



Paving the Way to Sustainability:

The Growth of Alternative Proteins in Asia

Samuel Goh | Acting Policy Manager

29 August 2024



-
- 1 Introduction to GFI**
 - 2 What are alternative proteins**
 - 3 Regulatory developments**
 - 4 Overview of the APAC alternative protein sector**

1

Introduction to GFI



GFI is an **international network of nonprofit think tanks** developing the roadmap for a sustainable, secure, and just protein supply.

Our work spans three areas:



Science and Tech

Advance foundational, open-access research in alternative proteins



Corporate Engagement

Partner with companies and investors to unlock funds, innovation, and scale



Policy

Work with policy actors to ensure a clear path to market and secure public support for R&D



*We act as a **force multiplier**, bringing the expertise of our 150+ staff across our six regions to the rest of the world*

GFI is fully funded by philanthropy.



Protein diversification

Plant-based



Photo courtesy of TinDLE

Cultivated



Photo courtesy of GOOD Meat

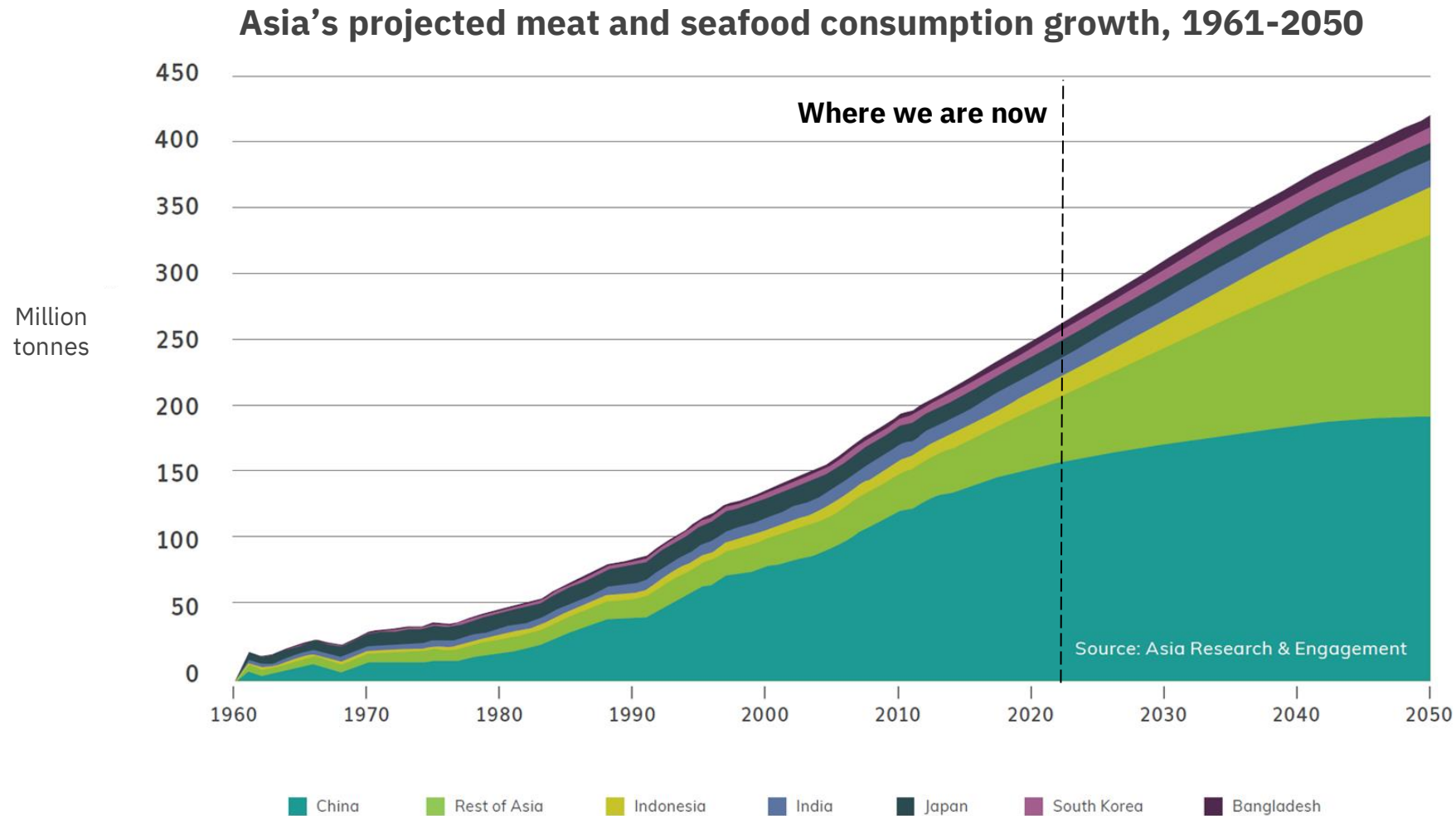
Fermentation



Photo courtesy of Meati



Demographic changes in APAC will push demand for animal protein to new heights



Industrialised animal agriculture is no longer fit-for-purpose



Sustainability

20%
of greenhouse gas
emissions are driven by
industrial animal
agriculture



Efficiency

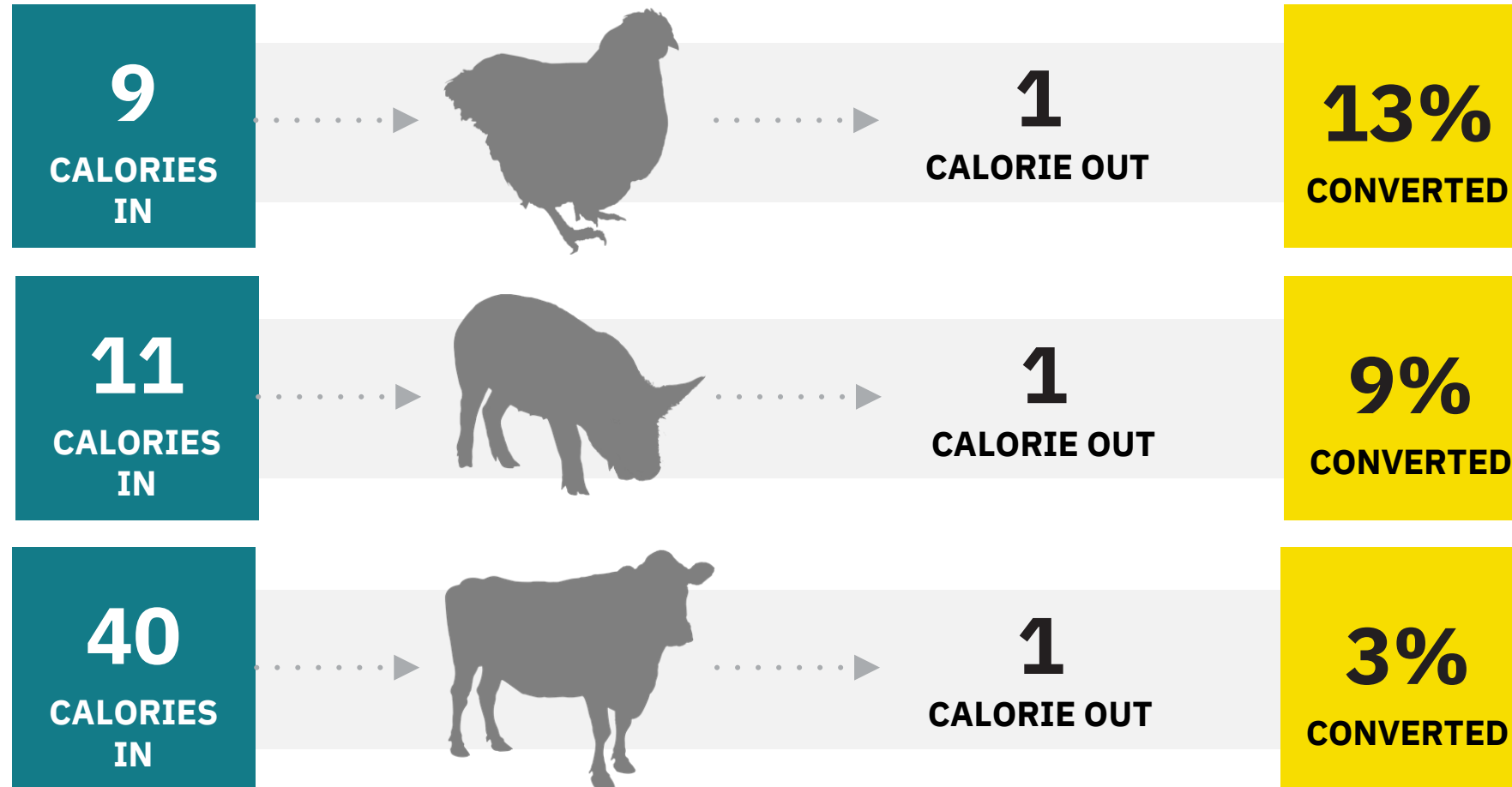
87-97%
of food is wasted in
conventional meat
production



