



Colombia planted 95,000 hectares biotech maize and cotton in 2017.

Colombia grew a total of 95,000 hectares of biotech crops in 2017, a 7% increase from 89,000 hectares in 2016. Colombia started planting biotech cotton in 2002 and biotech maize in 2007. Since then, the biotech maize area surpassed the area planted to biotech cotton.

Of the 95,000 hectares biotech crops planted in Colombia in 2017, 86,000 were biotech maize and 9,000 hectares were biotech cotton. Biotech cotton has been grown for 14 years in Colombia.

Of the 86,000 hectares biotech maize grown in Colombia in 2017, 12,000 hectares were insect resistant (IR) and 74,000 hectares were stacked IR/herbicide tolerant (HT).

Biotech cotton adoption rate increased to 91% in 2017. The 9,000 hectares biotech cotton was comprised of 544.5 hectares HT and 8,530.5 hectares stacked IR/HT.

BIOTECH CROP ADOPTION

Since 2002, 94 biotech events were approved for food, feed,

and cultivation in Colombia: carnation (8), cotton (14), flax (1), maize (49), rice (2), rose (2), soybean (16), sugar beets (1) and wheat (1). In 2017, six biotech events were approved for food, including: three biotech maize events (stacked IR/HT MON87427 x MON89034 x MIR162 x NK603 and Bt11 x MIR162; and stacked IR/HT with high amylose content Event 3272 x Bt 11 x MIR604 x TC1507 x Event 5307 x GA21) and three biotech soybean events (IR MON87751, HT and modified oil DP305423, and stacked HT SYHT0H2). It is noteworthy that these newly approved biotech events were mostly stacked traits with improvement in product quality for livestock and human consumption.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH CROPS IN COLOMBIA

Colombia is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops by US\$182 million in the period 2002 to 2016 and the benefits for

2016 alone is estimated at US\$29 million (Brookes and Barfoot, 2018).

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.

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