a Sustainable Future,” sparking vibrant discussions with delegates from 26 countries. A highlight was connecting with fellow GHI ambassadors — Dr. Dilip Ghosh (Australia), who led insightful panel sessions, and India’s Dr. Monika Singh Chauhan and Dr. Rashmi Kulshrestha (see photos bellow) to explore new directions for GHI’s mission. Special thanks to Dr. Debjani Roy (Shefexil India) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for organizing this impactful event, opened by Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, who shared his vision for India’s nutraceutical sector and announced India Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s transformative GST reforms.

A truly inspiring experience, strengthening global ties for a more sustainable nutraceutical future.



The end