Safety & Security

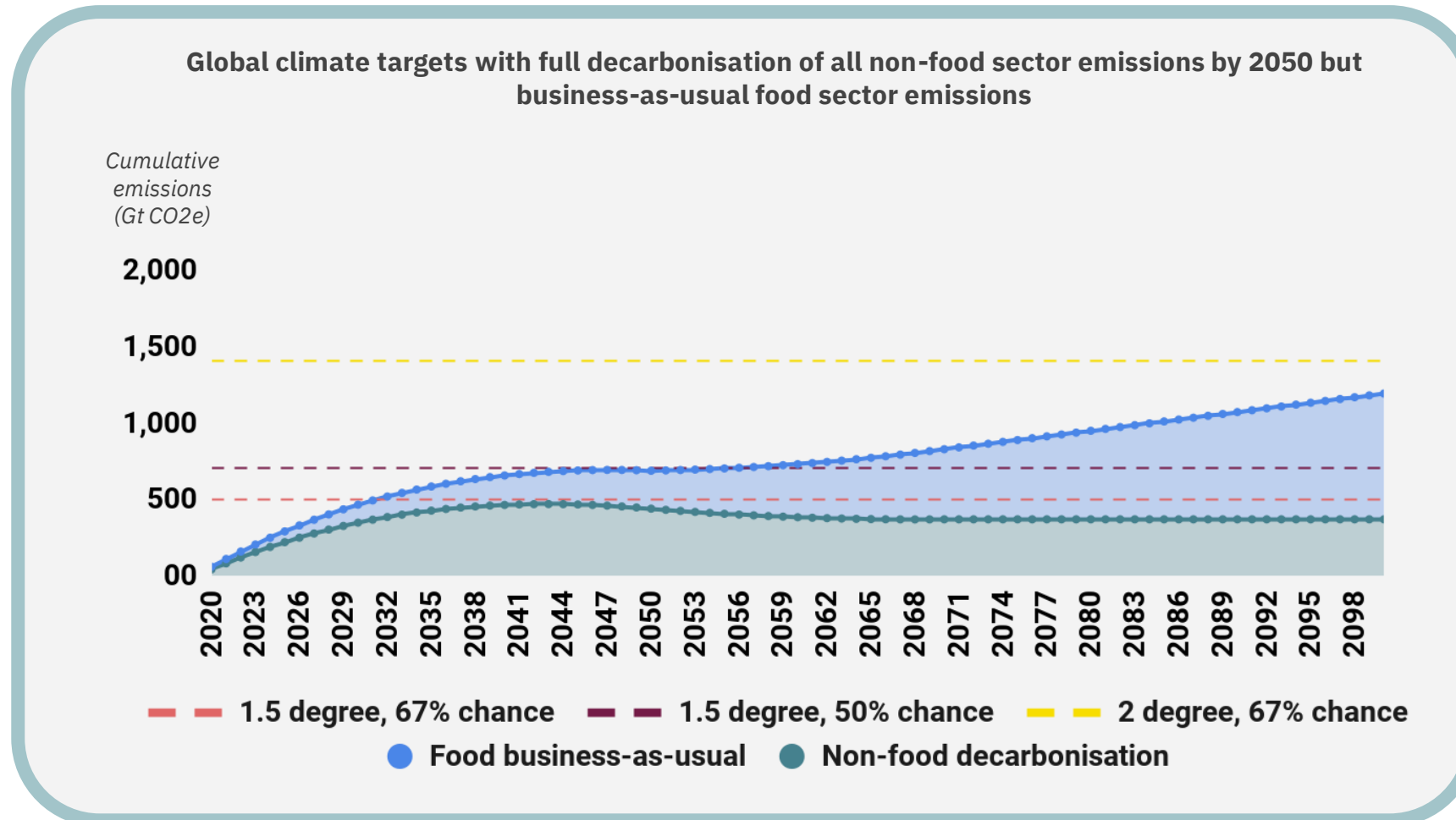
10 million
projected annual deaths
from antimicrobial
resistance by 2050

Livestock production is inherently inefficient



This process of cycling calories through animals is equivalent to **87-97% food waste** in production

The world cannot decarbonise without alternative proteins



”

Even if fossil fuel emissions were immediately halted, current trends in global food systems would prevent the achievement of the 1.5°C target and, by the end of the century, threaten the achievement of the 2°C target. Meeting the 1.5°C target requires rapid and ambitious changes to food systems as well as to all non-food sectors.

Clark, M. A. et al. (2020)

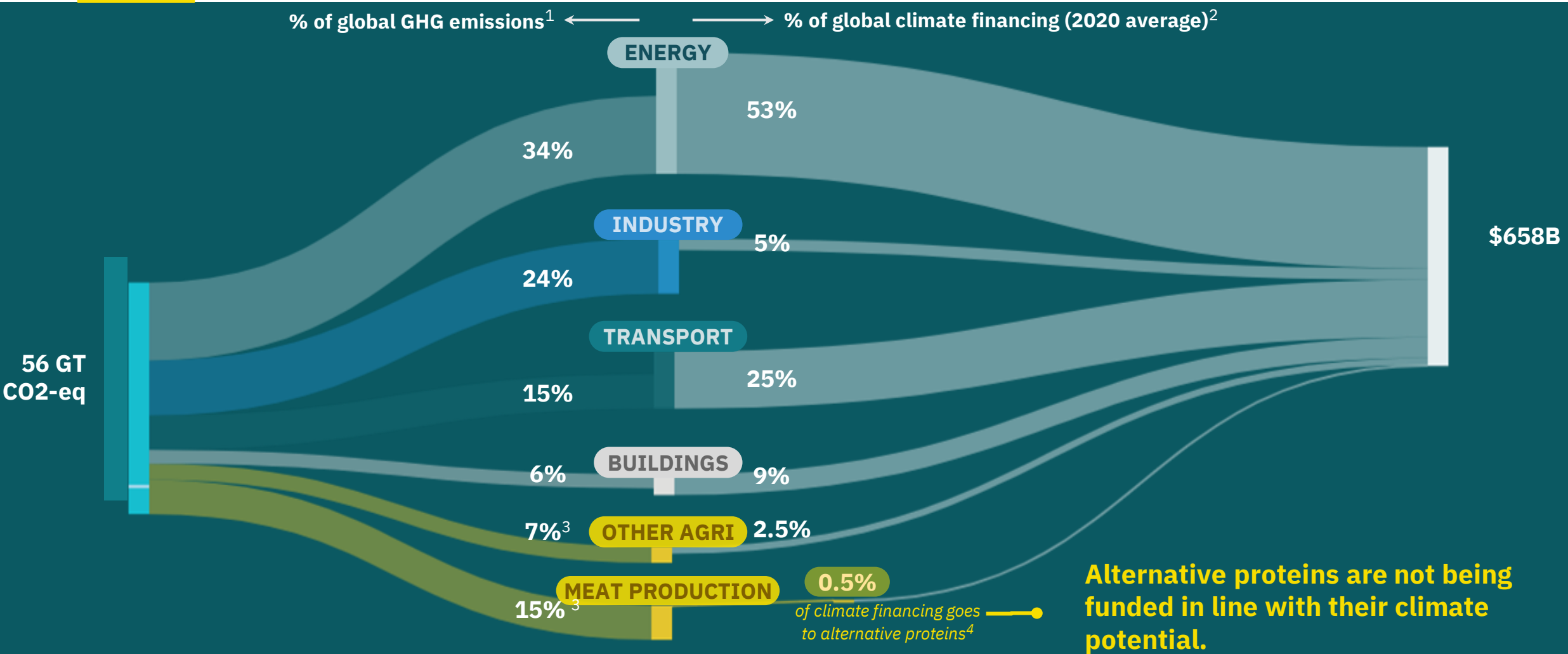
Comparing alternative proteins and conventional meat on environmental impacts

Comparative Life Cycle Assessments*

| Producing this alternative protein | instead of this conventional meat | reduces this environmental impact category by this much | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------|--------------------|
| | | GHG EMISSIONS | LAND USE | AIR POLLUTION (PM) |
| Impossible Burger ^I | Beef burger patty | 89% | 96% | – |
| Beyond Burger ^{II} | Beef burger patty | 90% | 97% | – |
| Quorn Fillet ^{III} | Chicken breast | 75% | 78% | – |
| Morningstar Original Chik Patties ^{IV} | Chicken sausage patty | 46% | 84% | 69% |
| Plant-based burger (soy protein) ^V | Beef burger patty | 98% | 87% | 99% |
| | Chicken burger patty | 90% | 82% | 90% |
| | Pork burger patty | 90% | 85% | 90% |
| Plant-based burger (soy) ^{VI} | Beef burger patties | 82% | 84% | 95% |
| Plant-based burger (pea) ^{VI} | | 84% | 64% | 91% |
| Fermentation-based burger (mycoprotein) ^{VI} | | 82% | 69% | 91% |
| Cultivated beef ^{VII} | Conventional beef | 92% | 90% | 94% |
| Cultivated chicken ^{VII} | Conventional chicken | +3% | 64% | 20% |
| Cultivated pork ^{VII} | Conventional pork | 44% | 67% | 42% |

Sources: I. Khan, et al. (2019); II. Heller, et al. (2023); III. Kazer, et al. (2021); IV. Dettling, et al. (2016); V. Saerens, et al. (2021); VI. Smetana, et al. (2021); VII. Sinke, et al. (2023).**

Meat production contributes ~15 percent of global GHGs but alternative proteins account for less than 0.5 percent of global climate financing



Source: ¹ Based on IPCC for all sectors; meat production share from Poore and Nemecek (2021). ² Based on most recent sector-specific datasets from Climate Policy Initiative. Financing for "other" and "unknown" categories are excluded. Waste-related/ICT categories are grouped under "Industry". ³ Figures are lower-bound estimates-high-end estimates for AFOLU is 37 percent, and meat production 17 percent. ⁴ Figures for alternative proteins from GFI analysis of policy and Pitchbook data.

2

What are alternative proteins?

