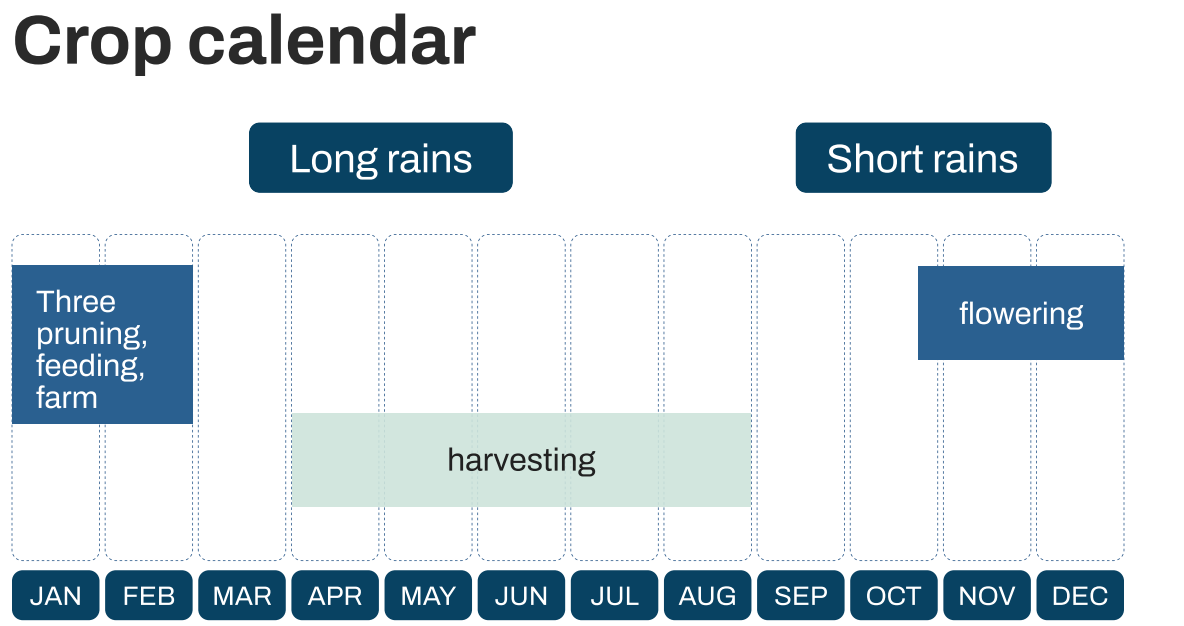
