

# Plant-Based Protein Systems Market Forecasts to 2032 – Global Analysis By Type (Protein Isolates, Protein Concentrates, Textured Plant Proteins (TPP), Protein Hydrolysates and Fermented Plant Proteins), Source, Form, Distribution Channel, Application, End User and By Geography

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## Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Plant-Based Protein Systems Market is accounted for \$20.30 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach \$35.93 billion by 2032 growing at a CAGR of 8.5% during the forecast period. Plant-based protein systems are increasingly popular as consumers prioritize sustainable, nutritious, and ethically sourced food ingredients. Derived from soy, pea, chickpea, lentil, and oat sources, these proteins support the development of plant-based meat, dairy-free drinks, protein shakes, and bakery products. Research is advancing to refine taste, digestibility, amino-acid profiles, and product texture to closely resemble traditional animal-based proteins. Technologies such as controlled extrusion, precision fermentation, and enzyme treatment strengthen their functional qualities and improve palatability. Growing dietary shifts toward vegan and flexitarian diets, combined with rising demand for eco-friendly and allergen-friendly products, are accelerating adoption of plant-based protein systems in global food and nutrition industries.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), data reveals that plant-based proteins have a significantly lower environmental footprint compared to animal-based proteins. Producing 1 kg of plant protein requires substantially less water, land, and emits fewer greenhouse gases than equivalent animal protein sources.

## Market Dynamics:

#### Driver:

##### Rising health and wellness trends

Rising health consciousness is a leading growth driver for plant-based protein systems, as more consumers prefer nutritional ingredients with lower fat and no cholesterol. Plant proteins naturally offer essential nutrients, fiber, and antioxidants, making them suitable for improving digestion, weight control, and cardiovascular health. Fitness-driven lifestyles and preventive health choices are encouraging adoption of non-dairy beverages, plant burgers, and protein-enriched snacks. Food brands are also promoting clean-label formulations and minimal processing, which appeal to ingredient-sensitive buyers. Vegan, flexitarian, and lactose-intolerant consumers especially value plant-based protein sources. With growing interest in immune support, gut wellness, and nutritionally balanced diets, the acceptance of plant protein systems continues accelerating across the global food industry.

#### Restraint:

##### High processing costs and complex formulation

High production and formulation costs significantly restrict the growth of plant-based protein systems. Obtaining functional protein isolates from crops demands costly machinery, filtration units, and technological expertise. To create desirable texture and taste, companies must apply techniques like advanced extrusion, precision fermentation, or enzymatic modification, raising manufacturing expenses further. These complex steps influence product affordability and limit mass-market penetration. Small and mid-sized producers often cannot financially compete, reducing variety and slowing innovation. Maintaining a steady supply of quality plant protein sources also increases cost pressure. Overall, expensive processing infrastructure and technical hurdles act as strong restraints, making it harder for the industry to expand rapidly.

#### Opportunity:

##### Expansion in functional and sports nutrition

Functional food and sports nutrition present major growth openings for plant-based protein systems. More people are adopting active lifestyles, driving consumption of protein drinks, bars, and on-the-go supplements. Plant proteins meet consumer

expectations for clean-label, vegan, and easy-to-digest nutrition, making them ideal for fitness-focused buyers. Improved protein extraction and flavoring technologies now enable better absorption, smoother mouthfeel, and enhanced amino-acid profiles. Companies are creating high-protein formulas targeting athletes, bodybuilders, and individuals avoiding dairy or allergens. Rising attention on immunity support, digestive health, and balanced nutrition further strengthens demand. As wellness culture expands worldwide, plant-based proteins are gaining a competitive role in the performance and functional food sector.

#### Threat:

Intense competition from animal-based and cultivated proteins

Plant-based protein systems are threatened by strong competition from traditional animal protein and the fast-growing cultivated meat sector. Many consumers still trust animal protein for authentic taste, natural texture, and complete nutrition, limiting the switch to plant alternatives. Lab-grown meat companies are gaining market traction by producing real meat without conventional farming, offering better flavor and nutritional familiarity. As technology scales and prices fall, these products may compete directly with plant-based brands. Conventional meat firms are also improving sustainability efforts, promoting chemical-free, organic, and carbon-friendly claims. With powerful branding and consumer loyalty, animal and lab-grown proteins may reduce long-term demand for plant protein systems.

#### Covid-19 Impact:

The impact of COVID-19 on the plant-based protein systems market was mixed but ultimately positive for long-term growth. In the beginning, factory shutdowns, logistics issues, and global supply interruptions slowed production and limited ingredient supply. Despite these hurdles, rising health awareness encouraged consumers to choose protein-rich, dairy-free, and plant-based products to support nutrition and immunity. The temporary disruption in meat processing plants also pushed many households to try plant alternatives. Online grocery platforms and packaged foods gained momentum as people cooked more at home. Although pricing pressures and sourcing difficulties existed, the pandemic widened consumer interest and accelerated adoption of plant-based proteins across multiple food categories.

