



Colombia increased biotech crop planting by 24% in 2016.

Colombia grew a total of 110,000 hectares of biotech crops in 2016, a ~24% increase from 89,000 hectares in 2015. Increased biotech maize was due to a program to increase biotech maize area for the poultry industry. The global low cotton prices affected biotech cotton area in the country.

Of the 110,000 hectares biotech crops planted in Colombia in 2016, 100,000 were biotech maize and 9,800 hectares were biotech cotton. Biotech cotton has been grown for 14 years in Colombia.

BIOTECH CROP ADOPTION

Since 2002, Colombia has approved 82 events for food, feed, and cultivation: carnation (8), cotton (11), flax (1), maize (44), rice (2), rose (2), soybean (12), sugar beet (1), and wheat (1). For cultivation, Colombia has approved 22 events: carnation (8), cotton (5), maize (6), rose (2), and soybean (1).

In 2016, Colombia approved nine events for food, feed and

cultivation including, for cotton: stacked HT and IR event COT102; stacked HT/IR maize Event 4414, BT11 x MIR162 x TC1507 x GA21, BT11 x Event 59122 x MIR604 x TC1507 x GA21 x MIR162, and TC1507 x MON810 x MIR162; and for stacked HT soybean: DAS44406-6 and DAS68416-4.

Biotech Dutch blue carnations are produced under greenhouse conditions for export to Europe. Biotech blue petal roses are exported to Japan. The area planted in 2015 for both Dutch blue carnations and blue petal rose remains unchanged at 12 hectares.

A potato resistant to the Guatemalan moth is being developed at the Medellín's Corporation for Biological Research (CIB). This potato is expected to be available to producers within three years.

Research institutes working on crop improvement through biotechnology include the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) on cassava,

rice and sugarcane; Cenicaña for sugarcane improvement; and the National University on maize, potato and rice improvement.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH CROPS IN COLOMBIA

Colombia is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops by US\$153 million in the period 2002 to 2015 and the benefits for 2015 alone is estimated at US\$24 million.

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