In 2017, the USA planted 1.14 million hectares RR® alfalfa and 80,000 hectares HarvXtra™, while Canada planted 3,000 HarvXtra™, for a total of 1.2 million hectares similar to 2016.

Herbicide tolerant (HT) RR® alfalfa was first approved for commercial planting in the USA in 2005. The first pre-commercial plantings (20,000 hectares) were sown in 2005, followed by larger commercial plantings of 60,000 in 2006.

HarvXtra™ alfalfa has less lignin, higher digestibility, and claims to also offer a 15 to 20% increase in yield, and hence is likely to be in high demand by farmers. HarvXtra™ alfalfa was planted on a commercial scale for the first time in 2016.

The adoption rate of biotech alfalfa in the USA and Canada is likely to increase as more and more farmers realize the benefits of the technology in livestock production and farm management.

**OTHER BIOTECH CROPS**

The total area of HT sugar beets planted in the USA and Canada in 2017 was 472,000 hectares at 100% adoption.

The most remarkable increase in biotech crop area was obtained in IR (Bt) eggplant in Bangladesh at 242%, from 700 hectares in 2016 to 2,400 in 2017. This was largely due to huge government support and farmer acceptance.

The following biotech crops were also planted in the USA in 2017: sweet corn (1,000 hectares); virus resistant squash (1,000 hectares); PRSV resistant papaya (1,000 hectares); Innate™ Generation 1 potato (1,618 hectares); Generation 2 potato (809 hectares); and non-browning Arctic® apples (101 hectares).

In China 7,130 hectares of biotech papaya (17% reduction from 2016) were grown in 2016.

Lastly, the anthocyanin-rich biotech pink pineapple was grown in Costa Rica at 25 hectares in 2017, an increase from 14.76 hectares in 2016.

**SOURCE**