

## In 2010

- Uruguay increased its biotech plantings of soybean and maize to 1.1 million hectares in 2010, a significant increase of about 300,000 hectares from 2009.
- The largest gain was recorded for herbicide tolerant soybean which occupied 100% of the national soybean hectareage of 1 million hectares.
- Biotech maize increased marginally from 90,000 hectares to 100,000 hectares, 83% of total maize plantings of 120,000 hectares in 2010.



- Bt maize is now planted in 100,000 hectares, 83% of the total maize plantings of 120,000 hectares, compared to 90,000 in 2009.

## Benefits from Biotech Crop in Uruguay

- Uruguay is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech soybean and maize of US\$68 million in the period 2000 to 2009 and the benefits for 2009 alone is estimated at US\$17 million (Brookes and Barfoot, 2011).

### 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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## Biotech Crop Adoption

- Uruguay introduced biotech soybean in 2000, followed by Bt maize in 2003.
- The moratorium for consideration of new events, in place since 2005, was lifted in 2009 and a government Commission was established to consider approval of new events.
- Herbicide tolerant soybean occupies 100% of the national soybean hectareage of 1 million hectares, compared to 700,000 hectares in 2009.

Population: **3.3 million**  
GDP: **US\$31.5 billion**  
GDP per Capita: **US\$9,010**  
Agriculture as % GDP: **10%**  
Agricultural GDP: **US\$3.2 billion**  
% employed in agriculture: **11.1%**  
Arable Land (AL): **1.35 million hectares**  
Ratio of AL/Population\*: **1.6**

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

### Major crops:

- Rice
- Wheat
- Maize
- Barley
- Soybean

### Commercialized Biotech Crops:

- HT Soybean
- Bt Maize

Total area under biotech crops and (%) increase in 2010:

**1.1 Million Hectares (+38%)**

Farm income gain from biotech, 2004-2009: **US\$68 million**

