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Volume estimation models for tropical fruit
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Abstract:	<p>Avocado (<i>Persea americana</i> Mill.) is a tropical tree, of the Lauraceae family, genus <i>Persea</i>. It is an important horticultural crop and proved to be a very profitable commercial crop for both local consumption and export. The physical characteristic of fruits are an important factor to determine the quality of fruit produced. On the other hand, estimation of fruit volume is time-consuming and impractical under field conditions. Thus, this study was conducted to devise cultivar-specific and generalized allometric models to analytically determine the non-destructive avocado fruit volume of five widely distributed avocado varieties. A significant relationship ($P \leq 0.01$) was found between Fruit diameter, length, and volume of each cultivar. Our best models (VM2 – for cultivar specific, and VM7-generalized model) has passed all the rigorous cross-validation and performance statistics tests and explained 94%, 92%, 87%, 93%, 94% and 93% of the variations in fruit volume of Ettinger, Fuerte, Hass, Nabal, Reed30, and Multiple cultivars, respectively. Our finding revealed that in the situations where measurements of volume would be inconvenient, or time consuming, a reliable volume and yield estimation can be obtained using site- and cultivar-specific allometric equations. Allometric models could also play a significant role in improving data availability on avocado fruit physical appearance which is critical to assess the quality and taste of fresh product influencing the purchase decision of customers. Moreover, such information can also be used as a ripeness index to predict optimum harvest time important for planned marketing. More importantly, the models might assist horticulturists, agronomists, and physiologists to conduct further study on avocado production and productivity through agroforestry landuse system across Ethiopia</p>
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1 Volume estimation models for tropical fruit

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15

16 Abstract

17 Avocado (*Persea americana* Mill.) is a tropical tree, of the Lauraceae family, genus *Persea*. It is
18 an important horticultural crop and proved to be a very profitable commercial crop for both local
19 consumption and export. The physical characteristic of fruits are an important factor to determine
20 the quality of fruit produced. On the other hand, estimation of fruit volume is time-consuming
21 and impractical under field conditions. Thus, this study was conducted to devise cultivar-specific
22 and generalized allometric models to analytically determine the non-destructive avocado fruit
23 volume of five wildy distributed avocado verities. A significant relationship ($P \leq 0.01$) was

24 found between Fruit diameter, length, and volume of each cultivar. Our best models (VM2 – for
25 cultivar specific, and VM7-generalized model) has passed all the rigorous cross-validation and
26 performance statistics tests and explained 94%, 92%, 87%, 93%, 94% and 93% of the variations
27 in fruit volume of Ettinger, Fuerte, Hass, Nabal, Reed30, and Multiple cultivars, respectively.
28 Our finding revealed that in the situations where measurements of volume would be
29 inconvenient, or time consuming, a reliable volume and yield estimation can be obtained using
30 site- and cultivar-specific allometric equations. Allometric models could also play a significant
31 role in improving data availability on avocado fruit physical appearance which is critical to
32 assess the quality and taste of fresh product influencing the purchase decision of customers.
33 Moreover, such information can also be used as a ripeness index to predict optimum harvest time
34 important for planned marketing. More importantly, the models might assist horticulturists,
35 agronomists, and physiologists to conduct further study on avocado production and productivity
36 through agroforestry landuse system across Ethiopia.

37 **Key words:** Agroforestry, Avocado, Fruit, Volume Models, Ethiopia
38

39 **1. Introduction**

40 Avocados are an evergreen subtropical species and the most economically important species of the
41 Lauraceae family. It is grown commercially in America, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania. In 2019, the
42 estimated world's total avocado production was about 7.2 million tonnes ~~and covering the total production~~
43 ~~areas of~~ 726, 660 hectares (1). The major avocado growing countries are Mexico, USA, Colombia,
44 Indonesia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Kenya and South Africa (1). In Africa, Kenya and South Africa
45 are leading in the production and export of avocado to the global market (2). In Ethiopia, it was first
46 introduced around 1938 in the eastern and southern parts of the country and it is now being widely

47 distributed throughout the country, mainly used for household consumption and local market (3–5).

48 Currently, Ethiopia is one of the top five avocado producing country in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and the

49 20th in the world (1).

