BIOTECH CROP ANNUAL UPDATES

Maize

Biotech maize was planted in 53.6 million hectares in 2015, a 3% decrease from the 2014 hectarage of 55.2 million hectares. The decrease is due to reduction in planting in the U.S., and in several other countries also decreasing maize plantings in favor of soybean.

Of the global hectarage of 185 million hectares of maize grown in 2015, 29% (53.6 million hectares) were biotech maize.

There were 17 countries which grew biotech maize in 2015, the following five countries grew more than 1 million hectares of biotech maize in 2015 in decreasing order of hectarage: USA (33.1 million hectares), Brazil (13.1 million), Argentina (2.9 million), South Africa (1.8 million), and Canada (1.4 million hectares).

Five EU countries continued to plant 116,870 hectares of biotech Bt maize in the EU in 2015, equivalent to an 18% decrease over 2014.

The five EU countries, in decreasing order of hectarage were Spain, Portugal, Czechia, Slovakia, and Romania.

The other countries growing biotech maize are: Paraguay, Uruguay, Philippines, Colombia, Honduras, Chile, and Vietnam.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH MAIZE

The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech maize during the 19-year period 1996 to 2014 was US$50.6 billion and US$7 billion for 2014 alone.

SOURCES


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