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DSM and The Kitchen Hub lead $1.9 M funding round for Israeli food tech startup

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Israel-based startup Meala FoodTech, the developer of a functional protein platform, has announced the close ofÂ $1.9 millionÂ in pre-seed investment. The round was led by The Kitchen FoodTech Hub, part of The Strauss-Group andÂ DSM VenturingÂ (the corporate venture arm of the Dutch multinationalÂ Royal DSM); with participation of Milk & Honey Ventures, specialising in alt-protein investments. DSM Venturing's contribution marks its third investment in the IsraeliÂ FoodTechÂ ecosystem in 2022.

Meala's multi-functional proteins vastly improve the texture of meat alternatives to more compellingly mimic the organoleptic qualities of real meat and deliver a more full-bodied flavor. Meala's proprietary platform creates functional proteins designed to be used as binding and gelling agents thanks to their superior water retention capabilities. The platform enables formulators to boost meat analogues with better nutritional value and functional properties using a short list of ingredients as in real meat.

The new funding will initially go toward continuing the development of the company's platform technology and accelerate from lab to pilot scale. The startup's core technology enables the development of functional proteins for multiple meat replacements, including burgers, sausages, nuggets with egg and fish alternatives in development.

Image credit- prnewswire