

GHI MATTERS

Vol. 04 - April 2026

Welcome to our new GHI newsletter

Welcome to our April newsletter. As an international organisation working across regions and disciplines, GHI continues to advance its mission of strengthening science-based food safety systems and supporting global regulatory cooperation. This month's edition brings together key updates, ongoing initiatives, and recent achievements from across our worldwide network. Across our membership, we are seeing continued growth in engagement and collaboration, reflecting a shared commitment to improving food systems through evidence-based approaches. This expanding community allows us to connect expertise, foster dialogue, and translate knowledge into practical impact at both regional and global levels.

In this issue, we highlight progress across our core areas of work, including international research collaborations, our upcoming congress updates, capacity-building activities, and ambassadors' engagement efforts. We also share an update on upcoming organisational priorities and activities that will further support our long-term strategic goals and strengthen our global reach throughout the year.

As always, our work is built on partnership and exchange. We welcome continued engagement from our global community and encourage new organisations and individuals who align with our mission to connect with us and explore opportunities for collaboration.

GHI President message

Dear Members of the Global Harmonization Initiative,

At a time when the world is facing ongoing conflicts that continue to disrupt food systems and limit access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, our mission feels more relevant than ever. These challenges remind us that global harmonization is not simply an ambition—it is a necessity for resilience, equity, and sustainability.

April offered us meaningful moments of both celebration and reflection. We were especially proud to recognize our founder and Honorary President, Huub Lelieveld, on receiving the World Food Award—an achievement that resonates deeply with our shared vision and inspires our continued efforts toward advancing safe and sustainable food systems worldwide.

We also marked Earth Day, reinforcing the essential connection between environmental stewardship and food safety. In the same spirit, we commemorated Stop Food Waste Day 2026 under the theme Turning Awareness into Action. Observed on April 29, this global initiative highlights one of the most pressing yet often overlooked challenges of our time. Each year, an estimated 1.3 billion tons of food is lost or wasted worldwide—a figure that represents not only inefficiency, but lost opportunities to nourish communities, conserve natural resources, and reduce environmental impact. It is a powerful call for all of us to translate awareness into meaningful change.

This month has also been dynamic in strengthening our community. We held engaging and productive meetings with our GHI Ambassadors from across the world, reaffirming the importance of regional perspectives and local engagement in advancing our global mission. We now look ahead to our upcoming May meeting with Working Group Chairs and Vice Chairs, where continued collaboration will help shape the next phase of our initiatives.

Preparations for the GHI World Congress are now well underway, and we are delighted to report that the first abstract submissions have already started to come in. This encouraging early response reflects the strong interest from across our community and gives us great confidence that the Congress will build strong momentum right from the outset.

We are looking forward to welcoming a broad and diverse group of members, partners, and stakeholders, and we are optimistic that this gathering will bring together the vast majority of our global community in a meaningful and impactful way. The Congress will serve as a key opportunity to exchange knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and highlight the latest advances across our shared areas of work.

In parallel, GHI continues to deepen its engagement with strategic partners, including recent interactions with HeDPAC. These discussions mark an important step in strengthening international cooperation and aligning efforts around shared priorities in food safety and public health.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of a new collaboration and research grant opportunity. This initiative is designed to support innovative projects, foster cross-institutional partnerships, and accelerate research that contributes to evidence-based policy and practice, and we warmly encourage our members and partners to take part.

Across all these activities, the strength of GHI remains rooted in its people. Your engagement, expertise, and commitment continue to drive progress and impact across borders. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

With appreciation,
Dr. Diana Bogueva
President, Global Harmonization Initiative

For more information:

Website: <https://www.globalharmonization.net>
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-harmonization-initiative/posts/?feedView=all>

The GHI World Congress 2027 : Abstract Submissions Now Open & First Keynote Announced!

Momentum is building for the 3rd World Congress of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), taking place 5–9 July 2027 at Selçuk University in Konya—and we're excited to share that abstract submissions are now officially open. Under the theme "Harmonized Global Food Systems for a Changing World," the Congress will bring together a global community of scientists, regulators, industry leaders, and policymakers to move beyond discussion and toward practical, coordinated solutions for today's rapidly evolving food systems.