50 Avocado is recognized ~~that besides being~~ a source of energy and vitamins, it also provides specific non-

51 nutritive physiological benefits that may enhance health (6), thus, it can be considered as a "functional food"

52 (7). It is one of the top important commercial crop to be traded at a global scale (8,9), and becoming one of

53 the most promising fruit crops for both food and nutrition security and earning considerable amount of

54 financial return from export and domestic market (10–12). Due to government initiatives in promoting

55 investment in horticulture sector as well as combating climate change through land diversification and

56 agroforestry practices, the plantation and the production of avocado is considerably increasing over the last

57 few years across different parts of Ethiopia. Despite the expansion of avocado tree plantation, the physical

58 characteristic of avocado fruits and productivity of small scall avocado farming are not well studied in

59 Ethiopia. On the other hand, information of fruit size are critical factors to determine the quality of the

60 avocados and has been used to describe the fruit's growth curve, predict yield, and conduct physiological

61 studies (13). More importantly, on-tree and non-destructive volume estimates can be used as a ripeness

62 index to predict maturity and optimum harvest time, and can ~~inform~~ packing material (tray insert)

63 purchasing and marketing arrangements (14). For physiological studies, measurement of the size of

64 individual fruit over time allows to monitor fruit expansion rate and its response to physiological disorders

65 and agronomic conditions (14,15). Moreover, in the context of postharvest operations, fruit size

66 determination is important for several reasons, such as to determine packing material, fruit classified into

67 batches of uniform size, assign market and price differentials of large and small produce, to match consumer

68 preferences (16). Thus, the availability of reliable fruit size information is critical in horticultural crop

69 processing and marketing. Fruit volume is also a good measure of size, but direct measurement of fruit

70 volume using water displacement approach is ~~expensive and~~ time-consuming as well as impractical under
71 field conditions. On the other hand, length and width measurements of avocado fruit are quick and easy in
72 the field or indoors and can be used to numerically represent fruit volume and weight. Therefore, this study
73 was conducted to: (a) determine fruit volume of five avocado varieties, (b) determine which biometric
74 parameter of the avocado fruit best correlates with volume; (c) derive various cultivar-specific and mixed-
75 cultivar allometric equations to predict fruit volume and (d) to evaluate the predictive performances of the
76 equations and to identify the best allometric equation for the study region.

77 **2. Materials and methods**

78 **2.1 Study area and climate characterises.**

79 The study was conducted in the Upper Gana (7° 34' 24'' N, 37° 46' 4''E) and Jewe (7° 30' 35'' N, 37° 47'
80 1'') Kebeles of Limu district, situated in Hadiya zone, in the Ethiopian Southern Nations, Nationalities, and
81 Peoples' Region (SNNPR) (17) (Fig. 1). The study area is located at 223 km South of Addis Ababa. The
82 altitudinal ranges of Jewe and upper-Gana Kebles were between 2000 and 2400m ~~a.s.l.~~ (Fig. 1). Based on
83 the data from CSA 2007, the district has an estimated total population of 153,783 and 93% of the people are
84 living in the rural areas and practicing subsistence farming depending on rain fed production system (18).
85 The average farm size per family head was estimated to be 0.5 ha (17).
86 In the study area, the annual rainfall ranges between 1300 and 1400 mm with a bi-modal rainfall seasonality
87 , occurring from February to April and from June to September (17). The average annual minimum and
88 maximum temperatures were 18 °C and 23 °C (17). The typical landuse system of the district is
89 characterized by Agroforestry (i.e., mixed crop-tree-livestock production). (19). The district has a
90 favourable climate and agroecological condition for multi-strata agroforestry and home garden intensive
91 farming system.

92 **Fig. 1. The location of the study area in Hadiya zone, Ethiopia**

93 2.2. Tree selection for sample fruit collection

94 In this study, five different avocado cultivars including Ettinger (E), Fuerte (F), Hass (H), Nabal
95 (N), and Reed30 (R) were considered. From each cultivar, 30 ~~(thirty)~~ avocado trees, ~~which~~
96 representing 30 small scale farmlands, were selected for fruit sample collection. Fruit ~~sample~~
97 were collected ~~following the~~ considering each radii of the crown (20–23). A total of 360 ~~sample~~
98 ~~fruits~~ were randomly harvested from each cultivar (i.e., three fruits from each radius or 12
99 sample fruits per tree = 12 fruit * 30 trees = 360 fruits). Then, ~~Fruit~~ length (FL in mm), diameter
100 (FD in mm) and weight (FW in g) were measured using digital calliper and ~~scale~~, respectively.
101 For fruit volume measurement, the collected sample fruits were first classified ~~in to~~ three size
102 ~~class~~ (small, medium, and large). Then, ~~fifteen (15)~~ fruits were randomly selected from each size
103 class (total = 45 fruits from each cultivar). For each fruit, actual fruit volume (AFV) was
104 measured using water displacement method (13,24), in the Biotechnology Laboratory of
105 Wachemo University (WCU), Hossana, Ethiopia.