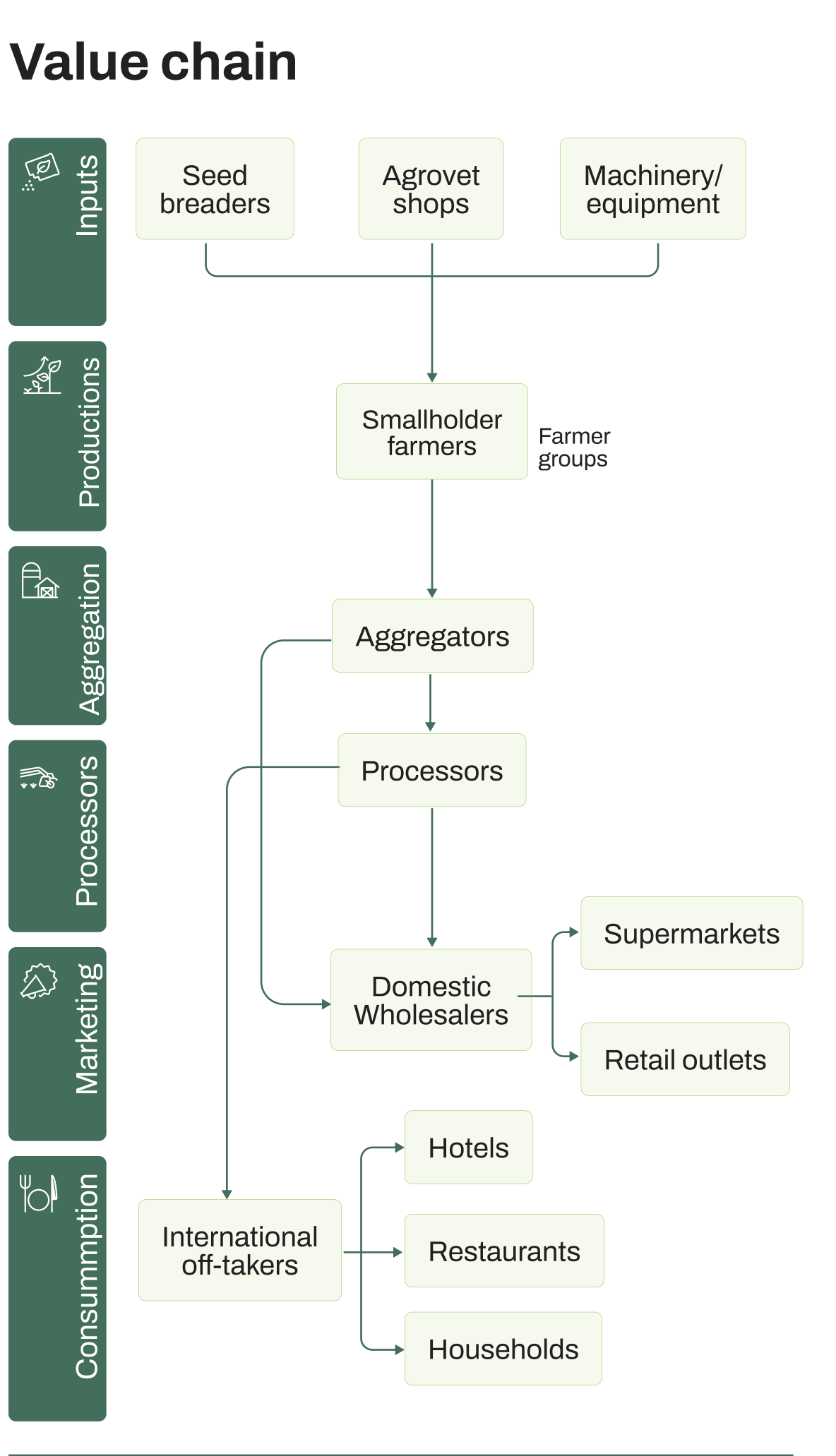