Be part of the program — submit your abstract

We are already receiving submissions and encourage contributions from across disciplines and sectors. Whether your work addresses regulatory alignment, emerging technologies, food safety, sustainability, or future food systems, this is your opportunity to help shape the global agenda and contribute to actionable change.



Partner with us — sponsorship opportunities available

We are also inviting organizations to join us as Congress sponsors. This is a unique opportunity to showcase your work, connect with an international audience, and contribute to shaping the future of global food systems.

Explore sponsorship options:

<https://www.ghiworldcongress.org/sponsorship/>

Join us in shaping what comes next

Whether you are presenting, participating, or partnering, GHI 2027 offers a platform to turn ideas into action and collaboration into impact.

Make it easy to share and stay connected:

Use our QR code to access the Congress website or include it in your institution's communications - newsletters, student outreach, and colleague networks—or visit the GHI World Congress website directly:

<https://www.ghiworldcongress.org>



First keynote speaker confirmed

We are delighted to announce our first confirmed keynote speaker, **Dr Betül Vazgeçer, Vice-Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**, the joint FAO/WHO authority responsible for developing international food standards under the United Nations system. With decades of leadership in food safety and international standard-setting, she brings a unique global perspective on harmonization, regulatory science, and the future of food systems. Her keynote topic will be announced soon.



Why attend?

GHI 2027 is designed as a space for collaboration, innovation, and impact. The program, currently in development, will feature:

- High-level sessions tackling urgent global food system challenges
- Interactive panels connecting science, policy, and industry
- Practical workshops, special sessions and masterclasses on emerging tools and approaches
- Industry field visits showcasing Türkiye's food sector
- A unique optional extension to Cappadocia



Right to Food and Right to Health Small Grants Program

In the lead-up to the GHI World Congress in Konya (5–9 July 2027), the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) and the Health Development Partnership for Africa and the Caribbean (HeDPAC) are proud to launch the **Right to Food and Right to Health Small Grants Program**.

This new collaboration marks an important step toward advancing equitable and sustainable food and health systems. The program will support innovative social science research exploring the intersection of food systems, nutrition, and health outcomes through the lens of the internationally recognized Rights to Food and Health, with a focus on Africa and the Caribbean.

Funding opportunity:

Three research grants of up to USD 10,000 each will be awarded, including:

- Up to USD 8,000 for research project costs
- Up to USD 2,000 to support travel and participation at the GHI World Congress in Konya Türkiye (5–9 July 2027)

Funded projects will be required to present their outcomes at the special session "The Fight for Food and Health" during the Congress.



Building Capacity Across Africa: GHI Food Safety Training & Education WG Engages in PAQAA Reviews

The GHI Food Safety Training and Education Working Group is proud to share that its Chair, Prof. Adewale Olusegun Obadina, participated in the ongoing Pan African Quality Assurance Alliance (PAQAA) Agency Reviews, coordinated by the PAQAA Interim Technical Unit at the Association of African Universities. Under the distinguished leadership of AAU Secretary-General Prof. O. B. Oyewole, these reviews mark a major step forward in strengthening quality assurance systems across the continent. Prof. Obadina expressed pride in supporting this important coordination effort, which aligns closely with GHI's commitment to advancing education, capacity building, and global standards in food safety and related fields.

The PAQAA agency reviews—now actively underway across Africa—bring together experts trained through the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA3) initiative, including student reviewers, to work alongside national quality assurance agencies. These site visits apply the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA), ensuring that evaluation processes are African-led, collaborative, and grounded in shared continental priorities. Experts from across Africa contribute their experience, engage directly with agencies, and support improvements in practices, governance, and institutional capacity.

For HAQAA3, this represents a significant milestone: building and mobilizing a continental pool of expertise, strengthening peer-learning, and leaving behind sustainable capacity within national systems. For GHI, Prof. Obadina's involvement reinforces our mission to promote high-quality education, scientific integrity, and strong institutional frameworks, all of which are essential for advancing food safety and public health across Africa and beyond.