106 2.3. Model development, performance evaluation and cross-validation test

107 Cultivar-specific and mixed-cultivar generalized avocado fruit volume (FV) estimation models
108 were developed using linear and non-linear regression equations based on either fruit diameter,
109 fruit length alone or both fruit length and diameter at the same time as independent variables.
110 Moreover, using two predictors (i.e., length and diameter) may introduce potential problems of
111 co-linearity, resulting in poor precision in the estimates of the corresponding regression
112 coefficients (25). Thus, for detecting the variance inflation factor ($VIF = 1/(1-r^2)$) and the
113 tolerance values ($T = 1/VIF$) were calculated (26). Where r is the correlation coefficient between
114 length and diameter of fruit. VIF value exceeding 10 or if T value was smaller than 0.10 then co-

115 linearity may have a considerable impact on the prediction of the parameters, and consequently
116 one of those should be excluded from the model (27,28).

117 Model performance was checked using various goodness-of-fit statistics, such as the Coefficient
118 of Determination (R^2), Standard Error of Estimate (SEE), Index of Agreement (D), Mean
119 Absolute Bias (MAB), Percent Bias (PBIAS), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Prediction
120 Residuals Sum of Squares (PRESS), Reduction of error (RE), and Coefficient efficiency (CE),
121 (29–31). The estimation models with higher R^2 may sometimes also have unstable parameters
122 estimate. Thus, we further calculated Percent Relative Standard Error (PRSE) of the coefficients
123 and Weighted Akaike information criterion (AIC_w) to check the stability of model parameter
124 estimates (25). Outlier and influential diagnostic test statistics, including Cook's distance,
125 Leverage point, Studentized Residuals and DFFITS were analysed to examine the accuracy of
126 model fit (25,32). Finally, Models were evaluated and ranked based on all goodness-of-fit
127 statistics, outlier, and influential diagnostic statistics (31).

128 To validate the best fitting equation for volume estimation, model cross-validation was
129 conducted following a split-sample approach in which 45 measured fruit sample were partitioned
130 into two sets, 33 for “training” (i. e., to develop the equations) and the remaining 12 fruit
131 samples for “testing” the equations. The partitioning was performed according to the following
132 procedure. From each size class (small, medium, and large) of the samples, four samples were
133 randomly selected to form the “test” dataset and the remaining sample fruits were used to form
134 the “training” dataset. The goodness-of-fit statistics and equation coefficients of the “training”
135 equations were compared with those derived using the full dataset, and the estimated and
136 measured volume of “test” sample fruit compared (31,33,34). Finally, the full dataset was used
137 to build fruit volume estimation models.

138 2.4. Statistical analysis

139 Pearson correlation tests were conducted between actual Fruit volume (AFV)-fruit diameter (FD)
140 and fruit length (FL) to be able to identify which fruit biometric variables were most strongly
141 correlated with fruit volume (FV). A correlation analysis was also conducted between
142 independent variables (i.e., FL vs FD). The differences among avocado varieties in AFV was
143 assessed using one-way analysis of variance and the significance of differences were tested using
144 the least significant difference test (LSD) with $P < 0.05$ (31).

145 3. Result and discussion

146 3.1. The relationship of physical characteristics of avocado fruits

147 The physical characteristics of sample avocado fruits and their statistical attributes are presented
148 in Table 1. The actual fruit volume (FV) ranged from 125 – 480 cm³, fruit weights (FW) ranged
149 from 129 – 595 g, fruit length (FL) ranged from 64.5- 129.9 mm, and fruit diameter (FD) ranged
150 from 53.8 – 99.8 mm (Table 1). These findings are in line with ~~values in~~ other reports (35–37).
151 Information on fruit physical appearance is important for the customer who is used to assess the
152 quality and taste of fresh product influencing the purchase decision (14).

