



What is the future of avocado farming in Kenya?

A short review

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SUMMARY

Avocado farming in Kenya is mainly practiced by small-scale holders for subsistence and income from local and markets. The fruit is popular globally for nutrition and the increasing importance as a source of income for smallholder farmers. The establishment of avocado orchards also increases tree cover, which contributes to environmental conservation. The main varieties grown in Kenya are Hass and Fuerte, with Hass dominating in the export market, especially to the EU. Avocado production from Kenya has increased massively in recent years, surpassing 320,000 tonnes annually. It is estimated that up to 30% of this produce is exported, earning valuable income to thousands of small-scale producers. Kenyan avocado production is projected to reach nearly 450,000 metric tonnes by 2026, representing annual growth of 3.5 per cent. This paper reviews issues of importance as the country moves to increase production.
