

Food Tech Valley to construct GigaFarm innovative waste-to-value farm in UAE

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Food Tech Valley has signed an agreement at COP28 with ReFarm™ to start construction on a 900,000 sq. ft. game-changing 'GigaFarm'. The innovative waste-to-value farm will be capable of recycling more than 50,000 tonnes of food waste and growing two billion plants each year.

ReFarm™ was established in the UAE by SSK Enterprise and Christof Global Impact (CGI) as a group of companies with a focus on projects with circularity and clean technologies. The brand chose vertical farming technology developed by infrastructure supplier Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS) and is set to start construction in mid-2024 at Dubai's Food Tech Valley, a master development launched by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and being led by major Dubai property developer, Wasl. ReFarm™ has engaged its lead bank to arrange support from UK Export Finance within the UK Government's Department for Business & Trade.

In a global first, six complementary technologies will be collocated on the Dubai Food Tech Valley site as part of a closed-loop circular waste-to-value system, establishing a self-contained ecosystem designed to maximise resource efficiency and prevent any waste going to landfill.

Capable of growing more than three million kilos of produce annually, the site will support the UAE's move towards decarbonising food production, replacing 1 per cent of the country's fresh produce imports. Construction is due to begin in mid-2024, with the site expected to be fully operational by 2026.