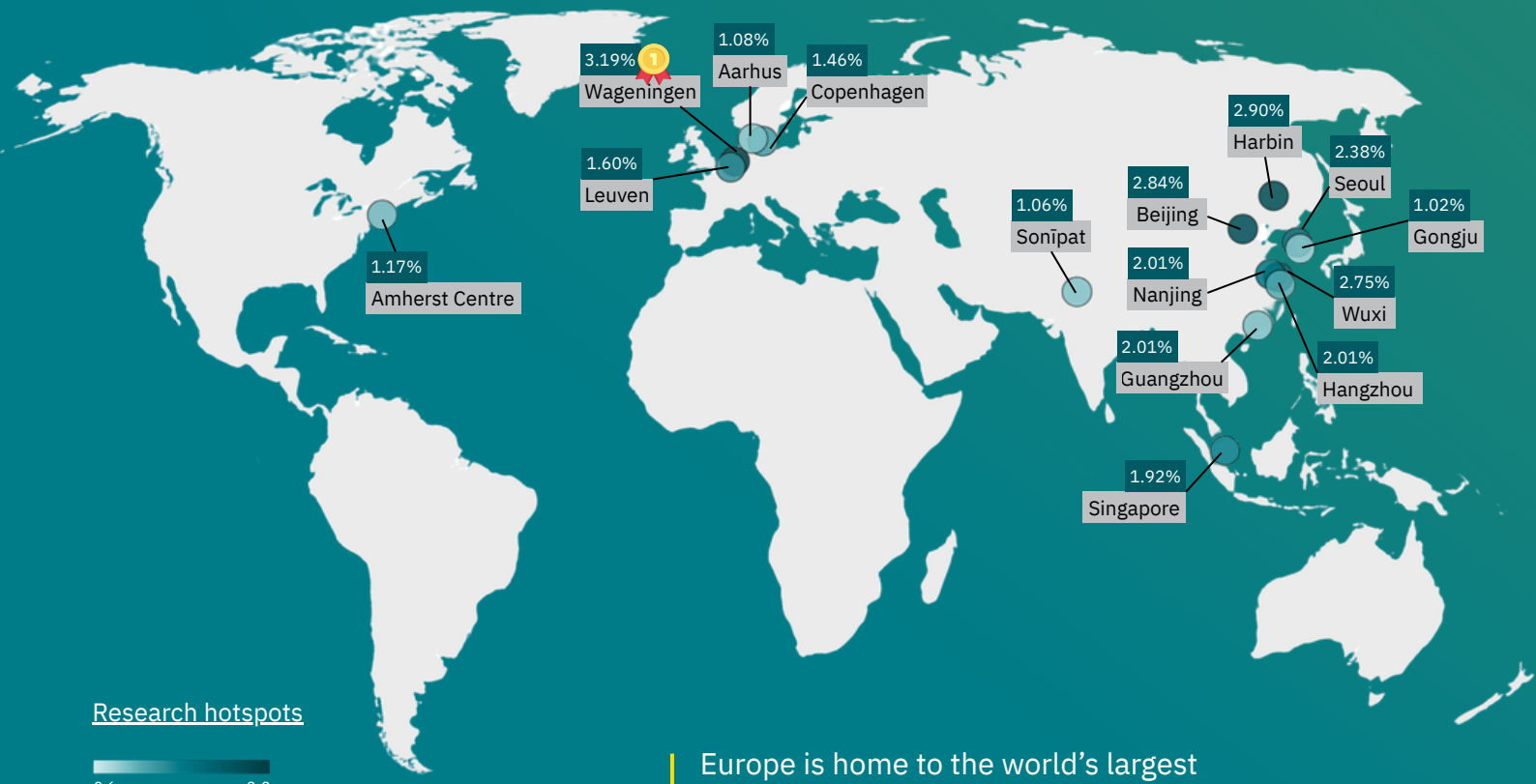
Plant-based Fermentation Cultivated

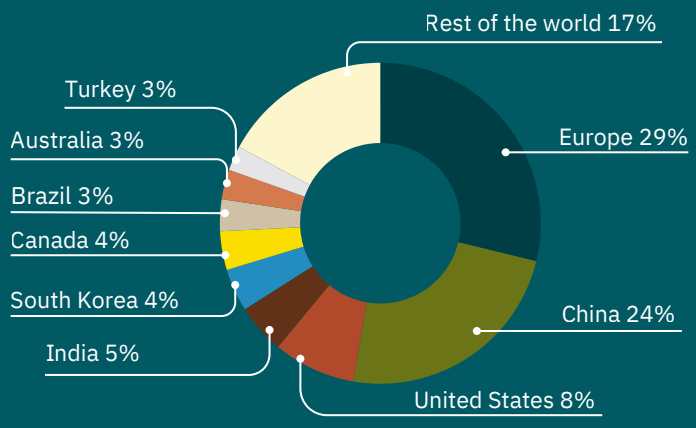
gfi Europe

Europe is a global leader in alternative protein R&I, but risks losing its early advantage



Europe is home to the world's largest and most productive alternative protein academic research community.

Contribution to total publication output, 2023-2025



30%

of the world's alternative protein researchers were based in Europe between 2023 and 2025, ahead of China (25%) and the United States (7%).

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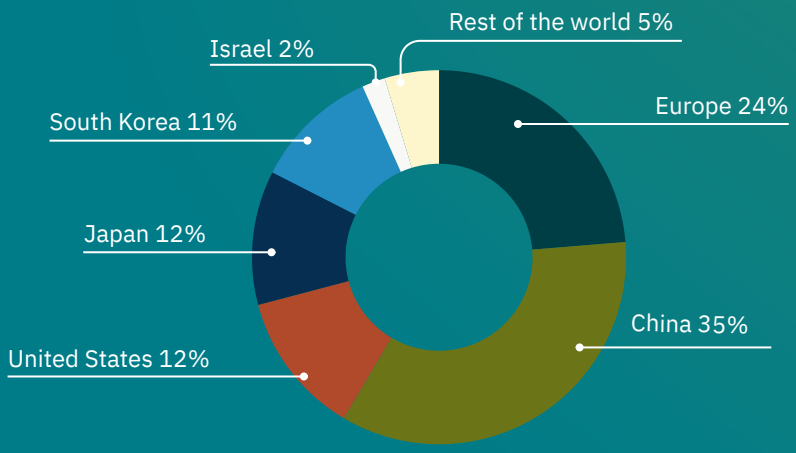
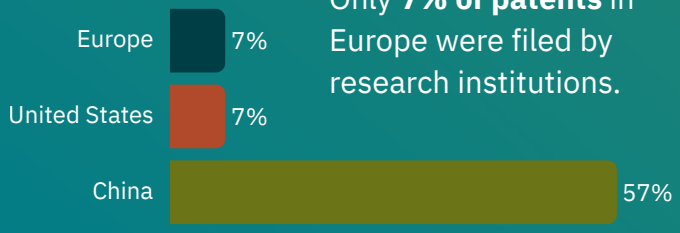
Contribution to total patent family output, 2023-2025



Europe is globally competitive in patent output but lags in connecting academic research to innovation

Europe trails behind China in patent families, but can still catch up by making better use of its scientific expertise, particularly by getting more patents from nonprofit organisations like universities and research institutes.



Only **7% of patents** in Europe were filed by research institutions.

Europe funds less technological research, with more resources going to societal impact studies

European research covers every stage of making alternative proteins with a strong emphasis on societal research and impact assessment (▲), while Chinese research focuses more on technical categories (■) that more often leads to patents.

Note: Europe's research publication output is set to 1 on each axis.



Europe should align its investment in protein diversification research with its industrial strategy, focusing on developing its technological strengths and stronger public-private collaboration.

Read the full report