153 The relationship between fruit volume and other pomological traits (i.e., FL, FD, FV) were
154 significant ($P < 0.01$) (Fig. 2) and that is in agreement with other studies that have showed strong
155 relationships between different pomological traits of avocado fruit (36). Moreover, the
156 correlation between FD and FV were consistently stronger compared to the relationship between
157 FL and FV (Fig. 2), indicating the FD is a very good predictor of fruit volume and highlighting
158 those changes in diameter, therefore, affects the fruit volume more than does a change in fruit
159 length. More importantly, knowing the relationship between fruit physical characteristics is
160 critical in the horticultural sector because these pomological traits are sometime used as fruit

161 maturity index (36,38,39). Several indices have been used to determine avocado fruit maturity,
 162 hence there is no single factor can be considered the most important; however, it can be said that
 163 from a postharvest standpoint, quality begins at harvest with physiological maturity. This
 164 indicates that understanding the stage of physiological maturity is critical for the development of a
 165 successful avocado fresh fruit industry while assuring the quality to the consumer (40).

166 **Fig. 2. Fruit volume as a function of fruit length, diameter, and regression of fruit diameter**
 167 **as a function of fruit length.**

168 **Table 1.** Summary of volume, and fruit size characteristics of five avocado cultivars

SPP name	Fruit Length (mm)		Fruit Diameter (mm)		Fruit wight (g)		Fruit Volume (cm ³)	
	Mean [SE]	Range	Mean [SE]	Range	Mean [SE]	Range	Mean [SE]	Range
Ettingenr	108.9 [±1.5]	91.9 -129.9	69.1 [±0.9]	57.1-84.2	253 [±8.8]	162-375	274.1 [±10.1]	145-410
Fuerte	106.2 [±1.4]	87.7 -124.6	68.4 [±0.8]	57.4-79.6	248.8 [±8.2]	146-348	252.0 [±7.4]	150-350
Hass	90.3 [±1.4]	72.8 -113.9	64.7 [±0.8]	53.8 -76	192.6 [±7.0]	116-310	181.6 [±5.8]	110-300
Nabal	92.6 [±1.5]	70.1 -118.7	82.6 [±1.2]	65.8-99.8	331.9 [±13.8]	160-595	324.7 [±11.3]	180-480
Reed_30	81.3 [±1.3]	64.5 -98.1	74.1 [±1.1]	60.8-89.2	242.3 [±10.3]	129-426	247.1 [±10.4]	125-420

169

170 3.2. Allometric equations and model cross-validation

171 As a preliminary step to model calibration, the degree of collinearity among fruit length and
 172 diameter was analysed. The VIF was ranged from 1.1 to 4.6 and T values ranged from 0.21 to
 173 0.95, depending on cultivar type, respectively (Supplementary information (S)). Hence, for all
 174 selected genotypes, VIF was < 10 and T was > 0.10, showing that the co-linearity between
 175 predictors (fruit length and diameter) is negligible, thus both predictors (FL, FD) were
 176 considered during model formation (27,28) (S).

177 Cultivar specific and mixed cultivar generalized volume model was developed to approximate
 178 the shape of an avocado fruits using either fruit length (FL) or width (FD) separately and using
 179 both predictors at a time. We found that the predictive performance of tested model form were
 180 varied within cultivar (Table 2, S). This might be attributed to differences in the equation forms
 181 and predictors included in the models (31). Allometric model performance analysis and cross-

182 validation test results showed that the Linear Regression Model (MV2) which includes only FD
183 as predictor was ranked the best model given the set of nine (9) candidate model forms for all
184 cultivar-specific models, while the Multiple Linear Regression Model (VM7) was the best for
185 generalized mixed cultivar model (Table 2, S).

186 Our best model explained 94%, 92%, 87%, 93%, 94% and 93% of fruit volume in Ettinger,
187 Fuerte, Hass, Nabal, Reed30 and mixed-avocado cultivar model, respectively (Fig. 3, Table 2, in
188 Supporting Information for more details). The three best performing models for each avocado
189 cultivar and mixed-cultivar are shown in Table 2, where the influence of coefficients was
190 significant ($P < 0.01$) (Table 2). Our best model (VM2 for cultivar specific) and VM7 – for
191 mixed cultivar models have passed all the rigorous verification and cross-validation statistical
192 test and produced the lowest average relative error (PBIAS%), implying that fruit diameter is
193 reliable predictors of cultivar specific fruit volume, while using both FL and FD might increase
194 the predictive performances of generalized allometric models (S). Moreover, the performance of
195 our best models (VM2, and VM7) to make an accurate prediction is not an artifact of over fitting,
196 because the parameter values were stable across the subset of the cross-validations “training data
197 set” and full data set (S). Moreover, the volume of the twelve “test” fruit volume estimated with
198 the cross-validation equations (i.e., training dataset) differed little from the values estimated with
199 equations produced with the full dataset (Fig. 3, S). The deviations (PBIAS%) in the volume
200 estimates between the two sets of equations were less than 1% for all and mixed cultivar
201 equations (Fig. 3). Moreover, the PRSE value of $< 20\%$ and outliers and influential points of less
202 than 10% of the total observation as well as higher positive value of CE, and RE provides
203 evidence that the parameter estimates were reliable in the selected best models (25,41–43) (S).

