

Niamh Dooley

BiaSol



CONTACT DETAILS

T: +353 83 3292425
E: niamh@biasol.ie
Instagram: @biasolfoods
www.biasol.ie



A pandemic lockdown project across two continents led Niamh Dooley, from Athlone, Co Westmeath, and her brother Ruairi, to create BiaSol, a business that upcycles spent grain from breweries into healthy food products.

Niamh and Ruairi, who was then based in Melbourne, founded the company in October 2020, after investigating the possibilities of a sustainable, nutritious food product as a way of keeping in touch over Zoom, when they were both experiencing the limitations of lockdowns.

Niamh, who had graduated with a degree in Food Science from University of Limerick in 2016, had been working on Food Dudes, Bord Bia's healthy eating programme for primary schools, but was let go due to the pandemic.

After securing a time-share in a test kitchen, BiaSol succeeded in getting €50,000 from EI's Competitive Start Fund, which enabled them to set up their own premises in Tullamore, Co Offaly.

BiaSol provides wholesale products to the food service industry and a retail health food product, Super Milled Grains, which is available in 75 health food stores across Ireland. The products are attractive to consumers and food industry professionals because they boost flavour and are very high in fibre.

The company currently employs Niamh and Ruairi, another full-time employee and two interns. Niamh expects to add a part-time production employee in the immediate future, as well as sales and marketing roles.

Niamh says key highlights for the business so far have been launching their retail product and winning the Irish Times Innovation Award for Manufacturing and Design in 2021.

She found that taking part in ACORNS gave her confidence as a woman in business, and the programme was a great opportunity to learn from other business owners.

Niamh expects to launch more retail products in the near future and to begin exporting into the UK.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine