

In 2010

- Argentina is one of the six “founder biotech crop countries”, having commercialized RR[®]soybean and Bt cotton in 1996, the first year of global commercialization of biotech crops.



- Argentina is the third largest producer of biotech crops in the world in 2010 occupying 15% of global hectareage.
- Argentina planted a total hectareage of 22.9 million hectares of biotech soybean, maize and cotton, up from 21.3 million hectares or 8% in 2009.
- Biotech soybean was planted in 19.5 million hectares (100% of total soybean)
- Biotech corn planting was approximately 3.0 million hectares, of which 1.8

hectares were Bt/HT maize, 900,000 hectares to Bt, and 300,000 were herbicide tolerant maize.

- Of the 400,000 hectares of total cotton plantings in 2010, 375,000 hectares (94%) were biotech, of which 275,000 hectares were the Bt/HT stacked product, about 60,000 hectares were herbicide tolerant (HT) and 40,000 hectares were Bt and the balance of 25,000 hectares were conventional.

Factors for Increased Adoption of Biotech Crops in Argentina

- Increased adoption due to better adapted biotech varieties
- Improved returns
- More awareness by farmers of the benefits associated with the technology
- Improved reporting



Population: **39.9 million**
 GDP: **US\$328 billion**
 GDP per Capita: **US\$8,240**
 Agriculture as % GDP: **10%**
 Agricultural GDP: **US\$32.8 billion**
 % employed in agriculture: **1%**
 Arable Land (AL): **33.2 million hectares**
 Ratio of AL/Population*: **3.3**

*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

Major crops:

- Soybean
- Maize
- Sugarcane
- Sunflower seed
- Wheat

Commercialized Biotech Crops:

- HT Soybean
- Bt/HT Cotton
- Bt/HT/Bt-HT Maize

Total area under biotech crops and (%) increase in 2010:
22.9 Million Hectares (+8%)

Farm income gain from biotech, 1996-2009: **US\$10.3 billion**

Adoption of Biotech Crops in Argentina

- There were 17 biotech crop products approved for commercial planting in Argentina and for import as food and feed products since 1996
 - 1 herbicide tolerant (HT) soybean
 - 4 insect resistant (IR) maize
 - 3 herbicide tolerant (HT) maize
 - 6 stacked trait IR/HT maize
 - 1 insect resistant cotton
 - 1 herbicide tolerant cotton
 - 1 IR/HT cotton

Record of Benefits

- Argentina's farm income from biotech crops from 1996 to 2009
- Benefits for 2009 alone was estimated at US\$1.1 billion.



Excerpts from:

James, Clive. 2010. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2010. *ISAAA Brief* No. 42. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

Other Sources:

The World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/>

For more information, contact:

ISAAA SEAsiaCenter
c/o IRRI, DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila, Philippines
Phone: +63 2 845 0563
Telefax: +63 49 5367933
Email: knowledge.center@isaaa.org

Or visit: <http://www.isaaa.org/>