

Niamh Dooley

BiaSol



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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 has two product ranges which are sold nationwide in over 150 stores. The products include: Protein Pancake Mix, Granny's Soda Bread Mix, Super Scone Mix and Crafty Cookie Mix and Super Milled Grains, Morning Glory Grains and Whole Fibre Grains. The products are attractive to consumers and food industry professionals because they boost flavour and are very high in fibre.

The company currently employs five full time and three part time employees. BiaSol has had nationwide success: 2021 Irish Times Innovation Winner for Manufacturing & Design, 2022 Blas Na hEireann Finalist, Chefs Larder Winner & Best in County and 2023 RDS Spring Awards Winners Rural Innovation. BiaSol will export to the UK later this year and the company has recently been awarded HPSU funding which will enable this growth.

Niamh 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. She, along with the team, plans to grow the B2B aspect of the business enabling other food manufacturers to use brewers spent grains in their own products which will further support the circular economy.

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