



## BIOTECH COUNTRY FACTS & TRENDS

# Uruguay

### Herbicide tolerant soybeans occupy 98% of Uruguay's national soybean hectareage.

In 2017, Uruguay planted biotech soybeans and maize on 1.14 million hectares, a 13% decrease from 1.29 million hectares in 2016. Consistent with other countries, the decrease in total plantings of the two crops was due to low prices, unfavorable weather conditions, and local and international trade issues.

Biotech soybean occupies 98% of the national soybean hectareage of 1.11 million hectares. The biotech soybean area comprised of 811,000 hectares HT, and 279,000 IR/HT, which is the soybean event Intacta™.

Biotech maize occupied 50,000 hectares in 2017, a 29% reduction from 70,000 hectares in 2016. Of the 50,000 hectares of biotech maize, 2,000 hectares were HT, and 48,000 hectares was the stacked IR/HT product.

### ADOPTION OF BIOTECH CROPS IN URUGUAY

Uruguay introduced biotech soybeans in 2000, followed by Bt maize in 2003. Five more events



were approved in early 2011. In September 2012, Uruguay approved 3 stacked IR/HT biotech maize, 2 HT soybeans, and 1 stacked IR/HT soybeans for commercialization.

In 2014, HT soybeans CV127, IR maize MIR162 and stacked Bt/HT MON 89034 × TC1507 × NK603 were approved for planting, for a total of 17 event approvals from 1996 to 2014.

### BENEFITS OF BIOTECH CROPS IN URUGUAY

Uruguay is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops of US\$284 million in the period 2000 to 2016 and the benefits for 2016 alone is estimated at US\$60 million.

### 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](mailto:knowledge.center@isaaa.org)



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