

In 2010

- Honduras grew 15,000 hectares of biotech maize in 2010, the same as 2009, comprising 11,000 hectares of Bt/HT maize and 4,000 hectares of HT maize.

Adoption of Biotech Crops

- Honduras was the first country to adopt biotech maize in Central America and introduced herbicide tolerant maize in 2002 with a pre-commercial introductory area of approximately 500 hectares.
- Biotech maize area has increased to 15,000 hectares in 2009, up approximately 67% from 9,000 hectares in 2008 and was at the same level in 2010.
- The national maize crop of Honduras is approximately 362,000 hectares.



Benefits from Biotech Maize

- Assuming a modest gain of US\$75 per hectare from stacked biotech maize the national benefit from 15,000 hectares would be about US\$1 million per year.
- Preliminary results from IFPRI studies, suggest that, not surprisingly, the larger farmers (over 2 hectares) have been the initial beneficiaries of biotech maize in Honduras and studies are underway to assess the impact of biotech maize in the country.
- The experience of Honduras, as a small country with very limited resources, in implementing a successful biosafety program can serve as a useful model and learning experience for other small countries particularly those in the Central American region.

Future of Biotech Crops

- Zamorano University in Honduras has activities in biotech crops, including a knowledge sharing initiative which should contribute to a better understanding of biotech crops and facilitate more informed decisions about biotech crops, their attributes and potential benefits.

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/>

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