

UAE FoodTech Challenge Announces Its 10 Finalists on the Sidelines of the 2025 United Nations General Assembly

- ***The FoodTech Challenge supports agri-food tech start-ups poised to transform food systems in arid environments in the UAE and beyond. The competition, now in its third edition, attracted 1,215 submissions from 113 countries***
- ***The 10 Finalist teams hail from seven countries, with technologies spanning climate-resilient food production, food waste reduction, and crop health***
- ***Finalists will complete a tailored preparatory programme, gaining mentorship and market insights before four winners are selected later this year***
- ***Winners will share a USD 2 million prize package and receive in-kind support to develop and scale their solutions through the UAE's innovation ecosystem and wider global networks***

New York City, USA: Monday, 3 October, 2025 – The UAE has announced the 10 finalists of the FoodTech Challenge (FTC) 3.0. The flagship competition seeks to identify and scale the world's most promising agri-food technology solutions that are poised to transform food systems in arid, hot and increasingly challenging environments.

The finalists were announced based on their innovative, technology-driven solutions, selected from a shortlisted pool of 42, at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) 2025 Annual Meeting in New York, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The FoodTech Challenge attracted 1,215 submissions from 113 countries. The finalists will now participate in a tailored preparatory programme ahead of the competition's finale later this year.

Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri, Head of the International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court and Co-Chair of the FoodTech Challenge, said:

"In the UAE, we've transformed our own challenges of arid land and water scarcity into strengths, creating a springboard for solutions that can help communities in climate-vulnerable regions everywhere. This year's finalists truly reflect the creativity, passion, and determination the world needs to address food security. I'm proud to welcome them to the UAE, where together we can refine ideas and grow technologies with the power to transform the future of food for all."

Rima Al Mokarrab, Chair of Tamkeen and Co-Chair of the FoodTech Challenge, said:

"The FoodTech Challenge is more than a competition – it is a platform that connects innovators with the partners, expertise and investors to take ideas from concept to market. These finalists are tackling food system challenges from every angle, and by fostering collaboration between start-ups, industry leaders and investors, we can fast-track their growth to deliver tangible, scalable impact."

The UAE faces agricultural challenges that many countries share, and more will encounter, making it an ideal testbed for pioneering solutions and measuring their effectiveness. It has become a global launchpad for innovations that advance food production in arid, resource-scarce regions. The FoodTech Challenge directly supports the UAE's food security ambitions by attracting breakthrough, technology-driven solutions that can be refined in the UAE and scaled to address food security challenges worldwide.

The third edition of the FoodTech Challenge is organised by the International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court and Tamkeen, in partnership with the Gates Foundation, ne'ma – the UAE's National Food Loss and Waste Initiative – and Silal, a leading UAE agri-food company. FTC 3.0

focuses on two primary objectives: increasing food production and reducing food loss and waste. The 10 finalist teams present a diverse range of projects centred on these two focus areas, each showcasing innovative technologies with the potential to drive transformative impact on food systems in the UAE, the Global South and beyond.

FTC 3.0 Finalists:

- **Akorn Technology (USA)** – A natural coating for produce - keeping fruits and vegetables fresher for longer
- **Ecorich Solutions (Kenya)** – From waste to wealth - affordable fertilizer that can be produced anywhere within 24 hours
- **Flybox (UK)** – Turning food waste into sustainable protein, one modular insect farm at a time
- **Homeport (UAE)** – Nanobubbles to supercharge crops and livestock, transforming arid farmlands
- **HungreeApp (USA)** – An instant link to sharing surplus food with your community
- **HyveGeo (UAE)** – Biochar that restores and sustains in a circular system
- **Jabu (France)** – AI that fights food waste, saving meals, money, and resources
- **P-Vita (Egypt)** – Extracting hidden nutrients from palm waste to power a healthier future
- **Seadling (Malaysia)** – Reimagining seaweed as a powerful, planet-friendly food and crop stimulant
- **Permia Sensing (UK)** – A tree-monitoring solution that detects problems early to protect palm yields

Ahead of the finals, the teams will take part in partner-led workshops and tailored mentorship sessions designed to connect them with key implementation, investment and market-entry partners in the UAE and the Global South, ensuring their solutions are positioned for maximum impact and scalability.

The final four winners will be selected by a panel of eight judges representing diverse sectors, including HE Mariam Almheiri, Head of the International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court; Rima Al Mokarrab, Chair of Tamkeen; HRH Prince Khaled bin Alwaleed bin Talal Al Saud, Founder and CEO of KBW Ventures; Khuloud Hassan Al Nuwais, Chief Sustainability Officer at Emirates Foundation; a Gates Foundation representative; Dr Shamal Mohammed, CEO of Innovation Oasis at Silal; Dr Ismahane Elouafi, Executive Managing Director at CGIAR; and Dr Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA.

Past winners from the FTC's two previous editions have collectively raised USD 48 million in follow-on funding, launched joint ventures, tested their solutions in over 50 pilot projects across the UAE and expanded into international markets.

To learn more about the FoodTech Challenge and this year's finalists, visit:
www.foodtechchallenge.com

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Media Contact

Please see [HERE](#) for additional information on each finalist.

For interview requests with either FTC or finalists, please contact:
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About the Food Tech Challenge (FTC)

The FoodTech Challenge (FTC) is a global competition that identifies and supports leading early-stage, tech-driven solutions poised to transform food systems in arid, hot, and increasingly challenging environments. These environments, in addition to being among the most food-insecure nations, are also underserved, untapped for innovations, and underinvested in by traditional agricultural practices.

The competition is delivered by the International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court of the UAE and Tamkeen in partnership with ne'ma, the UAE's Food Loss and Waste Initiative; Silal, the UAE's leading agtech company; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative, and other key partners.