



BIOTECH COUNTRY FACTS & TRENDS

Myanmar

2015 is the 10th consecutive year of planting Bt cotton in Myanmar.

Myanmar has significantly benefited from planting the long staple insect resistant Bt cotton variety named "Silver Sixth" or "Ngwe chi 6" for 10 years.

In 2015, *Ngwe chi 6* was planted on 325,000 hectares, a marginal increase from 318,000 hectares in 2014, with an adoption rate of 93%.

The 93% adoption rate in 2015 is 5% increase from 88% adoption in 2014.

Around 460,000 small farmers (average of 0.7 hectare of cotton) planted Bt cotton this year, an increase from 454,000 in 2014.

BENEFITS OF BT COTTON IN MYANMAR

In the last ten years (2006 to 2015), smallholder cotton farmers in Myanmar rapidly adopted Bt cotton variety *Ngwe chi-6* which replaced almost all conventional cotton varieties. The large scale adoption of *Ngwe chi-6* significantly increased the total area under long staple cotton in the country.

Myanmar for the first time in 2015, planted its new home-grown Bt cotton variety *Ngwe chi-9* on 60 hectares. Myanmar's National Seed Committee (NSC) officially registered and approved the commercial cultivation of insect resistant cotton *Ngwe chi-9* developed by the Department of Industrial Crops Development

of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Estimates indicated that enhanced farm income from Bt cotton is US\$185 million for the period 2006 to 2014 and the benefits for 2014 alone at US\$37 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: 59.3 million

GDP: US\$55.8 billion

GDP per Capita: US\$1,160

Agriculture as % GDP: 38.8%

Agricultural GDP: US\$22.3 billion

% employed in agriculture: 66%

Arable Land (AL): 10.8 million hectares

Ratio of AL/Population*: 0.8

Major crops:

- Rice
- Beans
- Groundnuts
- Cotton
- Pulses
- Sesame
- Sugarcane

Commercialized Biotech Crop: Bt Cotton

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

0.325 Million Hectares (0%)

Increased farm income, 2006-2014: US\$185 million

*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

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