The protein isolates segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The protein isolates segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period due to their high protein content, mild flavor, and adaptable processing performance. They blend well into drinks, nutrition powders, meat analogs, and dairy-free foods, offering smooth consistency and enhanced mouthfeel. Because isolates contain fewer carbohydrates and fats, they suit fitness-focused and calorie-conscious consumers. Their strong solubility and digestibility support clear-label, allergen-friendly, and lactose-free product design. Food companies choose isolates to improve texture, nutrition density, and product appeal without compromising taste. With growing demand for premium plant-based nutrition, isolates continue to lead commercial adoption across multiple packaged and performance-driven food categories.

The pea segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the pea segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate due to its nutritional benefits and compatibility with various formulations. It delivers strong protein quality, smooth functionality, and is naturally free of common allergens like soy and gluten. Pea protein works well in shakes, energy bars, dairy substitutes, plant-based meat, and powdered supplements. Ongoing improvements in refining and flavor masking technologies are enhancing taste, dispersibility, and consumer acceptance. Since buyers increasingly choose clean-label, vegan, and digestive-friendly ingredients, manufacturers are heavily investing in pea-based innovations. This rising demand positions pea protein as the fastest-expanding segment across global plant-based applications.

### **Region with largest share:**

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share, driven by rising demand for sustainable, nutritious, and protein-enriched foods. Consumers in the region show strong interest in dairy-free drinks, plant-based meat, protein snacks, and allergen-friendly foods. Numerous food innovators, startups, and major corporations are launching new plant-based formulas supported by advanced R&D and well-developed production capabilities. Retail supermarkets, restaurants, and e-commerce platforms actively promote plant-based options, boosting visibility and consumer trial. Growing adoption of fitness-oriented diets and clean-label products further strengthens demand. With robust supply networks and high purchasing power, North America continues leading market consumption and commercial expansion of plant-based protein systems.

## Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, driven by rising health consciousness and fast-changing food consumption habits. Higher income levels, a growing middle class, and increased exposure to global food trends are boosting interest in plant protein beverages, bakery foods, and meat alternatives. Many consumers are opting for dairy-free and digestive-friendly products due to intolerance issues and wellness priorities. Food manufacturers are investing in local processing, partnerships, and product launches to capture regional demand. Expanding supermarkets, online platforms, and quick-service restaurants also support adoption. With policy emphasis on sustainable food production, Asia Pacific is emerging as the highest growth rate.

## Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Plant-Based Protein Systems Market include Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Kerry Group, International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF), Ingredion, Wilmar International, Roquette Frères, Glanbia, Danone, Nestlé, AGT Food and Ingredients, Bunge, DSM, Beyond Meat and PURIS.

## Key Developments:

In November 2024, Kerry Group announces that it has entered into an agreement with Kerry Co-Operative Creameries to sell Kerry Dairy Holdings (Ireland) to the Co-Op for a total expected consideration of €500 million. Kerry Dairy Ireland consists of Dairy Consumer Products, with its leading range of well-loved brands across cheese, cheese snacks, dairy snacks and dairy spreads which can be found in chilled cabinets across retailers in the UK and Ireland.

In October 2025, Cargill International S.A. and Costamare Bulkera Holdings Limited have entered into a strategic partnership agreement. Costamare Bulkera will transfer its trading book to Cargill and charter four Supramax vessels on short-term charters for periods of four to six months. This partnership optimizes resource allocation and lays the foundation for future business expansion.

In October 2025, Archer Daniels Midland said it signed a definitive agreement with agricultural products developer Alltech to launch a North American animal feed joint venture, aiming to reduce costs and simplify its portfolio.

### Types Covered:

- Protein Isolates
- Protein Concentrates
- Textured Plant Proteins (TPP)
- Protein Hydrolysates
- Fermented Plant Proteins

### Sources Covered:

- Soy
- Wheat
- Pea
- Rice
- Potato
- Lentil
- Chickpea
- Fava Bean
- Algae
- Other Sources

### Forms Covered:

- Powdered

Liquid/Suspension

Distribution Channels Covered:

Business-to-Business (B2B)

Business-to-Consumer (B2C)

Applications Covered:

Meat Analogues

Dairy Alternatives

Bakery & Confectionery

Functional Beverages

Nutritional Supplements

Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Meals

Infant & Pediatric Nutrition

Companion Animal Nutrition

Other Applications

End Users Covered:

Food & Beverage Manufacturers

Nutraceutical & Supplement Brands

Foodservice Operators

## Individual Consumers

### Regions Covered:

#### North America

US

Canada

Mexico

#### Europe

Germany

UK

Italy

France

Spain

Rest of Europe

#### Asia Pacific

Japan

China

India

Australia

New Zealand

South Korea

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Rest of South America

Middle East & Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Qatar

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & Africa

**What our report offers:**

- Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments
- Strategic recommendations for the new entrants
- Covers Market data for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, 2028, and 2032
- Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)
- Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations
- Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends
- Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments
- Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

## Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

### Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

### Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

### Competitive Benchmarking

Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

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