



The area planted to biotech cotton in 2016 was 22.3 million hectares, down 7% from the 24.0 million hectares grown in 2015.

2016 is the second consecutive year with low global cotton prices that affected global cotton planting, including biotech cotton planting.

Based on a global hectareage of 35 million hectares, ~64% were



biotech cotton, and grown in 14 countries of the 26 biotech crop countries worldwide.

Four of the 14 countries that grew biotech cotton in 2016 planted more than 1 million hectares. They are, in descending order of hectareage: India (10.8 million hectares), USA (3.7), Pakistan (2.9), and China (2.8).

Another 10 countries grew biotech cotton in 2016 including Brazil, Australia, Argentina, Myanmar, Sudan, Mexico, Paraguay, Colombia, South Africa, and Costa Rica.

Burkina Faso, a cotton-growing country in Africa put a temporary halt on Bt cotton in 2016 to address a short fiber length issue.

An 89% increase in cotton hectareage in Australia was due to the introduction of BollgardIII/RR Flex® cotton. This variety can be adopted by other countries once global cotton prices stabilize.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH COTTON

The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech cotton during the 20-year period 1996 to 2015 was US\$52 billion, and US\$3.4 billion for 2015 alone.

SOURCE

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

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