



BIOTECH COUNTRY FACTS & TRENDS

Burkina Faso

2015 was the eighth year for farmers in Burkina Faso to benefit significantly from Bt cotton (Bollgard II™).

The total Bt cotton planted in Burkina Faso in 2015 was 350,000 hectares, or 50% of the total cotton planting area in the country. This represents a 23.8% drop in adoption from the 73.8% in 2014. The anxiety created by two coups in a span of one year and subsequent government transitions may have contributed to a downside on the agricultural sector in general.

Based on average cotton holding of 3.16 hectares, the number of farmers growing Bt cotton in 2015 was approximately 110,760.

Burkina Faso has maintained a leadership role on biotechnology

and biosafety matters in the Western African region. Aside from sustained Bt cotton adoption, the country provides a model of how effective partnerships with diverse stakeholders – public, private sector, and the farming community can deliver the benefit of biotechnology sustainably.

BENEFITS OF BT COTTON IN BURKINA FASO

Bt cotton adoption generates an economic benefit of more than US\$70 million/year for Burkina Faso, based on yield increases of 20.5%, plus 66.7% reduction in insecticides sprays, from a total of 6 sprays required for conventional cotton, to only 2 for Bt cotton.

The real and potential economic impacts of insect resistant cotton are therefore highly significant

as increases in the prices of agricultural inputs used to combat destructive cotton pests remain a major challenge in the other West African states that have not embraced the technology.

It is estimated that the economic gains from Bt cotton for Burkina Faso for the period 2008 to 2014 was US\$178 million, and US\$41 million for 2014 alone.

SOURCES

James, Clive. 2015. 20th Anniversary (1996 to 2015) of the Global Commercialization of Biotech Crops and Biotech Crop Highlights in 2015. ISAAA Brief No. 51. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/>
The World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/>

COUNTRY PROFILE

Population: 18.2 million

GDP: US\$10.7 billion

GDP per Capita: US\$1,480

Agriculture as % GDP: 34%

Agricultural GDP: ~US\$3.6 billion

% employed in agriculture: 92%

Arable Land (AL): 6 million hectares

Ratio of AL/Population*: 2.0

Major crops:

- Cotton
- Millet
- Peanuts
- Maize
- Sorghum
- Rice
- Shea nuts

Commercialized Biotech Crop: Bt Cotton

Total biotech crop area and (%) increase in 2015:
0.350 Million Hectares (-20%)

Increased farm income, 2008-2014: US\$178 million

*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

For more information, contact:

ISAAA SEAsiaCenter
GS Khush Hall, IRR
Los Baños, Laguna 4031 Philippines
Telefax: +63 49 5367216
Email: knowledge.center@isaaa.org

www.isaaa.org