

## What type of health screening is provided for workers prior to travelling to Canada?

To be able to engage in the Seasonal Agricultural Program all workers must go through a medical exam by a health provider approved by Canadian Government health authorities.

## I am interested in becoming a partner in the Mexico Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program. Where do I start?

Start by reviewing the Program Fact Sheet on Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's website:

[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign\\_workers/ei\\_tfw/sawp\\_tfw.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/ei_tfw/sawp_tfw.shtml)

You should also contact Service Canada at 1-866-431-7297. Their Agricultural Foreign Temporary Workers Office will answer any questions you may have about your labour needs and the steps required to submit a request for seasonal workers.

In some provinces assistance in hiring seasonal workers is provided by non-profit organizations:

- Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (FARMS) in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island;
- Fondation des entreprises en recrutement de la main-d'oeuvre agricole étrangère (FERME French only) in Québec and New Brunswick; and
- Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) under BCAC umbrella in British Columbia.

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## MEXICO'S SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PROGRAM (SAWP)



## DEAR EMPLOYER,

Mexico's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) and Canada's Agricultural Industry have successfully partnered since 1974.

For 35 years the partnership created by Mexico's workers and employers from Canada's agricultural industry has proven to be effective in overcoming market challenges. The Mexico SAW Program creates opportunities for sustainable business development.

Participating workers have experience working in food and ornamental agriculture as well as animal husbandry and share with their Canadian employers a commitment to ethical work practices.

### QUICK FACTS

- 3 out of 4 workers from Mexico return to the same Canadian employer the following year.
- Mexico's seasonal workers return with the same employer for 8 to 10 consecutive seasons.
- There are no recruiting or finder's fees to participate in the Program for either employers or workers.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FAQs

### How do workers become eligible for this program?

Through its more than 150 offices, Mexico's Ministry of Labour recruits the workers from a pool of individuals who wish to apply to be selected as a seasonal agricultural worker.

### What level of experience does a seasonal worker have?

Initial experience is proven before Mexico's Ministry of Labour, upon entering the Program. The majority have experience in planting and harvesting in both greenhouse and open field operations. Workers from Mexico also have experience in apiary farms and animal husbandry. In addition, the experience they accumulate during their initial stay is recognized.

### Why are Mexican workers interested in participating in the program?

It is an opportunity to supplement their household income and learn additional techniques applicable to their own production in Mexico.

### Who gets to decide if a worker returns to the same employer?

A worker will return to the same farm when employer and worker coincide that the first time they partnered was satisfactory to both.



At the end of every season, the employer may request that the worker come back the following year. At the same time, workers may agree to return based on whether they found that housing and working conditions were satisfactory.