This collaborative effort reflects a growing momentum toward a more integrated and trusted African higher education space. GHI is proud to see its leadership contributing to initiatives that strengthen institutions, empower experts, and ultimately support safer, healthier, and more resilient communities across the continent.

The Right to Food and Right to Health Small Grants program aims to:

- Support interdisciplinary research on food, nutrition, health, and wellbeing by encouraging collaboration across scientific, social, and policy disciplines to address complex, real-world challenges.
- Generate policy-relevant evidence that can directly inform decision-making processes, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and support rights-based advocacy at local, national, and regional levels
- Advance health equity, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized populations who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and unsafe food environments

This initiative offers a unique opportunity for researchers to translate knowledge into action, contributing to meaningful, real-world impact and tangible improvements in food and health systems while engaging with a global network of experts, institutions, and stakeholders. Through this collaboration, participants will gain visibility, share best practices, and help shape future policies and interventions.

Applications are now open strictly for projects related to Africa and the Caribbean region. Researchers, institutions, and cross-sector collaborators are warmly encouraged to apply and contribute to building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.



Stronger Together: GHI-EHEDG Partnership Expands Opportunities for Members

GHI and EHEDG have reached agreement to work together to enhance participation and diversity within their organizations. Both organizations see benefit in holding joint meetings in areas where one or both have membership challenges. In order to encourage collaboration, they have reached the following agreement regarding conferences.

Looking ahead, members can connect at two major events: the EHEDG World Congress in Vienna (7-8 October 2026) and the GHI World Congress in Konya (5-7 July 2027).

Each organization will offer each other's members their member rate to attend the other conference. EHEDG has a discount rate for student attendees as well which will be available.

EHEDG will sponsor the GHI conference and provide complementary Hygienic Design training as a pre-conference workshop to GHI attendees.

As a sponsor, EHEDG will have a booth at the GHI conference. EHEDG will offer GHI an area at the EHEDG conference in Vienna for GHI to distribute materials.

For each GHI member (that is not an EHEDG member already) that attends the EHEDG conference and pays the full EHEDG member fee (not student rate), EHEDG will rebate 100 euros of that fee back to GHI.

GHI will advertise the EHEDG conference with the benefit offered to GHI members. GHI will also promote the new EHEDG University membership fee of 100 euros amongst its members.



EHEDG World Congress 2026

'Ensuring Food Safety and Optimising Hygienic Production'

The EHEDG World Congress in Vienna will be held 7-8 October 2026. It is a premier event in hygienic design and food safety. It brings together global experts, innovators, and professionals to explore the latest advancements in ensuring product safety and quality. From enlightening seminars to engaging workshops, attendees gain insights into cutting-edge technologies and collaborate to elevate standards in hygienic design.

EHEDG team would like to welcome you to shape the future of hygienic excellence by design. For more information:

<https://www.ehedg.org/congress-2026/>

Promoting Healthy Eating and Consumer Awareness in Romania

As part of the 2026 Green Week program, GHI Consumer Perception Working Group member, Prof. Alexandrina Sîrbu, delivered an engaging presentation on healthy eating and the development of correct dietary habits during the event "Healthy Eating. Health Education" held on Monday, March 30, 2026, at FMMAE Râmnicu Vâlcea within "Constantin Brâncoveanu" University. The workshop brought together students from the Matei Basarab National College of Informatics and the General Magheru Technological High School, offering them debates and interactive sessions on contemporary nutrition, balanced diets, and informed food choices. Prof. Sîrbu contributed as a guest lecturer, sharing insights on how young people can build lifelong healthy eating behaviors.



The event also featured the creative competition "Healthy Dessert Without Fire - Culinary Creation Contest," where students showcased teamwork, imagination, and a strong commitment to preparing nutritious, no-bake dishes. Prof. Sîrbu served as a member of the jury, evaluating the students' inventive and health-focused culinary creations. GHI extends believes that today's education shapes tomorrow's healthy lifestyle.

The Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) supports ISEKI-Food 2026 conference. This well-established international conference series open its doors for its 8th edition. The event will focus on the theme "Innovation in Research and Education for the Transition to Sustainable Food Systems," reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening global cooperation and advancing knowledge in food safety and sustainability. Organised by the University of Algarve, the conference will be held from 1-3 June 2026 in Faro, Portugal. It will bring together experts from academia, industry, and policy to exchange ideas and explore solutions for building more sustainable and resilient food systems.

For further details regarding the conference program, visit: <https://isekiconferences.com/faro2026/>

8TH
INTERNATIONAL
ISEKI-FOOD
CONFERENCE

1-3 JUNE
UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE
FARO, PORTUGAL



ISEKI-FOOD
ASSOCIATION



UAlg

UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

GHI AMBASSADORS NEWS

- Develop regional Ambassador Hub Networks to support local leadership and cross-border collaboration
- Prepare for the upcoming GHI Congress, ensuring ambassadors' central role in shaping discussions and amplifying impact
- Regularly contribute to the GHI newsletter showcasing ambassadors' activities
- Reporting on country specific food related regulatory changes

Strengthening the GHI Ambassador Network

Over the past weeks, GHI Ambassadors Director Matilda Freund and GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva held four productive meetings with our global GHI Ambassadors. These sessions focused on deepening engagement across regions, strengthening collaboration, and shaping the future direction of our ambassador community.

The main discussions gravitate around finding ways to:

The energy, ideas, laughter, friendliness, and commitment shared during these meetings highlight the strength of our global community. Our ambassadors continue to be a driving force behind GHI's mission – connecting science, innovation, and public engagement across continents. Their passion not only fuels our current initiatives but also inspires new collaborations, fresh perspectives, and a shared sense of purpose. Together, we're building a network that turns curiosity into action and transforms local efforts into global impact.



Ambassador Engagement and Activities

- ▶ Housekeeping: Certificates, Term length and renewal
- ▶ Current level of ambassador involvement
- ▶ Defining clearer expectations and areas of responsibility
- ▶ Ambassador Reporting & Visibility (Newsletter & Communication)
 - ▶ Regular reporting of ambassador activities
 - ▶ Integration into GHI newsletter and communication channels
 - ▶ Simple reporting template and frequency



Celebrating Research Excellence Award

Huge congratulations to our GHI India Ambassador, Dr. Sunita Singh, on receiving the prestigious Research Excellence Award! She continues to push the boundaries of chemistry and innovation, demonstrating how passion, dedication, and scientific curiosity can lead to truly culminating heights. We are proud and grateful to have her as part of the GHI family.



Strengthening GHI's Presence in Poland

We are delighted to welcome Associate Professor Agnieszka Orkuszk as our new GHI Ambassador for Poland. Her expertise, leadership, and dedication to advancing scientific collaboration make her an exceptional addition to our global network. We are confident that her perspective and enthusiasm will enrich our community and help drive meaningful engagement within the region. Associate Professor Orkuszk brings extensive academic experience from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business, where her work focuses on food quality, safety, and consumer behavior.



Her research interests span sustainable food systems, innovative approaches to nutrition education, and strengthening the connection between science and society. With her strong commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and public engagement, she is exceptionally well-positioned to support and expand GHI's mission in Poland. Her appointment marks an exciting step forward in deepening our presence in Central Europe and fostering new pathways for scientific dialogue and cooperation.

Together with Assistant Professor Katarzyna Świąder, whose ongoing contributions have already elevated GHI's visibility and impact in Poland, this partnership will further strengthen our



activities, expand our outreach, and support new opportunities for collaboration. Their combined experience, complementary expertise, and shared commitment to advancing global food integrity create a powerful foundation for the next phase of GHI's work in the region. We look forward to seeing their joint efforts inspire new initiatives, connect diverse stakeholders, and help build a vibrant, engaged scientific community across Poland.



