



MEMBERSHIP



# NIFDA

## Helping our Vibrant Food & Drink Industry to Grow

NIFDA is a voluntary organisation which represents and promotes the interests of Northern Ireland food and drink companies at home and abroad.

We are passionate about our world class food and drink sector, and together with our members we are committed to growing a sustainable, internationally competitive food and drink industry in Northern Ireland.

We provide services to **enhance, promote, inform, educate** and **develop** our members' businesses. Whether you are a burgeoning SME with big plans, or an established global brand, we can help support you in achieving your business goals.

### Our Role

NIFDA's role is to work in partnership with existing providers, associations, government and companies to promote the competitiveness of the industry. We adopt a '**One Voice**' approach to industry matters including:



Exporting



Research &  
Development



Regulation



Technology &  
Innovation



Marketing &  
Promotion



Sector Attractiveness  
& Skills Development



Food & Drink  
Sector Strategy

# A Flavour of What We Do

## Your voice, where it matters

NIFDA engages with all levels of government to **lobby on key issues** affecting the industry, from Brexit and Covid-19 recovery to the sustainability agenda and improving sector attractiveness.

NIFDA recently commissioned a report published by EY that quantified the contribution of Northern Ireland food and drink to the Northern Ireland economy. It revealed that the sector **generates £4.9bn value** added in Northern Ireland, **supporting 113,000 workforce jobs**.

NIFDA's role is to support this growing, sustainable industry and give your food and drink business a **voice where it matters**. We speak regularly with policymakers locally and in Westminster to ensure agri-food is given the focus it deserves, and to address the challenges food and drink companies face today.





## Working for you on the issues

NIFDA works collaboratively with our members and external partners to discuss challenges, share best practice and map out solutions.

In 2019 we established a packaging forum, bringing together representatives from major companies across the food and drink sector in

Northern Ireland to explore ways in which government and industry can **work together** to deliver **practical solutions** on plastics and packaging. Similarly, our environmental forum is exploring how the industry can **enhance sustainability**, reduce its environmental footprint and be part of the solution on UK net zero.

The potential of digital technologies to tackle recruitment shortfalls and improve health and safety standards and **overall productivity is the focus** of NIFDA's Automated Food Manufacture network. Supported by Invest Northern Ireland through its Collaborative Growth Programme, the Automated Food Manufacture network explores how digital technologies can be integrated into production processes to **boost growth** for the industry in Northern Ireland, and has made recommendations for both government and industry to take forward.



## Training

We were the first organisation in Northern Ireland to offer **Grocery Code of Practice Training**.

This is proving to be a valuable resource for our members and training is ongoing at various locations across Northern Ireland.

**For more information on our members' forums, work with partners and training opportunities, please contact [jill@nifda.co.uk](mailto:jill@nifda.co.uk)**

# Membership Costs

We are funded by membership subscription. Membership fees are calculated based on number of employees and start from just **£350 per year**.

Membership gives you access to leading research, strategic thinking, networking events, industry news and expert advice.

Alongside our core membership we also offer **Affiliate membership**.

**To find out more about joining NIFDA, contact Jill Devenney:**

**e** [jill@nifda.co.uk](mailto:jill@nifda.co.uk)

**t** **028 9024 1010**

## What our members say...

“**NIFDA represents producers right across the spectrum**, from the smaller artisans to Northern Ireland’s largest food companies. We all face challenges and issues in our businesses from time to time and I find that NIFDA is the perfect forum to discuss these and seek solutions. The wealth of knowledge and experience within the association is an asset that all members can tap into - advice and guidance which can be invaluable to any small manufacturer.

WORLDWIDE MANUFACTURING  
**morelli**

Arnaldo Morelli, Managing Director

“**NIFDA has become the “strong voice” of our Food and Drink Industry**. The organisation has helped enhance the reputation of our members and it continues to promote the importance of the industry and their products within Northern Ireland and beyond. It plays a pivotal role in our discussions with governments and other organisations.

**Linden**  
FOODS

Gerry Maguire, Managing Director

“

By lobbying on our behalf, NIFDA works tirelessly to improve the Food and Drink industry. Its “Harvesting Tomorrow’s Skills”

programme is a great initiative to promote the Food and Drink sector as an exciting industry for prospective employees to work in, especially after the loss of migrant workers due to the uncertainty of Brexit. I also benefit from the networking opportunities provided by NIFDA and love getting to



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Eileen Hall, Director

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NIFDA provides support to food companies, and valuable expertise, knowledge and information to its members through dedicated seminars and events. Lobbying is vital across issues that are peculiar and potentially threatening to this region. These initiatives, combined with strong business networking opportunities offer real and tangible benefits to companies.



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Ross Thompson, Managing Director

## Membership Benefits

- **Keep up to date** with the latest industry news and developments
- **Lobbying of government** on key issues affecting the industry
- **Network and build relationships** with industry colleagues, hear from expert speakers and share best practice
- **Develop your business** with insights and trends, member discounts on relevant events and training courses
- Access relevant **grants and support** programmes for your business
- Understand the retail environment with **specialised training and reports**
- **Help** with challenging media issues and crisis management