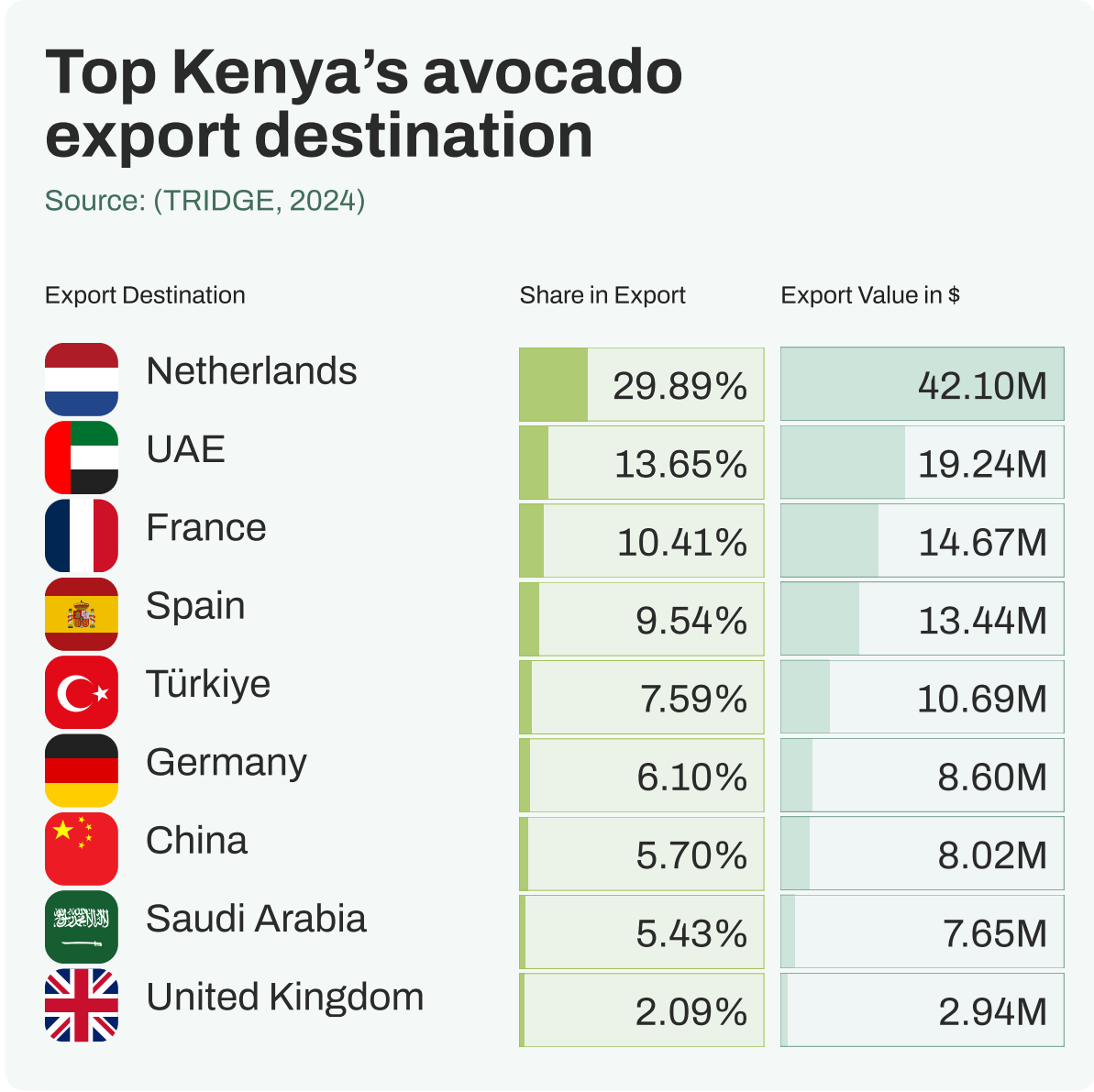
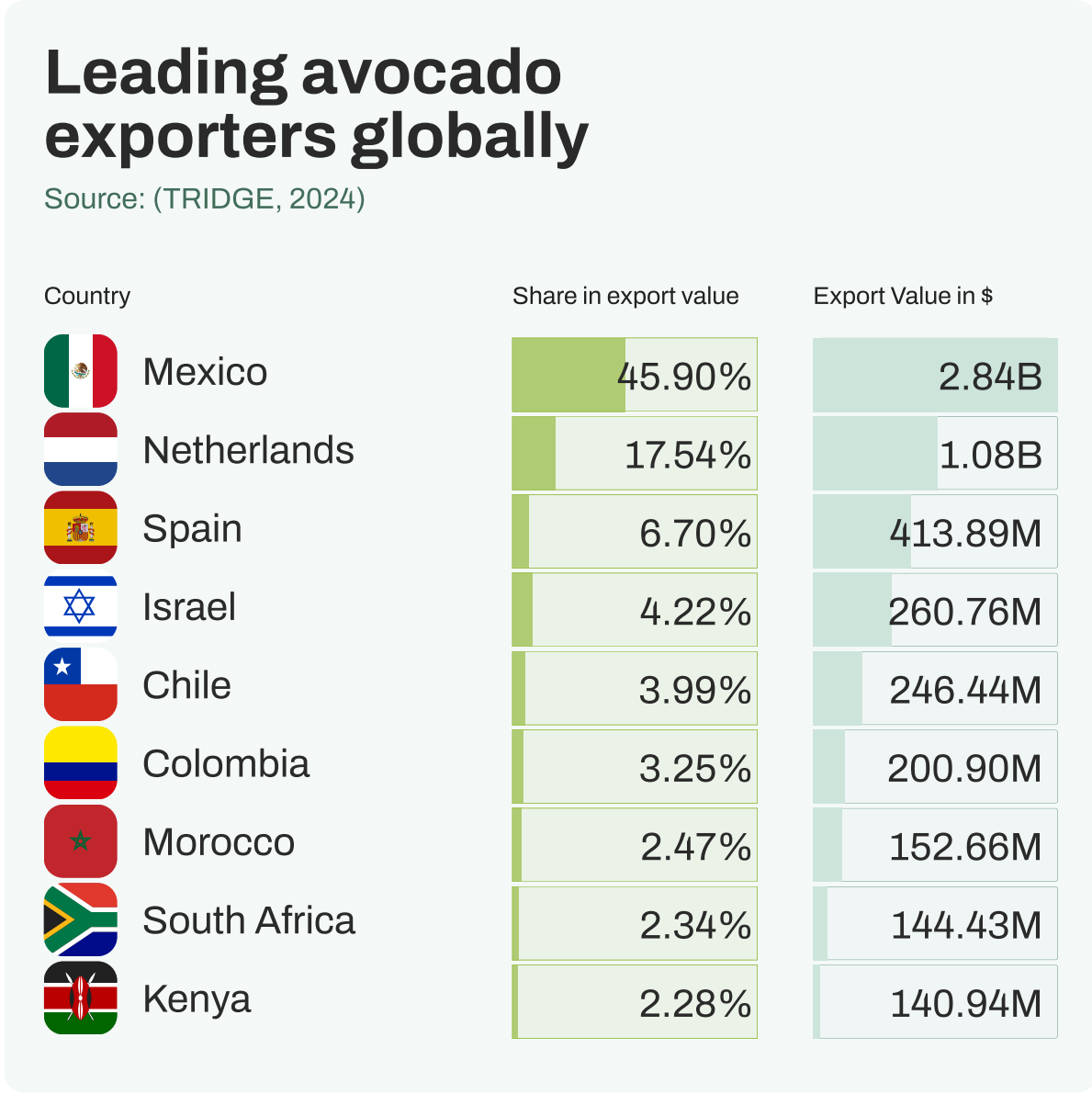
