



# THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE

## MEDIA INFORMATION FOR THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE 2023

Contact for media inquiries: [press@foodplanetprize.org](mailto:press@foodplanetprize.org)

### Shortlist of Nominees for the Food Planet Prize 2023

The Curt Bergfors Foundation received more than 1000 nominations for this year's prize.

The shortlisted nominees offer a wide range of solutions to help move global food production towards a more sustainable, nature-positive, and climate-friendly future. All nominees on the shortlist have great potential to deliver lasting and wide-ranging impact.

The eight short-listed Food Planet Prize Nominees 2023 are:

#### The Agrobiodiversity Index

The Agrobiodiversity Index helps measure the status of biodiversity in global agriculture. With only nine crops currently making up two-thirds of the world's crop production, it provides a centralized way to track and understand what is getting lost, risks of low agrobiodiversity, and ways to improve. It could help restore the healthy, rich diets previously provided by local produce.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: Yes
- Launch year: 2017
- Founder: The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- Type of organization: Non-Commercial
- Type of innovation: Nature-Based
- Based in: Rome, Italy + Montpellier, France
- Website: <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/tools-innovations/agrobiodiversity-index>

#### Aponiente

Aponiente is working to cultivate an edible sea grain for the first time. This grain, *Zostera marina*, can be cooked similarly to rice but has higher protein and fiber levels, and is grown with a much lower climate footprint with no need for irrigation. It could help reduce food insecurity while restoring coastal ecosystems.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: Yes
- Launch year: 2007
- Founder: Angel León
- Type of organization: Commercial
- Type of innovation: Nature-Based
- Based in: Cádiz, Spain
- Website: [www.aponiente.com](http://www.aponiente.com)

For more information, visit <https://foodplanetprize.org>



# THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE

## Coolfood

Coolfood is a one-stop solution to facilitate plant-forward, climate-friendly eating. By taking the Coolfood Pledge, large-scale food service providers commit to reducing their food related GHG emissions by 25% by 2030 with the help of tailored Coolfood tools. This approach could help feed a growing global population while keeping GHG emissions in check.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: No
- Launch year: 2019
- Founder: World Resources Institute
- Type of organization: Non-Commercial
- Type of innovation: Social
- Based in: Washington, USA + London, UK
- Website: [www.coolfood.org](http://www.coolfood.org)

## Monarch Tractor

Monarch Tractor has launched a line of the world's first fully-electric, driver-optional, data-collecting smart tractors, offering an all-in-one solution to an industry struggling with labor shortages and increasing costs while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It could help revolutionize the future of farming by making it possible to run smaller-scale farms profitably.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: No
- Launch year: 2018
- Founders: Carlo Mondavi, Zachary Omohundro, Praveen Penmetsa and Mark Schwager
- Type of organization: Commercial
- Type of innovation: Technical
- Based in: Livermore, USA
- Website: [www.monarchtractor.com](http://www.monarchtractor.com)

## Protein Challenge Southeast Asia

Protein Challenge Southeast Asia equips protein innovators to embed systems change approaches into the design and implementation of their activities so that they support a deep transition towards a resilient, regenerative and socially just food system in the region. This holistic approach could help create the systematic change required to achieve affordable, nutritious, sustainable protein for all.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: No
- Launch year: 2020
- Founder: Forum For The Future
- Type of organization: Non-Commercial
- Type of innovation: Social
- Based in: Singapore + London, UK
- Website: [www.forumforthefuture.org/protein-challenge-southeast-asia](http://www.forumforthefuture.org/protein-challenge-southeast-asia)



# THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE

## Ragn-Sells EasyMining

Ragn-Sells EasyMining is pioneering the recycling of phosphorus and other nutrients that are essential components of fertilizers. Their technologies could help improve food security by recovering nutrients from waste to reuse in fertilizers, instead of relying on vulnerable – and finite – global supply chains.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: Yes
- Launch year: 2007 (and 1881 for mother company Ragn-Sells)
- Co-Founder/CEO: Yariv Cohen / Jan Svärd
- Type of organization: For-profit
- Type of innovation: Technical
- Based in: Uppsala, Sweden
- Website: [www.easymining.se](http://www.easymining.se)

## Sustainable Rice Platform

Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is aiming to redesign the rice value chain from beginning to end. Rice is responsible for feeding half our planet, but also uses one-third of the world's freshwater resources for irrigation and emits significant amounts of methane. Through education and certified practices, SRP could help feed the world sustainably.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: Yes
- Launch year: 2011
- Founder: GIZ, IRRI and UNEP
- Type of organization: Non-Commercial
- Type of innovation: Technical
- Based in: Bonn, Germany
- Website: <https://sustainablerice.org/>

## The Toothpick Company

The Toothpick Company turns fungi into a bioherbicide to fight Striga, a “master weed” that has devastated an estimated 40 million farms in Africa. Using fungi as weapons in the war on weeds, it could restore crop yields and help reduce reliance on chemical herbicides that have proven harmful to ecological and human health.

