

Embargo until 10:00 a.m. EST on Wednesday, Jan. 12

Biotech Crop Area by Country

- The United States planted 47.6 million hectares of biotech crops, up 11 percent from 2003, and accounted for 59 percent of the global total of biotech crops. The continued growth was a result of significant acreage gains in biotech maize varieties and herbicide-tolerant soybeans, with modest growth in biotech cotton as it began to peak in 2004.
- Argentina contributed 16.2 million hectares of biotech crops, 17 percent above 2003 and 20 percent of the global total of biotech crops. *Bt* maize acreage continued to grow, while biotech soybean acreage accounts for nearly 100 percent of the crop.
- Canada grew 5.4 million hectares of biotech crops in 2004, up 23 percent above last year and 6 percent of the global total. Canada increased its combined area of maize, soybeans and canola with 77 percent of the canola crop now being planted to biotech varieties.
- Brazil grew 5 million hectares of biotech soybeans in its second year of planting, an increase of 66 percent from 2003 and 6 percent of the global total of biotech crops. This is a conservative estimate, and another significant increase is projected for 2005.
- China grew 3.7 million hectares of biotech cotton (66 percent of its total cotton area), an increase of 32 percent above 2003 and 5 percent of the total global area of biotech crops.
- Paraguay reported biotech soybeans for the first time in 2004 and achieved the status of a biotech “mega-country.” The country planted 1.2 million hectares of biotech crops, accounting for 2 percent of global area of biotech crops.
- In its third year of *Bt* cotton production, India had the highest yearly percentage growth rate increasing production by 400 percent to 500,000 hectares of biotech cotton. An estimated 300,000 small farmers benefited from the crop’s built-in insect protection.
- South Africa planted approximately 500,000 hectares of biotech crops, up 25 percent from last year and accounting for 1 percent of the global total of biotech crops. The increase is from gains in biotech white maize used for food and yellow maize used for feed, as well as strong growth in biotech soybeans, which accounted for half the crop. Biotech cotton has stabilized at 85 percent of the total crop.
- Uruguay increased its biotech crop area by 200 percent from the previous year to 300,000 hectares in 2004. The country experienced a significant increase in biotech maize hectares, while biotech soybean area is now nearly 100 percent of the national soybean hectareage.
- After suffering two years of severe drought, Australia increased its biotech cotton hectares 100 percent this year to 250,000 hectares.
- Romania also reported significant growth in biotech crop acreage, increasing its area of biotech soybeans to 100,000 hectares in 2004.
- Mexico attained the status of a biotech mega-country in 2004, planting 75,000 hectares of biotech crops.

Biotech Crop Area by Country, continued

- Spain became a biotech “mega-country” in 2004 and is the only country in the European Union to plant significant acreage of biotech crops with 58,000 hectares of *Bt* maize, an increase of 80 percent from last year.
- In only its second year of commercial planting, the Philippines gained the status of biotech “mega-country” in 2004 making it the first biotech country in Asia to achieve this status with a major food/feed crop. The Philippines planted 52,000 hectares of *Bt* maize, up from 20,000 hectares last year.
- Colombia doubled its area of *Bt* cotton to approximately 10,000 hectares in 2004, and Honduras reported modest growth in biotech crop area, while Germany continued to plant a small area of *Bt* maize.