



Sudan has planted insect resistant Bt cotton since 2012; and rate of adoption in 2016 remained at 98%.

The introduction of Bt cotton in Sudan enhanced cotton productivity and restored cotton as a main cash crop and a major contributor to the country's economy.

Sudan's first biotech crop is the insect resistant Bt cotton with a single variety under the trade name Seeni1. Continuous research over the last five years resulted in approval of two new IR hybrids in 2015.



A total of 120,600 hectares of Bt cotton were planted in Sudan in 2016, a slight increase from the 2015 reported area of 120,000 hectares.

In just five years, Sudan has recorded a 98% adoption rate of Bt cotton; few farmers grow non-Bt cotton.

Two hybrids from India - Hindi 1 released for the irrigated region and Hindi 2 for rainfed areas - have recorded an impressive yield 2-3 times that of local varieties.

A major milestone in 2016 was the signing of an Agreement between the Government of Sudan and China's Minister for Agriculture to plant 500,000 hectares of cotton in the Gezira region in the 2017/18 season. This demonstrates strong political goodwill based on satisfaction with the IR cotton technology from demonstrated benefits accrued by farmers and other stakeholders along the cotton sub-sector value chain.

Sufficient protection from the IR cotton hybrids Hindi 1 and Hindi

2 against damage caused by the African and Egyptian bollworms yielded significantly higher than the released Bt variety Seeni1. The Bt cotton hybrids will further reduce the cost of production and maximize farmers' returns.

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2016. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2016. *ISAAA Brief No. 52*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

For more information, contact:

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



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