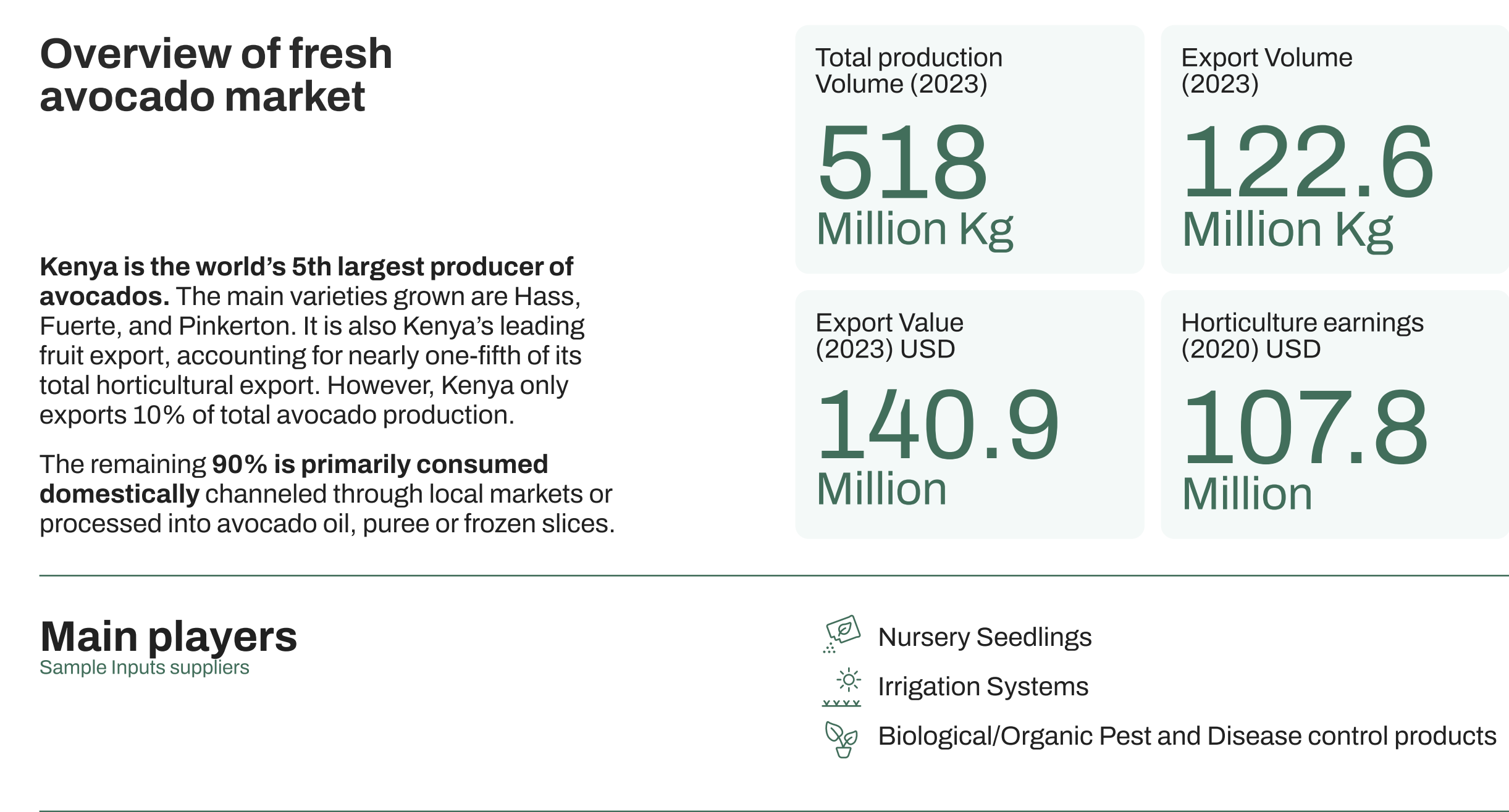
