

# MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
 **FOOD & DRINK**





## ABOUT NIFDA

NIFDA is a voluntary organisation which represents and promotes the interests of Northern Ireland food and drink 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 you in achieving your business goals.

**WE ARE YOUR VOICE, WHERE IT MATTERS.**



## OUR ROLE

We work in partnership with existing providers, associations, government and companies to assist in the sustainable growth and promoting the competitiveness of the industry and our members.

**We aim to promote 'One Voice' across the industry on matters including:**

- Exporting
- Food and Drink Sector Strategy
- Regulation
- Sector Attractiveness and Skills Development
- Advanced Technology and Innovation
- Marketing and Promotion
- Research and Development

## OUR MISSIONS

1. To be the voice of our members, respected and listened to by government and other key stakeholders
2. To develop industry strategies supporting our members' ambitions
3. To facilitate business network creation for members' benefit
4. To be a source of information which is valued by members
5. To collaborate with other key stakeholder bodies

## OUR VALUES



Skilled



United



Professional



Progressive



Original



Responsible



Tenacious

## A FLAVOUR OF WHAT WE DO

NIFDA is actively engaged with government at all levels on key issues affecting our sector, including financial support and access to capital, regulation alignment, trading arrangements, labour and skills shortages, research and development, sector attractiveness and sustainability.

In recent years NIFDA has called on ministers to address the competitive disadvantage Northern Ireland food and drink manufacturers have faced when it comes to capital investment support. Following persistent lobbying, the £46m Agri-Food Investment Initiative was launched by the Department for the Economy and Invest Northern Ireland – potentially unlocking over £200m of combined investment for the industry.

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## PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships allow us to drive collaboration, innovation, share knowledge and strengthen the food and drink industry. By working together with strategic alliances, NIFDA helps create opportunities for growth, resilience and long-term sustainability.



## FORUMS AND SPECIALIST INITIATIVES

NIFDA works collaboratively with our members and external partners to discuss challenges, share best practice and map our solutions. We have launched dedicated Packaging and Drinks Forums and we're in the process of establishing others - head to the Forums page on our website to keep updated. Bringing together representatives from companies across the food and drink sector to explore ways in which government

and industry can work together to provide practical solutions.

We have also introduced a comprehensive platform called the FEED Network (Food Employment, Education and Development) bridging the gap between educational institutions and the dynamic food and drink production and manufacturing sector.



## TRAINING

As part of our commitment to providing access to a variety of training programmes and courses, we are proud to be the first organisation in Northern Ireland to offer Grocery

Code of Practice (GSCOP) Training. This is proving to be a valuable resource for our members, with training ongoing at various locations across Northern Ireland.

## MEMBERSHIP COSTS

We are funded by membership subscription. Annual membership fees are calculated based on number of employees.

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

Alongside our core membership, we also offer Affiliate Memberships.

For more information and membership costs please contact [info@nifda.co.uk](mailto:info@nifda.co.uk)

## 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 schemes for your business.
- Understand the retail environment with specialised training and reports.
- Help with challenging media issues and crisis management.

## MEMBER TESTIMONIES



NIFDA provides great opportunities for us to showcase our distillery and our brands across Northern Ireland and the world. This part of Ireland is fast becoming a global player in the world whiskey industry. NIFDA provides an important forum for us to share our field-to-glass story and award-winning spirits with key stakeholders, customers and story tellers, helping strengthen Echlinville's place at the forefront of Ireland's whiskey renaissance.

### The Echlinville Distillery



NIFDA provides strong lobbying for the industry where individual member voices may go unheard; Nifda shares valuable sector insights providing learnings to members who do not have to utilise limited resource in research with collaborative groups creating a space where members can learn from one another, strengthening the position of all. In a small region, where food and drink are pivotal to the economy, the role of Nifda is essential.

### Johnsons



With an estimated 821 food businesses operating across the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the agri-food sector remains a cornerstone of the local economy. Since joining NIFDA as associate members in March 2020, the Food Heartland has greatly benefited from the organisation's expertise, advocacy, and industry insight. Both Michael Bell and Harry Hamilton have been consistent and valued champions of our work, actively promoting the sustainable growth of Northern Ireland's food and drink sector within the borough. NIFDA continues to be a driving force for innovation and excellence, and we are proud to collaborate with them in advancing growth, diversification, and resilience across our agri-food community."

### Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council



NIFDA has been a champion for Northern Ireland's food and drink sector and has provided our company with expert guidance through Brexit, Covid and the Windsor Framework challenges when we needed it most. The organisation's advocacy on the big issues and ability to bring the industry together gives us confidence our voice is heard at the right levels of government in both NI, GB and the EU.

### Andrew Ingredients



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