204 Thus, VM2 (i.e., cultivar specific model) and VM7 (i.e., generalized model) are reliable to

205 determine the fruit volume based on their easily measurable fruit pomological traits (i.e., FL
206 or/and FD). Furthermore, measuring fruit length and diameter are easy in the field, thus site-and
207 cultivar specific allometric model would enable researchers to make non-destructive or repeated
208 measurements on the same fruits. Our allometric models could provide accurate estimate of
209 avocado fruit volume and may reduce required time and financial resources while using common
210 method of volume measurements like water displacement, gas displacement and expensive
211 instruments, e.g., image processing software or machine vision techniques. In line with this, a
212 review literature showed that there are different **non-destructive** volume estimation models
213 developed for different type of fruits ~~from easily measurable parameters~~, such as for pepper
214 (13,15), ~~for~~ Babassu (*Attalea speciosa*) fruit (44), Karanda (*Carissa carandas*) fruit (27), ~~for~~ Apple
215 fruit (45). Our **finding** confirmed that non-destructive allometric models based on easily
216 measurable morphometric dimensions can be more accurate and practical in field conditions than
217 destructive methods used in traditional growth curves (16).

218 **Fig. 3. Relationships between the Fruit volume each cultivar and fruit diameter (left panel)**
219 **and corresponding plots of residuals (modelled minus measured fruit volume values)**
220 **(right). Fig.3a-F1/F2 refers Ettinger, Fuerte, Hass, Nabal, Reed30 and Mixed cultivar.**

221

222 **Table 2.** Equations and goodness-of-fit performance statistics for estimating avocado fruit volume of five different cultivars and
 223 multiple cultivars grown in Limo district, Hadiya, zone.

Model forms	Model forms	Model parameter			Performance statistics											PRSE			Rank	
		a	b	c	R2	SEE	PRESS	RMSE	PBIAS	MAB	Di	RE	CE	AICi	Δi(AIC)	Wi(AIC)	a	b		c
Ettinger																				
M2	a*FD + b	10.4484	-447.701		0.94	17.53	13210.88	17.13	0.00	12.20	0.98	1.00	0.94	259.70	11.31	0.00	4.0	-6.5		1
M4	a*FD ²	0.0575			0.88	24.19	25752.29	23.92	-0.94	18.94	0.96	0.99	0.88	287.73	39.34	0.00	1.2			2
M9	a*(FL*FD) ²	4.53E-06			0.74	35.17	54412.87	34.77	2.71	28.37	0.95	0.98	0.74	321.40	73.01	0.00	1.9			3
Fuerte																				
M2	a*FD + b	8.369	-320.756		0.92	14.81	9425.88	14.47	0.00	10.93	0.98	1.00	0.92	244.50	0.22	0.46	4.6	-8.3		1
M4	a*FD ²	0.0536			0.89	16.33	11733.34	16.15	-0.31	12.71	0.97	1.00	0.89	252.36	8.07	0.01	0.9			2
M7	a+ b*FL + c*FD	-333.124	0.5107	7.757	0.92	14.62	8973.05	14.12	0.00	10.62	0.98	1.00	0.92	244.29	0.00	0.52	-8.3	68.5	7.3	3
Hass																				
M2	a*FD + b	6.5239	-240.661		0.87	14.33	8832.76	14.01	0.00	9.00	0.96	0.99	0.87	306.82	69.78	0.00	5.8	-10.3		1
M4	a*FD ²	0.0432			0.86	14.65	9438.43	14.48	-0.41	10.30	0.96	0.99	0.86	237.04	0.00	0.71	1.2			2
M7	a+ b*FL + c*FD	-252.658	0.5479	5.9447	0.88	13.93	8149.19	13.46	0.00	9.03	0.97	0.99	0.88	239.96	2.91	0.17	-9.9	53.3	8.1	3
Nabal																				
M2	a*FD + b	9.314	-444.277		0.93	20.20	17549.35	19.75	0.00	14.44	0.98	1.00	0.93	272.47	7.34	0.02	5.57	-7.13		1
M4	a*FD ²	0.0475			0.90	24.42	26241.01	24.15	-0.63	20.08	0.97	0.99	0.90	288.58	23.45	0.00	1.05			2
M1	a*FL + b	6.8725	-311.718		0.80	34.55	51343.88	33.78	0.00	27.55	0.94	0.99	0.80	320.78	55.65	0.00	7.55	-15.51		3
Reed30																				
M2	a*FD + b	9.3255	-443.701		0.94	17.99	13912.04	17.58	0.00	13.52	0.98	1.00	0.94	262.02	9.72	0.01	4.0	-6.2		1
M4	a*FD ²	0.0453			0.86	25.95	29637.53	25.66	-1.56	21.66	0.95	0.99	0.86	294.06	41.76	0.00	1.5			2
M1	a*FL + b	7.0449	-325.924		0.83	29.02	36221.43	28.37	0.00	22.30	0.95	0.99	0.83	305.08	52.79	0.00	6.8	-12.0		3
Mo=ixed																				
M7	a+ b*FL + c*FD	-435.118	1.8844	7.1102	0.93	20.23	90851.70	18.84	0.00	15.44	0.98	0.99	0.93	1327.16	0.00	1.00	-3.0	5.2	2.2	1
M2	a*FD + b	7.7671	-301.595		0.82	32.86	240785.37	29.00	0.00	27.08	0.95	0.99	0.82	1519.21	192.04	0.00	3.1	-5.8		2
M4	a*FD ²	0.0491			0.81	33.77	255523.93	30.18	-0.41	27.80	0.94	0.98	0.81	1535.16	208.00	0.00	0.8			3

