



2016

## Country Profile: Tanzania

Producer country profile produced by *CIRAD, The Centre De Cooperation International En Recherche Agronomique Pour Le Développement*.

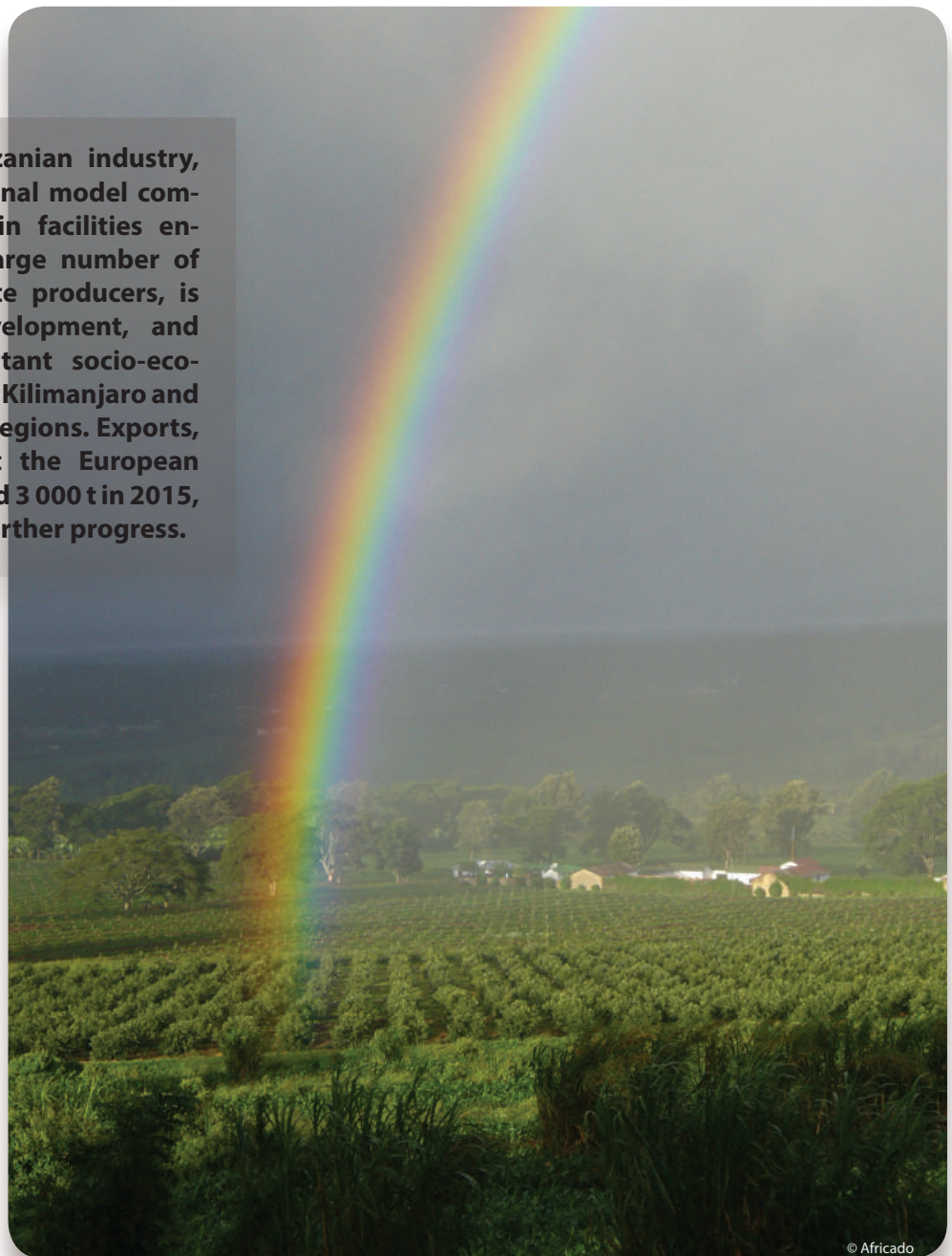


Producer country file

## Tanzanian avocado

by Eric Imbert

The young Tanzanian industry, built on an original model comprising two main facilities encompassing a large number of small subsistence producers, is still under development, and plays an important socio-economic role in the Kilimanjaro and Mount Rungwe regions. Exports, aimed solely at the European market, exceeded 3 000 t in 2015, and are set for further progress.