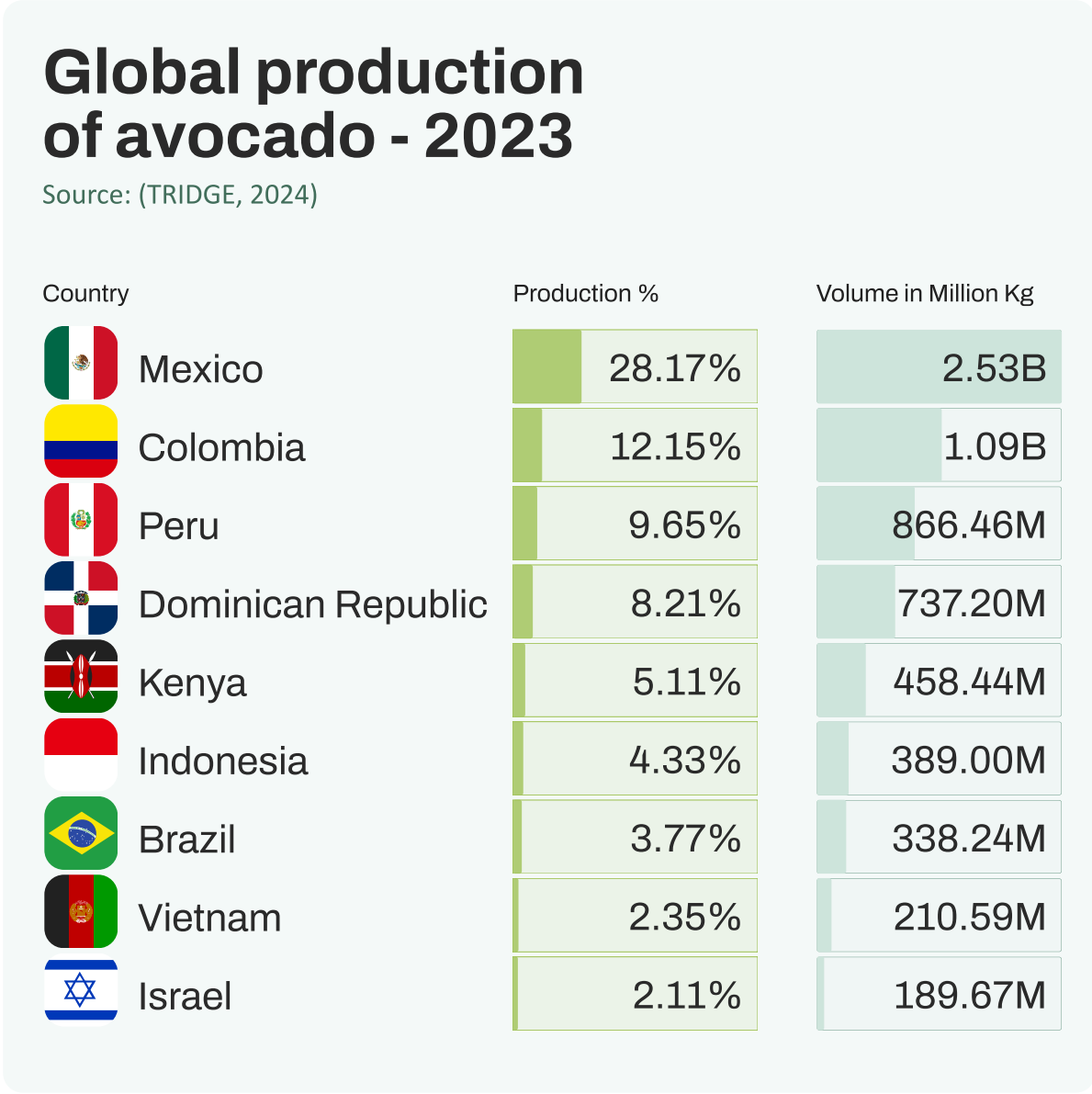




