

## Laboratory Quality Control Supervisor

Sapeta is from Kiribati, a small island nation in the central Pacific Ocean, and is now a long-time member of the Pinpoint team and the wider kiwifruit industry.

Sapeta's story begins with EastPack in 2011, when she began working in the packhouses. During those first few years Sapeta dived into everything New Zealand kiwifruit and continued to develop more interest in the industry. Her natural ability with people and managerial skills made her the perfect candidate when a role opened up in the lab with Pinpoint, and Sapeta now works as a supervisor and quality controller in the laboratory.

As a key member of the quality control (QC) team, Sapeta regularly examines the operational processes and techniques to ensure they are consistently up to standard. Sapeta appreciates the diversity of her role, and she's the first to admit that there's more to the kiwifruit industry than meets the eye.



*"I like it because it's a lot of things and ideas, and it's something different."*

EastPack is not only one of the leading producers of kiwifruit in the Bay of Plenty region, they are the parent company for Pinpoint Hort Lab services. Together they are known for career and growth opportunities for everyone who joins the team. Behind the scenes Pinpoint have a dedicated team of scientists, technicians, and support staff work tirelessly to ensure that the company's kiwifruit are of the highest quality. This team is led by a group of experienced and knowledgeable supervisors, like Sapeta, who monitor the kiwifruit production.

This process includes not only testing the fruit, but also counting the flowers in the orchard for reliable produce predictions and quality control. As a member of the laboratory team, Sapeta is responsible for supervising a range of quality tests on the kiwifruit, to ensure they meet the high standards set by the industry.

When they are not hard at work, she and her colleagues enjoy learning about each other's different cultures and traditions. Sapeta says that, *"For me, I like it because I meet a lot of different people from a lot of different cultures."*

For over 10 years we have watched Sapeta take great pride in her work, ensuring that her team is working in sync, and that every batch of kiwifruit produced is up to par. Beyond her technical skills, she is known for having a friendly and approachable demeanour, and she is always keen to help her coworkers. Her positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done have truly made her an invaluable asset to the team. Understandably, Sapeta's dedication to her work and her commitment to quality have not gone unnoticed. When asked about her job, Sapeta said, *"It's nice because the boss is very friendly to the staff, he really works with us with teamwork."*



Sapeta is an integral member of the team at Pinpoint and is a shining example of dedication, hard work, and commitment to quality. We love to have her on our team and look forward to many more years of collaboration and working together!