Protein diversification

Plant-based



Photo courtesy of TinDLE

Cultivated



Photo courtesy of GOOD Meat

Fermentation

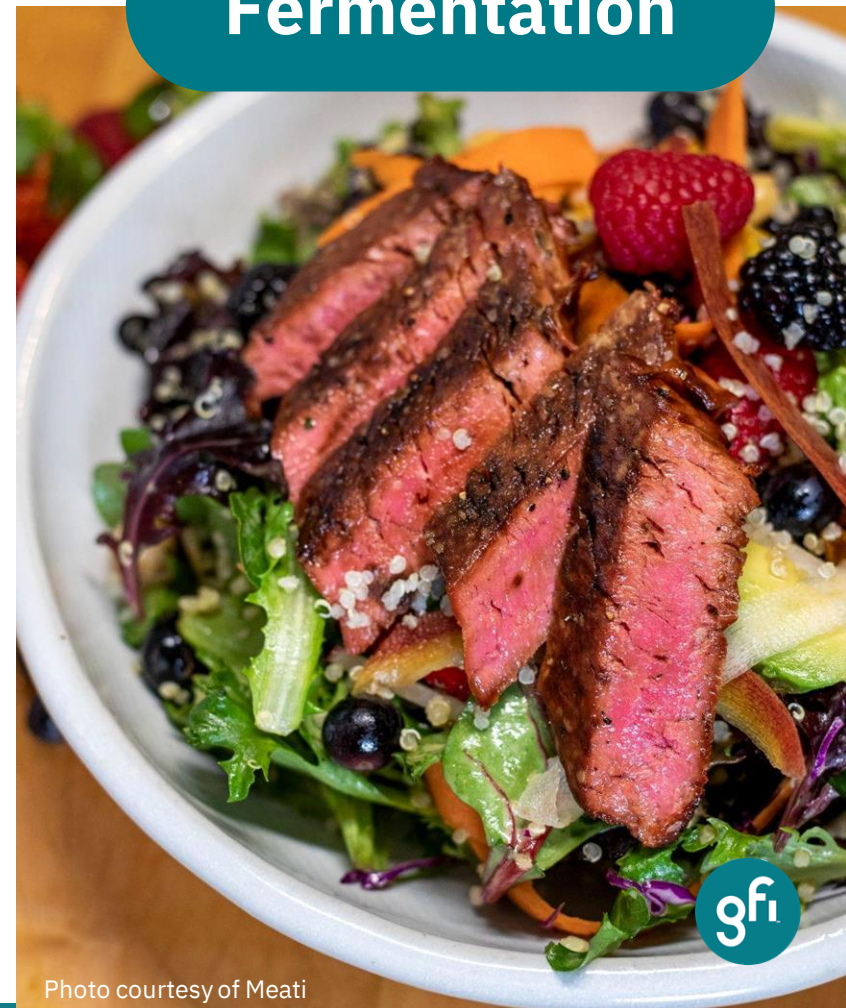


Photo courtesy of Meati



Plant-based

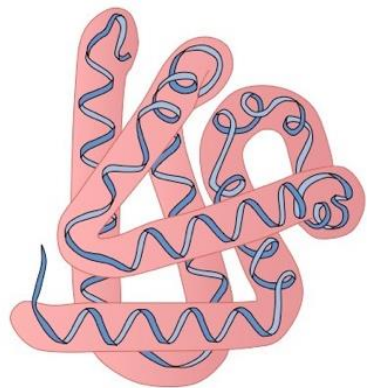


Plant-based meat, eggs, and dairy are produced directly from plants.

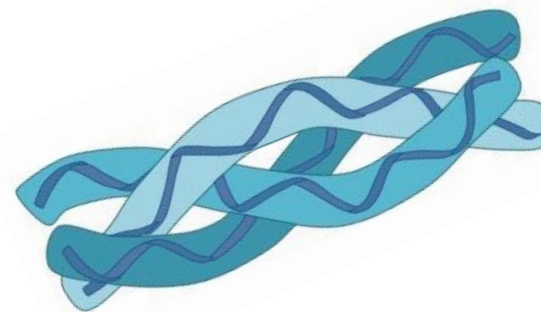
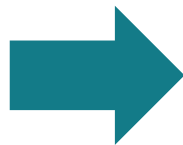
Like animal products, they are composed of protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water. Next-gen plant-based options look, taste, and cook like conventional meat, and offer complex carbs and fibre.

Making plant proteins mimic animal proteins

The core goal of plant-based meat is persuading plant proteins to act like animal proteins



Globular proteins



Fibrous proteins



Cultivated Meat



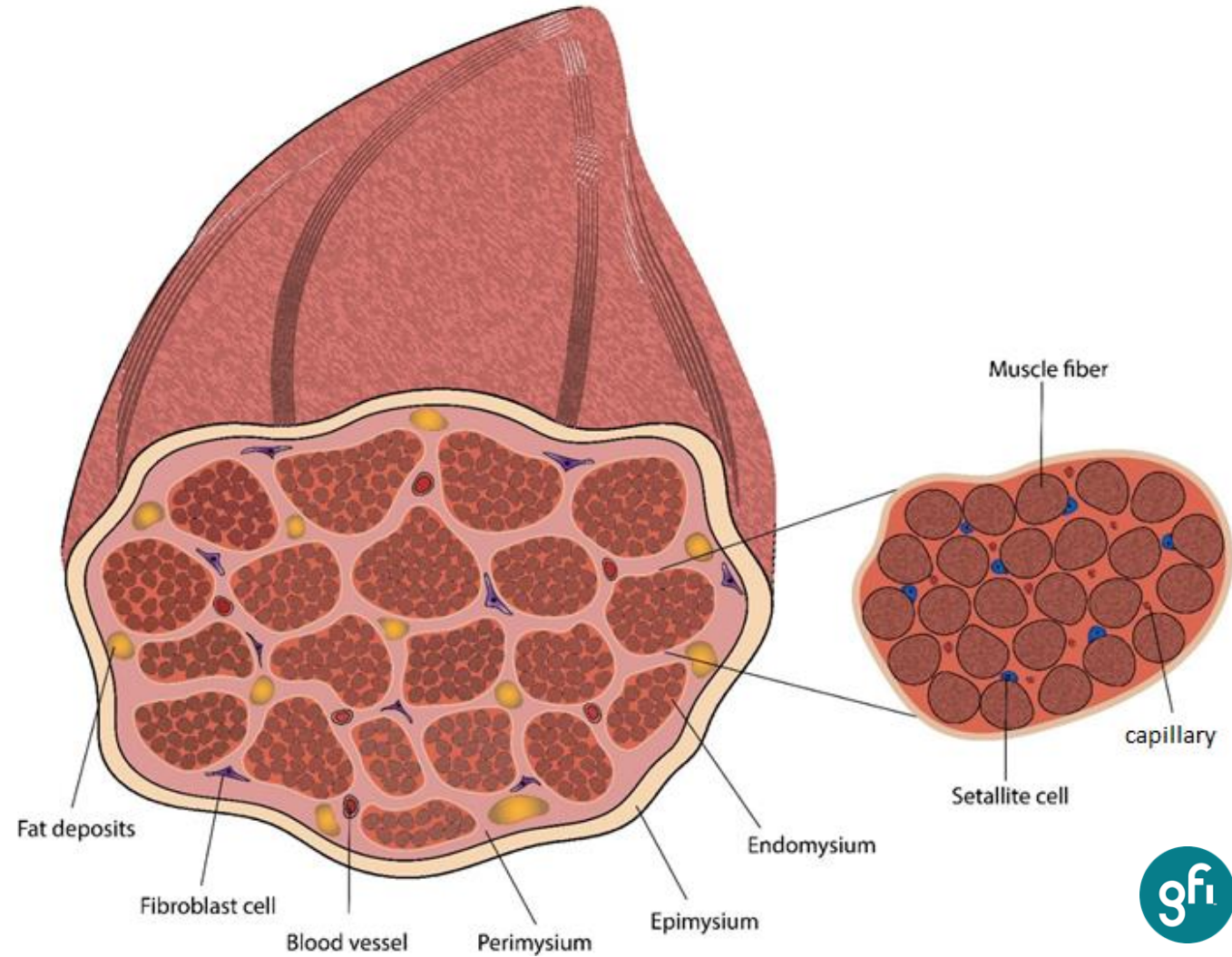
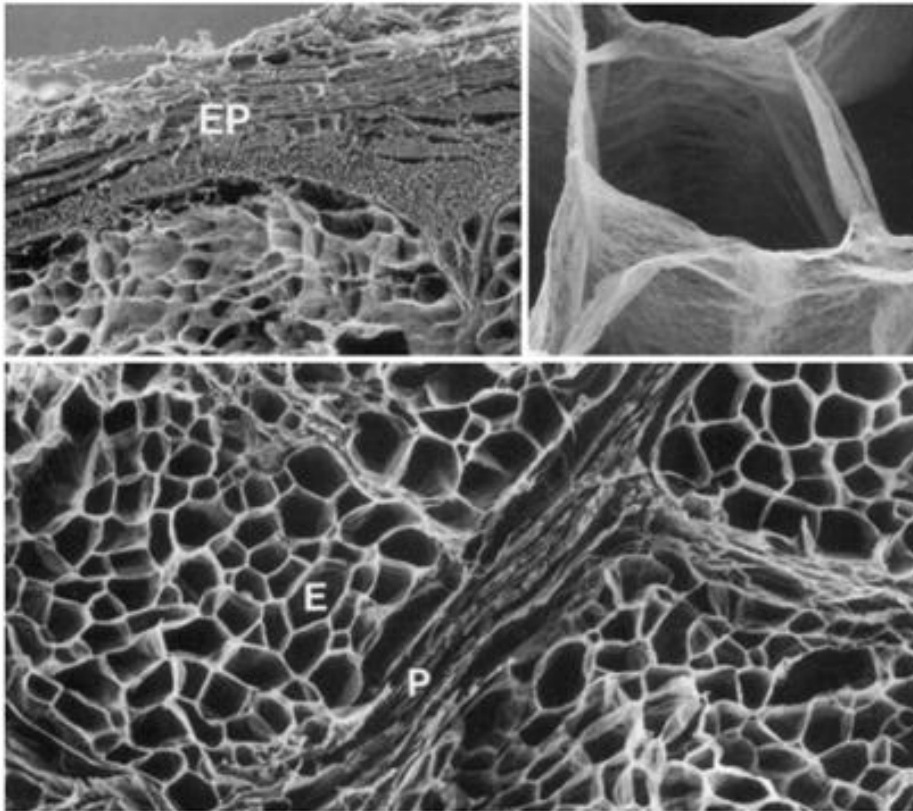
Cultivated meat is produced directly from animal cells.