[Learn more](#)

- Previously nominated: No
- Launch year: 2018
- Founder: Florence Oyosi, Claire Sands Baker and Dr. David Sands
- Type of organization: Commercial
- Type of innovation: Nature-Based
- Based in: Kakamega, Kenya
- Website: [www.toothpickproject.org](http://www.toothpickproject.org)



# THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE

## About the Food Planet Prize

The Curt Bergfors Food Planet Prize is the world's largest monetary award in the environmental and global food arena. It rewards innovative solutions that can help us shift to sustainable food systems within a ten-year timeframe.

In particular, the Food Planet Prize awards initiatives that solve the dilemma of feeding a growing world population while saving a planet in peril. Solutions are welcome from all over the world and any field. Unlike traditional awards, anyone can apply or nominate—all year round.

The Prize is handed out by the Curt Bergfors Foundation.

## About the Curt Bergfors Foundation

The Curt Bergfors Foundation was established on 30 August 2019.

The Foundation actively supports the transition to sustainable food systems through research grants, awards, and information. Most of its activities are centered around the Food Planet Prize.

## About Curt Bergfors

Curt Bergfors (27 February 1949 – 8 May 2022) was the founder of the MAX restaurant chain, and its principal owner and Chairman of the Board. He opened his first grill and diner in Gällivare, Sweden, on 14 June 1968, which ultimately grew to a global chain. Thanks to his entrepreneurial spirit, passion, drive, and commitment to sustainability; health, fairness, and the environment, set the bar for innovation and development for MAX as a company ever since. Curt Bergfors continued his work at MAX as Executive Chairman of the Board and a guiding star leading the way in the family business MAX until his passing.

## Food Planet Prize Winners

2020: Three winners US\$ 1 million each: [Futurefeed](#) (AUS), [Blue Ventures](#) (UK) & [The Land Institute](#) (USA) and two shared prize winners who won US\$500k each: [Sanergy](#) (Kenya / USA) & [Icipe](#) (Ethiopia)

2021: Two winners, US\$ 2 million each: [GreenWave](#) (USA) & [B4Plastics](#) (BEL)

2022: Two winners, US\$ 2 million each: [ColdHubs](#) (Nigeria) & [Global Mangrove Alliance](#) (USA)

2023: One winner only, US\$2 million



# THE CURT BERGFORS FOOD PLANET PRIZE

## Food Planet Prize Jury

- Mr Johan Rockström (co-chair), a Swedish scientist and the Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; [see more](#)
- Mr Magnus Nilsson (co-chair), a Swedish Michelin Star Chef, organic apple farmer and Director-General of the Curt Bergfors Foundation; [see more](#)
- Ms Clara Coleman, an American leader in the sustainable farming movement, second-generation owner of Four Season Farm; [see more](#)
- Mr Olivier De Shutter, a Belgian legal scholar, currently Professor of Law at the University of Louvain, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in 2020, and Co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food); [see more](#)
- Mr Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor at China Agricultural University; [see more](#)
- Mr Franco Fubini, Argentinian Founder and CEO of seasonal produce marketplace Natoora based in the UK; [see more](#)
- Ms Gina Giugni, second generation American biodynamic farmer and Founder of Lady of the Sunshine Winery in California, USA; [see more](#)
- Ms Line Gordon, a Swedish sustainability scientist and Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University; [see more](#)
- Ms Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, native of Zimbabwe who is currently director of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Pretoria; [see more](#)
- Mr Paul Polman is a Dutch business leader, campaigner, author of “Net Positive: How courageous companies thrive by giving more than they take” and former CEO of Unilever; [see more](#)

## Curt Bergfors Foundation Staff

The team at the Curt Bergfors Foundation is led by Magnus Nilsson, Director-General. The Foundation’s General Manager is Lina Engler.