The FoodTech Challenge team would like to wish all of you a very happy 2020. We look forward to working with you in the coming year, to help bring your innovative food security solutions to fruition.

It was hugely rewarding to see the wide variety of high-quality submissions we received in time for the Early Bird deadline on Dec 17th. Submissions were received from around the globe, including MENA, South Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America. It is clear from these submissions that we can anticipate a highly competitive final competition in April 2020, where we eventually select our final four winners. We have added a few additional requirements on the submission platform, particularly in the Executive Summary section to improve your application, so please check the website even though you have submitted an entry already. We look forward to receiving your application, and please remember the final submission deadline is 13 February 2020.

Check out our ‘FoodTech Talks’ series on Youtube, where we feature insights from the UAE and abroad on food and agriculture technologies, food security and sustainability, and entrepreneurship. For instance, hear about Dubai’s Sustainability City, Alesca Life’s global model for vertical farms, or the ‘eco-villa’ in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi.

This newsletter will be the first of two newsletters we will be issuing in January. This edition’s ‘agtips’ section will provide insights into sustainability considerations in food & agriculture technology. Additionally, in the ‘Meet our Judges’ section, we feature Penny McBride, Vice-Chairwoman of the US-based Farmtech Society.

As always, you can get in touch with us at info@foodtechchallenge.com.

Stay fresh,
The FoodTech Challenge Team
AgTips: Sustainability

At the heart of The FoodTech Challenge is the UAE’s commitment to cultivating sustainability in the country’s relationship with food. Water and energy are food’s main ingredients; without it, food production will suffer. This is what the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) calls the water, energy, and food (WEF) nexus, and sustaining all three within this nexus is important in establishing long-term food security.

Read more »

Food for Thought

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

FoodTech Challenge: Panel of expert judges announced

UAE News 24/7
A country’s ability to act sustainably determines its successful development. In the context of food security, sustainability refers to the enablement of all citizens and residents to have access to sufficient, nutritious food at affordable prices at all times.

The UAE Office of State for Food Security and Tamkeen are pleased to announce the appointment of thirteen UAE-based and international expert judges selected across research, academia, industry, and policy circles.

The UAE Office of State for Food Security and Tamkeen are pleased to announce the appointment of thirteen UAE-based and international expert judges selected across research, academia, industry, and policy circles.

The UAE Office of State for Food Security and Tamkeen are pleased to announce the appointment of thirteen UAE-based and international expert judges selected across research, academia, industry, and policy circles.

Read more »

New Dubai vertical farm
Arabian Business, by Sam Bridge

Dubai Industrial City has announced it will be home to Badia Farms’ upcoming new large-scale high-tech vertical farm. Badia Farms, a regional AgTech leader, said the vertical farm is expected to start operations in the second quarter of 2020.

Read more »

UAE climbs 10 spots on food security index
Khaleej Times

NASA is collaborating with the UAE on research methods to grow fresh food in space, given its emphasis on robotics and smart technologies related to food production.

Read more »

Locally grown produce can support sustainability, food security
Emirates News Agency

Choosing UAE-grown produce can help support sustainability and contribute towards solving food and water security, Madar Farms’ Head of Operations, Kyle Wagner, said during an event at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Read more »
Meet our judges

We are proud to announce that we have partnered with an incredible panel of experts to judge The FoodTech Challenge submissions. Our panel is comprised of local and international experts on agriculture from academia, private sector, and policy circles.

We spoke with Penny McBride, Vice-Chairwoman of Farmtech Society, to talk about her thoughts about food technology trends in the UAE and abroad.

Read more »

FoodTech Talks Series

Do you want to learn more about the latest innovations in food technology in the UAE? Check out our FoodTech Talks series on YouTube, where we interview experts about their agtech projects and ambitions.

Watch now »

Fun Food Facts

Chickens form complex social structures known as “pecking orders”

In farms, bigger and stronger chickens assert their status by pecking smaller chickens, until every chicken knows his or her place on the social ladder.

Read more »