

Scientific Strategy Lead, Fermentation

Engineer a new paradigm in food production in Japan

The Good Food Institute Japan is an independent affiliate of the global Good Food Institute network, a non-profit think tank working to make the global food system better for the planet, people, and animals. Alongside scientists, businesses, and policymakers, GFI Japan focuses on making plant-based, fermentation-enabled, and cultivated meat delicious, affordable, and accessible. Powered by philanthropy, GFI is an international network of organisations advancing alternative proteins as an essential solution needed to meet the world's climate, global health, food security, and biodiversity goals.

We unlock the knowledge and resources needed to transform how meat is made—satisfying rising food demand in ways that accelerate climate progress, protect animals and ecosystems, and strengthen public health. Please check out resources in Japanese on the GFI Japan website [here](#) and our [2025 Year in Review](#) to find out more about who we are and what we do.

How you will make a difference

In this role, you will have the opportunity to lead the development of Japan's strategy for improving the quality of alternative protein products and technical landscaping for proteins and ingredients derived from microbial fermentation in food application, identify key challenges, and articulate solutions to accelerate the industry growth and engagement alongside your network affiliate colleagues. Your analyses will help create a roadmap for improving the quality of alternative protein products and growing their market share in Japan. You will ensure that GFI's efforts attract public and private funding are allocated toward the highest-impact research areas to accelerate the adoption of fermentation-derived proteins and transform agriculture toward more sustainable systems. Beyond fermentation, you will also contribute to GFI Japan's broader alternative protein mission by working with colleagues and external consultants and stakeholders across plant-based and cultivated meat. Working with key academic, nonprofit, and industry stakeholders, you will help fermentation-derived alternative protein products dominate the marketplace as quickly as possible.

The **Scientific Strategy Lead, Fermentation** will be responsible for:

Scientific Strategy Lead, Fermentation

Job description

- Alliance and project management capability as a fermentation scientist on SciTech's Technical Opportunities and Solutions subteam, acting as a technical liaison with external researchers and a subject matter expert to drive future team expansion.
- Contributing technical analyses of the role of fermentation in alternative protein applications that culminate in white papers, conference presentations, webinars, and peer-reviewed articles, including GFI's state of series reports
- Overseeing cycle project planning and annual strategic planning as it pertains to fermentation product workstreams.
- Prioritizing and proposing the focus areas and timelines for internal and externally-contracted analyses of the fermentation industry.
- Identifying and prioritizing research topics and whitespace opportunities for researchers and entrepreneurs.
- Advising key GFI-sponsored research projects and mission-aligned external groups.
- Mobilizing funding by meeting with Government bodies, VCs, foundations, universities, and others that are interested in putting capital into fermentation technologies.
- Collaborate directly with equivalent roles in GFI's global fermentation working group to align on global technical priorities and deliverables.
- Building GFI's capacity to serve as a knowledge hub for the industry and to guide public discourse around it.
- Providing technical support, mentoring, and strategic advice to entrepreneurs, start-ups, venture capitalists, academic faculty, and students on topics such as product development, career changes, business design, and process expertise.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

Who we're looking for

- A Master's degree or Ph.D. in a relevant scientific field (microbial culture technology, stem cell biology, tissue engineering, biochemical engineering, or synthetic biology) plus over 12 years of direct industry experience in one or more of the following:
 - A) Field or direct industry experience in food sector.
 - B) Field or direct industry experience in adjacent industrial brewing engineering, biomanufacturing sectors such as biofuels, biopharma, or the wider life sciences industry, as these have high potential for applicability in fermentation-enabled protein manufacturing.
- Exceptional writing in Japanese and English languages.
- Comfort with public speaking.
- Experience managing projects, vendors and team, with the ability to mentor and inspire team members.
- Experience analyzing scientific literature and conducting literature reviews.

Scientific Strategy Lead, Fermentation

Job description

- A proven track record in translating scientific information into formats for lay professionals.
- A functional understanding of the principles, methods, equipment and techniques used in fermentation-derived meat, egg, and dairy research and manufacturing.
- Proven expertise or strong functional knowledge in commercial bioprocess development and scale-up, including a solid understanding of manufacturing cost structures and process economics for fermentation-derived products.

The fine print:

- **Terms of employment:** Full-time, Permanent
- **Location:** Remote (Work from Home). GFI Japan team members meet in person several times a year on an ad hoc basis. Travel expenses are covered in accordance with GFI Japan's travel policy.
- **Working Hours:** Flexible Working Hours. Occasional work outside of standard business hours may be required to accommodate meetings across time zones.
- **Reports to:** Country Manager, Japan
- **Benefits:** Includes statutory health, pension, workers' compensation, and employment insurance per Japanese regulations, as well as paid leave per GFI Japan's policy. In addition, we provide a home office setup allowance (reimbursed within three months of joining, subject to a cap) and a monthly remote work allowance.
- **Right to work requirements:** The successful candidate must, by the start of employment, have permission to work and to be able to travel within Japan. Please note that GFI Japan's policy is not to sponsor employment visas. The successful applicant will need to confirm they are eligible to work in Japan without requiring GFI Japan's sponsorship of an employment visa.
- **Application process:**
 - a. **Please complete this [application form](#)**, upload your CV, and a brief introductory video.
 - b. **Screening call:** An initial conversation for both parties to ask general questions and learn more about the role.
 - c. **First interview** with GFI Japan team members: focused on organisational and team fit, as well as deeper expertise questions.
 - d. **Attend an in-person work trial**, where you'll spend some time meeting the team and completing strategic assessments.
 - e. **Final interview** with the leadership team to finalise the fit.
 - f. **Reference check:** Provide referees who can comment on your strategic and operational capabilities.

Important dates

Application deadline: Friday 31st July 2026