With the world’s population set to hit 10 billion people in 2050, one of the most pressing challenges of our time is the creation of a global food system which does not have negative consequences for the planet, for scarce natural resources, and for human health. This is made all the more urgent by the growth in demand for protein, which could have tremendously adverse implications for the world over the next decades. As consumer concerns over the implications of industrial animal agriculture continue to mount, the application of science and technology to remaking animal products is an imperative. Plant-based and cell-based meat represent an opportunity to significantly alleviate the burdens of the entrenched food system. These categories of food are receiving plaudits from organizations such as the United Nations and millions in investment from visionary investors such as Richard Branson and industry giants such as Cargill and Tyson Foods. But what’s next for the future of protein? Investment and advancement in researching each of these areas would have a significant impact to sustainably feed growing populations. Singapore has a huge role to play in this transformation, and stands to benefit by pioneering protein production, offering lucrative end markets for farmers, creating manufacturing jobs, and ultimately being at the forefront of global food innovation providing sustainable nutrition to billions.

### Abstract
With the world's population set to hit 10 billion people in 2050, one of the most pressing challenges of our time is the creation of a global food system which does not have negative consequences for the planet, for scarce natural resources, and for human health. This is made all the more urgent by the growth in demand for protein, which could have tremendously adverse implications for the world over the next decades. As consumer concerns over the implications of industrial animal agriculture continue to mount, the application of science and technology to remaking animal products is an imperative. Plant-based and cell-based meat represent an opportunity to significantly alleviate the burdens of the entrenched food system. These categories of food are receiving plaudits from organizations such as the United Nations and millions in investment from visionary investors such as Richard Branson and industry giants such as Cargill and Tyson Foods. But what's next for the future of protein? Investment and advancement in researching each of these areas would have a significant impact to sustainably feed growing populations. Singapore has a huge role to play in this transformation, and stands to benefit by pioneering protein production, offering lucrative end markets for farmers, creating manufacturing jobs, and ultimately being at the forefront of global food innovation providing sustainable nutrition to billions.

### About the speaker
Mr. Varun Deshpande is the Managing Director for India at the Good Food Institute (GFI), where he is focused on building the future of food by working with scientists, foundations, governments, entrepreneurs, and corporations to advance the plant-based and cell-based meats sector.

As the son of a cancer surgeon from Mumbai, Varun has been deeply immersed in the healthcare sector from a very young age. He spent several formative years studying Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at world-class technology hub Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. He then went on to work at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in Pittsburgh on implementing digital health, helping vulnerable populations through care coordination, and a systems approach to healthcare.

While in the United States, Varun learned a great deal about Effective Altruism, a philosophy which seeks to investigate and target the world's most pressing problems. He came to understand the impact of industrial animal agriculture on the world, and the imperative need to transition away from it using markets and technology. In dedicating his work to the future of protein and combining his duty to human and planetary health, Varun aims to help build a more healthy, sustainable, and just global food system, starting right here in India.

### Host: Dr. Huang Dejian
### Date: 14th May, 2019, Tuesday
### Time: 11am to 12 pm
### Venue: Seminar room, S14-06-19