Driving Change from the Ground Up: GHI Ambassadors Support Child Nutrition Efforts

GHI Ambassadors Thierry Regner and Belinda Meiring are playing a leading role in advancing efforts to strengthen child nutrition and food systems in South Africa. As leaders of the GHI Food Safety Clubs, they are actively contributing to locally driven initiatives that promote food safety, awareness, and sustainable solutions within communities.

In this context, UNICEF South Africa recently met with the Tshwane University of Technology to explore innovative approaches to improving child nutrition and strengthening food systems. The engagement highlighted the importance of collaboration between academia, public health, and the private sector in addressing complex nutrition challenges.

Despite the availability of quality food across the country, significant concerns remain. Approximately 1.7 million children under the age of five in South Africa are affected by stunting—a condition caused by chronic malnutrition that impacts physical growth and cognitive development. These challenges point to persistent inequalities in access, affordability, and nutrition knowledge.

Through their leadership and engagement, Thierry Regner and Belinda Meiring continue to support initiatives that foster education, collaboration, and practical action. Their work through the GHI Food Safety Clubs is helping to build stronger, safer, and more resilient food systems at the local level.

By strengthening partnerships and empowering communities, efforts like these contribute to ensuring that every child has access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food—especially during the critical early years of life. This engagement reflects a shared commitment to advancing impactful solutions through collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange.



Preparing for World Food Safety Day 2026: From Burden to Solutions

Preparations are well underway for World Food Safety Day 2026, bringing together key partners and experts committed to advancing safer food systems and protecting public health. This year's global theme, "From burden to solutions - safe food everywhere," strongly reflects a shared commitment to strengthening food safety frameworks in Lebanon and across the region. The upcoming webinar, designed as a dynamic three-hour session—will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, practical insights, and collaborative dialogue. A diverse group of institutions is joining forces for this initiative, including the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the

Lebanese Association for Food Science and Technology (LAFST), the Lebanese American University (LAU), the Modern University for Business and Science (MUBS), and the International Society of Public Health (ISPH). Their combined expertise will help ensure a rich and impactful program.

From the GHI side, Rob Kooijmans, M.Sc.—Co-founder of Food Safety Experts and a seasoned leader with over 35 years of international food industry experience - will contribute with a talk titled "Overview of the 2026 Cereulide in Arachidonic Acid Oil Crisis." His presentation is expected to provide valuable insights into emerging risks and industry responses.

The program will place strong emphasis on risk-based approaches, including inspection and assessment, while highlighting real-world case studies and successful system transitions from both regional and global perspectives.

Celebrating Emerging Food Science Leaders in Nigeria

A memorable moment from the 2024/2025 Graduate Induction Ceremony of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST) was captured on 26 February 2026 at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The event brought together distinguished dignitaries, including the Vice Chancellor, Prof. K.O. Adebowale, who is seen in attendance among other notable figures celebrating this

important milestone for emerging food science professionals.

Notably, Prof. Adebowale appears alongside the distinguished Prof. Charles Aworh, former GHI Board member and a highly active contributor to the GHI community. His continued engagement reflects GHI's strong connection with leading experts across regions.

The ceremony not only highlighted academic excellence but also underscored the importance of leadership, mentorship, and global collaboration in advancing food science and harmonization efforts.



GHI Working Groups Chairs & Vice Chairs Meeting – Strengthening Scientific Leadership Across GHI



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We sincerely apologize that the meetings were not yet scheduled as previously anticipated. We needed to complete all the planning for the GHI Ambassadors meetings, which were essential to ensure meaningful and productive sessions.



NEW MEETING DATES:

Wednesday, 13 May 2026
9:00 AM CET
3:00 PM CET

Thursday, 14 May 2026
9:00 AM CET
3:00 PM CET



A link for both meetings will be sent out to all Working Group Chairs and Vice Chairs.