Meat cultivation facilitates the same biological process that happens inside an animal by providing cells with the warmth and basic nutrients required to build muscle and fat.

Tissues

Animal muscle is made of muscle fibres, connective tissue, and fat tissue

- Hierarchical designed structures
- Extracellular matrix (ECM)



Fermentation-derived proteins



Fermentation is an enabling technology for the alternative protein industry that allows the production of standalone protein sources or functional ingredients.

Microorganisms, such as filamentous fungi and bacteria, can be programmed to express specific proteins or fats, or their entire protein biomass can be harvested.

Fermentation is expanding our ability to innovate

3 types of fermentation in the alternative protein industry



Traditional Fermentation

- Uses **intact live microorganisms** to modulate and process plant-derived ingredients.
- Produces unique flavour and nutritional profiles, modified texture.



Biomass Fermentation

- Leverages microorganism **fast growth** and **high protein content** to produce large protein quantities.
- Biomass serves as predominant or primary ingredient of a food product.



Precision Fermentation

- Uses **microbial hosts** to produce **specific functional ingredients** that often require greater purity.
- Ingredients enable improved sensory characteristics, functional attributes.



3

Regulatory developments

Governments are implementing supportive policy frameworks

2021

In December 2021, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs included cultivated meat in its five-year plan. It provides a blueprint for strengthening innovation in "frontier and cross-disciplinary technologies" and clear guidelines for developing the protein industry and related technologies

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) grants manufacturing firm Esco Aster a license to manufacture cultivated meat products that have received SFA approval, giving cultivated meat companies the option to contract their manufacturing to an approved facility rather than build their own.

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) launched the Food Tech Public-Private Council, a public-private group comprising over 150 companies to support the food industry and strengthen Japan's food security through technology.

2022

China's President Xi Jinping mentions protein diversification at the Two Sessions to support national food security, and the nation's first-ever five-year plan for the bioeconomy called for exploring alternative proteins as novel foods.

Singapore marks a world-first regulatory approval by giving the Finnish startup Solar Foods approval to sell its protein made from gas fermentation in Singapore, which went on to have the first tasting event in 2023.

South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) forms a discussion group with industry to understand the cellular agriculture production process. MFDS also publishes a draft regulatory framework for fermentation-derived meat, which is expected to be finalised in 2023.

The Food Ministers' Meeting (FMM) affirms the Food Standards of Australia and New Zealand's (FSANZ) view that existing Food Standards Code and labelling requirements can regulate cultivated meat and precision fermentation.

The Japan Association for Cellular Agriculture (JACA) submits guidelines and recommendations covering legal definitions of cultivated foods, food labelling, and safety. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries also announces an initiative to support the development of alternative proteins, including fermentation-based meat.

2023

Malaysia selects cultivated meat as a 'core strategic: prime program & future technology' as part of an update to Malaysia's National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 (NBP 2.0) for 2022-2030 under the remit of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Bioeconomy Corporation.

Thailand holds its first cultivated meat regulatory roundtable coordinated by the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) to support the Food and Drug Administration to develop a national regulatory framework for the sale of cultivated meat, targeted for 2024.

The Prime Minister of Japan announces plans to develop a cultivated meat industry as an important part of reducing the country's carbon footprint.

The Asia-Pacific Society for Cellular Agriculture (APAC-SCA) and Japan Association for Cellular Agriculture (JACA) sign an MOU to coordinate regional regulatory development.

An MOU to form a national cellular agriculture cluster is led by the North Gyeongsang Province in South Korea with 28 signatories including city governments, academia, and corporates. The region also has a Cell-Ag Industry Promotion Strategy to link the vaccine, drug, cosmetics, and bio industries.

Singapore makes another world-first regulatory approval, with GOOD Meat receiving approval from SFA for serum-free media for cultivated meat.

The cultivated meat regulatory landscape is progressing globally and in APAC



Commercial Sales

- First country to approve cultivated meat by GOOD Meat in 2020. Followed by its first retail sale in 2024.
- First country to grant approval for microbe-based protein ingredient Solein.
- Approval for Vow to sell cultivated quail in 2024.



Commercial Sales

Second country in the world to approve cultivated meat in 2023. Approved the sale of cultivated chicken by UPSIDE Foods and GOOD Meat.



Commercial Sales

- The EU approved several novel plant-based and fermentation-derived ingredients, but not cultivated meat.

Application

- In July 2024, EFSA received its first application for cultivated meat approval from Gourmey, that is using cultivated duck to make foie gras.



Regulatory-free Zone

- North Gyeongsang Province designated a special regulatory-free zone in Uiseong.
- Companies can showcase proof-of-concept prototypes, accelerating the development and commercialisation of cultivated meat.

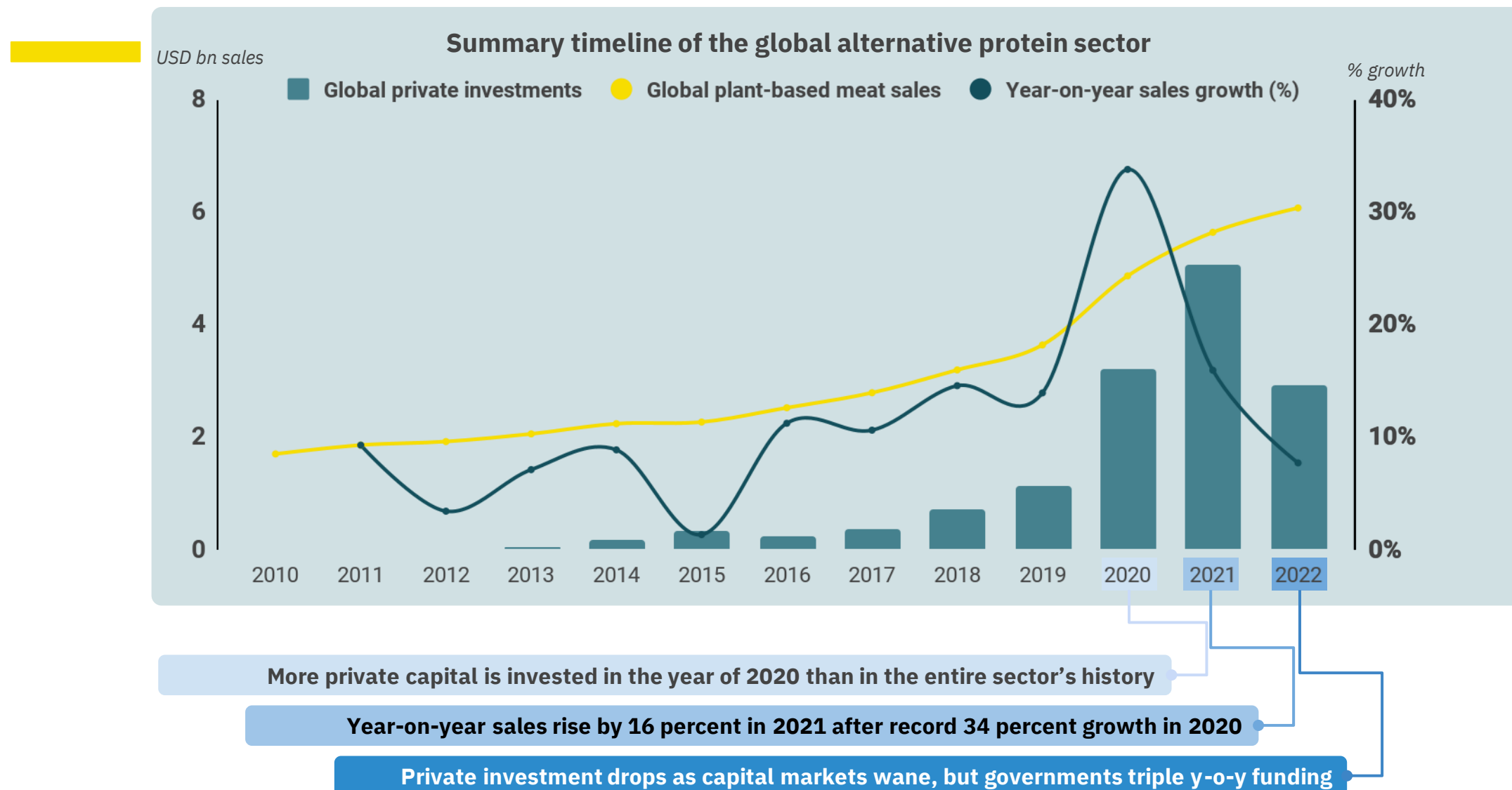
International organisations are actively developing guidelines and standards for novel food



