

Kalkot Namaka

"Cyclone Pam and the devastation that it caused means that I have lost everything that I gained over the past few years, including my home and all my possessions. Working this year is even more important than ever for me to be able to recover from the disaster."

Current position in the kiwifruit industry –

Team Leader for Ni-Vanuatu RSE workers

Who do you work for?

Pukemapu Services Limited

What does your role involve?

I assist with recruitment and in liaising and communicating with my employer and supervising a gang of 10 workers on the job.

What was your career path?

I first came to work in the New Zealand kiwifruit industry as part of the Recognised Seasonal Employer programme in 2011. I worked as a packhouse worker and pruner. By 2013 I became a group leader which I continue to do now for the 2015 harvest and vine maintenance period.

What do you like about working within the kiwifruit industry?

It gives me an opportunity to make life better for my family back home in Vanuatu and while I am here I learn lots of new life and business skills that I can put into use back home. This includes skills in horticulture, leadership, health and safety, money management. Through the Vakameasina course run by Fruition Horticulture, I have also learned computer skills, numeracy and literacy together with home maintenance skills.



Team Leader

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Kiwifruit contains antioxidants, which are necessary for whole body health