

In 2012

In 2012, Chile grew an all time record of 62,300 hectares of biotech maize, canola and soybean, exclusively for seed exports – this is a ~50% increase over 2011, when 42,300 hectares were planted.

The 62,300 hectares comprised of 45,000 hectares biotech maize, 15,000 hectares biotech canola and 2,300 hectares biotech soybean for a total of 62,300 hectares for seed export.

Biotech Crop Adoption in Chile

Chile has a population of 16.8 million and a GDP of US\$169 billion, 4% of which is generated from agriculture, and forestry is a strong sector in the country.

Fruits are major exports worth US\$2 billion per year and it has a thriving global export market in wines. A significant 13% of the population is involved in agriculture and the export market.

Chile is the sixth largest producer of export seed in the world in 2011, with a value of US\$380 million.

Chile has been producing biotech seed for export since commercialization began in 1996 and this activity is fully covered by the current law.

Commercialization and consumption of biotech crops produced in Chile are under consideration. This is a logical

development given that Chile already imports significant quantities of biotech crops, such as biotech maize, for consumption from its neighboring country, Argentina.

Chile has 120,000 hectares of maize which could benefit significantly from biotechnology and substitute for some of the imports of biotech maize from Argentina.

The country also has 80,000 hectares of potatoes which could benefit from biotechnology.

The most recent REDBIO regional meeting on biotechnology recognized this opportunity for Chile to grow biotech maize for domestic consumption.

The number of biotech seed crops multiplied in Chile is now more than 10 crop/trait combinations. The country has broad and diversified experience in successfully managing all aspects related to the growing of biotech crops for over 10 years.

Excerpts from:

James, Clive. 2012. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2012. *ISAAA Brief* No. 44. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

Other Sources:

Brookes, G and P Barfoot. 2013.

<http://www.pgeconomics.co.uk/publications.php>

The World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/>

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COUNTRY PROFILE

Population: **16.8 million**

GDP: **US\$169 billion**

GDP per Capita: **US\$10,080**

Agriculture as % GDP: **4%**

Agricultural GDP: **US\$6.8 billion**

% employed in agriculture: **13%**

Arable Land (AL): **1.5 million hectares**

Ratio of AL/Population*: **0.4**

Major crops:

- Fruits
- Oats
- Wheat
- Rice
- Maize

Commercialized Biotech Crops:

- Bt/HT Maize
- HT Canola
- Ht Soybean

Total area under biotech crops and (%) increase in 2012:
62,300 Hectares (47.3%)

*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

