

Westfalia Fruit International announced today an investment by Boston-based Harvard Management Company (HMC), which enables the multinational to expand its prominence in global avocado supply.

The acquisition by HMC of a minority stake in South Africa-headquartered [Westfalia Fruit](#) gives the fruit specialist capital for funding key initiatives while enabling collaboration with HMC's accomplished team of natural resource investors.

"Westfalia is a global leader in the avocado market with a commitment to environmentally sustainable management," says Colin Butterfield, HMC's managing director of natural resources.

"Its vertically integrated operations are uniquely positioned to benefit from the growth in global avocado consumption and make it a great fit for our portfolio. We are excited to have the opportunity to join them in this latest stage of their growth."

Westfalia Fruit's future capital investments in global production and distribution are aimed at meeting the growing market demand for avocados and expanding the current availability of fruit.

Alk Brand, the newly-appointed CEO of Westfalia Fruit, says: "The decision to partner with HMC was an easy one, given our similar values and commitment to sustainable business principles.

"This transaction positions us well for pursuing strategic objectives within the global Group and significantly contributes towards our vision of being a leader in the global avocado industry."

Established over 70 years ago, the Westfalia Fruit Group supplies fresh produce and related value-added products to international markets. An integrated supply chain incorporating all activities 'from pip to plate' enables it to market quality fruit from across the globe throughout the year.