



IOM • OIM

INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION

THE UN MIGRATION AGENCY



Facilitating Labour Migration of Thai Agricultural Workers

IOM Thailand has supported Government-to-Government (G-to-G) cooperation in the deployment of Thai workers to work overseas in the agricultural sector in Israel since 2011. The project covers the entire flow of recruitment and deployment of Thai workers to work in Israel, from advertisement, collection of applications, receiving recruitment orders from Israel, screening and selection of workers, pre-departure arrangement, deployment and post-arrival follow-ups in accordance with the legislation and regulations in Thailand and Israel. Safe migration mechanisms, such as pre-departure orientation sessions and a telephone hotline, have also been incorporated to ensure that workers are aware of their rights and obligations in Israel and are able to report grievances.

The project has been successful in creating an effective, efficient and well-organized system for the deployment of Thai workers to work in the agricultural sector abroad. Since 2011, 28,463 workers have been contracted through the Thai-Israeli Cooperation (TIC) project since it began.

Satisfaction rates are high among beneficiaries. Yearly evaluations indicate consistent results with over 95% of respondents believing the project, and the information provided to them about it, to be excellent or good.

Project Objective: To eliminate recruitment malpractices and introduce a transparent process ensuring legal, fair and well-informed labour migration options for Thai nationals.

Key IOM Responsibilities :

- **Recruitment and Selection:** Advertise job opportunities through announcements, collect and process applications, conduct interviews with applicants together with the Royal Thai Government, facilitate health checks and arrange briefings.
- **Pre-departure Assistance:** Provide standardized employment contracts and Letters of Commitment in accordance with Thai and Israeli labour standards, assist participants in the visa process, and conduct pre-departure orientations.
- **Deployment Assistance:** Arrange flight bookings and assist workers at the airport.
- **Post-departure Assistance:** Coordinate with Israeli parties in arranging airport reception and transportation to place of work, and operate hotline in Thai to provide information and receive complaints from Thai workers employed in the agricultural sector of Israel under TIC project.

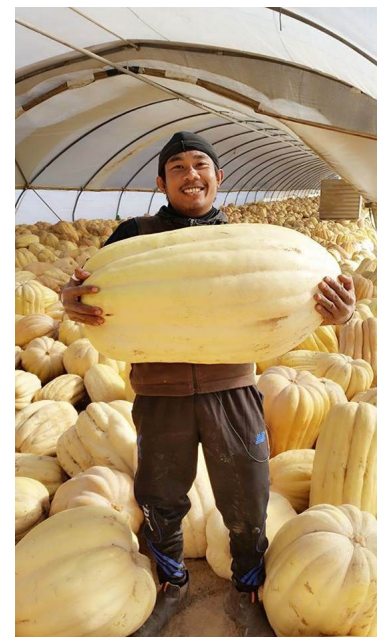
Key Facts

Project Duration: 2011 – Present

Countries Covered: Thailand and Israel

Project Partners: Government of Thailand (Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour); Government of Israel (Population, Immigration and Borders Authority); Center for International Migration and Integration

Target Beneficiaries: Thai nationals in the agriculture sector in Israel; Israeli employers in the agriculture sector



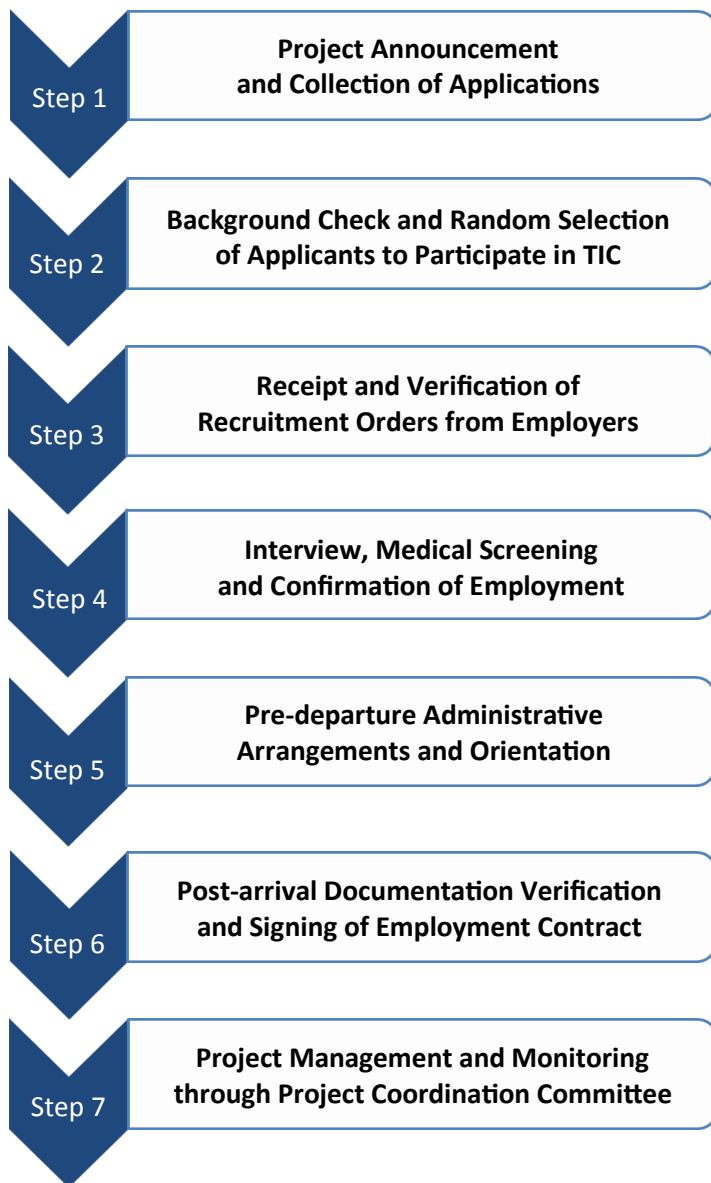
A Thai worker sorts freshly harvested pumpkins on a farm in Israel. Photo: IOM

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Thailand

18th Floor Rajanakarn Building, 3 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 343 9300 | Fax: +66 2 343 9399 | Web: <http://thailand.iom.int/> | E-mail: iomthailand@iom.int

A 7-step process has been jointly developed and managed by the Ministry of Labour of Thailand and IOM to ensure the successful implementation of the TIC project with partners.



Reducing Migration Costs

The project has contributed towards a significant decrease in the cost of service fees for the workers from close to USD 10,000 prior to the start of the TIC project to around USD 2,400, further serving to prevent the phenomenon of illegal recruitment fees and contributing to the elimination of exploitation and human trafficking.

Promoting Skills Development

To better prepare workers for the work to be undertaken in Israel, a 7-day agricultural training course is offered to workers being deployed. The training constitutes a critical step in serving to enhance their skillset and readiness to work in Israel. Approximately 2,400 beneficiaries have participated in the course to date.

Protecting Labour Rights

IOM distributes informational booklets and conducts pre-departure orientation sessions to ensure Thai workers are fully aware of their rights and obligations in Israel.

A telephone hotline in Thai is provided through a partnership with the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI). Complaints are referred to the Population, Immigration and Borders Authority (PIBA) and addressed by governmental enforcement bodies.

In addition to this, field monitoring visits are also undertaken to assess working and living conditions and provide recommendations for improvement.

רשות האוכלוסין וההגירה



International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Thailand

18th Floor Rajanakarn Building, 3 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn, Bangkok 10120 Thailand

Tel: +66 2 343 9300 | Fax: +66 2 343 9399 | Web: <http://thailand.iom.int/> | E-mail: iomthailand@iom.int