



## BIOTECH COUNTRY FACTS & TRENDS

# Sudan

### *2015 was the fourth year of commercial planting of Bt cotton in Sudan.*

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.

A total of 120,000 hectares of Bt cotton were planted in Sudan in 2015, up from 90,000 hectares, a 33% increase from 2014.

Close to 45,000 farmers planted Bt cotton compared with the initial 10,000 beneficiaries who have an average of about 1 to 2.5 hectares of land.

In just four years, Sudan has recorded a 95% adoption rate of Bt cotton.

A key development in 2015 was the approval of three additional GM varieties (Hybrid JKCH1974; Hybrid JKCH1050 and O.P SCRC37) for commercial planting by the National Biosafety Council (NBC) and the National Variety Release Committee. The approval will expand the choice for farmers and complement the first and only Bt cotton variety "Seeni 1" that was released for commercial production in 2012.

The new varieties yield about 2-3 times higher than local non-Bt varieties Abdin and Hamid, and significantly higher than "Seeni 1."

Bt cotton saved 37% of the direct cost of cotton production: the cost of producing non-Bt cotton was much higher at US\$372 for one feddan (0.42 hectares) compared with US\$246 for Bt cotton. The

net profit for a farmer planting Bt cotton was US\$170 per feddan (equivalent to US\$410 per hectare).

The increase in hectareage of Bt cotton between 2012 and 2015 is clear evidence that farmer experience was positive in the first year of planting in 2012 and has provided the incentive for a large increase in adoption in 2015.

## SOURCES

James, Clive. 2015. 20<sup>th</sup> 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: 40.2 million

GDP: US\$58.8 billion

GDP per Capita: US\$2,160

Agriculture as % GDP: 33%

Agricultural GDP: US\$19.4 billion

% employed in agriculture: 48%

Arable Land (AL): 21.05 million hectares

Ratio of AL/Population\*: 3.0

\*Ratio: % global arable land / % global population

Major crops:

- Cotton
- Sugarcane
- Sorghum
- Wheat
- Cassava
- Millet

Commercialized Biotech Crop: Bt Cotton

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

0.120 Million Hectares (+33%)

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