



Myanmar planted insect resistant Bt cotton varieties *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9* on 320,000 hectares in 2017.

Myanmar has significantly benefited from planting long staple insect resistant (IR) Bt cotton varieties *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9*.

In 2017, *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9* were planted on 320,000 hectares, which is 92% of the total national cotton area in Myanmar. Both Bt cotton varieties express the *cry1Ac* gene, and effectively controlled the infestation of *Helicoverpa armigera*, a major cotton pest in Myanmar.

Around 455,000 small farmers (average of 0.7 hectare of cotton farm per farmer) planted Bt cotton in Myanmar in 2017.

Myanmar enforced “The PyidaungsuHluttaw Law No. 15, 2016” or “The New Plant Variety Protection Law 2016” in 2017. It aims to protect the rights of breeders of new plant varieties, develop plant breeding activities, encourage investments in and develop breeding of new plant varieties in both public and private sectors, and assist

agricultural sector development by producing and cultivating new improved varieties.

BENEFITS OF BT COTTON IN MYANMAR

In 2017-2018, Myanmar reopened government-run textile mills and factories which were non-operational for years. Demand for cotton from Myanmar increased after the United States redesignated Myanmar eligible for the General System of Preference (GSP) program in 2016. This made textile and garments as Myanmar’s second largest export sector achieving US\$2.2 billion in 2017-2018 from only US\$900 million in 2012-2013.

Brookes and Barfoot reported that farm income in Myanmar from Bt cotton was enhanced due to the large scale adoption of IR cotton varieties *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9*, estimated at US\$358 million for the period 2006 to 2016 and the benefits for 2016 alone at US\$50 million.

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2017. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017: Biotech Crop Adoption Surges as Economic Benefits Accumulate in 22 Years. *ISAAA Brief No. 53*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

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