



Bolivia planted 1.283 million hectares biotech soybeans in 2017.

Since 2008, Bolivian farmers have planted biotech soybean event GTS 40-3-2, which is the only approved soybean event in the country. There are approximately 2 million hectares of cropland in Bolivia, and soybeans are planted largely in Santa Cruz, which is the center of agricultural development in Bolivia.

Biotech soybeans were grown on 1.283 million hectares in 2017 in Bolivia, a slight decrease from the 2016 area of 1.3 million hectares.

In 2017, Bolivia experienced the worst drought episode in 25 years



that reduced soybean planting area. Drought affected 125,000 families and threatened 280,000 hectares of agricultural land. In addition, a swarm of locusts of up to 10 kilometers long and traveling up to 100 kilometers per day spread across Santa Cruz in February 2017, devastating more than 1,500 hectares of land. However, the adoption rate of biotech soybeans in 2017 increased to 100%.

ADOPTION OF BIOTECH SOYBEAN IN BOLIVIA

A report from the Association of Producers and Oilseeds and Wheat (ANAPO), the Bolivian Foreign Trade (IBCE), and the Agricultural Chamber of the East (CAO) has indicated that biotech soybeans helped Bolivia gain US\$177 million in savings.

According to IBCE, adoption of biotech soybeans helped reduce insecticide use which saved US\$66 million per year, in addition to the increase of 200,000 tons in production which translates to US\$50 million in profits per year.

BENEFITS OF BIOTECH SOYBEAN IN BOLIVIA

It is estimated that economic gains from biotech soybeans in Bolivia for the period 2008 to 2016 was US\$776 million and US\$54 million for 2016 alone.

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2017. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017: Biotech Crop Adoption Surges as Economic Benefits Accumulate in 22 Years. *ISAAA Brief No. 53*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

For more information, contact:

ISAAA SEAsiaCenter
GS Khush Hall, IRRI
Los Baños, Laguna 4031 Philippines
Telefax: +63 49 5367216
Email: knowledge.center@isaaa.org



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