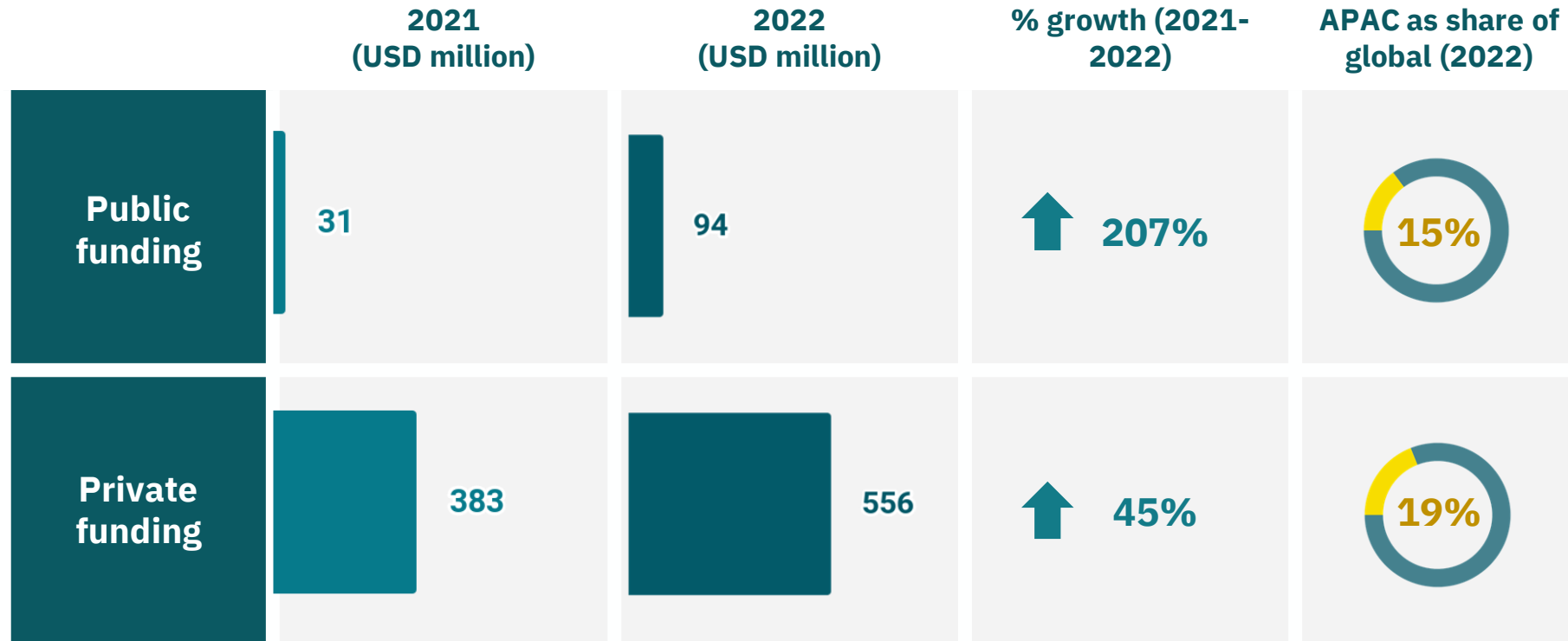
- Codex has 189 member countries, 1 member organisation (the EU) and 240 observer organisations, **including GFI**
- Codex's food standards are **recognised by the World Trade Organization**
- Currently developing **guidelines on novel foods and new production systems**, including products derived from biomass and precision fermentation
- Singapore is championing work proposal of developing standards for cultivated meat

Overview of the APAC alternative protein sector

The global alternative protein sector has made progress



State of APAC's alternative protein sector



To date:

400+

sector research
publications

20+

sector-dedicated
shared facilities

200+

startups

15+

plant-based brands
launched by major
incumbents

The sector has gained high-level policy endorsement



"Foodtech, including cellular foods, is an important technology from the perspective of realising a sustainable food supply. We have to support efforts that contribute to solving the world's food problems."

**Prime Minister Fumio Kishida,
Japan
February 2023**



"It is necessary to expand from traditional crops and livestock and poultry resources to more abundant biological resources, develop biotechnology and bio-industry, and seek energy and protein from plants, animals, and microorganisms."

**President Xi Jinping, China
March 2022**



"The significant step-up in investment is an expression of our commitment to food security...Alternative protein is a promising area to meet Singapore's food and nutrition needs in an urban environment."

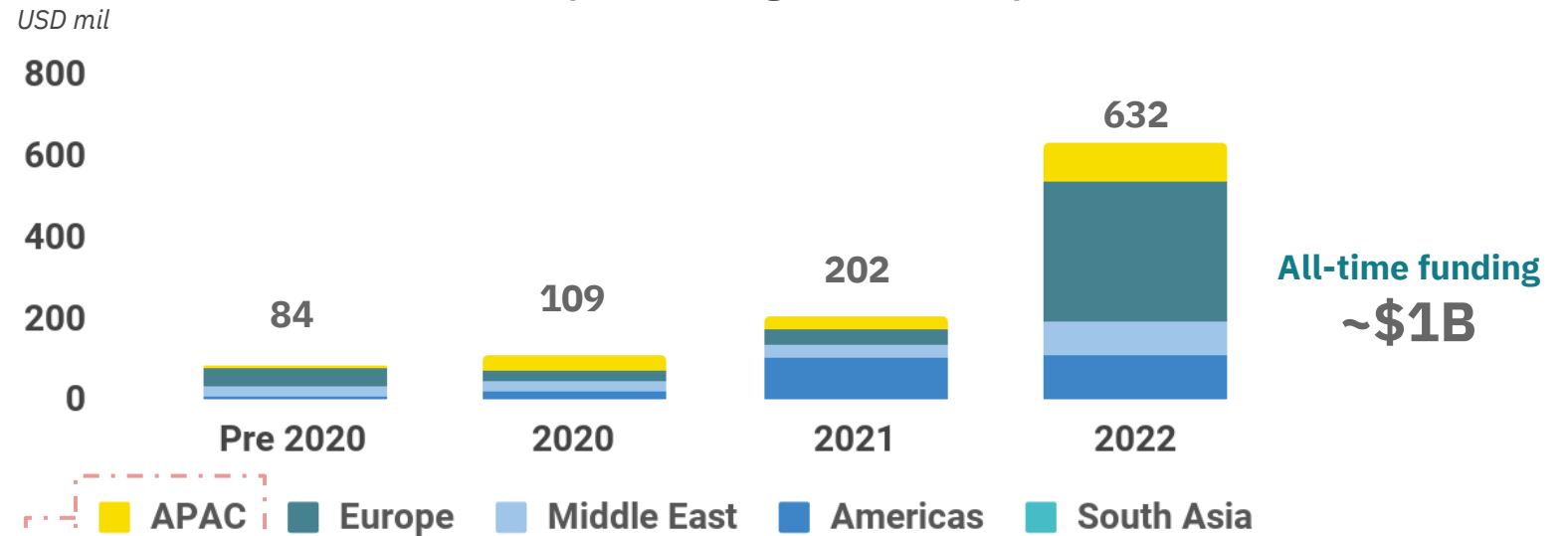
**Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee
Keat, Singapore
October 2022**

Global governments stepped up their support in 2022

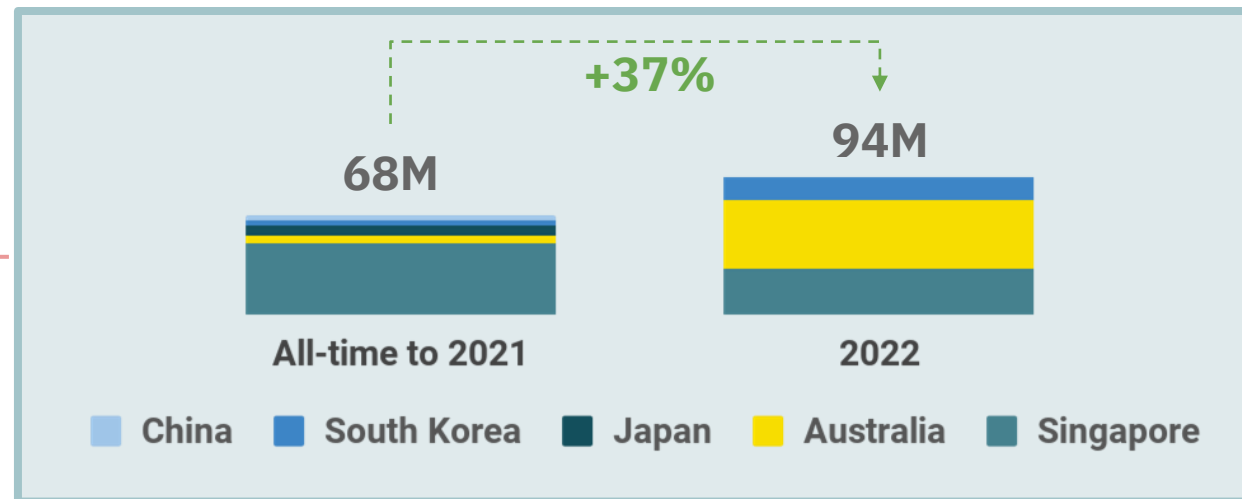
All-time government funding likely surpassed \$1 billion USD as of 2022.¹ Governments have funded about 180 projects globally in the sector to date. More than a third of these were in 2022.

APAC public investment in the single year of 2022 was 37 percent higher than all-time invested capital up to 2021. All-time public investment in APAC is estimated at \$162 million as of 2022, about 16 percent of all-time global public funding.