Producers

85%
smallholder farmers

15%
commercial farmers



Approximately 85% of avocado production in Kenya is attributed to smallholder farmers, producing in less than 2 acres of land. The remaining 15% is produced by commercial farmers holding between 25- and-124-acres plantations.

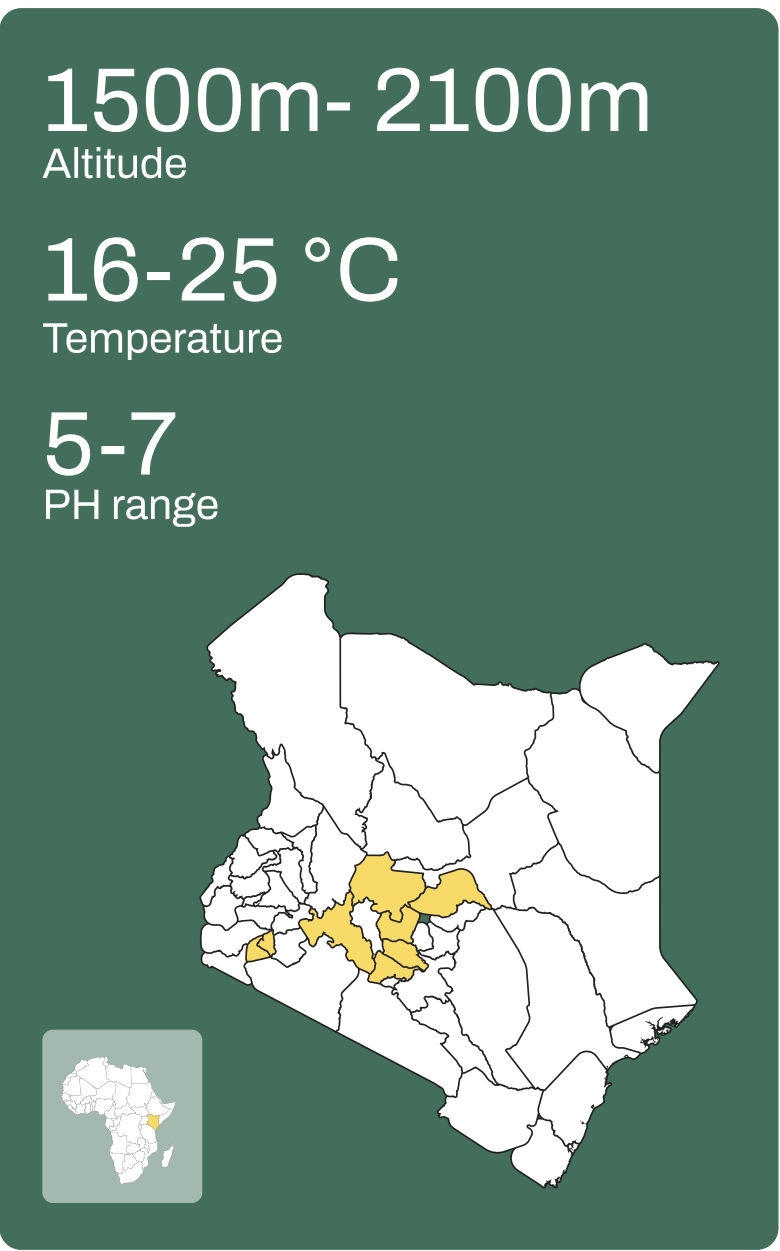
Aggregators

There are formal and informal aggregators that either export or work with exporters. Stakeholders are working towards formalization and professionalization of aggregation due to traceability reasons in the export market.

Sustainability financing

VC Segment	Green Finance Requirements
Processor	- Water recycling facilities - Eco-friendly packaging - Solar powered cold storage facilities - Environmentally friendly packaging - Pomace formulation to animal feeds.
Aggregate	Efficient cold chain system
Producer	- Drip irrigation - Organic waste management and recycling - Affordable transport
Input	Organic Fertilizer

Production areas



Avocado farming in Kenya does well in higher altitudes of between **1500m to 2100m with minimum rainfall of 1000mm**. The fruit requires an optimum temperature of **16-24 degrees Celsius**.

Soils that are deep, with good water holding capacity, well drained and with a **pH ranging from 5-7** are best for avocado production.

The main avocado growing counties where the production is dominated by smallholder farmers are: **Murang’a, Kiambu, Nakuru, Kisii, Nyamira, Meru, Nyeri, Laikipia**.

Other regions where avocado production is taking place include: - Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans Nzoia, Bungoma and Siaya Counties.

Deforestation risk

In the eight counties where avocados are cultivated, three counties are classified as high- risk deforestation counties and the remaining counties ranging from medium to low risk.

This distribution highlights the environmental challenges associated with avocado farming in these regions, emphasizing the **need for sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate deforestation risks**.



Challenges and opportunities

Challenges

- Avocado is water thirsty plant mainly at it establishment stage.
- **Premature harvesting** results to export bans and low-quality products.
