**Press Release**

**TINE to develop new cheese plant in Ireland**

**Norwegian dairy TINE joins forces with Dairygold in new cheese venture**

Wednesday, 9th November 2016

Norwegian Agriculture Minister, Mr Jon Georg Dale and the chief executive of TINE, Norway’s largest farmer-owned dairy co-operative Ms Hanne Refsholt today (Wednesday 9th) visited Mogeely in County Cork today to view the site of TINE’s proposed new cheese production facility. The project will see TINE partner with Dairygold to develop a new Jarlsberg® Cheese production facility alongside Dairygold’s existing Speciality Cheese facility in Mogeely, Co Cork.

The new facility will manufacture Jarlsberg, Norway’s best known cheese brand, for export to Europe, the US and Australia. It will also transform the Mogeely site into an international centre of excellence for cheese production in the coming years.

Dairygold has been manufacturing Jarlsberg® Cheese, on behalf of TINE, at its own cheese production facility at Mogeely since 2004. This new dedicated Jarlsberg facility will facilitate a significant increase in production capacity. Production at the new plant will commence in 2020.

To mark the occasion, Norwegian Minister Dale joined with Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Michael Creed to plant an oak tree on the site of the new Jarlsberg® premises as a symbol of future strong cooperation between the two countries and companies.

**Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Michael Creed said:** *“This is a very exciting development demonstrating how world class dairy brands like Norway’s Jarlsberg® Cheese can work with world-class dairy processors, like our own Dairygold to create value and export opportunities for both businesses and both countries.*”

**TINE Chairman, Trond Reierstad said;** *“We have had a long and successful relationship with Dairygold and when TINE needed to develop EU production facilities for our Jarlsberg® exports Mogeely was an obvious choice for that investment. We have ambitious plans to grow our Jarlsberg® exports and this will require high standards of commitment and quality which Dairygold has always demonstrated.”*

**Dairygold Chairman, James Lynch said;** *“TINE’s decision to invest in Mogeely is a testament to the excellent standards of dairy processing here and the high quality of our milk supply. Jarlsberg® is a world-class cheese and we look forward to assisting TINE in growing its international sales. I’m confident that the proposed new Jarlsberg® facility at Mogeely is just the beginning of the next phase of a long and fruitful partnership between two farmer owned businesses.”*

**Ends.**

**About Jarlsberg Cheese**

Jarlsberg® is a mild, semi-soft cow’s milk cheese of Norwegian origin with distinctive, open and irregular ‘eyes’. Jarlsberg® is often marketed as a Swiss cheese because of its characteristics, though it tends to be sweeter and stronger than Emmental. Beneath the yellow-wax rind of Jarlsberg® is a semi-firm yellow interior that is buttery, rich in texture with a mild, nutty flavour.

**About TINE SA**

TINE SA is Norway's largest producer, distributor and exporter of dairy products. It is a cooperative owned by more than 11.000 Norwegian dairy farmers who deliver 1.454 billion litres of cow's milk and about 20 million litres of goat's milk every year. The milk is processed into more than 200 different products which are sold under the TINE trademark. The dairy cooperative is Norway's largest food manufacturer with a total of 5,360 employees and an annual turnover of 22.2 billion NOK (2015).

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