We are pleased to announce that GHI will convene two virtual meetings with the GHI President Dr Diana Bogueva, Vice President Prof. Joe Regenstein and Board members on 13 and 14 May 2026 for all Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs. These sessions are designed to ensure global participation across time zones and to reinforce the essential role our Working Groups play in advancing GHI's mission.



GHI's Working Groups form the scientific backbone of our organization. Their leadership connects experts across disciplines, countries, and institutions, ensuring that harmonization efforts are informed by real-world challenges and grounded in scientific excellence. This upcoming meeting will focus on strengthening the impact and visibility of our Working Groups across the global food safety and nutrition landscape.

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS WILL INCLUDE:

- Deepening engagement of Working Group Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members in ongoing and upcoming GHI initiatives
- Identifying scientific priorities and emerging issues within each Working Group's domain
- Developing a topic of interest and engaging the broader GHI audience in webinar presentations with the GHI webinar series
- Enhancing collaboration across Working Groups to address cross-cutting global challenges
- Improving communication channels between Working Groups and the GHI Board to support more agile and coordinated action
- Expanding outreach and visibility within national, regional, and international networks and events participation
- Strategic role of Working Groups in shaping the scientific program of the 2027 Global Harmonization Initiative Congress in Konya, Türkiye. Beyond holding their own internal meetings Working Groups will be invited to propose special sessions, symposia, and panel discussions, showcase innovative research, case studies, and harmonization efforts, engage early-career scientists and build cross-regional collaborations, contribute to a Congress program that reflects the full diversity and expertise of the GHI community. Your leadership will be instrumental in ensuring that the 2027 Congress becomes a landmark event - scientifically rich, globally inclusive, and aligned with GHI's long-term vision.



GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva will follow up shortly with the confirmed meeting dates and connection details.

We look forward to productive discussions.



Advancing Nutrition and Sustainability: GHI Builds Momentum with SGGW Partnership

GHI continues to build strong partnerships that drive meaningful, long-term impact. During a recent visit to the Warsaw University of Life Sciences–SGGW, GHI President Dr. Diana Bogueva met with the Director of the Institute of Human Nutrition Sciences, Prof. Dr. Hab. Krystyna Gutkowska, alongside GHI Ambassador Dr. Hab. Katarzyna Świąder, who also serves as the International Student Exchange Coordinator at the Faculty of Human Nutrition.

As part of the visit, Dr. Diana Bogueva delivered a concise presentation introducing GHI's mission, key initiatives, and global activities. The presentation provided an overview of the organisation's work in advancing sustainable food systems and highlighted opportunities for collaboration with academic partners.



The meeting highlighted a shared commitment to advancing research, education, and collaboration in the fields of nutrition and sustainability. Discussions also underscored the University's support for the upcoming GHI Congress in Konya, Türkiye (5–9 July 2027), reinforcing the vital role of academic partnerships in shaping impactful global dialogue.



Dr. Hab. Katarzyna Świąder, Dr Diana Bogueva and Prof. Dr. Hab. Krystyna Gutkowska

Looking ahead, an exciting opportunity emerged from the conversation. Prof. Dr. Hab. Krystyna Gutkowska expressed strong interest in positioning the Warsaw University of Life Sciences–SGGW as a potential host for a future GHI Congress - an invitation that reflects the institution's leadership in human nutrition sciences and its dedication to fostering international collaboration.

During the visit, Dr. Diana Bogueva also met with students at the University, several of whom expressed interest in submitting abstracts in the areas of food law and food safety.

This visit marks another important step in strengthening ties between GHI and leading academic institutions. Together, we continue to create pathways for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collective action toward a more sustainable food future.



GHI Romania Ambassadors Lead World Food Safety Day Events at International Conference 2026

The Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI), together with its Romania Ambassadors and Prof. Mihaela Geicu, will contribute to two dedicated workshops at the International Conference “Agriculture for Life, Life for Agriculture” 2026, hosted by University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMV) from 4–6 June 2026 in Bucharest.