Global estimated public funding for alternative proteins¹



APAC estimated public funding for alternative proteins (USD million)

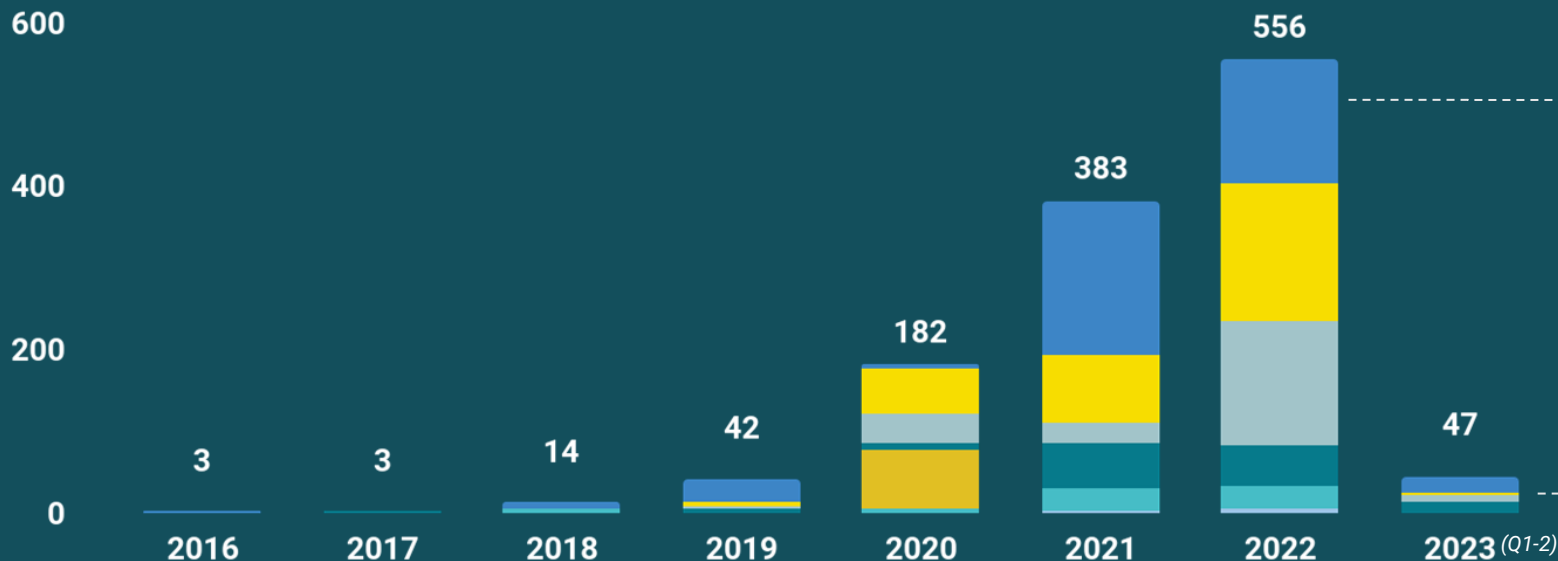


Source: ¹Based on GFI analysis of publicly announced government funding; numbers here are estimates within a range; rounded to nearest million. Starting date based on year of announcement. Totals have been estimated where grant funding/programmes have been multi-sector.

All-time private investment in APAC has surpassed \$1 billion

APAC private investments in the alternative protein sector¹

Australia/New Zealand Singapore China South Korea Hong Kong Japan Other APAC



APAC's 2022 private investments increased by **45 percent** compared the previous year, to hit **\$556 million USD**. Investment for fermentation and cultivated in 2022 surpassed **regional all-time totals** for each.

Investment is significantly down in APAC in Q1-Q2 2023, mirroring the drop in global venture funding. The APAC region has captured a **9 percent share of global private investments** in the first half of 2023.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Australia/New Zealand | 3 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 3 | 187 | 151 | 20 | 399 |
| Singapore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 56 | 85 | 170 | 3 | 320 |
| Mainland China | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 24 | 152 | 8 | 221 |
| South Korea | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 55 | 48 | 13 | 132 |
| Hong Kong SAR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 72 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 76 |
| Japan | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 71 |
| Other APAC ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 11 |

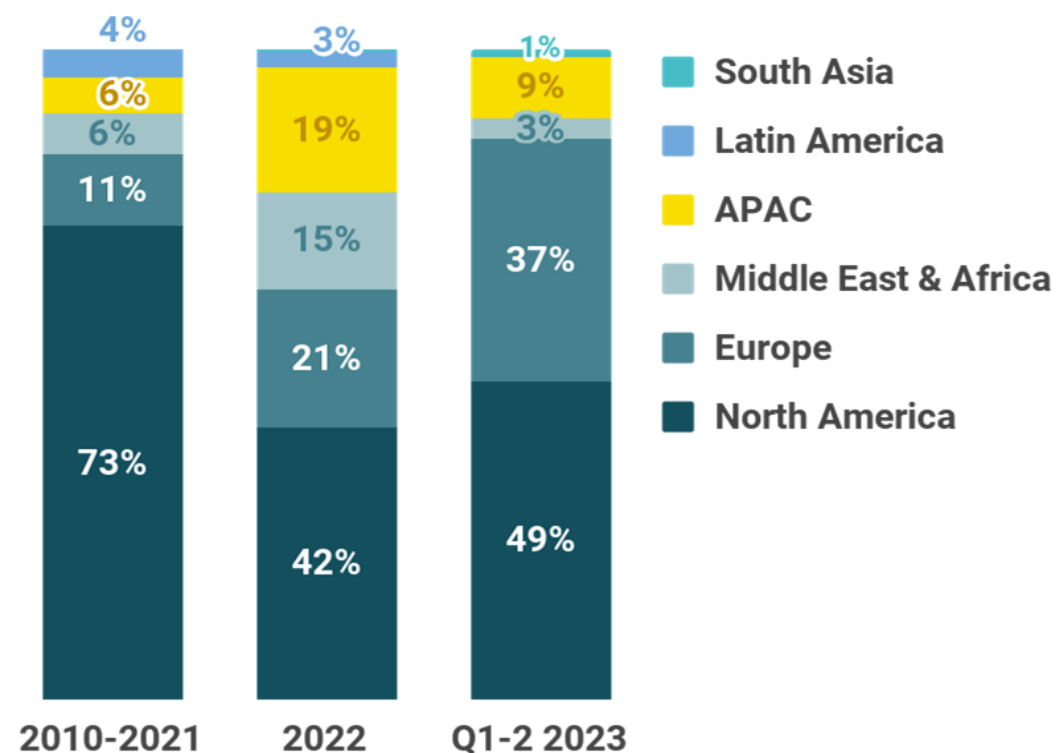
All-time APAC private investment
\$1.2B

Investment has been diversifying across regions

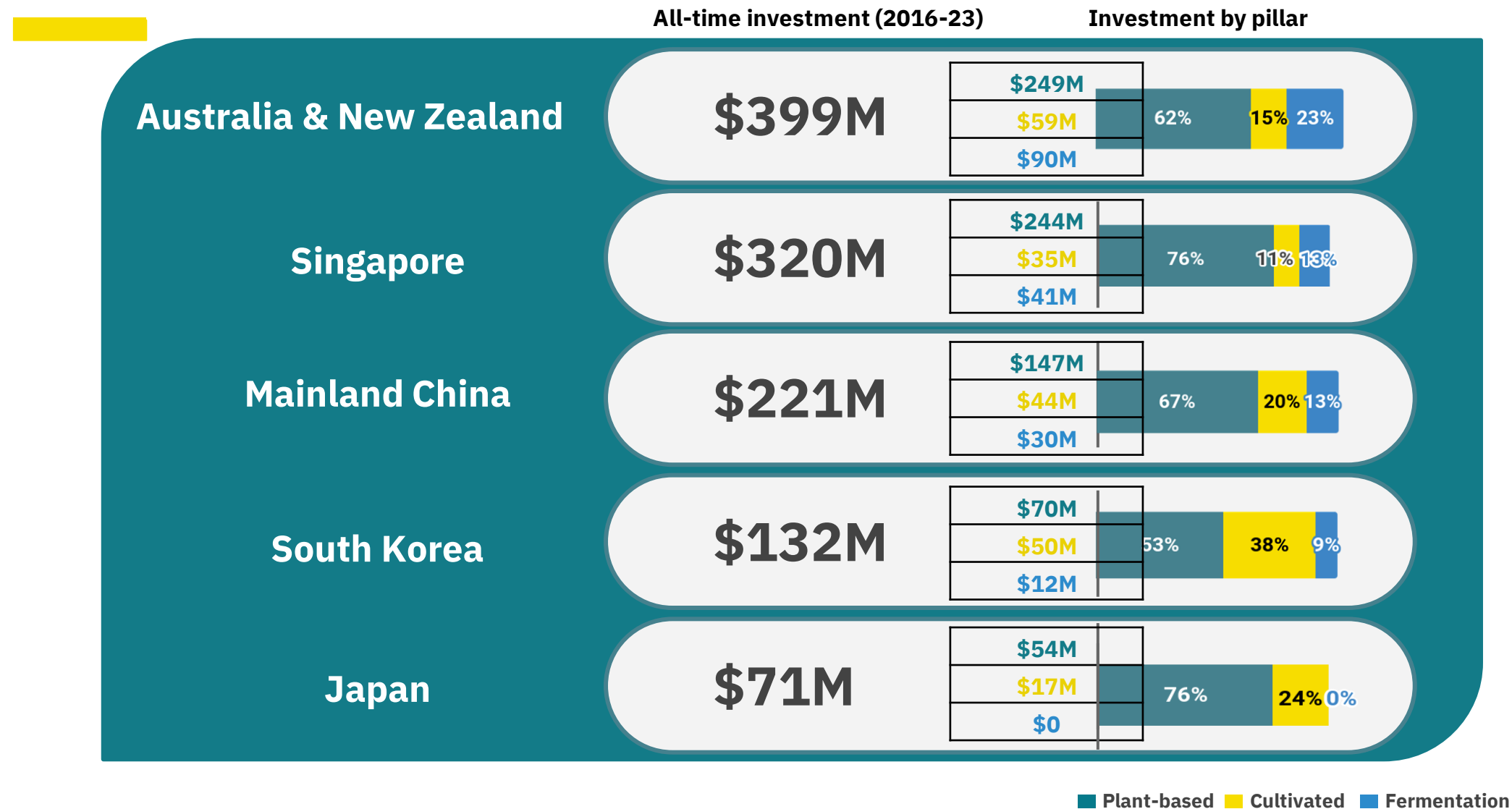
BY REGION, investment has been diversifying. Between 2010-21, 73 percent of sector investment was in North America, and **only six percent was in APAC**.

