

SEASONAL WORKER PROGRAMME

AGRICULTURAL JOBS FOR THE WOMEN OF PNG

Access reliable workers and provide opportunities

Looking for reliable workers who are permitted to return year after year?

Many Australian agriculture employers are unaware that female workers from Papua New Guinea are reliable workers who are eligible for the Government's Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP).

What is the SWP?

An initiative of the Department of Employment, the SWP allows unskilled workers from 9 Pacific countries and Timor-Leste to work in Australia under a special visa category for up to six months in agriculture/horticulture, and return each year.

Benefits for employers

- No need to source and train a new workforce each year
- Access to willing and physically robust workers who are used to manual labour and appreciate the opportunities they're given
- Help eliminate discrimination against women in private sector organisations or supply chains

Benefits for workers

- Contributes to the economic development of PNG
- Supports the independence and earning capacity of PNG women
- The chance to learn relevant business and vocational skills
- Assists women to engage in global value chains
- Helps women access resources and innovations to improve agricultural productivity and income.

Why PNG women?

Some employers are unaware that many women in PNG have agriculture experience and skills that transfer to positions in Australia. Female workers produce 80% of PNG's food and perform 60-70% of the work associated with food production.

A review of women's roles in coffee and vegetable production programs in the Highlands of PNG showed that women pay more attention to the details learned during training than men.

PNG women farmers, particularly those from the Highlands, have extensive experience in producing and marketing temperate and subtropical horticultural crops. In particular, crucifers (mainly broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower), tomatoes, carrots, lettuce sweetcorn, beans, bok choy, aubergine, bananas, pineapple, papaya, coffee and tea.

PNG women are also used to physical agricultural work in different terrains and possess a very strong work ethic. They channel almost all earnings and surplus cash to improving family circumstances.

Benefits beyond a job well done

When you hire women from PNG, you're doing more than just giving someone a job. You're empowering a disenfranchised demographic with valuable skills and experience.

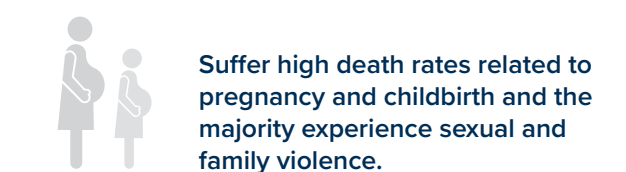
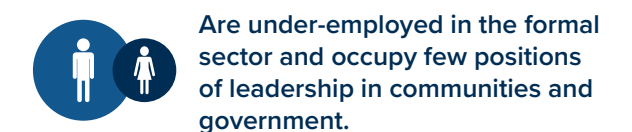
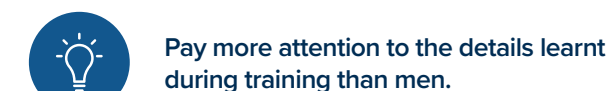
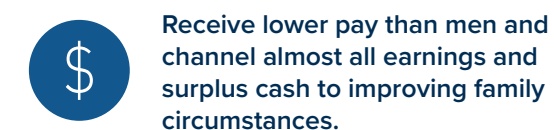
Agri Labour Australia is working with clients to offer the women of PNG more diverse work opportunities. In their own country, PNG women are under-employed in the formal sector, receive lower pay and occupy few positions of leadership in communities and in government.



Supporting the SWP in this way gives women and girls the opportunity to earn a living and develop marketable skills in a safe and secure environment – away from the challenges they face in PNG.

Women in PNG are often involved in transporting and marketing fresh produce, but face risks associated with long travel distances and are often confined to using village markets.

Women of PNG





GET ON BOARD

From initial request to commencement of work, the turnaround time for recruiting SWP workers is approximately 8 weeks.

Client Responsibilities

As a SWP-approved employer, Agri Labour Australia may enlist your help to find suitable accommodation for the workers and provide us with details (including photographs) of the lodgings for Department of Employment's assessment and approval.

We may also ask you to provide details and contact information for nearby community facilities, including medical centres, shops and churches.

It is the host employer's responsibility to inform Agri Labour Australia of any concerns regarding a Seasonal Worker's welfare – or if you believe they need additional support or guidance.

Our Responsibilities

As a compliant SWP sponsor, Agri Labour Australia is responsible for organising the following:

- ✓ Booking and paying full return flights, and calculating deductions from workers pay.
- ✓ Transfers (arranging transport for the seasonal workers from their arrival city to their workplace, and from their workplace to their departure city when it's time for them to return home).
- ✓ Briefing on arrival (employee information, job details and a description of relevant workplace laws, as well as information about where they'll be working and available facilities).
- ✓ Private health insurance (in accordance with visa conditions).
- ✓ Accommodation (in collaboration with host employer).
- ✓ Facilities (in collaboration with host employer). Together we must ensure that seasonal workers have access to essential facilities (i.e. shops and medical care) and some recreational facilities.
- ✓ Pastoral care (24-hour contact).
- ✓ Communicating with Government.

Learn more about the process or request workers

P: 1300 247 823

W: www.agrilabour.com.au