Organised in celebration of World Food Safety Day, these events bring together academia, industry, and professional organizations to advance dialogue and practical knowledge in food safety. Two featured workshops include:

- “**Food Safety in Action: Allergen Awareness and Practical Demonstration**” (4 June) This hands-on workshop, organised by GHI, Diamedix, and USAMV, will feature live demonstrations of allergen detection methods. In collaboration with R-Biopharm, participants will explore practical applications of immunochemical (ELISA, rapid tests) and molecular (PCR) techniques across a wide range of allergens.

- “**Food Safety, Security and Inclusion in Romania**” (5 June) Co-organised by GHI, European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG), Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (ASAS), General Association of Engineers in Romania (AGIR), and USAMV, this session continues a strong tradition of multi-stakeholder collaboration established in previous editions.

The GHI proudly endorses these events, reinforcing its commitment to advancing food safety through science, collaboration, and education. Attendees will also hear from GHI President, Dr Diana Bogueva, who will address the audience and highlight the importance of global harmonization efforts in strengthening food systems.

These workshops offer a valuable opportunity to engage with experts, gain practical insights, and celebrate World Food Safety Day through impactful knowledge exchange.

From Fragmentation to Fit-for-Purpose Food Safety Governance in South Africa

South Africa is facing renewed scrutiny over a critical gap in its regulatory landscape: the absence of a formal national Food Safety Policy. At a time when food systems are becoming more complex and consumer risks increasingly interconnected, questions are being raised about what this fragmentation costs the country in terms of governance, accountability, and public protection.

These concerns are now taking centre stage at the Food Safety Summit, where a landmark high-level panel is being convened by the Food Safety Leadership Initiative at Wits Business School. The session is organised under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Lucia Anelich, GHI South Africa Ambassador and a long-standing expert in food safety systems and governance reform.

The discussion brings together senior leaders from government, civil society, and industry to confront a difficult but necessary question: what is broken in the current system, and what would a coherent national approach actually require?

The panel will examine the consequences of fragmented oversight across food safety regulation, explore barriers to reform, and consider realistic pathways toward a more integrated and “fit-for-purpose” governance model.

Confirmed South Africa’s event panel participants include: Mr Mooketsa Ramasodi, Director-General of the National Department of Agriculture
Mr Mark Heywood, Co-Founder of Union Against Hunger
Ms Zinhle Tyikwe, CEO of GS1 South Africa / CGCSA

Additional voices are expected to join as the conversation develops, reflecting growing urgency around the issue across sectors.

Why this matters?

South Africa’s food safety oversight is currently spread across multiple institutions and regulatory frameworks, often with overlapping mandates and limited coordination. Critics argue that this fragmentation can slow response times during food safety incidents, create inconsistencies in enforcement, and weaken accountability mechanisms that are meant to protect consumers.

Supporters of reform say that a unified national policy could help streamline responsibilities, improve traceability across supply chains, and strengthen trust between government, industry, and the public. The Food Safety Summit panel marks a first-of-its-kind attempt to bring these tensions into a single, structured national dialogue at senior leadership level. As the discussion unfolds, one thing is clear: the debate is no longer about whether reform is needed, but about what a credible, workable system should look like—and how quickly it can be achieved.

A key concern moving forward is that without decisive alignment between policy, enforcement, and industry standards, South Africa risks not only continued inefficiencies but also reduced resilience in responding to emerging food safety threats, including those linked to global supply chain disruptions and climate-related shocks. This makes the current dialogue especially urgent, as it offers a rare opportunity to move from diagnosis to actionable reform, with the potential to reshape how food safety governance is structured, funded, and implemented across the country.

Share Your News With Us

Our global strength comes from our members’ work. Have updates on projects, events, publications, regional activities, or food safety and harmonization news?

Send them to us – your contributions keep the GHI community informed, connected, and inspired.



We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr Mark Sandow for the newsletter design, Prof. Joe Regenstein for editing and content review, and Gunter Grail for the distribution of the newsletter.

Email us

General Inquiries: info@globalharmonization.net

Working Groups: wg@globalharmonization.net

Ambassador Programme: ambassadors@globalharmonization.net

Membership: membershipdirector@globalharmonization.net