In 2022, APAC's share **increased to 19 percent**. As of Q2 2023, APAC has attracted **9 percent** of 2023 investment.

Global sector investment by regional share of total

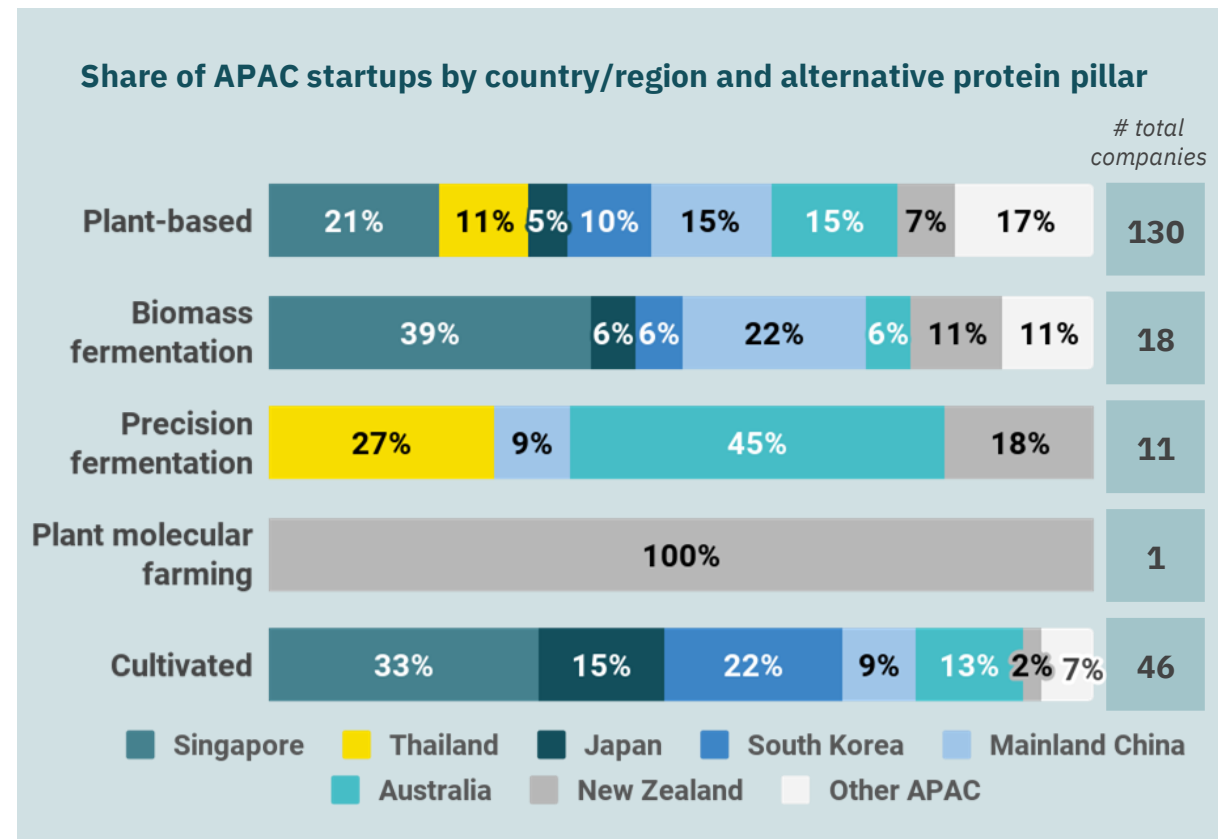
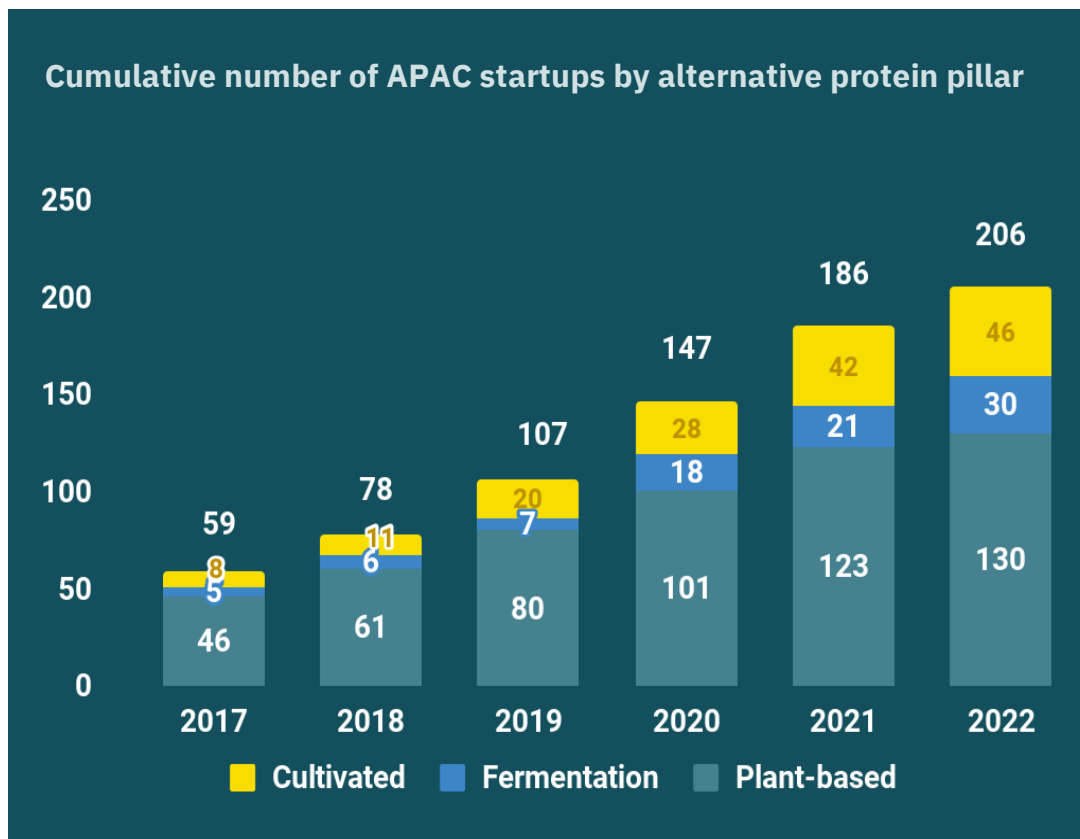


APAC countries are becoming investment hotspots



APAC is home 200+ startups

206 startups as of 2022



2

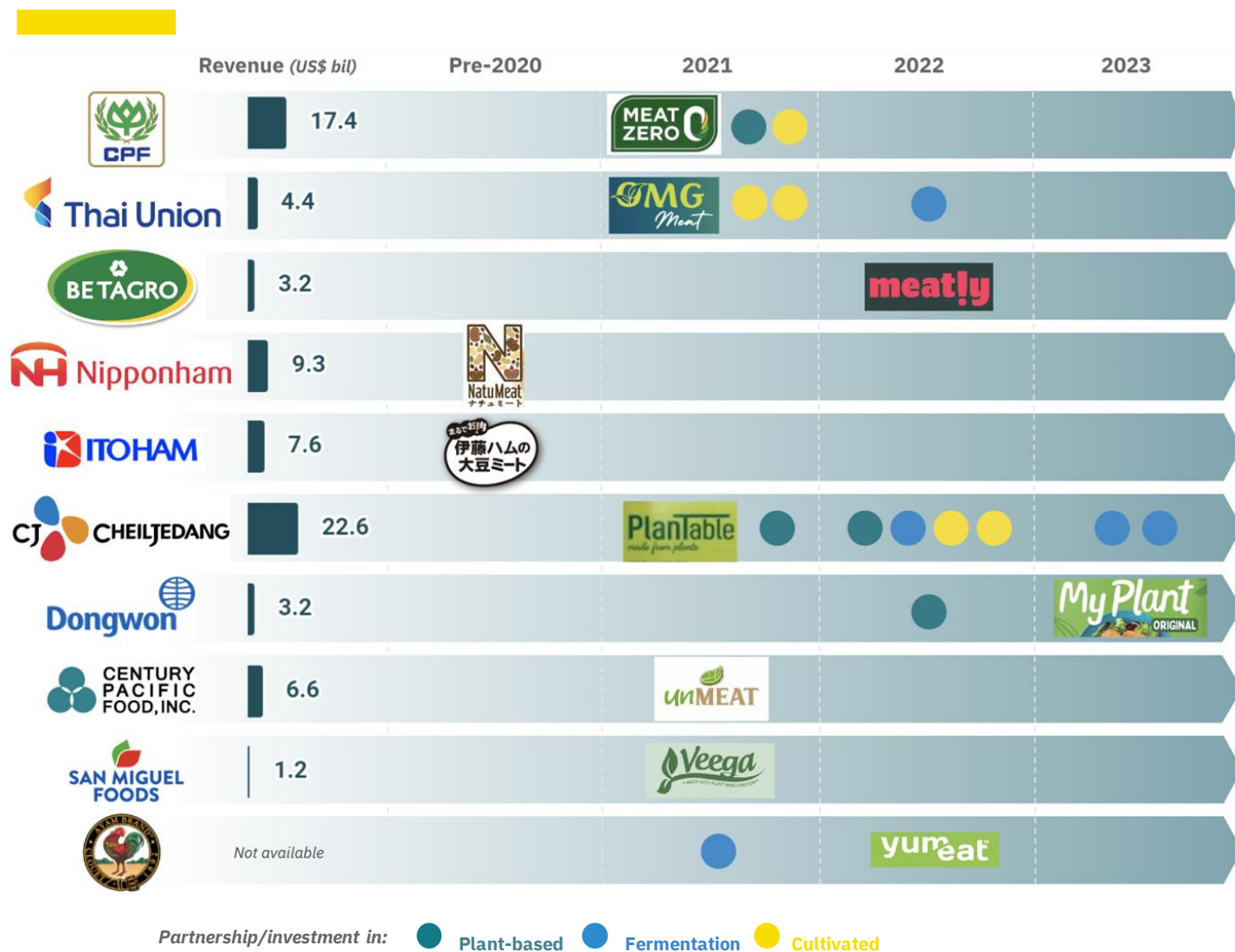
Source: ¹GFI company database as of Q2 2023. Excludes alternative protein brands launched by corporates.

