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Bezos Centre at NUS and EnterpriseSG launch new startup competition to boost early-stage sustainable protein innovation in Singapore

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The**Â Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein at the National University of SingaporeÂ**(Bezos Centre @NUS) andÂ **Enterprise Singapore**Â (EnterpriseSG) announced a new partnership to accelerate early-stage sustainable protein innovation through a startup competition. This is part of Bezos Centre @NUSâ?? US$3 million in grants over five years to support early and growth-stage startups in this space.

The inaugural Sustainable Protein Startup Competition is identifying and supporting early-stage startups in sustainable protein solutions. Three winning startups will be selected through a competitive pitching process. Each winner is receiving a funding and in-kind support of up to S$175,000 while gaining access to Singapore's comprehensive ecosystem of resources. The competition was launched on 1 August 2025 at the first International Summit on Sustainable Protein. There are plans to hold the competition annually, supporting up to 15 early-stage global and local startups over a five-year period.

Professor Zhou Weibiao, Acting DirectorÂ of theÂ **Bezos Centre for Sustainable ProteinÂ** atÂ **NUS**Â andÂ **Head of the NUS Department of Food Science and Technology,**Â said,Â â??One of our goals at the Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein at NUS is to bridge world-class research in sustainable protein with real-world impact. This startup competition and the ISSP are natural extensions of that mission â?? paving the way for promising technologies to move from lab to market, and from local to global impact. Our partnership with EnterpriseSG will further support our aspiration by accelerating innovation and strengthening the sustainable protein ecosystem in Singapore and beyond.â?•

Ms Jeannie Lim, Assistant Managing Director for Services and Growth EnterprisesÂatÂ **EnterpriseSG**, said, â??Our partnership with the Bezos Centre @NUS comes at a crucial time to support promising foodtech startups in securing funding

to develop their technologies and bring innovative solutions to market. This initiative reflects our commitment to advance promising sustainable food innovations while catalysing greater private sector participation and investments in Singapore's foodtech sector. We welcome foodtech startups to leverage Singaporeâ??s resources, robust innovation ecosystem and progressive regulatory framework to accelerate their R&D efforts and scale their impact across the region.â?

Bezos Centre @NUS x EnterpriseSGâ??s Sustainable Protein Startup Competition

The competition aims to support early-stage startups developing novel sustainable protein technologies that can address critical challenges in food security and climate resilience. This includes innovative solutions in fermentation, cultivated meat, plant-based proteins, and food safety & toxicology. Startups were evaluated on their technology innovation and readiness, market potential and validation, business model scalability, and team capabilities.

From the entries, eight promising startups were advanced to the final pitching round was held at theÂ**Singapore International Agri-Food Week**Â in November 2025. Three winning startups were selected, and each winner received seed funding and in-kind support of up to S$175,000. Bezos Centre @NUS will provide a S$75,000 cash grant, and EnterpriseSG matched this with a S$75,000 Startup SG Founder (Competition) grant.

Winners can utilise the seed funding for R&D, prototype development and to conduct pilot trials for sustainable protein products. Besides the funding, winners will receive up to S$25,000 worth of in-kind support from Bezos Centre @NUS. This includes mentorship, laboratory facilities, office space, startup incubation resources, and the opportunity to pitch at an annual startup event.