



BIOTECH COUNTRY FACTS & TRENDS

Colombia

Biotech cotton has been grown for 13 years in Colombia.

Colombia grew a total of 89,000 hectares of biotech crops in 2015, a 10% decrease from 99,000 hectares in 2014 probably due to low crop prices driving farmers to decrease plantings of both maize and cotton.

Of the 89,000 hectares biotech crops planted in Colombia in 2015, 16,000 were biotech cotton and 73,000 hectares were biotech maize.

Of the 73,000 hectares biotech maize, 94% (68,620 hectares) is stacked trait insect resistant (IR)/ herbicide tolerant (HT), and 6% HT (4,380).

In 2015, 96% of biotech cotton in Colombia have the stacked traits Bt/ HT.

BIOTECH CROP ADOPTION

Biotech maize was previously grown under a pre-commercial project “controlled planting program” in two regions, one on the Coast and Llanos region and the other in the interior of the country.

Biotech cotton has been grown for 13 years in Colombia.

Since 2009, Colombia has approved 73 events for food/feed use and cultivation: cotton (9 events), flax (1 event), maize (39 events), rice (2 events), soybean (10 events), wheat (1 event), rose (2 events), and carnation (8 events).

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH CROPS IN COLOMBIA

A 2011 study on the benefits of biotech cotton for women in

Colombia indicates that it saved them time and money from spending less time on weeding and hiring men to spray insecticides.

Colombia is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops by US\$124 million in the period 2002 to 2014 and the benefits for 2014 alone is estimated at US\$22 million.

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: 48.2 million

GDP: US\$370 billion

GDP per Capita: US\$7,750

Agriculture as % GDP: 7%

Agricultural GDP: US\$25.9 billion

% employed in agriculture: 17%

Arable Land (AL): 2.2 million hectares

Ratio of AL/Population*: 0.1

*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

Major crops:

- Coffee
- Maize
- Cotton
- Bananas
- Rice
- Sugarcane

Commercialized Biotech Crops:

- Bt Maize
- Bt Cotton

Total biotech crop area and (%) increase in 2015:

0.089 Million Hectares (-10%)

Increased farm income, 2002-2014: US\$124 million

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