- Avocado farmers struggle with **limited access to capital and liquidity** which makes it difficult for them to invest in necessary inputs.
- There is a significant **gap in the availability and adoption of modern agricultural technologies among avocado farmers**. This includes access to advanced farming equipment, efficient irrigation systems and digital tools for farm management.
- **The infrastructure in many avocado growing regions is underdeveloped**. Poor road networks and inadequate transportation facilities hinder the efficient movement of produce from farm to market.
- Avocado farmers face challenges from various **pests and diseases that can significantly impact crop yield and quality**. Common issues include attacks from pests like fruit flies and diseases such as rot root and anthracnose. Effective pest and disease management practices are often lacking.
- **Poor harvesting methods**.

Opportunities

- **Increased incomes for the farmers** due to the increasing demand for avocados as well as the growth of the export market.
- **Improved seedling and support** by the Kenyan Government.
- **Increased contract farming** between smallholder farmers and exporters.
- **Export demand** is strong with new markets opening soon in China and India.
- Production window complements South America (biggest producer in the world) making it competitive in the world market.
- **Favorable climate** for avocado production in the major avocado growing regions in the country.
- **Vibrant private sectors** stakeholders in the sector.

eco.business fund

The **eco.business Fund** aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to the **conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, and climate change mitigation and adaptation**. By financing business practices that preserve nature and promote biodiversity, the fund seeks investments that generate both **environmental and economic returns**. The fund primarily offers loans to qualified financial institutions, which in turn lend to eligible borrowers. These borrowers include holders of recognized certifications as well as those implementing changes that **support conservation and biodiversity**. The fund supports sustainable operations in the **agriculture, fisheries (including aquaculture), forestry, and tourism sectors**.

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