Biotech maize was planted in 60.6 million hectares in 2016, 13% higher from the 2015 area of 53.6 million hectares. The increase was due to favorable market prices, demand for biofuels and animal feeds, as well as the increased European corn borer infestation in parts of Europe.

Of the global hectarage of 185 million hectares of maize grown in 2016, 33% (60.6 million hectares) were biotech maize. The 60.6 million hectares comprised of 6 million hectares IR, 7 million hectares HT and 47.7 million hectares IR/HT.

There were 16 countries which grew biotech maize in 2016, the following five countries grew more than 1 million hectares of biotech maize in 2016 in decreasing order of hectarage: USA (30.1 million hectares), Brazil (15.6), Argentina (4.7), South Africa (2.2), and Canada (1.5).

Countries which planted less than one million hectares include Philippines, Paraguay, Spain, Colombia, Uruguay, Vietnam, Honduras, Portugal, Chile, Slovakia, and Czech Republic.

Romania opted not to plant biotech maize in 2016 due to onerous requirements for planting biotech maize in the country.

**Benefits from Biotech Maize**

The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech maize during the 20-year period 1996 to 2015 was US$57.1 billion and US$6.25 billion for 2015 alone.

**Source**