224 **Fig. 4. Relationship between estimated and measured total aboveground biomass of the 12**
225 **cross- validation test fruits. Circles are the volume estimates calculated using the full data**
226 **set equations and the crosses are the estimates calculated using the cross-validation**
227 **training dataset equations. On fig. 3, the letter E, F, H, N, R and M refers Ettinger, Fuerte,**
228 **Hass, Nabal, Reed30 and Mixed cultivar data.**

229 3.3. Conclusions and recommendation

230 This study provided the first avocado cultivar-specific and mixed-cultivar generalized allometric
231 equations to estimate avocado fruit volume non-destructively. Among tested model forms, VM2
232 (for cultivar-specific model), and VM7 (generalized model) have passed all rigorous verification
233 and cross-validation statistical tests, confirming that the models have sufficient skill to estimate
234 fruit volume from easily measurable parameters. Our best allometric models (VM2 and ~~VM2~~)
235 explained > 87% of the variation in measured fruit volumes of each cultivar. A high degree of
236 correlation ($R^2 > 0.93$) between measured and estimated fruit volume provided quantitative
237 evidence of the validity of the selected volume estimation models. The allometric equation
238 developed in this research could be practical in the estimation of avocado fruit volume and
239 applicable under field conditions. Besides, the generalized mixed-cultivar model can reliably be
240 used to estimate avocado fruit volume when cultivar type is unknown. Our finding revealed that
241 in the situations where fruit length and diameter measurements are possible and/or where
242 measurements of volume would be inconvenient, or time consuming, site- and cultivar-specific
243 allometric equations can be used to estimate fruit volume while it on the tree. Therefore, the
244 allometric equations generated in this study could play a considerable role in improving data
245 availability on avocado fruit physical appearance which is critical to assess the quality and taste
246 of fresh product, which in turn, influencing the purchase decision of customers. It can also
247 potentially assist horticulturists, agronomists, and physiologists to estimate fruit volume of
248 avocado accurately and to carry out yield estimation prior to harvesting.

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261 6. Authors' contributions

262
263 “Mulugeta Mokria, Aster Gebrekirstos, Hadia Said, Kiros Hadgu, Niguse Hagazi, Workneh
264 Dubale, Achim Bräuning” designed the study. Mulugeta Mokria collected the sample fruits
265 across the study sites, performed all sample preparation, measurements and carried out the first
266 analysis and wrote the first version of the manuscript, which was intensively discussed and
267 revised by all authors”.

268

269 7. Conflict of interest

270 The authors declare no competing interests

271 8. Reference

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