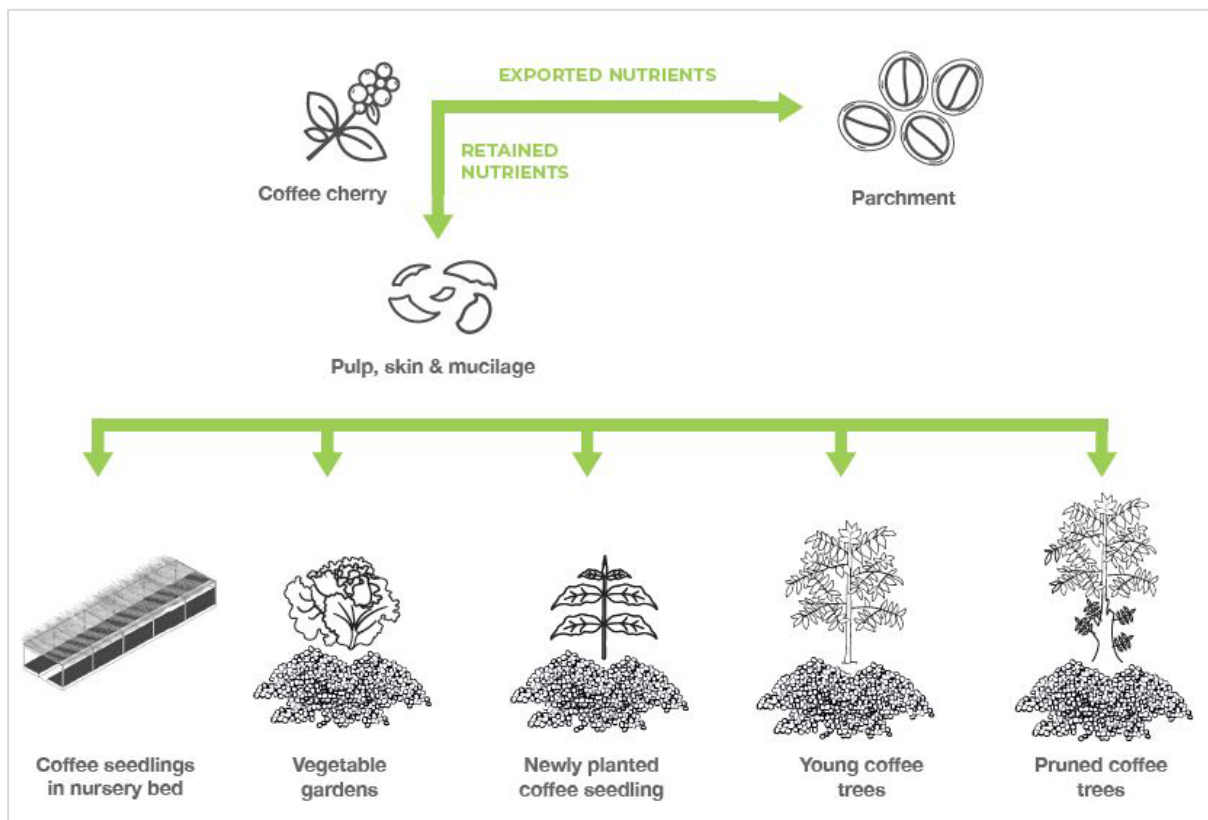


Principle 6: Coffee farmers should make more efficient use of nutrients by adopting simple nutrient cycling strategies in their coffee gardens.

A lot of nutrients are exported from coffee gardens in harvested cherry, weeding debris and prunings. Valuable nutrients can be returned to the coffee garden for reuse by the coffee trees through employing strategies that require little labour but which maintain or improve nutrient capital. Throughout the modules, particularly the 'Soil fertility and nutrient maintenance' module, the monetary value of nutrients lost from the system is highlighted when farmers do not recycle organic wastes such as coffee pulp.



Coffee parchment contains nutrients which are permanently lost from the coffee garden after processing. The cherry pulp, skin and mucilage retained also contain valuable nutrients which can be returned to the coffee or food gardens to help maintain soil fertility.



Coffee pulp spread around a coffee tree.