



Papua New Guinean seasonal workers arrive in Australia

By Online Editor

11:18 am GMT+12, 24/05/2011, Australia



PNG seasonal workers will involve in pruning at Robinvale farm in Melbourne
The first group of Papua New Guinean workers to participate in the Australian Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme have flown to Australia.

The nine men will work on farms in the Victorian town of Robinvale, north west of Melbourne.

Papua New Guinea's Seasonal Worker Task Force Chairman, Alexis Maino, says the men will spend up to four months pruning almonds.

He said a rigorous selection process was used to choose the seasonal workers.

“We are following the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding that we have signed with Australia last year,” Maino said.

“And we have established what we call a 'work-ready pool' and normally the request is by farmers in Australia.”

The pilot scheme is intended to provide employment opportunities to workers from participating countries Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tonga.

It is expected to expire by mid-2012 but the Australian government says it is considering whether to make it a permanent program.

SOURCE: RADIO AUSTRALIA/PACNEWS