

NEW BUYER EVENT SHOWCASES BEST EMERGING FOOD PRODUCERS FROM DUBLIN CITY

Exciting, new producers such as The Chia Collective, King of Kefir and Katerina's Pantry will be representing Dublin City at the new Local Enterprise Office (LEO) 'Meet the Buyer' event which will take place on 'The Street' at the Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) on Thursday 23 May 2019.

Featuring up and coming producers from all over the country, buyers from Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, representing the key supermarket groups and food service sectors, are expected to attend on the day. This will provide SME's with a great opportunity to gain new distribution for their products and to get expert advice on how to succeed.

Dublin is putting its best foot forward with top quality products created locally;

- The **Chia Collective** produces a range of chia-based products which are 100% organic and ethically sourced;
- **Kefir King** makes a range of hand crafted water kefir drinks that are prepared in small batches in the Chocolate factory in the heart of Dublin, and
- **Katerina's Pantry** makes a range of delicious gluten free and vegan savoury biscuits and crackers using Irish ingredients and inspired by her homeland of Crete

The event is trade only, so it is open to buyers from across the food industry such as supermarket groups, food wholesalers, retailers, independent fine food shops, food service, development chefs, restaurants and more. They will be invited to sample a huge range of the finest new Irish produce from up to 90 producers and meet the passionate, talented artisans behind it.

Spearheaded by Eamon Ryan, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Limerick and The Irish Quality Food Awards and hosted by the Limerick Institute of Technology, this event is set to be a key annual business event for the Irish food industry.

“Food producers in the city are producing a range of quality food products and with the support of the Local Enterprise Office through financial assistance, training and development and networking opportunities are achieving fantastic success in developing their markets. The meet the buyer event will assist these producers to develop new markets and outlets for their produce and will enable them to benchmark their products against the best from all over Ireland. I expect this event to grow in the coming years and to become a key annual event for not only producers but also for buyers.” said Audrey Coyne Business Advisor of Dublin City Local Enterprise Office.

Helen Lyons of the Irish Quality Food Awards (IQFAs) adds *“We are delighted to partner with LEOs around the country for this event. It is particularly exciting to showcase the brightest talent and newest produce coming out of the country. In the 7 years that we have been conducting the Irish Quality Food Awards, we have been hugely impressed by the increasing quality of Irish produce, which is now amongst the best in the world. We all want to know where our food is coming from and to be reassured that it is made with integrity, clean, local ingredients and with care. Irish producers really understand this.”*

Buyers who are interested in attending this event should register their interest by emailing helen.lyons@emap.com. The Local Enterprise Offices are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland in partnership with the Local Authorities.

- Ends –

For further information and visuals please contact: Sue James on (085) 733 6981, or sue@suejamespr.com

About the Local Enterprise Offices <https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity/About-Us/Our-Services/>

The Local Enterprise Offices, which are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland, have 31 offices located in local authorities nationwide. The Local Enterprise Offices play a key role in fostering start-ups and business growth locally, offering a range of financial and mentoring supports to new businesses and existing small businesses that want to plan, start or grow. In 2018, Local Enterprise Office client companies created over 3,600 new jobs across the country.

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