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## Avocado — Tanzania

### Production

Industrial Hass cultivation is a very recent development (just over a decade). It operates mainly based on two large production facilities (each 100 to 150 ha) which have brought together medium-sized producers and above all small subsistence farmers, to whom they provide technical and commercial assistance. In both cases, the orchards are situated in high-altitude zones (> 1 000 m), where the country's tropical climate is mitigated. The volcanic soils are rich, deep, well-drained and with a decent rainfall level. The sanitary pressure on these young orchards is practically zero. Hass surfaces areas presently cover approximately 1 300 ha, with production totalling approximately 4 000 to 5 000 t. The industry plays an important socio-economic role for a very significant part of the population of the regions concerned. Volumes are set to make considerable progress in the coming years, with the young orchards planted in recent years reaching their prime, and steadily increasing surface areas.



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### Production calendar

Production is concentrated into two periods. The bulk of volumes are harvested from mid-May to late September, with the southern production centre slightly earlier than the northern one. Some volumes are also produced from December to February, depending on the regions. The new plantations already completed or being set up should help expand the marketing calendar over the coming years (until October in the south, and from March to October in the north).

Avocado — Tanzania — Production calendar										
	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
North										
South										

## Avocado — Tanzania

### Location

The historic production centre, situated in the Southern Highlands at the foot of Mount Rungwe (south-west of the country), remains the leader in terms of surface area. It is there that Rob Clowes set up the country's first commercial Hass plantations in 2007, creating the Rungwe Avocado Company. Still under development, the cultivation area covers approximately 900 ha (the actual plantations + outgrowers), at altitudes ranging between 1 000 and 2 200 m (rainfall 1 200 to 2 000 mm/year). The second main production zone can be found in the very north, in the Kilimanjaro region, home to the country's other big player,

Africado. This more recently developed cultivation area extends over approximately 400 ha (the actual plantations + outgrowers); the trees of associated small producers have not yet entered production. The plantations were set up at altitudes ranging from 1 100 to 1 900 m, with an annual rainfall of around 800 to 1 200 mm. Surface areas are also on the up in this part of the country, especially in zones enabling earlier production. Note that Hass plantations are being set up in a new cultivation zone, to the east of the Southern Highlands (Njombe and Iringa regions, around Mafinga/Iringa).



## Avocado — Tanzania

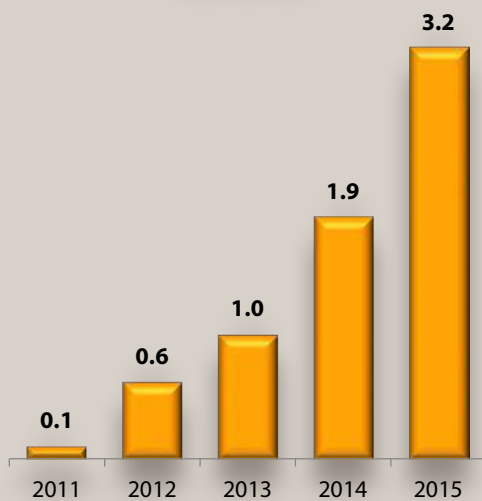


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### Exports

Exports, which were around 1 000 t in 2013, made rapid progress to exceed 3 000 t in 2015. The plantations in place should be able to beat the 10 000-t mark in around 2020. The volumes are aimed entirely at the European market. Rungwe and Africado, which both have a modern packing station, process their own production and that of their associated producers, for whom they also handle the marketing. All exported produce is certified, with the two main players in the sector supporting a growing number of small producers in their certification applications.

**Hass avocado - Tanzania - Exports**  
(000 tonnes)



Sources: Eurostat, professional sources



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### Logistics

The fruits are loaded into refrigerated containers. The northern produce is exported by sea-freight via the port of Mombasa, which is less than 400 km away, thanks to the recent opening of a new road link. The southern produce goes via the same port, or via Dar es Salaam.

**Avocado — Tanzania — Main links with Europe**

Departure port	Arrival port	Voyage time*	Shipping company**	Observations
Mombasa (Kenya)	Barcelona, Marseilles, Genoa	18-25 days	Messina	5 departures/2 months
	Felixstowe, Zeebrugge, Rotterdam	28-36 days	Maersk	Weekly departure 1 transhipment in Salalah

\* average duration according to VGB 2013 study/ \*\* other companies provide services, but the voyage times are longer