Source: ²Groups together other APAC countries/regions with less than ten alternative protein startups as listed in GFI APAC's database (Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines)



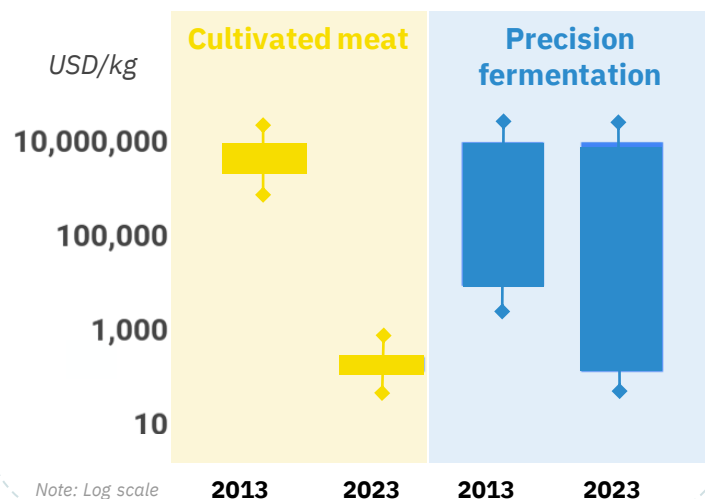
Regional meat companies are embracing protein diversification

15 plant-based meat brands launched by regional major food companies

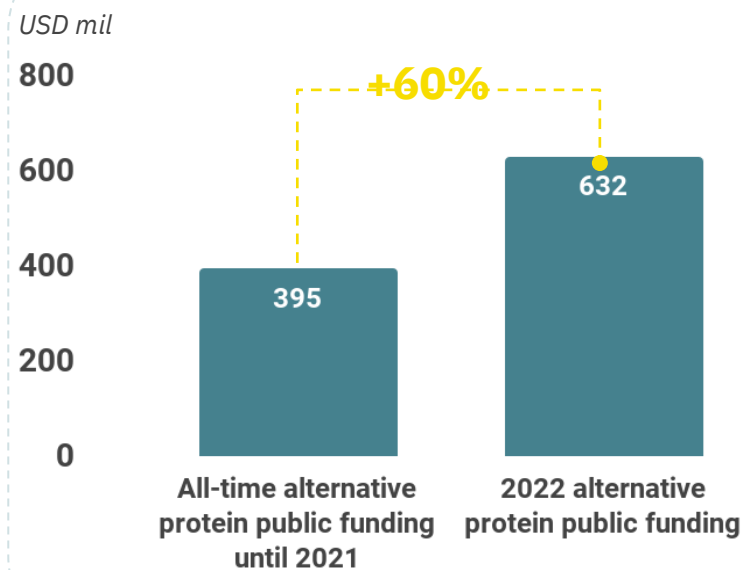


Powerful growth drivers are in place

Costs of novel technologies are falling



Governments are increasing support

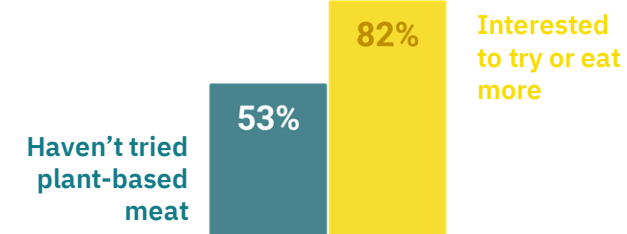


Source: Internal GFI analysis; based on year announced.

The market opportunity resonates

In a 2023 survey of six Southeast Asian markets

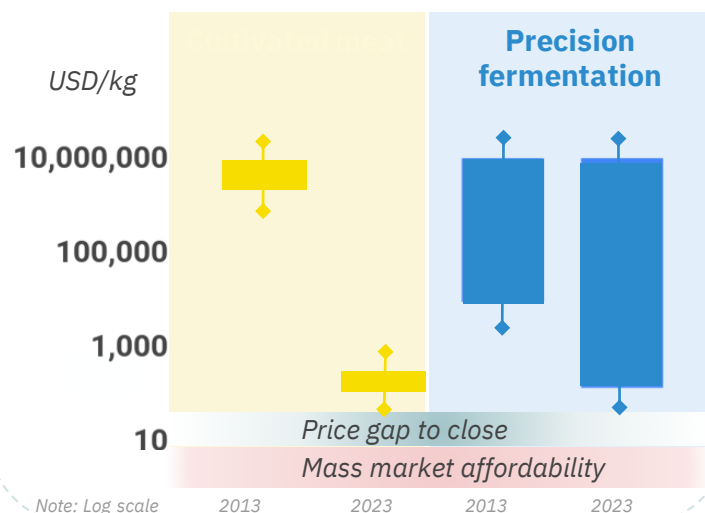
- **Half** had not yet tried plant-based meat
- **Over three-quarters** want to try or eat more
- **Health** is the main motivator for consumption



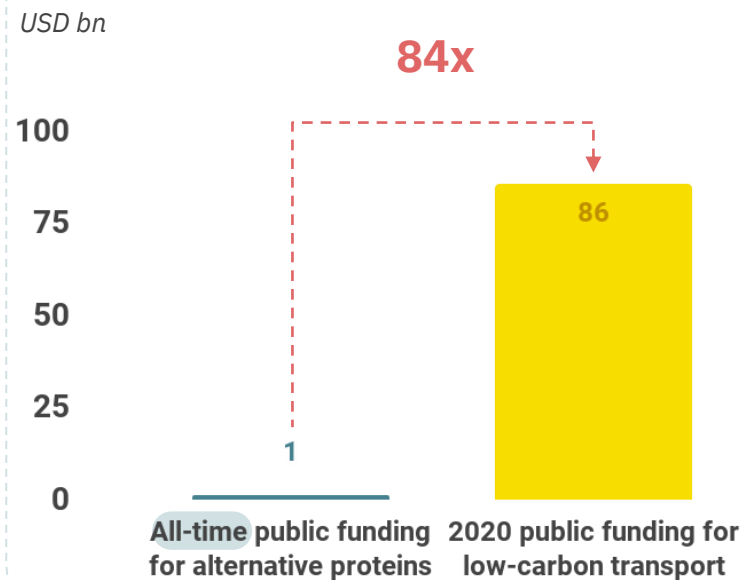
Source: Survey of 5,971 respondents across six SE Asian countries

But significant progress needs to be made

Costs still have to drop considerably



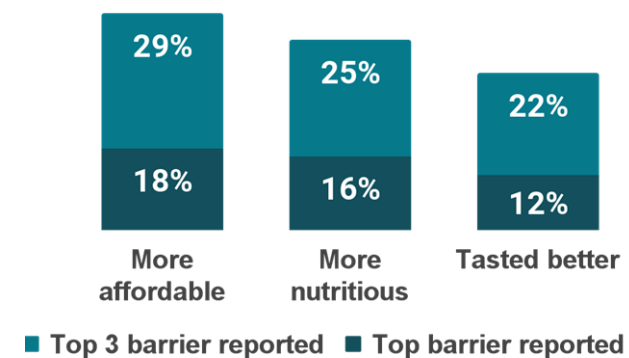
Much more public funding is needed



Source: Based on most recent datasets from *Climate Policy Initiative*

Product quality must improve

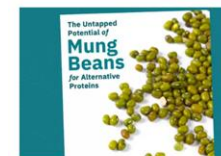
In a 2023 survey of six Southeast Asian markets...



Source: Survey of 5,971 respondents across six SE Asian countries

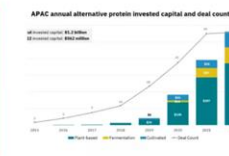
GFI resources

- State of the Industry Report takes a deep dive into each sector (cultivated, plant-based and fermentation-enabled foods)
- The [Advancing Solutions For Alternative Proteins](#) (ASAP) database explores commercial whitespaces, research gaps, technological needs, and investment priorities
- For further reading of scientific materials, please see the GFI [Alternative Protein Literature Library](#)
- Other useful resources:
 - [Cell line development and utilisation trends](#)
 - [Cultivated meat cell lines and research tools](#)
 - [The Untapped Potential of Mung Beans for Alternative Proteins](#)
 - [Life cycle analysis and techno-economic assessment](#) of cultivated meat production



03/12/2023
New Report Reveals the Untapped Potential of Mung Beans for Alternative Proteins

How to unlock the potential of what it describes as "one of Asia's most underutilised crops."



02/14/2023
Defying economic headwinds, APAC alt protein investments soared in 2022

New analysis released today by the Good Food Institute APAC shows that investments into alternative protein companies in Asia Pacific...



10/28/2022
Leading APAC Cellular Agriculture Stakeholders Announce Historic Agreement in Singapore

A wide range of terms has been used to describe food products grown directly from animal cells.



08/28/2022
New research reveals what Asian consumers crave in alternative seafood

Seafood can now be made from plants and cultivated directly from animal cells—but will consumers bite?

gfi / Good Food
Institute SM

Thank you!



Loo's Hainanese Curry Rice / GOOD Meat



Avant Meats

gfi
APAC SM

