

START – GFI Workshop on Alternative Proteins: Identifying gaps and laying the foundation for national and EU funding opportunities

 **Location:** DTU Lyngby, Anker Engelundsvej 101, building 101, room S09, in the 'meeting centre'.

 **Date:** 5th November 2025

 **Time:** 09:30–16:30

The primary goal of the **START - GFI Workshop** is to strengthen the Danish alternative protein research community by laying the groundwork for ambitious, interdisciplinary proposals. The workshop will address the possibility for applying for the upcoming [Danish Centres of Excellence](#) funding call in February 2026, while also positioning projects for other opportunities such as Innovation Fund Denmark, Horizon Europe, EU Funding and Danish National Funding and research infrastructure grants. The workshop aims to focus on alternative proteins produced by cellular systems, i.e. Precision Fermentation, Cell culture or Microbial fermentation.

◆ Programme Overview

09:30 – Arrival & Coffee

Welcome and informal networking.

10:00 – Opening Remarks

Introduction to the workshop and goals for the day; with START and GFI representatives

Setting the Scene

Key takeaways from the previous day's Alternative Protein conference (<https://www.food.dtu.dk/english/alt-protein-x-2025>); with **Kacper Szewranski & Tim Hobley** and refining the focus of the workshop.

10.15 - Workshop 1: Identifying key gaps

What are the gaps in the Alt Protein field that need to be focused on. Form 3 groups around the following 3 thematic topics:

- Precision Fermentation for Functional proteins: Facilitator, **Tim Hobley**
- Cell culture-Based protein production: Facilitator, **Jette Young**

- Alternative proteins using microbial fermentation: Facilitator, **Mette Lübeck**

11:30 – Group Presentations & Discussion to summarise the main gaps: Moderator **Tim Hobley**

12:00 – Lunch Break

12:45 – Workshop 2: Exploring Solutions

How can the identified gaps be addressed?

Objective: Identify potential approaches to address the gaps identified earlier

Group Work: Participants return to their thematic groups to explore:

- Strategic approaches and visions
- Technological or methodological innovations
- Where is collaboration needed and with what entities

13:45 – Group Presentations & Discussion

- Sharing of proposed approaches
- Cross-group feedback and refinement.

14:00 – Coffee & Refreshments

14.30 - Funding landscape session

- Overview of upcoming Danish (and EU) calls - Presentation by **Asger Munch Smidt-Jensen (online)**
- Danish national funding landscape of relevance to alternative proteins - (GUDP) - Presentation by **Bettina Heimann**
- EU Funding (MSCA program) - Presentation from **Sakhi Ghelichi**
- Horizon Europe in relation to applications – Presentation by **Iben Bang-Berthelsen**
- Possibility for a Centre of Excellence Application – Presentation by **Tim Hobley**
- **Q&A** with participants and discussion of other possibilities

15:20 – Workshop 3: Funding and way forward

Objective: Explore how funding can be secured to initiate concrete projects.

Group Work: Same thematic groups discuss:

- What is the best way forward?
- Proposal strategies, potential PI(s) and other collaboration partners

15:50 – Wrap-Up & Roadmap Creation

- Next steps, assigning leads, and planning follow-up meetings.
- Summary of the day's outcomes – **Tim Hobley**

16:30 – End of Day
